

THE STUDIO COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM 2019-20

Dancer/Parent Information and Contract

Welcome to The Studio's 2019-20 Competitive Season Layout! The following procedures are set forth to shape our teams' member's to be the strongest, most respectful, talented dancers and young people possible. Our philosophies are centered around teamwork, and the support and love that comes from being part of something bigger than oneself.

Our competitive dance teams are composed of The Studio's most dedicated and talented dancers. Members headline all events and shows, serve as a competitive dance team, attend dance conventions, workshops and are looked up to as stars throughout The Studio, and our community.

*We offer the serious dancer intense, professional training along with performance opportunities that will be the foundation of their dance education. We strive to do this in a positive structured environment; therefore, we must set forth the following guidelines. Please take the time to read over this document carefully. Competitive dance is a commitment that involves a tremendous amount of time and dedication. Please understand that there are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to the guidelines below. If you feel that you cannot make the following commitments, you may want to reconsider becoming a member. Please be sure your dancer reads and understands the policies themselves.*

REQUIREMENTS

- Dancers must attend all 6 required classes. These classes include Jazz, 2 Ballet Classes, Technique Class, Strength & Conditioning and Contemporary and/or Hip Hop.** Of course, dancers may take both Contemporary and Hip Hop, along with any other additional classes they wish ranging from Tap and Pointe to Solos/Duets/Trios/Small Groups and Specialty Routines. Each day students are in the studio, they may have lessons from 1-5 hours and may or may not have breaks in between each class. Plans are for our higher levels teams to have most of their classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and lower levels on to have most classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Higher level classes may start at 3:15pm or later, lower level classes may start at 4:15pm or later.

Competitive routines will rehearse for half hour in class, and are paired with a matching half hour technique in the same genre, creating an hour long class. In some cases, we may have a level split into two separate routines, but they combine for class. Instructors may use class time to work on routines should it be close to a competition or an event.

Some students will be asked to participate in an extra "specialty number". This will be by invite only and at the discretion of The Studio staff depending mainly on audition scores but also age, experience, level and ability. If you are interested in being part of a "specialty number" please circle the choice at the end your contract.

NOTE: Class requirements will most likely change next season (2020-21) in that all dancers will be required to take contemporary with the choice class then being between hip hop and tap. We recommend picking up studios in either hip hop or tap if you are not already doing so. This season we will use our "Movement Workshop" listed below to give extra emphasis on contemporary movement, and involve all of our students in this important form of dance.

COMP II is a program where dancers are offered the opportunity to compete, with less of a time commitment. It requires the dancer take a 1 Ballet or 1 Cecchetti class, 1 Technique Class, and 1 routine class. Comp II students must still abide to all of the following guidelines included within. This includes attending 1 convention, attending 2-3 competitions, and Nationals if it pertains.

2. **Dancers will have “Choreography Workshops”, for each performance number, on some weekends up until December. These are 3-6 hour workshops held mainly on Saturdays and Sundays.** Some of these workshops will be held in late August and early September before our actual season begins. We like to give everyone a few week notice as to when these will occur. There will be a separate choreography fee paid on the day of Choreography Workshops. By getting choreography done outside of regularly classes we have more class time to polish routines and explore the form of movement being studied in class. A schedule of when these workshops will be held will be given out after auditions. Prices for choreography workshops range from \$80-\$275 per routine, per dancer. These workshops are mandatory. In the case that a dancer is absent they are still choreographed into the routine and pay the choreography fee. We ask students to wear all black to these workshops being either black sports bra, black leotard, black booty shorts or leggings. Hair should be in a bun

NEW – Should your dancer need to miss a choreography workshop they will need to find a dancer to take their place. The dancer taking their place will learn the choreography, and then present it to the missing dancer. The dancer stepping will need to be compensated for their time. A \$50 fee is due to this dancer’s family upon teaching of the material to the missing dancer.

Dancers will also have 3 hour workshops (1 per dance) on weekends January-March to clean dances prior to competition. There is no extra charge for the second workshop.

NOTE: Russell Tanenbaum will be choreographing studio contemporary routines August 28th-September 1st. If your child is taking contemporary we ask you try to keep this week open, or if you have a vacation planned, email the dates to us so we may do our best to schedule around it.

3. **NEW** - Dancers will attend a “Movement Workshop” held at The Studio, once a month/every other month. The workshop will be held on the weekend and is 1 hr to 1.5 hrs in length. The cost of the workshop will be \$10- \$15.
4. **Dancers must attend all 3 mandatory dance competitions and at least 1 dance convention.** A competition an event dancers compete for top honors. A convention is an event where a dancer takes lessons from the nations top dance professionals. Solos, duets, trios have the optional opportunity of competing at any regional or national competition of their choice, including the events we have listed in this contract.

Along with the above, dancers must be in attendance for all studio shows including the Pumpkinfest Parade, 2 Studio Holiday Shows with participation in the opening number and all Production/Recitals (2-3 in either one weekend or separated into two weekends) with the exception of one absence in the case of illness, death in family or vacation plans. **Please notify us in your contract of family vacations or dates where your dancer may be unavailable.**

5. Dancers must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA or C average to stay on the team. We ask that parents help encourage good grades and notify us if a child is having trouble keeping up with school and dance. We may ask throughout the season for report cards to be turned in. School comes first, and if difficulty occurs, we would like to be able to help. This may be done by lessening the number of classes a student takes or rearranging their schedule.

ATTENDANCE

Competitive dancers may miss 5-7 classes per session (basically one week out of eight) if necessary. Please notify us at least 3 weeks in advance if you have a vacation planned. If absence should occur, the dancer will need to schedule time with another team member to pick up on missed material or have someone video tape the choreography for your dancer and/or schedule a private lesson with the instructor, should they be available. Dancers may not come into class without the knowledge of the previous week’s instruction. Therefore, we stress the importance of learning missed material, or simply avoid missing classes.

In case you are unable to make it to class, for any reason please notify us by calling the front desk and leaving a message. This is how we record absences. Please do not text or call instructors without calling the front desk please.

Attendance is mandatory at all classes TWO weeks prior to any competition, show or event or the student may not perform in the said event. If for any reason a child does not know a routine the instructor reserves the right to set up paid private lessons or to pull a child from the piece. A child may be choreographed to be off stage during certain parts of a routine if the child is unable to master the piece due to absences.

You must be serious about your dedication to the team. Choosing to do another sport/ school activity does not excuse you from your competitive dance team commitments. Should you choose to join company you are making a commitment to The Studio that company will be your first priority before other sports/activities.

MAKE UP

Our Company Dancers have set MAC make up they use for all events. A list of products students will need to purchase will be given out at the parent meeting/registration. Price for the entire set of products can range from \$100-\$150.

WARM UPS

All dancers will need a Studio warm up jacket. Examples for sizing will be available at the front desk in late September. Our dancers wear a black and white Adidas jacket provided by The Studio. Matching Adidas pants will be available and are optional. Should you choose not to purchase the warm up pant your dancer must wear either black and white Adidas pants of their own, or black leggings with their jacket. Jackets are \$130, pants are \$45.

DANCE ATTIRE

Please wear black leotard and pink tights for ballet class. As for all other classes, students may wear any combination of the following in BLACK: leotard, leggings, sports bra or booty shorts. No loose-fitting clothes or baggy clothes. Hair should always be in a bun. NOTE: The 1st -7th of every month dancers may wear any color dance attire.

SHOES

Shoes will be fitted and purchased through The Studio. We will announce a day/ time for your dancer to do so. At this time members will purchase one pair of shoes for ballet (\$20-\$30), 2 pair of gore boots (\$35-\$45 -one for class and one for stage). Please do not go out and get shoes on your own, it's important to us that our dancers all have the same shoe color and styles. Hip hop shoes to match the costume will be sized later in the season. Students will need a pair of tennis shoes to use in strength and conditioning and hip-hop class. These can be purchased on your own.

COSTUME COSTS AND DETAILS

Dancers will need to purchase one costume for each class that they do a competitive routine in. Please keep in mind solos, duets, and trios are an additional costume fee. Costumes are \$130 a piece. In the past years, and this year we will charge one fee per costume, and then distribute the funds as needed (Some costumes being the lower price range, others being the higher.)

Instructors reserve the right to do "group alterations" to any costume should they feel it necessary. Alterations are done by our studio seamstress. Group alterations may consist of reconstructing or creating a different style or fit. Group alterations and individual fittings costs are the responsibility of the parent. All alterations and adjustments must be done prior to the first performance.

Rhinestoning is sometimes part of creating the perfect costume. This may be done by parent rhinestone parties, or done by our staff.

BOOSTERS INFO

Please see the separate boosters information page to find out all they have to offer, and the \$50 fee paid to boosters that covers many special items for your child throughout the season.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Company Dancer Auditions August 5th & 6th (Add August 7th for Tap/Pointe Auditions)

Dancers 7-10yrs 3:00PM both days. Dancers 11yrs and up 6:00 both days.

There is not a set time when auditions end. The Studio or your child will contact you when finished.

Dancers 12 and under auditioning for the first time may attend the younger audition if they wish but must have Tara's permission to do so.

First Parent Meeting/Registration Thursday, August 22nd at 6:30PM

On this date we will have a parent meeting and register and pay for your child's classes. Please bring check or cash along. This meeting is very important, we need at least one parent for each dancer in attendance. If you can not attend please discuss this with Tara.

Company Lock In/Parade Rehearsal

Friday, September 6th 6:00PM to Saturday, September 7th 9:00AM

All company dancers will attend this event. You may not miss or be late because you would like to go to football game. South Lyon pom pon members please see Tara.

Parade Rehearsal Number 2 Friday, September 27th 4:30-5:30PM

Pumpkinfest Parade Saturday, September 28th 8:30AM

MAIN CONVENTION 2020

All students must attend at least 1 Convention throughout the season. Velocity, the event listed below, is the main convention where we want to see most of our dancers in attendance. Dancers are welcome to choose any of the following conventions listed if they can't make the main convention, keeping in mind that instructors will be attendance for the main event but may or may not be available for optional events.

VELOCITY Feb 21st-23rd DETROIT LOCATION: TBA

Location TBA. Velocity was held at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi last season, we are hoping for the same location this season.

OPTIONAL CONVENTIONS 2019-20

All Conventions have options for solos, duets and trios to compete

ASH November 1st-3rd HUNTINGTON LAKES CONVENTION CENTER, CLEVELAND, OH

NUVO January 17th-19th COBO CENTER, DETRIOT

DANCEMAKERS January 1st- February 2nd LANSING CENTER, LANSING

REVIVE March 22nd -24th SOMERSET INN, TROY

JUMP April 3rd-5th DETROIT RENAISSANCE CENTER, DETROIT

COMPETITIONS 2020

We will attend 3 mandatory events. It is early in the season, and dates and locations are tentative. The Studio reserves the right to change these events. Solos, duet, trios may choose additional events which are listed below.

EDGE	March 13 th -15 th	Waterford, MI	Kettering High School
BRAVO	April 17 th -19 th	Walled Lake, MI	Walled Lake Western High School
STARQUEST	May 1 st - 3 rd	Walled Lake, MI	Walled Lake Northern High School
or			
ON POINTE	May 1 st - 3 rd	Howell, MI	

OPTIONAL COMPETITIONS 2020

TURN IT UP	February 21 st -23 rd	South Lyon, MI	South Lyon East High School
PLATINUM	March 20 th -22 nd	South Lyon, MI	South Lyon East High School
HALL OF FAME	TBA		
VIP	February 14 th -16 th	Clinton, MI	Macomb Center Performing Arts
ONSTAGE NEW YORK	February 28 th -March 1 st	South Lyon, MI	

**** Solo/duet/trio may attend any of these competitions or additional events found online.**

SHOWS/PERFORMANCES

Studio Holiday Shows – Preferred: Dec 7th or 8th Back up: Dec 14th or 15th
Production/Recitals – May 16th & 17th 2020 (Tentative)

AGE BREAK DOWN

The following lists how each group is structured age wise. Your child must be turning the lowest age of the breakdown by December 2019, to be considered for a certain group. Please do not expect your child to make a company beyond their age. Dancers are placed by both age and ability level. It is a possibility for a dancer to spend 2 years in a level. **The Studio reserves the right to change or adjust age break downs, make exceptions, or change the labels of teams if we feel necessary.**

ELEMENTARY 7-11 YRS
SECONDARY 8-13 YRS
INTERMEDIATE 10-16 YRS
JUNIOR ELITE 9-13 YRS
ADVANCED 10-16 YRS
SENIOR 10-18 YRS
TEEN ELITE 10-18YRS
PREMIER 10-18YRS
PRESTIGE 12-18YRS

***Any of these levels can be split into two groups.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

***The Studio competitive team requires a positive attitude from all involved, especially parents, be it at competitions, events, shows or in the hallways of The Studio.** A positive and enthusiastic outlook on procedures extends to your child. Negative comments or feedback can be harmful to your dancer's progress and education. Life will naturally give us challenges to overcome (something may come up during the year that you are not necessarily thrilled with). Please take the time to discuss any concerns with Tara rather than spreading negativity. Cooperation between parents is always expected. Please show respect for other parents, staff and students, along with sportsmanship and professionalism at all events... We are a family, it's all about helping one another and appreciating each other!

*** Please do not personally contact competitions or events** or take it upon yourself to discuss situations or scores with competition event staff. All communication with competitions or conventions is done solely by The Studio staff. If you have an issue, please come to Tara and she will happily take care of your concern.

***Our main communication with parents is conducted via email. The Studio sends out an email labeled**

“Company Announcements” are released every 1-2 weeks. Please check your email regularly. These announcements will list all information you need pertaining to what is going on within The Studio.

***Please be careful with social media.** Posting of The Studio group routines via social media is prohibited. To post a solo/duet/trio routine please clear it with Tara first and be sure to credit to the work noting The Studio and the choreographer. Should you choose to post a photo of a group routine or dancer, please make sure it's technically appealing. Please remember not to post frustration with scores, or negative thoughts about an event we attend.

***Please make sure your dancer arrives on time to all classes, competitions and events. Arriving on time to class means arriving 10-15 minutes prior to the start of the class for the dancer to get settled, get shoes on and to begin stretching out.** As far as competitions we ask that dancers are present, dressed and ready to go 2 hours prior to each dance being performed. Please understand that we are speaking for EACH ROUTINE. Instructors are very busy at competition and often have only a window of time to work with a group before they go on. The team must stay together until they perform. They may not wander the building, go off to eat without permission or take off with friends. The same is true for dance recitals and conventions.

***Parents are responsible for helping at 1 Holiday show performance, and 1 May production/recital performance.**

***Parents are responsible for paying tuition and competition/event fees on time, being by the first of the month.** Should the tuition arrive to The Studio or be paid on or after the 2nd of the month there is a \$10 late fee for the first week, and an additional \$10 is added each week that tuition is not paid, until the tuition is caught up. Should an account become 2 months delinquent, the dancer associated will not be allowed to attend classes or events. A dancer with an overdue balance on their account at the time of recital will not be allowed to perform.

***Parents participate in 1 potluck for the Holiday Show and 1 Production/Recital.**

***Studio parents are responsible for contributing to the Boosters program by paying \$50 to which will cover many necessities for your dancer. An additional \$50 in raffle tickets will need to be sold, or you may contribute a second \$50 and not sell tickets.** Boosters funds allow our dancers the privilege of having food at convention/competition, special events created for bonding, an end of the year trophy, a national's t-shirt, their photo on the wall of The Studio, along with other special additions to the experience. Boosters also create optional fundraisers for those wishing to raise money for their dancer.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS – In Classes and Socially

This section of the guidelines is especially important for parents to review with their dancer prior to auditions.

1. Dancers will need to be committed to their classes, dance full-out and pay attention to their teachers. Those who listen to corrections and apply themselves in class shall succeed. Remember in doing so to show respect to all faculty members, your parents and ALL students at The Studio.
2. Everyone is expected to work as a team player and help in the growth of their fellow peers. We strengthen our body's every day, we must also strengthen our hearts and human character.
3. It's EXTREMELY important to us that all our students feel safe and comfortable in our facility. Should we find that a dancer is taking it upon themselves to bully, make fun of or make anyone not feel welcome, that dancer will be excluded from upcoming events or suspended from classes. **BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** The same goes for bad attitudes. Giving attitude in class is distracting to others and disrespectful to the instructor. Should an instructor experience attitude in class they may ask the child to leave the classroom, and the parent will be contacted. Continued problems may result in exclusion from an upcoming event, or suspension from The Studio. We would hate to see this happen with any of our students. Parents PLEASE take the time to discuss our bullying and bad attitude policies with your dancer and remind them all classes are equipped with video cameras. In the event that you are asked not to return to The Studio because of bullying, or for any other violation of the contract, there will be no reimbursement for any classes choreography fees or any other fees associated with The Studio.
4. With the growth trend in social media, we ask that all dancers represent positivity via their posts. Any negativity, bullying or inappropriate posts, whether they be in regard to The Studio or to anyone associated with The Studio at all, will not be tolerated. Anyone choosing to text or use social media to discuss another student or instructor in a negative manner will be directed to a meeting with Tara. We also ask the children are careful about being clothed in their posts. Our competitive members represent The Studio at all times. Please monitor your child's social media accounts.
5. The Studio does not support students younger than 14 years old using texting or social media to communicate with The Studio staff. For anyone 14 years or older to use this method of communication with instructors it must first be okayed by the parent.
6. Come to class prepared. Be sure you've eaten and bring proper shoes and a water bottle.
7. Tell your instructor if you are feeling sick or have an injury before class.
8. Support each other. Not everyone will get to shine at the same time, but we'll all have our chance.
9. Please maintain the most respectful attitude outside of class. Remember that dancers outside of Company look up to you and you must serve as an example.

COMMITMENT

This word cannot be stressed enough as you make the decision to be a member of The Studio's company. Members are expected to stick to their commitment through the entire dance season **beginning August 22nd, 2019 and ending May 30th, 2020. Should you decide to drop out, you are still responsible for all payments mentioned within from September 2019 to July 2020. This contract is binding under the law and holds you responsible for the said payments should you sign it. THESE TERMS WILL BE ENFORCED.** Teams are carefully chosen, with a certain number of kids at auditions. If we have a drop out, that spot could have gone to another child. It's also a financial loss to The Studio. At any time, The Studio reserves the right to dismiss a member from our team should they, or the parent, not be able to comply with the terms enclosed.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Each dancer is required to take the Competitive Dance Workshop/Audition on August 5th & 6th (add August 7th for Tap and Pointe auditions), where they will be taught routines, review technical aspects, and then audition. **Dancers ages 7-10 yrs please be at The Studio at 3:00pm** on the 5th and 6th. **Dancers 11-18yrs please be at the studio by 6:00pm both days.** Students will contact parents as they finish auditions seeing everyone is done at a different time. **Those auditioning for tap please arrive at The Studio on Aug 7th at 3:00PM for your audition. Those auditioning for Pointe please arrive on Aug 7th at 7:00PM.** All dancers please wear black leotard or sports bra and black dance shorts. No baggy shorts please. Tights are optional. Have your hair pulled in a neat bun. Remember you are auditioning and you want to stand out. Choose your best outfit and don't be afraid to enhance with competitive earrings, hair accessories and make up. Please wear bare feet for contemporary, tennis shoes for hip hop and jazz shoes for jazz.

Dancers must be registered for auditions by Wednesday, July 31st. Auditions are \$75 and include 2-3 evenings of lessons, all material to audition with, the actual auditions, results, and a class schedule released to you after you are registered. If you are not able to make auditions, you may set up a to be part of our private auditions which take place later in August. Private auditions are \$120.

Results of auditions will be sent via mail and should arrive to you by **Friday, August 16th.** Should you not receive them by then please contact Tara via text at 248.767.9530.

Should you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's placement or non-placement on a particular team **please contact The Studio at 248.486.0649.** You reserve every right to hear why or why not your child did or did not make a specific team. In making the call we will then schedule a meeting with you and the professionals that made the final decisions. Instructors will not accept personal calls, Emails or texts, regarding the decisions made at auditions. Putting them in this situation could jeopardize their job. Thank you for understanding.

If you and your dancer have read and agree to the information in this contract, please sign below and **return this ENTIRE CONTRACT at your audition.**

Good luck to everyone!

Please fill out the following completely so we may do our best in personally placing your dancer in our competitive teams. PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETE CONTRACT AT AUDITIONS MONDAY, AUGUST 5TH.

Please consider me for the following groups (circle if interested):

Contemporary/Lyrical

Hip Hop

Production

Comp II

Solo

Duet

Trio

Small Group (4-5 Dancers)

Tap

Specialty Group

****Please remember to specify Contemporary, Hip Hop, or both**

Specialty Groups- Some students will be asked to participate in extra "specialty numbers". Placement for specialty is at the discretion of The Studio staff depending on age, experience, level and ability or a certain look they may need to fulfill a part. If you are interested in being chosen for a specialty, please circle above.

Production- A routine in which anyone, from any level may participate in. It is The Studio's largest dance number. This is different from the Holiday Show production.

Comp II- Separate from Company, a group that competes one dance and takes 3 classes total.

Solo- A dance with you as the only dancer.

Duet- A dance with you and one other person either of your choice, or someone we choose for you.

Trio- A dance with you and two other people either of your choice, or ours.

**** To have a solo, duet, trio or small group you must hit a certain score in auditions. If you wish to request a duet, trio or small group with a certain group of dancers please specify who. The Studio prefers to pick your partners but will consider requests.**

Additional Notes to the judges from the parent:

For the parade:

My Shirt Size: _____ **My Dress Size:** _____ **My pant Size:** _____

We have read The Studio's 2019-20 Competitive Policies and agree to them, should we be placed on a team. We understand that our signatures below commit us to a full season. We understand that if we can not comply with all the above stated policies, then we will be released. **PLEASE BRING THIS ENTIRE PACKET WITH YOU TO AUDITIONS.**

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Dancer's Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number to Contact _____