

## Fergus Falls School of Dance Attendance & Masking Requirement Policy 2023

At FFSD, we believe that respect for fellow dancers, and the community learning process in the classroom is very important and requires every dancer's contribution. Although dance is not often thought of as a "team" activity, when students have excessive absences, the morale and learning experience of the entire class (team) is affected, it disrupts the process of "what" and "how" the teacher teaches, information has to be repeated and choreography has to be reworked for the benefit of the student who was absent. (Even when the student has great talent and understanding of the material, her/his absence negatively affects the other students who ARE in class as they have to work around the "holes" created by the absent student especially when learning choreography). The regular presence of EACH STUDENT is IMPORTANT for the wellbeing of the class. Dance is a community learning experience.

For these reasons, we maintain the following attendance policy: Each student is required to attend in each quarter, at least 70% of each class in which enrolled. **That is: 6 of 9, 6 of 8, 5 of 7, 4 of 6.**

Students are welcome to make-up the missed classes **IN THE QUARTER in which they were missed.** Make-ups will be counted towards the attendance requirement in the first three quarters. However excess absences in choreography classes in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will not acceptable even if made-up. Do NOT think that making classes up in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter makes everything OK. Be sure to communicate with the teacher to "OK" absences in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter!

Students not having 70% attendance will not be able to continue in that class for the rest of the year and will not be allowed to perform. Exceptions may be made on a per case basis in dealing with serious illness and injury, extended trips, etc. Respectful communication of your situation is key!! Ramona and the dancer's teacher(s) will make final decisions regarding excessive absences due to special circumstances.

This requirement will be enforced even if costume deposits/balances have been paid. Remember there are NO REFUNDS on costume payments.

Our teachers reserve the right to request masks be worn by their students if they feel the need in respect to their own health and safety, and students should be prepared by having a mask in their dance bag. If your student is not feeling well DO NOT SEND THEM TO CLASS! Students who are not feeling well will be sent home from the studio. KN95 masks are available for \$2 at all studios. If a student does not have a mask if one is requested to be worn, the \$2 cost will be added to your bill.

*We WANT your student to be dancing with us! That means truly being present and attending class on a regular basis.*

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I understand and agree with the above outlined attendance and masking requirements for FFSD.

I am enrolling

\_\_\_\_\_ with the understanding that in each quarter they will attend 70% of EACH class in which they are enrolled and have a mask available if requested.

I understand that failure to follow this requirement will result in being dropped from the class, and not being allowed to perform, regardless of status of costume deposit/balance fees.

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(date)

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(parent signature)