

# Kinesis Dance Company Contract

## Congratulations!

You have been selected to become a member of New Trier's' Kinesis Dance Company. The Dance Division Faculty enthusiastically welcomes you aboard. We anticipate another fun, exciting, challenging and meaningful year together. You are helping to uphold a great tradition of dance at NTHS.

Kinesis offers selected high school students a unique opportunity to have a company experience in a professional setting. Under close guidance of two faculty artistic directors, students have the opportunity to be involved in various aspects of producing a concert. Each member is expected to be a productive, reliable, considerate, and supportive individual who daily demonstrates responsibility to the whole.

You are making a nine-month commitment to the company. Our most concentrated work occurs during the first semester. Second semester involves periodic rehearsals and organizational meeting in preparation for outreach programs, high school performances and/or performances in regional/national dance festivals.

Along with the honor and privilege of being in the company come certain expectations and responsibilities. You and your parents should read the following list. To acknowledge your understanding and abidance of the company rules, expectations and responsibilities, please return this form with both student and parent or guardian signatures.

**I. REHEARSALS AND ATTENDANCE:** The Winter Concert is a product of months of physical and creative work that requires the focus, commitment, cooperation and faithful attendance of each and every dancer. Choreographers have a limited amount of time to create their works of art. Your daily presence is essential. You are all an important part of the creative process.

- Members were given a calendar of the scheduled rehearsals leading up to the Winter Concert. A copy of the schedule is also available on the NTHS website.
- During the first semester, students should expect to rehearse 4 days per week, Monday through Thursday. Due to the nature of the guest artists' rehearsal process an occasional Friday rehearsal may be necessary. Dancers will be given ample notice so that they may plan accordingly.
- During second semester, students may be expected to meet after school on an as needed basis and will be notified of the dates well ahead of time. It is imperative that these days be set aside and that all the company dancers are available in order to conduct Kinesis business, plan upcoming events and rehearse works for excursions and special performances.
- Rehearsals begin promptly at 3:45pm and conclude no later than 6:00pm. There is a 15 minute break between Dance Lab and the commencement of rehearsals. Attendance will be taken every day.
- Members are expected to attend every rehearsal. In the case of illness or emergency please call Mr. Rutt (847) 784-6568 and/or Ms. Wininsky (847) 784-6553, or e-mail ([rutt@nths.net](mailto:rutt@nths.net), [wininsky@nths.net](mailto:wininsky@nths.net))
- Appointments and vacations are not valid reasons for absences.
- After 3 absences, for whatever reason, the Artistic Directors may elect to remove a dancer from any part or the entire dance. An absentee choreographer may be asked to step down from their responsibilities. Excessive absences from rehearsals can result in dismissal from the company.

- Regular attendance in Dance Lab is mandatory for juniors and seniors. Lab is essential in developing your skills as a dancer and choreographer. Excessive absence from Lab may also result in dismissal from the company.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES:** A healthy and thriving dance company requires of its members full participation, dedication and enthusiasm for the goals, activities and purposes of the ensemble. Meeting all rehearsals is only one facet of members' obligations. This special commitment includes behavioral, academic, and social aspects as well.

- Dancers must meet the Academic Eligibility criteria for the Performing Arts and abide by the Activities Code of Conduct. You and your parents/guardians must sign this document in the fall. Students who find that they are failing at the time of our techs or concerts will not be permitted to perform. Please take this very seriously.
- Everyone in the company deserves equal respect. If issues arise that have a negative impact on the company or individuals they need to be addressed promptly. Students who might be experiencing difficulties within the group must make their concerns known to the faculty artistic directors- complete confidentiality is assured. Every effort will be made to address the perceived problems. These are personal challenges that can result in positive growth for everyone involved and thus benefit the company at large.
- Whether in the classroom or studio, in a social setting or on the stage, it is expected that Kinesis dancers conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion. As ambassadors of New Trier and the Dance Division, members should demonstrate courtesy and respect for others at all times.

- Company members are expected to demonstrate their commitment to the ensemble by making every effort to attend planned social activities, which further strengthen the bond between dancers. This close personal connection enhances the company experience and the performance experience for both the dancers and the audience.
- Dancers are expected to be willing and open-minded in approaching work with their assigned choreographers. Likewise, choreographers are expected to treat their dancers with respect and encouragement while also being mindful of their physical wellbeing. The creative process requires trust, cooperation and collaboration.
- Choreographers and dancers also need to be receptive to constructive criticism by their peers and Artistic Directors as well as obey the rules and decisions made by the Directors.
- In the weeks prior to the Winter Concert, Kinesis dancers are expected to assist in ticket sales. All members are expected to sign up for lunch period ticket sales in school as well to individually generate ticket sales through family, neighborhood and community connections.

**Keep your contract at home.**

**Please detach and return this lower portion**

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I have read, understand and agree to abide by the expectations set forth in this contract with Kinesis Dance Company and the Dance Division. I understand that I will be working under the direction of faculty Artistic Directors.

**Student Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_