

ST. SOPHIA DANCE GROUP

AGREEMENT AND SIGN-UP SHEET 2018-2019

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 agreed to by the 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. Each dancer must be a member of Sunday School or Altar. See below for new attendance criteria. This Agreement and Sign-Up Sheet must be completed for all dancers (1 form per family). Please tear off the last page of this and return only the Sign-Up Sheet. A fee of \$15 per child will be assessed for dance group expenses throughout the year. All members joining the St. Sophia Dance Group 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 11:30-1:00 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 5 minutes after the liturgy ends, either in the cultural room, gym or kindergarten classroom. There is not a definite time as to when rehearsals begin on Sundays, as it depends on when the Divine Liturgy ends. If dancers are in attendance in Sunday School, they should always be on time for dance rehearsal. Dancers should report to their rehearsal 5 minutes after service ends; teachers cannot delay practice in order to search for students. 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. If Sunday School is in session, dance is also taking place. If a group's practice is cancelled, the teachers or director will notify dancers via e-mail or text. 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.

***ATTENDANCE:**

There is a new attendance requirement this year. All dancers must be in attendance in either Sunday School or Altar in order to attend rehearsal each week. If a dancer is not in attendance in either Sunday School or Altar, they will not be allowed to attend rehearsal. The Sunday School Director will be taking attendance in each Sunday School classroom every Sunday and she will submit the names of students who were absent from Sunday School to the respective dance instructor/s. Dancers will not be allowed to skip Sunday School and just attend dance rehearsal. If you have any other questions or need further information related to this attendance policy, please see the letter in the September Testament for further details supporting this new policy.

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 just after Christmas. 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.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Diane Cohen – (518) 729-8487

Maria Googas – (518) 441-4966

Alex McCullough – (518) 369-4946

Zoe Bousbouras – (518) 542-3227

Maria Ziamandanis – (518) 312-0350

Nicole Kordas – (518) 935-5236

Mary Googas – (518) 222-3712

Erika Koutelis – (518) 334-6650

Marie McCullough – (518) 369-2313

Barbara Rustin – (518) 339-4693

Stephanie Kontakos – (518) 269-5309

This group of volunteers collectively spends hundreds of hours and their talents from October 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

2018–2019 St. Sophia Dance Group Sign Up

I/we, dancer(s) & parents 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 Addresses of Parent/s (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? (circle one): Yes No

All dancers are enrolled in Sunday School or Altar? (circle one): 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 _____

*Be sure to enclose cash or check (payable to St. Sophia) with your signup sheet.
Dues are \$15 per dancer.

For office use only: Paid:____--____Check _____ Cash