

Dear Parents & Dancers,

The following information is a detailed explanation of the requirements, rules, audition process, competition, performance, and showcase requirements for the performing company members. The performing companies are designed for students who excel in dance. The objective is to create a well-rounded dancer. This includes strong technique, strong “Tricks”, outstanding performance and stage presence, the ability to accept and correct constructive criticism, a strong appreciation for the arts, a responsible team player, and excellent communication skills. Our job as dance professionals is to promote the appreciation of dance and to prepare these students for a possible future career in an artistic field. **Please read the following information thoroughly. If you are interested in trying out please write your name on the appropriate page on the clipboard that will e found on the front desk after May 1<sup>st</sup>. An agreement form is attached. Please sign it and return in the day of auditions. (NOT the day of the workshop) If you are not in agreement with the following policies and rules then this may not be the time to audition.**

For 20 years our school has been a leader in dance education. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with our underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this information to offer our dancers and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the Performing Company Program and the school.

### General Rules

- Mini prep will range from grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.
- Junior Prep will range from grades 5-7<sup>th</sup>
- Junior Jazz Company will range from 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Senior Jazz Company will range from 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up
- Junior lyrical members range from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade (guest choreographer fee \$90, dates TBA)
- Senior lyrical company grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (by placement, no tryout, guest choreographer fee \$90, dates TBA)
- Mini Musical Theater range from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Junior Acro will range from 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- senior acro 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade (by placement, no tryout required)
- Junior tap grades 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (see tap handbook)
- Senior tap grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade (see tap handbook, tryout required for new members only or previous year understudy)
- Senior contemporary company range 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade must be in jr/sr lyrical or contemporary class (guest choreographer, choreographer fee \$90, dates TBA)
- Hip Hop company grades 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- The companies will participate in 4 regional competitions per year, one of these will include a mandatory convention. The cost is approximately \$45-50 per

person per group number. All company members will participate in one convention per year (\$250 for classes)

- The competition/convention schedule for 2019 is as follows...

Act 1 Talent – February 14-16 Toledo

Starbound – March 2/3 Columbus

Jump convention and competition – April 3-5 Dearborn, MI

Ticket to Broadway – April 18-9 Akron

- Company costumes range from \$65 to \$100 each – please note that we order these earlier than regular studio costumes to ensure they are in time for our first event. These costumes are to be paid in full so please plan accordingly based on how many numbers your child will be in. It may also be necessary to purchase items for your costumes such as sports bras, tights, leotards, underwear etc and this cost will not be factored into the cost of the costume. We try to do a dress rehearsal with our costumes 2 weeks prior to the first competition to ensure the costume is working correctly. Please note that you may be asked to do additional altering, add rhinestones, and/or sequinning in between the dress rehearsal and first competition.
- Senior jazz company, Junior jazz company, and Junior prep jazz company all will do perform 2 numbers so 2 costumes will need to be purchased. All other companies only perform one number. For juniors and seniors, if your child wishes to be considered for the small group piece and is chosen, there will also be an additional costume
- All performing members MUST purchase a Dance Dimensions Jacket (Approx. \$150) – all new members are required to purchase it. Around Christmas there will be an optional team sweat outfit that will be designed and orchestrated by Jen. This is optional and will be passed out at the studio – this alleviates the stress of parents/students that simply choose not to pay for this extra outfit. It will be ordered around the holidays and I will keep you posted on the design and order form.
- Each member is required to purchase make-up items for each performance specified by Jen
- There will be a \$50 “instructor charge” **per student** for the year. This fee will be divided between the competition teachers for travel expenses and hours worked during competition please have this paid by September 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be added to your account in the computer
- Students will be required to purchase competition earrings and a pony tail holder – total cost is approximately \$30 –
- At the holiday time we have an all company member lock in at the studio! This includes a secret Santa gift exchange by the team members which they draw in class. The gift limit is \$20. Everyone will be assigned a food item to bring for the event
- **There is to be absolutely no smoking, drinking, or drug use. Failure to do so will result in a call to your parents and then immediate dismissal from the company, no exceptions!** Please be advised that any pictures (ie, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or any other social media) will also hold you

- accountable – I do monitor these media sites regularly and will speak with the parents and student if I see anything questionable
- All “old” and new students from each company will be required to participate in the annual Strongsville Homecoming Parade. More info will be sent later. The parade is on a Wednesday, July 25th at 6:30. Date to be announced Dancers will need to be present for a practice to learn the material the night before at the studio – the time will be announced.
  - Dancers will wear a black leotard and black dance shorts for the event. Practice will be the day before the event at the studio at a time to be announced.
  - Dancers may audition for multiple jazz companies but will only be placed in the company they score higher in

### **Audition Process & Rules**

#### **TIMES AND DATES FOR AUDITIONS!!!**

- Jazz Performing Group Workshop is Monday, June 24th (***Minis 3-4:30pm, Prep 4:30-6:00, Juniors 6:00-7:30 and, Seniors 7:30-9pm***). Tryouts are on Tuesday, June 25th starting at approximately 4:00 PM. They will be given their tryout time before leaving the workshop on Monday
- Contemporary Workshop is Monday, June 24th 9:00pm-10PM tryouts the next day beginning around 9:00PM – times will be assigned on Monday
- Mini musical theater workshop Wednesday, June 26th 4:00-5:00 tryouts the next day
- Junior Tap Company workshop Wednesday, June 26th 5:00-6:00 tryouts the next day
- Senior tap Company workshop Wednesday, June 26th – new members only and first year members from previous year 6:00-7:00 tryouts the next day
- Junior lyrical workshop Wednesday, June 26th 7:00-8:00 tryouts the next day
- Junior acro workshop Wednesday, June 26th 8:00-8:45 tryouts the next day
- Hip Hop company workshop and audition Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 8:45-9:45PM
- You will find out your partner for the tryout day at the workshop. **There is a \$12 audition fee for each company you audition for**
- The goal of each company member is to progress in their performance ability, technique, trick, choreography, and memory. The judges will be looking for a strong balance of each of the above criteria. All of these areas will be equally scored.
- The judging panel will be outside professionals in their field except for Hip Hop and contemporary which will be the choreographer. The judge’s decision is final and the judges may not be approached at any time by a dancer or parent prior, during, and after the audition. The judge’s will not know any student’s trying out and therefore it will be a “clean slate”. Students are solely based on how they

- audition which in turn determines what scores they receive which determined if they have made the team.
- The workshop and auditions are completely closed.
  - The number of dancer on each team is determined by where the gap is in the scores – there will be no more than 17 members on a team.
  - Students must be in black leotard (no other colors or words) and pink tights for the jazz audition. They must have jazz and ballet shoes, their hair tied back in a bun, and no jewelry. Boys should wear black jazz pants and black tight fitting shirt. For the other company auditions they may have black shorts and black leotard.

### **For the Junior Tap Company and Mini Musical Theater Company**

Both teams will meet on Sunday at the times and dates listed below...

Due to the fact that these companies will only be meeting twice a month, all rehearsals listed below are **MANDATORY**. *Please check your family schedules to make sure you are able to commit to these dates PRIOR to tryouts.* If you are unable to commit to the Fall dates listed below, this may not be the time to tryout. *If you have a conflict with any date below, please email Kathie prior to tryouts to discuss.* We understand that there may be circumstances that lead to an absence, but please keep in mind there are only 2 practices a month and it can be difficult for a dancer to catch up on material taught as well as understand staging for their teammates. ALL absences must be approved ***in advance*** by Miss Kathie. **Note: No dancer will be allowed to miss both rehearsals in any given month for any reason.** If a student has to miss for illness or other approved conflicts, a private will need to be scheduled with the student assistant for a cost of \$10/30 minutes *prior* to the next rehearsal to learn new choreography. Miss Kathie will let you know if a longer period of time with the assistant is needed based on the material taught.

Required Fall classes for Mini Musical Theater are company class, character jazz and ballet – members are strongly encouraged to take an additional jazz class, but it is not mandatory. Junior Tap Company members are required to take company class, a tap technique class and a ballet class. Summer Classes are listed later in the Handbook.

Sundays: Musical Theater 2-3:30, Jr Tap 3:30-5

September 8th & 15th

October 6th & 13th

November 10th & 17th

December 8th & 15th

(Second half of the year dates will be announced at beginning of December)

## **For Our Dancer**

Congratulations! You have made the decision to audition for the Performing Companies. The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances, regardless if you make the company or not. Strong technique is a key ingredient. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your time to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns and worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers and choreographers you work with are essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offer you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

All rehearsals are dedicated to technique, choreography or "cleaning" the choreography. A dancer who missed rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par.

Performances and competition are your opportunities to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. To make the most of these opportunities:

- **Arrive at performances at least an hour and a half prior to the scheduled time, unless otherwise advised by your teacher.**
- **Be sure you are properly warmed up.**
- **Present yourself with costumes pressed, shoes cleaned, and all accessories accounted for.**
- **Go out there and show your audience how much you love to dance!**

## **For the Parents...**

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be part of your child's dance education.

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere for our faculty, company participants, and their parents; it promises a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the

students and faculty, makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child in how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence at all classes, rehearsals, and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

### **Understanding Dance Education**

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal-perhaps even greater-value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

### **Class or Choreography Placement**

The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident and excel, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Please see the school's director if you have questions or concerns about your child's placement.

### **Do's and Don'ts**

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. Watch for this behavior in your children as well, and encourage them to focus on their own accomplishments. Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. In addition, speaking

negatively about your child's teacher, fellow dancers, or other parents in front of your child – or other students – could result in problems far beyond your original concerns.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring important behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully to their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves. If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education, don't panic – and please don't talk only with other parents when questions arise. If it truly is an important concern you should have no problem asking the professionals. Make an appointment to speak directly to your child's teacher or the director of the school. Please conduct all communication through the school office rather than approaching your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or calling them at home.

### **For Dancers and Parents**

#### **Image**

The children and parents involved in the Performing Companies participate in many outside activities, each of which becomes a reflection of the school's philosophy. Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- We never recruit dancers from other schools
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside dance activities. If a dancer or parents has a concern they should approach the studio director.

#### **Fall Classes**

Now is not the time to audition if you know you will have a conflict with meeting the following requirements or you think a conflict may arise during the year. The rules need to apply to everyone to be fair. All dancers are required to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to any added rehearsals and performances. Please note Senior Company extra rehearsal is a required class, the charge is added even if at cap. In addition to their designated company class each dancer in the Jazz and Lyrical Performing Group is required to participate in at least two assigned ballet classes at Dance Dimensions. Each dancer is required to perform in their assigned ballet piece(s) for the recital. All junior prep members are required to take an additional jazz class (character jazz does not count as a jazz class). All junior and senior company members

are required to take an additional jazz class with any instructor at the studio. All mini jazz company members must take 1 ballet class, the mini company class, and one jazz class. Additional classes can be taken – please see Jen with questions. Private lessons and choreography do not count as a regular technique class. A total of two classes may be missed until the dancer is removed from a competition piece. After two missed ballet classes, it is the dancer's responsibility to make up these classes to regain their spot. If a dancer is feeling ill or is injured they may come to their assigned class to observe. If they have a doctor's note, this class will be counted as excused. If they do not have a doctor's note, it will count as unexcused, and the student will need to take a make-up class. After three missed company classes the student may be asked to leave the team or take a private lesson with the instructor. **All company members must be signed up for all of their fall classes by July 2nd!!** Dancers will receive the competition schedule in late August. There may be additional classes, including master classes, in which it is expected that all team members will participate. There will be an additional charge for master classes.

### **Summer Classes**

*All junior/senior/Sr lyrical/Sr Acro company dancers are required to take their assigned ballet class during the summer classes. A total of six individual classes must be completed by the end of the summer. If they are not complete they must be made up beginning in the fall.*

*All Junior Prep company members are required to take the Junior Prep Jazz class during the summer session, one ballet class, and jumps, leaps and turns*

*All mini's are required to take the Mini jazz class over the summer, one ballet, and the jumps, leaps, and turns class.*

*Junior acro members must take one ballet and their acro class.*

*Contemporary company must take assigned ballet and attend choreography workshop*

*Mini musical theater must take assigned ballet and company class*

*Junior tap company must take assigned ballet and company class. Returning members will be required to participate in Summer Tap Master Class – optional for new members*

All junior prep, junior, and seniors company members are required to participate in the summer jazz workshops. Please see the brochure for details. If you are in junior and senior lyrical, contemporary, and hip hop you MUST be present for the summer



rehearsals with the guest choreographer – no exceptions to this rule. Days and times TBA. There is a \$90 choreographer fee per girl due on the first day of the workshop.

This summer the studio will be holding a master class series. There will be 5 classes offered. All Junior lyrical, junior prep, juniors, seniors and senior lyrical members are required to take 3 of the 5 classes. If you are injured or ill you still need to fulfill this requirement of viewing the classes. Each class is 2 hours in length and will be \$15. We highly recommend that students take advantage of this chance to study with these excellent teachers so they are more than welcome to participate in all four classes. The schedule will be given out by mid-June.

Conditioning classes will be offered (see brochure for dates and times) Company members 12 and older are required to take a total of 8 TOTAL conditioning classes for the summer!!!! If you miss due to vacation you will need to make up throughout the summer. The class cost is \$7 each class – all participants are required to supply their own free weights and a mat.

### **Tuition and Expense Policy**

Part of the commitment to the Company Program is being up-to-date with all accounts related to participation.

The studio will offer fundraisers to all company members. Any money that is raised will be put into your account and can be used towards any expenses.

### **The Focus is Not Simply on Competition**

Since it is our goal to instill a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards, company dancers have performance opportunities other than competitions. They perform at the Annual Strongsville Homecoming Parade and a separate dance performance. All parents will be notified of any other performance opportunities that arise throughout the year. For example, mall performances, business promotions, or benefits. We believe the lessons learned through additional performances are just as valuable as the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude towards competition and our goal to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider participation in competitions not simply part of our students' training as dancers; it's also an important part of how we influence them as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go on stage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about; whether they win – or which they win – is secondary.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students and appreciation from other dancers and schools. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible! For us, competition is an education!

If reward money is won at competition by the team the money is applied to any sets, large props, building materials, and labor costs for any company numbers – please remember that there is no guarantee at any competition that we will win money, therefore this money is kept and applied from previous years and for future years, not just the current year. Also there are many competitions that “prize money” is a gift certificate to be used for their National Championships, which we do not attend, therefore the amount is useless.

There will be a \$50 “instructor charge” per student for the year. This fee will be divided between the competition teachers for travel expenses and hours worked during competition.

### **Mini’s Tryout Requirements**

Single pirouette on the right  
Traveling pas de bourse  
Step double tucks  
Chainne turns or clean 3 step turn in releve  
Splits and extensions (heel stretch or leg extensions with hands on ground)  
Ability to complete the dance routine taught clean, strong, with good memory, and to the beat of the music  
Step knee knee turn of the right and left

### **Junior Prep Tryout Requirements**

Double pirouette right and double left  
Step knee knee turns right and left  
Chainnes turns right and left  
Grand jete leaps right and left  
Fie jump  
Flexibility skills and ability to apply them in choreography  
Solid technical skills  
Ability to learn and successfully perform choreography, the way the choreographer wants it to look  
Strong arm movements  
Ability to really feel and perform the choreography to the beat

### **Mini Musical Theater Requirements**

Basic Beginner Jazz Curriculum (i.e., jazz square, pivots, pas de burre, etc)

Alternating chasses

Grapevine (with scissor step)

Step knee knee Turn - right OR left

Chaine or 3 step turn in releve

Ability to complete the dance routine taught clean, strong, with good memory, GREAT character/performance skills and to the beat of the music

### **Junior Tap Requirements**

Running flaps - even rhythm (no heels)

Flap heel heel pivots

Flap and shuffle ball changes and combination (no heels on the floor)

Cramp rolls (4 and 5 count)

Paradiddles

Maxiford

Drawbacks and double drawbacks

Strong arm and upper body movement.

Single pull backs

Single time step

Ability to execute and perform tap combination taught at workshop with clarity, strong performance skills and in correct timing.

### **Junior Acro Team Requirements**

Strong jazz skills

All above requirements listed for Junior Prep

Clean backwalkover

Clean frontwalkover with 2 hands, 1 handed a plus

Balancing skill – headstand, elbow stand, chest stand, walking on hands

Ariel and backhandsprings are a plus but not required

This paper MUST be returned to Jen the day of Auditions.

I understand that if I do not return this agreement I will not be able to audition.  
I have read the entire information booklet and agree to all of the rules and policies if I should make a Performing Company.

Student Signature

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Print Name

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Parent Signature