

THE STUDIO COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM 2023-24

Dancer/Parent Information and Contract

Welcome to The Studio's 2023-24 Competitive Season Layout! The following procedures are set forth to shape our teams' members 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 and 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

- 1. Dancers must attend all 6 required classes. These classes include 1 Jazz Class, 1 Contemporary Class, 2 Ballet Classes, 1 Technique Class and 1 Strength & Conditioning Class.** Of course, dancers may add on additional classes such as Hip Hop, Pointe/Pre-Pointe, 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 higher level teams to have most of their classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and lower level teams to have most classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Higher level classes may start at 3:00 p.m. or later, lower level classes may start at 4:00 p.m. or later.

Competitive routines will rehearse for a half hour in class and are paired with a matching half hour of technique in the same genre, creating an hour-long class. In some cases, we may have a team level split into two separate routines, but then 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 chosen to participate in an extra "specialty number." This is by invite only and at the discretion of The Studio staff, depending mainly on audition scores but also by age, ability and casting requirements. If you are interested in being part of a "specialty number," please circle the choice at the end your contract.

****2023-24 NATIONALS YEAR/ PRODUCTION NUMBER****

Plans to compete an "All Company" Production Number are in the making!! Production is a piece where all Company dancers would unite together in one routine, similar to what we have done in the past with our Holiday Show Opening Number, but on a larger scale, and not to a Christmas song. Practices would start in November. Lessons would be approximately twice a month, on weekends for 2-3 hours. We would compete this at all competitions including Nationals. One payment would be made in October that would cover costume and all lessons. Expectation of price range is around \$220-\$250 for the year's lessons and costume will be \$85.

COMP II is a program where dancers are offered the opportunity to compete with less of a time commitment. Comp II requires the dancer take 1 Ballet Class, 1 Technique Class, and 1 Routine Class in which they will compete their choice of Jazz, Contemporary or Hip Hop. Comp II students must still abide by all of the

following guidelines included within. This includes attending 1 convention, attending 2 -3 competitions, and Nationals if it pertains. Cost for this program is \$175 per month.

Dancers will have “Choreography Workshops” for each performance number. This is where dancers will spend 3 - 6 hours learning an entire routine. By getting choreography done outside of regular classes, we have more class time to polish routines and explore the form of movement being studied. Choreography will begin in August and go through November. A schedule of when these workshops will be held will be given out after auditions. We will give at least 2 - 3 weeks’ notice as to when these will occur. Prices for choreography workshops range from \$80 - \$450 per routine, per dancer. An average routine is \$250 per dancer. Dancers are required to attend these workshops. In the event your dancer needs to be absent, they are still choreographed into the routine and pay the choreography fee. To learn the choreo, you must find another dancer to take your place and then that dancer will present it to you at a later date. The dancer stepping in will need to be compensated for their time at \$50 (your cost) to learn the routine and teach it. We ask students wear all black to these workshops, either black sports bra or black leotard and black leggings. Hair should be in a bun.

Dancers will also have 3-hour workshops (1 per dance) on weekends in January - March to clean dances prior to competition. These workshops will range from \$50-\$65.

2. **Dancers will attend 3 regional dance competitions, 1 National (out of state) competition and at least 1 dance convention.** A competition is an event where dancers compete for top honors. A convention is an event where a dancer takes lessons from the nation’s top dance professionals. Solos, duets, and 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 need to be in attendance for all Studio shows, including our Holiday Shows with participation in the opening number, and all Production/Recitals in the spring. This is 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.**

3. 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.
4. Dancers will be given the opportunity to participate in workshops given by guest choreographers and instructors throughout the season. Guest instructors may visit classes from time to time to enhance the classroom experience.

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 an absence should occur, the dancer will need to schedule time with another team member to pick up on missed material or have someone videotape 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. **Attendance is mandatory at all classes TWO weeks prior to any competition, show or event, or the student may not perform in 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.

Dancers need to be serious about their 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.

MONTHLY PAYMENT LAYOUT

STUDENT TOTAL FOR 6 BASE CLASSES \$295.00

Includes 1 Jazz Class, 1 Contemporary Class, 2 Ballet Classes, 1 Technique & Training Class, 1 Strength & Conditioning Class

ADDITIONAL HOUR-LONG CLASSES \$30.00

- + Hip Hop Class/Routine
- + Ballet Class #3
- + Technique Class #2
- + Specialty Groups and Small Groups
- + Pointe/Pre-Pointe

SOLOS

\$45 per half-hour lesson (\$180 per month/4 lessons paid to instructor)

DUETS & TRIOS

\$30 per half-hour lesson (\$120 per month/4 lessons paid to instructor)

MAKEUP

Our Company Dancers have MAC makeup they use for all events. A list of products students will need to purchase will be given out at the parent meeting/registration. Cost for the entire set of products can range from \$150 - \$200.

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. Dancers may wear either black and white Adidas pants of their own, or black leggings with their jacket. Jackets are \$165.

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 or baggy clothes, please. Hair should always be in a bun. NOTE: The first week of every month dancers may wear any color dance attire.

SHOES

The Studio will take care of your shoe needs for Jazz/Technique and Ballet classes. It's important that all of our students have matching shoes. After auditions we will announce a day/ time for your dancer's fitting. Members will purchase one pair of shoes for Ballet (\$30 - \$45) and 2 pairs of jazz shoes (\$55 - \$67 per pair, one for class and one for stage). Contemporary classes wear bare feet therefore there is no need to purchase shoes for this class. Hip Hop shoes to match the costume will be announced 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 have one costume for each class that they perform a competitive routine in. Costumes are \$140 apiece. Please keep in mind solos, duets, and trios are an additional costume fee. We charge one fee per costume and then distribute the funds as needed (some costumes being a lower price range, others being higher).

Instructors reserve the right to do “group alterations” to any costume should they feel it necessary. Group alterations may consist of reconstructing or creating a different style or fit. Group alterations and individual fitting costs are the responsibility of the parent. All alterations and adjustments must be done prior to the first performance. Adding rhinestones to a costume is sometimes part of creating the perfect look. This is occasionally done by parents or by The Studio. Mr. Billy is available to rhinestone solo, duet and trio costumes for a fee.

BOOSTERS INFO

Each season a \$50 fee for The Studio Boosters is collected. This fee covers outings and social events for your student along with a Nationals T-Shirt and Nationals goodies. More details regarding The Studio Boosters and the wonderful opportunities they offer our dancers will be distributed at registration in August.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Company Dancer Auditions July 31st & August 1st

Dancers 7 – 11yrs / or members of last year’s Intermediate, Secondary or Mini Teams: 10:00AM both days. Dancers 11yrs and up or members of last year’s Junior Elite or above, please come at 2:00PM both days.

There is not a set time when auditions end. The Studio or your child will contact you when finished. Dancers 12 yrs and under auditioning for the first time may attend the younger audition if they wish, but must have Tara’s permission to do so. Please pack a light snack and water bottle. Hair should be in a bun. Proper attire is black leggings or booty shorts, black sports bra or leotard.

First Parent Meeting/Registration Tuesday, August 22nd at 6:00PM

Registration and payment for your dancer’s classes will be done on this date. This meeting is important, we need at least one parent for each dancer in attendance. If you cannot attend, please notify Tara.

Shoe Fittings/Headshot Pics September 6th & 7th, Specific group date/time TBA

Company Welcome Party/Parade Routine Lessons

Friday, September 8th 5:00PM to 10:00PM

All company dancers will attend this event. No absences due to attending football games, please. South Lyon pom pon/dance team members with conflicts, please see Tara.

Pumpkinfest Parade Saturday, September 30th (Morning / Time: TBA)

MAIN CONVENTION 2023-24

All students will attend at least 1 convention throughout the season. Conventions are weekend-long events where dancers study under the best artists in the industry. REVIVE, the event listed below, is the main convention for our dancers to attend this season. Dancers are welcome to choose any of the additional conventions listed if they need to attend a different convention or would like to add more events to their calendar. Instructors will be in attendance for REVIVE but may or may not be available for optional events.

REVIVE November 10th-12th TROY, MI
SOMERSET INN

ADDITIONAL CONVENTIONS 2023-24

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

GROOVE October 29th NOVI, MI *This one-day Convention does not fulfill your convention obligation

NUVO January 12th-14th DETROIT, MI

24SEVEN February 16th-18th DETROIT, MI

JUMP March 15th-17th DETROIT, MI

RADIX May 3rd-5th LANSING, MI

MAIN COMPETITIONS 2023-24

The Studio Company will attend 3 regional events and 1 national event. It is early in the season, so dates and locations are tentative. The Studio reserves the right to change these events. Solos, duets, and trios may choose additional events which are listed below.

EDGE DANCE COMPETITION

March 1st-3rd, Detroit, MI

ID DANCE COMPETITION

April 19th-21st, Grand Rapids, MI

PAC (Precision Arts Challenge)

May 3rd-5th, Milan, MI

NATIONALS: ID DANCE COMPETITION

July 2nd-6th, Myrtle Beach, SC

OPTIONAL COMPETITIONS 2023-24

NYCDA (Competition & Convention) January 6th-8th Lansing, MI

BEYOND THE STARS February 2nd-4th Toledo, OH

TURN IT UP March 8th-10th Clinton Twp, MI

GROOVE April 26th-28th Howell, MI

LUXXE ARTS CHALLENGE April 19th-21st, Toledo, OH

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

SHOWS/PERFORMANCES/NATIONALS TRAINING

Studio Holiday Shows – Preferred: Dec 9th or 10th Back up: Dec 2nd

Production/Recitals – May 18th & 19th 2024 (Tentative)

Nationals Summer Training – June 4th, 11th and June 17th-27th (Last day of regular season 5.23.24)

AGE BREAK DOWNS

The following lists how each group is structured age-wise. Your child must be turning the lowest age of the breakdown by December 2023 to be considered for a certain group. Please do not expect your child to make a team beyond their age. Dancers are placed by age, ability level and casting needs. 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 as necessary.**

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY 7-12 YRS

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED 9-16 YRS

JUNIOR ELITE 9-13 YRS

PLATINUM/ ELITE 12-18 YRS **Any levels can be split into two groups. A dancer can be placed in more than one level.

PREMIER / PRESTIGE / TEAM X / PRE-PROFESSIONAL 12-18 YRS

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.

****“Company Announcements” are released every 2-3 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 give 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, please.**

***Parents are responsible for paying tuition and competition/event fees on time, being by the first of each month.** Should 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 may participate in potlucks at Holiday Shows and Production/Recitals.**

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 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 bodies 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 of social media, we ask that all dancers represent positivity via their posts. Any negativity, bullying or inappropriate posts, whether they be regarding The Studio or anyone associated with The Studio at all, will not be tolerated. Texting or using social media to discuss another student or instructor in a negative manner will not be tolerated. We suggest clean cut posts. Our competitive members represent The Studio at all times. Please monitor your child's social media accounts.
5. Come to class prepared. Be sure you've eaten and bring proper shoes and a water bottle.
6. Tell your instructor if you are feeling sick or have an injury before class.
7. Support each other. Not everyone will get to shine at the same time, but we'll all have our chance.
8. 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 1st, 2023, and ending July 7th, 2024. Should you decide to drop out, you are still responsible for all payments mentioned within from August 2023 through July 2024. 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 dancers at auditions. If we have a dropout, 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 their parent, not be able to comply with the terms enclosed.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Each dancer is required to take the Competitive Dance Workshop/Audition on July 31st & August 1st, where they will be taught routines, review technical aspects, and then audition. **Dancers ages 7-11 yrs or members of last year's Intermediate, Secondary or Mini Teams, please be at The Studio at 10:00 a.m.** on both days. **Dancers 11-18yrs or Junior Elite or up, please be at The Studio by 2:00 p.m. both days.** Students will contact parents as they finish auditions seeing everyone will be done at a different time. All dancers please wear black leotard or sports bra and black leggings or black dance shorts (tight fitting). Please 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 makeup. Please wear bare feet for Contemporary, tennis shoes for Hip Hop, and gore boots/jazz shoes for Jazz.

Dancers must be registered for auditions by Friday, July 28th. Auditions are \$85 and include 2 days of lessons, all material to audition with, the actual auditions, results, and a class schedule released to you after you are registered. You can register for auditions on our website at www.thestudiosouthlyon.com or in the office. If you are not able to make auditions, you may set up to be part of our private auditions which take place on Thursday, August 10th. Private auditions for this date are \$120. Should you not be able to make either date, you may set up a personal audition for \$175.

Results of auditions will be sent via email and should arrive to you by **Wednesday, August 9th.** 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 us. You reserve every right to hear why 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. Contracts are also available on our website under the competitive tab if you would like to have your own back up copy.**

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 ON MONDAY, JULY 31ST.

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

Hip Hop	Comp II	Specialty Group	
Solo	Duet	Trio	Small Group

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 certain criteria we need to fulfill a part. If you are interested in being chosen for a specialty, please circle above.

Comp II- Partial participation in Company which includes 1 Routine, 1 Ballet Class and 1 Technique Class.

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.

Small Group – A dance with 4-6 people either of your choice, or ours.

** To have a solo, duet, trio, small group or Specialty Group, you must hit a certain score in auditions. If you wish to request a duet, trio, small group or specialty 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:

We have read The Studio’s 2023-24 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 cannot 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 _____

Please write out the name of parent signing _____

Dancer’s Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number to Contact _____

Director’s Signature _____