



"Where we strive for excellence in technically refining dancers"

**OFFICIAL DANCE DYNAMICS DANCE COMPANY HANDBOOK
FOR THE 2016-2017 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. We pride ourselves in being a group of dedicated & talented dancers who through constant hard work strive to be part of an amazing award winning team.

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** at dance Dynamics, and try to make all company decisions based on what is best for the company as an **entire group**, please keep that in mind when reviewing these rules.

Rehearsal Time Block:

Company rehearsal will meet once a week EVERY WEEK for each dance. This year company rehearsal will fall on Friday evenings (4-8pm) as well as Saturday mornings (10am-1pm) If you are selected for hip hop, your rehearsal will always be on a Tuesday evening. Some duet/trio practices may fall during the week as well if time allows.

Different Company Levels

PINK TEAM -This our most advanced team, with the biggest time commitment and being placed in 4+ dances. This team is not allowed to participate in any other school dance team or group. (Unless discussed with and approved by Brittne prior to auditions) This team has an intense time commitment, rehearsal schedule, and very few allotted absences.

Rehearsal times will be held during the week as well as during the company rehearsal time block on Fridays & Saturdays. Pink team is at the studio 5 days a week.

Pink Team will also have 1 exclusive Pink Team routine in addition to their selected pieces.

SILVER TEAM - This is our Intermediate level team, with a slightly less time commitment and being placed in 2-3 dances. They have a heavy time commitment, rehearsal schedule, and a small amount of allotted absences. Rehearsals for this team will be held during the company rehearsal time block on Fridays and Saturdays. Silver team is at the studio 3-4 days a week.

WHITE TEAM-This team is for dancers who are only competing in 1 dance. They have a limited time commitment, rehearsal schedule, more allotted absences. Rehearsal for this team will be during the company rehearsal time block on Fridays or Saturdays. (Hip Hop is always on Tuesdays) White Team is at the studio 2-3 days a week.

Solos

DDDC will select up to 3 soloists for this season. Solos will be assigned by Brittne. We do not allow anyone to compete against each other in the same age bracket. We will have 1 mini soloist, 1 junior and 1 teen/senior soloist 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, not by their age. We do require an extensive amount of class for our Pink & Silver team members and these are non negotiable. White Team members will be required to take 3 classes a week, but we encourage you to do more if your schedule allows it. We are constantly striving for perfection and to be the absolute best we can be. This comes from hard work & dedication to your weekly classes & your rehearsals, they work hand in hand with one another.

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.

- **WHITE TEAM-** are required to take: 1 class in the genre they are competing in as well as 2 other classes decided by Brittnie. We encourage more classes if possible.
- **SILVER TEAM-** are required to take 2 ballet classes, 2 jazz classes, 1 lyrical/or modern , 1 tricks/turns class, & 1 musical theater class. Tap and hip hop are not required unless you are competing in them.
- **PINK TEAM-** are required to take: 2 ballet classes, 2 jazz classes, 1 modern class, 1 hip hop class, 1 tricks/turns class, 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 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**. If you are injured, and need to sit out, you still **MUST** attend class and watch.

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.

PINK TEAM MEMBERS:

Weekly Class Absence: Each Pink Team 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 Pink Team member is only allowed 2 absences for the **ENTIRE company year**. No back to back absences allowed

SILVER TEAM MEMBERS:

Weekly Class Absence: Each Silver Team 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 Silver Team company member is only allowed 2 absences for the **ENTIRE company year**. No back to back absences allowed

WHITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Weekly Class Absence: Each White Team member is allowed **3 absences per class per semester for the entire company year**; this includes weekly classes only. No makeups are required but they are encouraged.

Rehearsal Absence: Each White Team company member is only allowed 3 absences for the **ENTIRE company year**. No back to back absences allowed

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. We will be attending 1 convention & 4 competitions this year, ALL LOCAL in the Chicagoland area.

We will also be attending Nationals (out of state) in the summer of 2017. Please keep this in mind when joining the team, Nationals is not optional it is part of the yearly commitment. We will decide between 4 locations together in the August parent meeting.

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 Brittne know immediately and ensure your child is there to take important notes and get the schedule. If you ever have a conflict with a schedule (competition, convention or any other) you MUST communicate with Brittne. You are the parent, and I am the coach, we need to work together to do what is best for your child and my dancer. Communication is KEY, please make sure you are always keeping me in the loop with everything.

Conventions:

There will be 1 optional and 1 required convention.

Competitions:

4 required regional competitions running from February-May. 1 required national competition at the end of June/beginning of July. ALL team members must participate in every competition, these are not optional.

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 do not 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 Brittanie, and the dancer and parent. Parents need to keep in contact with Brittanie 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 \$10 and \$25 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:** Brittanie 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

WHITE TEAM MEMBERS-\$150 per month

SILVER TEAM MEMBERS-\$250 per month

PINK TEAM MEMBERS-\$350 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. It DOES NOT include competition costs, that is a separate fee.

*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. I add up your total (competitions, costumes, shoes, tights etc) and split it up into 10 months and that is how I get you company monthly fee.

Nationals is an extra cost on top of everything, and will be due in June 2017 in full.

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 always prefer cash or check.

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, bronzer,blush, & lip stick. This will be your makeup kit for the season.

The glitter for the eyes for each dancer will be provided by Dance Dynamics at each competition. Hair style is still to be determined but dancers will need longer hair so PLEASE no short hair cuts.

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 warm 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. Orders for warm ups will be placed in early September.

Competitions and Conventions for 2017

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 2016/2017 season- No Rehearsal

Note: After competitions are complete, we will still have regular rehearsals in preparation for recital & nationals. We will also have extra rehearsal for nationals at the end of June after recital.

FIRST REHEARSAL-Saturday August 20th for ALL DANCES. Regular rehearsals will then start the following week with the start of fall classes.

We will be closed:

Thanksgiving week Wednesday November 23-Sunday November 27 (no rehearsal or classes)

Christmas break- Monday December 19-Thursdays December 29.

Spring Break-Monday April 10-Sunday April 16. No classes or rehearsal all week.

****FRIDAY DECEMBER 30th will be our first rehearsal back after Christmas**

Break. This rehearsal is MANDATORY-NO EXCEPTIONS!! There will be a \$100 penalty fee if missed. ALL DANCES will rehearse on December 30th. A schedule will be emailed out beforehand. We will then have the weekend off for the holiday and Spring session starts on Monday January 2.

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-Black & Orange Day

November- Crazy hair Day

December- Red & Green Holiday Theme Day

January- Neon/Pastel Day

February- Red/ Pink Day

March- Green Day

April- Twin Day

May- Pajama Day

June- Mismatch 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. Tuition will be waived if pulled from company, However, monthly company fee will not be.

*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 2016-2017 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 Thursday August 19, 2016. 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.***