

The Valdez Dance Company

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 season at The Valdez Dance Company! The teaching staff is very excited to be working with you and your children. As the VDC enters its 12th season, we reflect on the many students that have walked through our doors. Whether you are a new or returning student, we thank you for being a part of the VDC family and look forward to the numerous memories we will create together.

Enclosed please find information explaining our email mailing list, our tuition and payment guidelines, and our studio policies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at any time. You can call (907) 835-4837 or email valdezdance@gmail.com

“There are shortcuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them.” – Vicki Baum

Many thanks,

Tracy Gilson
Studio Director

Our Mission

The Valdez Dance Company will strive to offer the young people of our community a place to learn dance technique, improve grace, poise, self-esteem, and gain performance experience in a nurturing atmosphere.

Contact Us Anytime

We believe that an open line of communication between the dance teacher and the parents is essential to a successful dance experience. Our teachers will email the class periodically to update the parents on the progress of the class and any other pertinent class information. The studio will also email everyone regularly with all studio news, recital information, and information regarding new programs, special events, and contests/special offers. So, please check your email regularly! We encourage you to contact our office or your child's teacher with any questions that arise throughout the year.

Jaimie Gilson Office Admin (907) 835-4837
valdezdance@gmail.com

The Valdez Dance Company

Studio Policies

- We follow the School District with vacations and inclement weather closings; However, we do not follow the **in-service days- there will be dance class on those days.**
- There is no discount or refund for missed classes, unless for medical. If a student will not be attending class please let us know at least 15 minutes before the start of class.
- All studio accounts have one primary account holder. This is the account holder that registers and signs the registration form. This account holder will be the one considered financially responsible for the account.
- Students should wait until the teacher is present before entering the dance floor unless directed otherwise. All students should exit the classroom at the end of class. Younger students whose parents have not yet arrived for pickup should wait with one of our office staff members.
- Students must be picked up promptly after their dance classes/siblings may not come early or stay later after classes- our dance teachers are only paid to teach dance classes not to manage students outside of dance class time.
- Any student with an overdue balance of more than 90 days will not be allowed into class until payment in full is received or payment arrangements have been made.
- Costume orders can only be picked up once the account is paid in full with no balance remaining.

Keep Informed Through E-Mail, Texts, and Social Media

A majority of the information we send you will be sent through our email mailing list. Email helps us efficiently keep everyone up to date on news and events at the VDC. We chose email to cut back on paper and envelope usage and to help the planet! Please make sure we have your correct email address on file. We also use text if there are quick reminders, or cancellations due to weather, or a sick teacher. The Facebook page is used as well. If you do not receive a certain email, all of your emails are available within your portal. Just click on the messages tab.

Online Account Portal

The VDC is proud to offer an online solution for parents and account holders to access all of their account information online. This service allows users to process payments for charges, enter and modify contact information, and register for select classes from the comfort of their homes - 24 hours a day.

If you've already logged in to our customer portal, just visit our website, and click the "Parent Portal" tab. If you don't remember your password, you can have your password emailed to you by clicking "Forgot Password?" www.valdezdance.org

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Tuition and Payments

- Registration Fee - \$40 (non-refundable) (\$10 for each additional family member, or additional class thereafter)
- The studio calendar and tuition rate are designed to give 30 classes over a Eight-month period from October to May (beginning in August for Company classes). Tuition rates vary based on class type and length, but range from \$45 - \$75 per month.
- All Lessons are paid for in advance, due on the 1st of each month. You will not receive a bill prior to the due date of tuition unless you request this. Late notices will be emailed to all past-due accounts. There will be a \$5 added charge for any account not paid in full by the 10th. This charge will continue to be added each month if it remains late.
- There will be no refunds or deductions for lessons missed. This includes long holidays.
- Costumes are a requirement for our dance classes- these are purchased at the end of January/February and you'll see a charge for these. Most costumes are between \$50.00 and \$100.00.
- Recital Fee - \$55 (non-refundable) (\$10 for each additional family member)
- We accept Cash, Check, Visa, or MasterCard. There will be a \$25 returned check charge for all checks returned from the bank.
- If you wish to withdraw a student from enrollment- submit in writing before the 1st day of the month, along with your final tuition payment for that month. Please note that any outstanding balances must be paid in full within one month of the withdrawal date or overdue fees will incur.

Dance Shoes and Dancewear

We have a new site called Nimbly- this is our online store. When you need to create an account, all orders will be shipped to the studio. Please do not wear your dance shoes outside of the dance studio. www.shopnimbly.com/vdc

Classroom Attire and Etiquette

Ballet shoes should be worn snugly, with ties tucked in at all times. Ballet is the only class that requires a pink leotard and pink tights, (skirts are optional). All other classes require regular dance attire and can be worn in any color. Hair should be up and away from the face. A Ballet bun is preferred for Ballet classes. Girl's tap shoes must be secured with elastic or tap shoe ties. Please discard the ribbons. No street clothes, necklaces, bracelets, & large earrings should be brought or worn to class. No gum, candy, food or drink is allowed on the dance floor. We ask that all dancers come with a water bottle and that it is kept in the waiting area.

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Costumes

All dance classes will have 1 or more costumes for our recital in May. Dance costumes will be ordered after the holiday break, by February. The estimated cost for costumes is between \$50-\$100, we try to keep this cost as low as possible. Your account will be billed when they are ordered and must be paid in full before receiving your costume. There will be no refunds for costumes.

Annual Recital Production

Our Annual Dance Recital is part of the student's dance education! Our recital is May 16th, 2026, and each student will be required to attend classes regularly, attend rehearsals associated with the recital, and pay for any costume(s) needed for their number. There is an annual recital fee of \$55 per student.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Costume Order Deadline: Feb 1, 2026

Dress Rehearsal(s): May 15, 2026

Performance(s): May 16, 2026

Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook! We wish you a very wonderful dance season with us!

Meet the staff of the VDC:

Ms. Tracy Gilson- Studio Director/Owner/Teacher

Ms. Jaimie Gilson- Studio Office Admin

Miss. Hannah Gilson- Teacher

Miss. Jovi Arciniega- Teacher

Miss. Kinleigh Day- Teacher

Ms. Morgan Melton- Teacher

Ms. Maggie Nylund- Teacher

Ms. Sarah Tapp-Teacher

Miss. Josie Arciniega- Teacher

Ms. Sheridan Edens- Teacher

Miss. Claire Sutton- 3rd Year Assistant

Miss. Sophie Connell- 2nd Year Assistant

Miss. Juliette Duval- 2nd Year Assistant

Miss. Jaylah Arciniega- 1st Year Assistant

Miss. Aurora Chase- 1st Year Assistant

Miss. Avis Nichols- 1st Year Assistant

Miss. Abigale Nylund- 1st Year Assistant