



"Come be a star and dance with us"
OFFICIAL DANCE DYNAMICS DANCE COMPANY HANDBOOK
FOR THE 2014-2015 COMPETITIVE TEAM.

Dance Dynamics, Inc. is a dance studio and competitive company that specializes in the education and preparation of dancers to learn and compete in the professional dance market by offering quality education, top of the line instructors, and invaluable performance and training opportunities.

Dance Dynamics, Inc. offers dance education and performance capabilities in the following dance genres: jazz, ballet, tap, modern/contemporary, lyrical, and hip hop. It is the vision and mission of the studio's creator, Brittnie Quinn, to "take our dancers to the next level by evolving in the ever changing dance world and to work with our students to effectively introduce the trends, styles, and techniques of the future in dance."

Dance Dynamics Dance Company Packet

The intent of this packet is to inform the dancers and parents of the responsibilities of becoming a company member. While the responsibilities are great, the belief is that this will help all of our dancers reach that next level in technique & performance that is expected from them. We strive for excellence and try to make all company decisions based on what is best for the company as an ***entire group.***

Rehearsal Time Block:

Company rehearsal will meet once a week EVERY WEEK for each dance. The main company time block with the majority of rehearsals will be on Fridays for Junior & Senior company members & on Saturdays for mini company members. Hip Hop rehearsal with Kara will meet on Monday evenings if you are selected to be in her piece. There will be an extra rehearsal on Tuesday night for some senior pieces. And guest choreography pieces by Tanya Ashton & Lauren Santelli will be told to you if you are chosen to dance in them. There is an extra cost to be in these guest pieces and there will be extra rehearsals.

Different Company Levels

Seniors & Juniors-These are our most advanced teams with ages ranging from 11-18. These teams are not allowed to participate in any other school dance team or group. These teams have a different time commitment, rehearsal schedule, competition schedule, and allotted absences. These teams may audition for solos. Rehearsals times will be held during the week as well as during the company rehearsal time block on Fridays.

Minis - This is our beginner/Intermediate level team of 8-11 yr olds. They have a limited time commitment, rehearsal and competition schedule, and allotted absences. Rehearsals for this team will be held during the company rehearsal time block on Fridays.

Petites-This team is for our most beginner level & youngest dancers of ages 5-7. They have a limited time commitment, rehearsal schedule, and allotted absences. Rehearsal for this team will be during the company rehearsal time block on Saturdays.

Solos

DDDC only offers 2-4 solos per year. Solos will be assigned to dancers Brittnie feels deserves one . Brittnie does not allow anyone to compete against each other in the same age bracket. Only 1 child per age bracket will be selected. If you are chosen for a solo after auditions, there will be a \$25 a month fee on top of your monthly tuition & competition costs.

Requirements:

Class Requirements

It is a requirement of all company dancers to complete a weekly curriculum of classes. These classes are separate from competition rehearsals and are designed to enhance their training and technique. Company members are placed in classes based on their current level of technique and ability. We do require an extensive amount of class for our junior & seniors and these are *non negotiable.*

Class attendance determines technique; therefore, it is extremely important that classes are not missed. If classes are consistently missed, or a member is not keeping up with their technique they will not be allowed to perform at any competitions or shows until they are caught up; and their involvement in our company will be reconsidered.

Below are the listed required classes for each dancer.

- **Petites (5-8 yrs):** are required to take: 1 ballet class, 1 jazz class and 1 hip hop, and 1 lyrical or technique class per week. Tap is optional but a good idea for a well-rounded dancer.
- **Minis (9-11 yrs):** are required to take 1 ballet class, 1 jazz class, 1 lyrical or technique class, 1 hip hop class & 1 musical theater class. Tap is not required unless you are in a tap piece.
- **Juniors/Seniors (11+ yrs):** are required to take: 2 ballet classes, 2 jazz classes, 1 modern class, 1 hip hop class, 2 technique/turns classes, 1 musical theater class, and 1 lyrical class per week. Tap class isn't required unless you are in a tap piece.

Competition Dance Guidelines

After the auditions, you have now been placed in specific dances for competition and certain recreational technique classes throughout the week, which you CANNOT, at any time throughout the year, drop out of or make any changes to. Once you have made the commitment you are set for the entire competition season. If a dancer is unable to commit to all pieces he/she was picked to be in, then they are allowed to choose from the top of the list down. If a dancer would like to participate in a solo they will be required to do a special solo audition. If chosen to do a solo, the dancer must participate in all chosen duets/trios/group dances as well as the solo. If at any time Brittnie notices that a dancer's group number(s) are suffering because he/she is committing more to their solo, the solo will be held until the director decides their dancing in the group number(s) is consistently rehearsed and performed up to company expectations.

Company Absence and Rehearsal Policies

Sick- If a company member is sick, but not contagious, they are expected to attend class or rehearsal and watch if necessary. If, however, they are contagious, then a parent needs to call and speak with either Brittnie. If a dancer has a serious illness where they are out for over 3 days of classes, DDI will need a doctor's note confirming the illness and then a release before they are able to return to the studio and classes. If a student has a serious illness the month of competition, it is up to the director's discretion as to the participation of that dancer in that month's competition, even with a doctor's release. Unless a dancer is *SERIOUSLY* injured they are always expected to participate in class & in rehearsal, ***no exceptions***.

Exceptions for class/rehearsal missed other than serious illness-with doctor's note-will only be made for the following reasons: death in the family, final exams, school required activity, immediate family member hospitalization, religious sacrament or milestone graduation, or a serious injury that impairs the dancer's movement in class. Even though these exceptions will be accepted, please let Brittnie know of the dates as soon as you know them. Please turn in any planned dates you might have of family events, parties, vacations, etc. All dates must be turned in via email. Dates submitted in any other way (including verbal) will not be considered.

Juniors/Seniors:

Weekly Class Absence: Each junior/senior company member is allowed **2 absences per class per semester for the entire company year;** this includes weekly classes only.

For your first 2 absences you are required to take a make up class within 1 week of your absence that we will assign for you to take. Once a dancer has accumulated **3 or more** absences in 1 semester, their participation in company dances may be reconsidered.

Rehearsal Absence: Each junior/senior member is only allowed 2 absences for the **ENTIRE company year.**

Petites/Minis:

Weekly Class Absence: Each petite or mini company member is allowed **3 absences per class per semester for the entire company year**; this includes weekly classes only.

For your first 2 absences you are required to take a make up class within 1 week of your absence that we will assign for you to take. Once a dancer has accumulated **4 or more** absences in 1 semester, their participation in certain dances may be reconsidered.

Rehearsal Absence: Each mini or Boys company member are only allowed 2 absences for the **ENTIRE company year**.

Other Absence Notes:

Being sick is **not** an excused absence.

You are not allowed to miss 2 Company rehearsals back-to-back. Please arrange your vacations accordingly so that you never miss 2 rehearsals in a row. There are absolutely **no exceptions** to this rule. If you do miss 2 in a row you will be charged a \$100 penalty fee. This means if we are scheduled to have no rehearsal because of spring break you cannot also miss the week before our break; that makes 2 missed rehearsals in a row.

Class Preparation and Appearance

Preparation: When attending class, all company members need to be on their best behavior. DDDC dancers set the example for everyone else, remember it is a privilege and a choice to be a member. If any company member is inappropriate in class, or out of class, membership will be reconsidered. You must always be prepared for class at all times. Preparation for class means bringing all dance shoes to ***every single class***, wearing the appropriate attire & having extra hair ties and bobby pins.

Appearance: Your hair must *always* be pulled away from your face—including bangs. **No piercings, tattoos, or unnatural hair colors are allowed while performing with Dance Dynamics Dance Company.** We want and expect a clean cut, well dressed, professional looking company at all times. You are always representing our company and our studio and need to look your absolute best and cleanest while being a part of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company.

Class Attire: DDDC members need to always attend class in formfitting and proper attire. NO BAGGY CLOTHES OR JACKETS (except in hip hop class) Hair should always be pulled away from the face. For ballet, hair needs to be secured in a bun (no exceptions), no loose hair. All Dancer's need to maintain a good personal hygiene. Please keep deodorant in your bags and reapply as necessary.

- **Ballet classes:** must be attended in a leotard, tights (pink or black), pink canvas ballet shoes. No shorts and no tops—unless it is winter and it is cold in the dance room. You will not be allowed into class without the appropriate attire, shoes, and hair. If you are not allowed into class, this will count as an unexcused absence.
- **lyrical/modern/Jazz:** Leotard & tights is preferred but tight fitting pants or leggings and tight fitting tank top is acceptable.
- **Hip hop/tap:** attire might vary by instructor. You will abide by each instructor's wishes—no matter what. What is not acceptable is: hoodies, scarves, or jeans.

Please realize all rules in this handbook are for the good of the entire company. We do what is best for everyone and need to remember that decisions made and rules broken affect an entire team of members. Once you agree to be a member, you are a part of a TEAM. We have rules for a reason and expect everyone to follow them. (Parents & dancers)

Competition and Convention and Performances

All conventions, performances, company trips, competitions, and Nationals are MANDATORY unless otherwise stated.

There will be a mandatory 30-minute parent meeting the week prior to all conventions and competitions. The purpose of this meeting is to go over the next week's competition schedule, which includes performances and meals. If you cannot be in attendance at a meeting you must let Brittnie know immediately and ensure your child is there to take important notes and get the schedule.

Conventions: DDDC will be attending 1 convention this year-required for all members

Jump Dance Convention- January 16-18 location TBA

OR

Velocity Dance Convention-January 30-February 1 location TBA

Competitions: DDDC will be attending **4** local competitions- all required by all team members.

KAR: February 27-March 1 @ The Paramount

BRAVO-March 13-15 @ Governor's State University

Rainbow Dance- April 10-12 @ Batavia Fine Arts Center

Starpower: May 15-17 OR Showstoppers: May 22-24 @ The Paramount

Health and Homework

Dancers, remember, your body is your instrument and it will only work for you if you are good to it. Do your best to eat healthy! This doesn't mean you have to swear off all junk food, but be careful to watch your intake, especially on days that you are dancing. Parents, we need your help with this. Make sure your child has eaten before they come to the studio, in addition to sending them with healthy snack and/or meals. If students are here for 4+ hours please pack a HEALTHY dinner with them and we will always give them time to eat. If they are here for under 4 hours they need to eat before they come or when they get home. Please try not to send them here with fast food.

Homework and school are #1. They come before any dance function or class. If dancers are here for 4+ hours we will allow them time to do homework if it is necessary. If they are here for less than 4 hours they can find time to get their homework done at home. If grades start to suffer, a meeting will be called between Brittnie, and the dancer and parent. Parents need to keep in contact with Brittnie about any problems dancers may be having in school. We expect all company members to maintain a B average or their participation in company will be reconsidered. We are preparing our dancers for their future and school is just as important as their dance training with us. We expect ALL members to put full effort into their dancing and into their schoolwork and grades.

We do not expect any child to miss dance class because of homework, but we understand it happens. We need to be able to find a way to get the homework done efficiently and not miss class, as class is the *most* important part to your technique and what will make you or break you as a dancer.

Fundraisers

We offer several company and individual fundraisers through the year to help with company cost. These Fundraisers are required for all dancers. All fundraiser events are a great time for the company to be together and work together as a team to raise money to be split equally among all members. Fundraisers are your opportunities to get every extra cost paid for so take advantage of all of them. A lot of time goes into setting these events up, so support and work from all of our company members is expected.

Studio Cleaning

The dance studio is a place that you/or your dancer will spend many, many hours. All company dancers are expected to set the standard and keep the studio clean. This is all of our 2nd homes so pick up after yourself and don't leave any of your belongings behind. Please put all your dances bags/shoes/coats in the area set for it, and throw away your food & empty water bottles. CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES!!!

Studio Master Classes

We will have 2-5 master classes throughout the year where we have top master teachers come in and teach a 2-hour master class for our dancers. The price of this class will be between \$15 and \$35 depending on how expensive the teachers are and how many kids sign up. The master classes are not required but they are an awesome opportunity so if you can make it, please be sure to be there.

Company Commitment to Personal Conduct

Company Code of Conduct

These rules stand for company members at all times whether they are at the studio or not. Disregard for any rule will result in immediate dismissal.

Note: You are a member of DDDC from try-out to try-outs (August- Nationals)

There will be NO SMOKING, DRINKING, DRUGS, SWEARING, VULGAR EXPRESSIONS OR DISRESPECT TOWARD ANY ADULT AT ANY TIME!!!

It is the expectation that all students will be respectful to everyone present at all times. The dancer's behavior at the studio and away are a direct representation of the team and the studio. There are numerous people looking up to you and looking to you in setting an example of such behaviors.

Be considerate of others at all times.

Refrain from speaking negatively about any person, place or thing.

Be positive. It's contagious ☺

**Note: Brittnie reserves the right to remove a dancer from any piece or out of the company at any time without refund due to any of the above conducts not being upheld. A dancer may also be pulled for simply not keeping up physically or mentally or not knowing and applying corrections or counts. If you have a solo, that will be the first routine to be pulled, then duets, and then group numbers. All members need to keep their grades at a B average or they will have their solos/ duets pulled immediately.

COMPANY COST COMMITMENT

Monthly Tuition Fees

Minis & boys in 1-2 numbers: \$175 per month

Minis & boys in 3-4 numbers: \$225 per month

Juniors/Seniors in 2-4 numbers: \$275 per month

Juniors/Seniors in 5+ numbers: \$325 per month

*Multiple student family discount is 10% off of above price.

*This fee includes all dance classes and rehearsals for company dancers for the 10 month program August-June.

*Competition costs range for each competition and vary from approximately \$1,000-\$3,000 per dancer per *season* depending on how many numbers your dancer is in on top of your monthly payment. (Nationals is an extra cost on top of that.)

Other Company Fees

You will have 2 options for company performance invoicing (costumes, company warm-up/make-up/jewelry/hair-piece, conventions, competitions and rhinestones, guest choreography pieces):

Option 1: Add up your total cost for the entire company year and divide it into a 9 month payment plan (this does not include Nationals) and pay a monthly balance on the 15th of every month IN ADDITION to your monthly tuition fee. Your tuition is due on the 1st of every month.

Option 2: Beginning in October, you will be invoiced for the following items as needed: costumes, company warm-up/make-up/jewelry/hair-piece, conventions, competitions and rhinestones. You will receive an invoice 1-2 months before any scheduled competition and convention beginning in December. All other items will begin being invoiced in October. You will then have 30 days to pay each invoice as they come.

*All payments for competitions conventions/costumes/warm ups and make-up must be paid in cash or by check ONLY, no debit or credit cards accepted unless you want to pay a 3% fee on top of what you owe.

*For monthly tuition we ask that everyone please pay by DEBIT card, cash or check, we prefer no credit card but can take it if you have no other option.

Costume Details:

Shoes

Shoes will also be required as part of the costumes. The exact type and color will be determined when the costume is decided. We will try to keep the number of required shoes to a minimum. This cost will be added into your costume invoice or added into your monthly payment option.

Hair, Make Up, and Jewelry

We will be ordering specific mascara, eyeshadows, blush, & lip stick. (Your makeup kit) Foundation, and eyeliner can be whatever brand you want, make sure the foundation matches skin color well & eyeliner must be black. The glitter for the eyes for each dancer will be provided by Dance Dynamics at each competition. We will be doing a side french braid into a low side bun for all female members. All members need to grow their hair as long as possible to make the braid look nice and clean without any loose hairs. Try to grow hair one length as well; having many layers makes it difficult to pull it back.

Company Warm-up Clothing

All DDDC members are required to have company warm-ups. During any performance/competition/convention, members must wear them over their costumes at all times. During conventions, company members are expected to wear their warm-ups at all times when traveling to and from their classrooms.

Our warms ups this year for female dancers will be a warm up set by Glitterstarz. It will consist of a sports bra, a tank top, leggings & a jacket. This warm up set will be \$175 and ordered for all members in September. For male dancers there will be a jacket & a shirt ordered for \$125. Boys will need to have their own black & white track pants to wear with warm ups.

Parents can purchase their own glitterstarz jackets and tops through their website in the fall. We encourage parents to please always have DDDC clothing for every event.

Competitions and Conventions for 2015

NOTE: We have tried to work around spring breaks and locations but we cannot always guarantee that stuff won't fall on those weeks/weekends. Please remember you can't miss classes the week leading up to competition and you can't miss 2 weeks in a row (this includes any weeks we are closed for rehearsal) Please do not schedule vacations that conflict with competitions & conventions. You have 6+ months notice of every competition & convention.

Weekends off for 2014/2015 season- No Rehearsal

Note: After competitions are complete, we will run rehearsals as scheduled through recital and leading up to nationals.

FIRST REHEARSAL-SATURDAY AUGUST 30TH

Friday October 31st –all Friday rehearsals will move to Saturday November 1st

Friday November 28th & 29th - Thanksgiving break

Friday December 26th & 27th - Christmas break (we still have rehearsal up until December 20th)

Spring Break/Easter break –Monday March 30-Sunday April 5 (no classes or rehearsal)

****January 3rd will be our first rehearsal back after Christmas Break. This rehearsal is MANDATORY-NO EXCEPTIONS!! After a 2 week break everyone needs this rehearsal. There will be a \$100 penalty fee if missed. This Saturday rehearsal will be for all members & all dances from 11am-4pm.**

Nationals

We plan to attend nationals in 2015. Here are the options:

KAR NATIONALS- July 5-10 in Las Vegas or Anaheim, CA July 7-13

SHOWSTOPPER NATIONALS- Myrtle Beach, SC June 29-July 4 or Galveston, TX July 8-12

STARPOWER NATIONALS: Disney World June 29-July 3 or Branson, MO July 6-10

Nationals is a great opportunity and a wonderful and fun experience for our dancers. It is important that the entire company attends Nationals, as it effects the entire teams when people pull out. If you know money is an issue, please consider nationals as your family vacation. It is an amazing opportunity to compete against people from all over the nation at a very fun location. If you normally take a family vacation then please wait to take your vacation for nationals and bring the whole family along. National competition cost is not much different from regional competition costs; you are mostly paying for your flight and hotel stay for the week. We will have a lot of down time too , so there is a lot of time to spend and do things with family. You may also go a few days early or stay a few days after if you want more time as a family.

When you commit to the team for the entire year Nationals is a part of it. If too many people pull out, it affects too many numbers, and then we are unable to go. We need to all decide on a destination together that will work for everyone.

Monthly theme days at Friday & Saturday rehearsals

On the first Friday & Saturday of every month we will have a “theme day” we would like all company members to participate in. The themes are listed below:

September- DDDC Spirit Day

October-Neon & Pastel Day

November- Crazy hair Day

December- Red & Green holiday theme Day

January- Get Western Day

February- Red Day

March- Twin Day

April- Crazy outfit day

May- Pajama Day

June- Inside Out Day

Dance Dynamics Dance Company Final Agreements

Brittnie reserves the right to take any student out of a dance or the company at any time without refund due to inappropriate conduct such as speaking negatively, inappropriate class attire, poor class or rehearsal attitude, attitude toward a teacher or adult, and not putting full effort into rehearsal, at all times. A dancer may also be pulled for simply not keeping up physically or mentally, or not applying corrections and showing constant improvement & effort.

*I understand that all costume and music items are the sole property of Dance Dynamics Dance Company and may not under any circumstance be used outside of a DDDC performance without Brittnie's permission. Whether you are an active member or the company or not, this ruling still applies and ownership of all creative material belongs to Dance Dynamics Dance Company.

*I understand my financial commitment and know that what I agree to pay in September will stay my payment for the next 10 months. I will pay my tuition and all competition payments on time and not expect Dance Dynamics to front the money for me. If this is something my family and I cannot afford we unfortunately will not be joining Dance Dynamics Dance Company this year.

*I understand that I must be in classes & at rehearsal EVERY WEEK. I am not ever allowed to miss 2 rehearsals in a row and I know I need to commit fully to my team to be the best possible dancer and team member I can be.

*We understand, as parents and dancers, that we are a part of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company. We agree to ALL RULES in this handbook and know that if we disobey any of the rules we will be removed from the team without refund.

*I have read the entire Dance Dynamics Dance Company packet and agree to ALL of the rules/guidelines stated. By signing this I understand that I am now a member (or parent of) Dance Dynamics Dance Company for the 2014-2015 season and agree to represent Dance Dynamics, Inc AND Dance Dynamics Dance Company to the best of my ability. I also understand that I may be removed from the company, without refund, at any time due to any misconduct, disrespect, lack of energy or effort , or breaking any of the rules stated as decided by Brittnie. By accepting, the title "Dance Dynamics Dance Company Member", I am not only agreeing to the above guidelines, but also stating "I want this with all my heart."

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

Print Name_____

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Print name_____

*Note: please sign this page with student and parent needed signature. Keep one copy for your records and return one copy by Saturday August 23, 2014. You cannot be a member of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company without both the dancer and parents' signatures on this required page. This is a contract between the dancer, parent, and Dance Company that is binding for **10 months**.