

# **ST. SOPHIA DANCE GROUP**

## **AGREEMENT AND SIGN-UP SHEET 2016-2017**

Dance students are a vital part of the St. Sophia Community. They bring the face of our Greek culture to the community-at-large during their Festival performances. In the past, each of the dance events has proven to be opportunities to learn to work as a team toward a goal while having fun. Dancing instills a love of music, language and traditions in their Greek roots, as well as discipline in a fine art, and friendships that last a lifetime.

This Agreement has been signed by the director and dance teachers acknowledging their commitment to follow the established criteria for the St. Sophia Dance Group (SSDG). Your signatures as dancer and parent shall acknowledge your commitment to also follow the established criteria.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership in the SSDG is open to all children entering second grade through their senior year of high school. Each family must be a member of St. Sophia Church. This Agreement and Sign-Up Sheet must be completed for all dancers. A fee of \$10 per child will be assessed for dance group expenses throughout the year. New members joining the SSDG will be placed in groups based on the criteria stated below.

### **REHEARSALS:**

Participation in rehearsals is imperative for dancers to learn all the dances and dance with skill and in harmony as a group.

Senior Group: Practice for the senior group will take place every Saturday at 11:00-12:30 in the Parish Hall or gym. The group's teachers will notify dancers if practice is cancelled.

Junior Sophomore & Freshman Groups: Practice for all other groups will take place every Sunday approximately 15 minutes after the liturgy ends, either in the cultural room, gym or kindergarten classroom. Dancers should report to one of those rooms at that time; teachers cannot delay practice by searching for students. If dancers do not show up, they will be marked absent. The groups' teachers or director will notify dancers if practice is cancelled either at the current rehearsal or by e-mail.

Rehearsal will not take place on holidays or holiday weekends (i.e., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter). We follow the Sunday School schedule. Again, if a group's practice is cancelled, the teachers or director will notify dancers via e-mail. Please check e-mail frequently, especially right before a practice or during inclement weather. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled the month of May if needed for Festival performances. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled for outside performances for Capital District events.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Consistency in a dancer's attendance is also imperative to learn all the dances and dance with skill and in harmony as a group. Poor attendance which results in the dancer not knowing a dance will result in the dancer having to sit out that particular dance during the Festival.

If a dancer drops out of the dance group for a year or more and decides to return to the group, they will be assigned to the same group from which they left so they can catch up and not take up a spot of someone who is eligible to move up. Extenuating circumstances will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **ASSIGNED GROUPS:**

Dancers will be assigned into a specific group based on the following:

- First and foremost movement into groups will be based on the number of dancers who graduate from the senior group, thus creating the domino effect of openings to the rest of the groups
- Attendance at rehearsals

- Ability to learn the dances
- Experience in dancing
- Number of years in present group (varies between **two to four** years)
- Maintaining balance for each group

The assignment of partners within each group is not negotiable and is at the sole discretion of the teacher.

### **COSTUMES:**

Dance costumes are very expensive to buy and clean. Some costumes are as much as \$600 each.

Dancers will be fitted for a costume for the Festival starting in April. Fittings will be scheduled by group. If there is damage to a costume during the Festival beyond repair, or if pieces are missing, the dancer is responsible for monetary compensation to St. Sophia for purchase of a new costume or pieces as needed. At Festival time, some items will need to be purchased by the dancer, i.e., stockings, socks, pants (younger groups only), and in the case of no existing pair fitting the dancer, shoes.

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

Dancers must demonstrate their dance ability, musicality, showmanship, preparedness for rehearsal, personal discipline and motivation, a positive attitude and positive behavior during rehearsals and in the community.

Dancers must also demonstrate respect toward their teacher and group members. If a student demonstrates disrespectful, disruptive or rude behavior toward a teacher or group member, the parent will be asked to remove the student from practice. If the negative behavior persists, a conference with the director, teacher and student will take place.

If a dancer knows that he/she will not be dancing at any time during the Festival due to proms, vacations, recitals, field trips, sports events or other commitments, etc., please advise the teacher as soon as possible so she can re-assign partners before the weekend of the Festival.

The dancers are expected to meet these standards in order to make these dance years memorable for all.

<b>CONTACT NUMBERS:</b>	Director	Diane Cohen – 729-8487
	Senior Group	Mary Googas – 222-3712 Maria Googas – 441-4966 Erika Koutelis – 334-6650
	Junior Group	Alex McCullough – 369-4946 Corina Menagias – 852-5492
	Sophomore Group	Marie McCullough – 369-2313
	Freshman Group	Barbara Rustin – 339-4693 Maria Ziamandianis – 312-0350

This group of volunteers collectively spends hundreds of hours and their talents from September through May to help our children learn this beautiful art so it will not be lost through the generations. Support and respect from all dancers, parents, teachers and director are paramount in keeping the SSDG harmonious. As with all families there are times when there are disagreements. It is only through discussion and understanding of a situation that problems are resolved. We have to be examples for our children. Rumor, misinformation, insinuation, anger, and even hatred are not what we want to teach our children. We want to be positive role models. We, the director and teachers, pledge to support this program to the best of our abilities.

Diane Cohen  
Director

# 2016 – 2017 St. Sophia Dance Group Sign Up

I/we, dancer(s) of St. Sophia Dance Group, agree to adhere to this agreement:

Dancer # 1 (print) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer # 2 (print) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer # 3 (print) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address of Parent (print): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address of Dancer (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Members of St. Sophia:     yes                       no

I/we, parents of the dancer(s) of the St. Sophia Dance Group, agree to adhere to this agreement:

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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For office use only:

Paid:    \_\_\_\_\_ Check  
          \_\_\_\_\_ Cash