

THE STUDIO COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM 2020-21

Dancer/Parent Information and Contract

Welcome to The Studio's 2020-21 Competitive Season! The following procedures are set forth to shape our teams 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.

*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. Especially this season, because of Covid-19, there may be last minute changes along with some surprises that we will all need to face together. Whatever the future brings, be it new safety requirements or new phases of shut down/opening up, The Studio is completely committed to creating a safe, healthy environment for all of our dancers and will strive to follow all guidelines while providing our children with the opportunity to do what they love.*

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Dancers will attend 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 to have most classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Higher level classes may start at 3:15 p.m. or later, lower level classes may start at 4:15 p.m. or later.

****Due to Covid-19 we will be taking measures to spread classes out more.** This may include running daytime classes for children being homeschooled and holding some rehearsals/classes on alternating weekends. We are also in the process of building an outdoor classroom that we hope to use until November. In addition, rather than bringing in students for long periods of time with "in house" breaks 2 nights a week, classes may be spread out into shorter blocks, with fewer breaks 3 days a week. We are also considering offering virtual Technique/Strength & Conditioning/Ballet classes.

Our current competitive routines rehearse for a half-hour in class and are paired with a matching half-hour technique in the same genre, creating an hour-long class. There is a possibility that we may run shorter half-hour to 45-minute classes for each genre/routine and run hour rehearsals for them every other weekend. In some cases, we may have a 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.

In the case that Covid-19 causes The Studio to shut its doors, we will run our teams virtually until we can reopen. If this is the case students will study via Zoom classes until we can reopen. Tuition payments will still need to be made if The Studio becomes virtual.

COMP II is a program where dancers are offered the opportunity to compete but with less of a time commitment. It requires the dancer take 1 Ballet class, 1 Technique Class, and 1 routine class. Comp II students must still abide by all of the following guidelines included within.

2. **Dancers will have Choreography Workshops for each performance number during certain 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 weeks' 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 regular 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. If a dancer is unable to attend for any reason, they are still choreographed into the routine and must pay the choreography fee. We ask students to wear all black to these workshops, such as a black sports bra, black leotard, black booty shorts or leggings. Hair should be in a bun.

Should your dancer need to miss a Choreography Workshop, he or she 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 in 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 may 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 workshops.

NOTE: Russell Tanenbaum will be choreographing Studio Contemporary routines August 17th - 23rd. If your child is taking Contemporary we ask you to try to keep this week open—or, if you have a vacation planned, please email the dates to us so we may do our best to schedule around it.

3. **Dancers will attend all 3 local dance competitions, 1 out-of-state national competition and have the option of attending 1 dance convention virtually or in person.** This season it is important to recognize that there is a strong possibility events may be done virtually rather than in person, if necessary. 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 option 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 2 Studio Holiday Shows and all Production/Recitals (2-3 shows in one weekend), 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 when your dancer may be unavailable.**

4. 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 any 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 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 avoiding missing classes whenever possible.

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.

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 a 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 1 pair of shoes for Ballet (\$25 - \$35), 2 pairs 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 & Conditioning and Hip Hop classes. These can be purchased on your own wherever you would like.

COSTUME COSTS AND DETAILS

Dancers will need to purchase one costume for each competitive routine. Please keep in mind that solos, duets and trios may have an additional costume fee. Costumes are \$130 apiece. It is our practice to charge one fee per costume and then distribute the funds as needed (some costumes are in the lower price range, others are 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 alteration and individual fitting costs are the responsibility of the parent. All alterations and adjustments must be done prior to the first performance. Rhinestoning is also sometimes part of creating the perfect costume. This may be done by parent rhinestone parties or done by our staff.

BOOSTERS INFO

Information pertaining to The Studio Boosters and all they have to offer will be distributed in the near future. We are currently looking for parents who are interested in being on this season's board. In past seasons, a \$50 fee was collected by Boosters that covered many special items for dancers throughout the season. We do expect a similar payment situation this season. This \$50 fee allows our dancers the privilege of having food at convention/competition, opportunities for special events, team bonding activities, an end-of-year trophy, a national's T-shirt, their photo on the wall of The Studio, and other special additions to the Company experience. Boosters also create optional fundraisers for those wishing to raise money to support their dancer. If you are interested in being part of this year's Boosters, please contact Tara.

IMPORTANT DATES

Company Dancer Auditions August 3th-5th

*Auditions will be done differently this year in order to practice social distancing.

AUGUST 3RD JAZZ GROUP PLACEMENT/SKILLS

Dancers 9 - 12 yrs, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Note: Some dancers may be asked to stay to join the 13 yrs and up audition.

Dancers 13 - 14 yrs, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Note: Some dancers may be asked to stay to join the 14 yrs and up audition.

Dancers 15 - 18 yrs, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

AUGUST 4TH CONTEMPORARY AND HIP HOP GROUP PLACEMENT

Dancers 9 - 12 yrs CONTEMPORARY, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

HIP HOP, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Note: Some dancers may be asked to stay to join the 13 yrs and up audition.

Dancers 13 - 14 yrs CONTEMPORARY, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

HIP HOP, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Note: Some dancers may be asked to stay to join the 14 yrs and up audition.

Dancers 15 - 18 yrs CONTEMPORARY, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HIP HOP, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST 5TH TAP

Tap Auditions All Ages/Levels 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Pointe Audition: We have decided to hold Pointe auditions closer to the beginning of the season, when we have finalized our Ballet faculty. If you are planning on taking or starting Pointe in the fall, we would like you to attend. Details coming shortly.

Your dancer may be done auditioning a few minutes prior to the audition end time, depending on where they are in the audition line up. If this happens The Studio or your child will contact you if they have finished.

First Parent Meeting/Registration Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00PM

On this date we will have a parent meeting where you will 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 cannot attend please notify Tara 248.767.9530.

Company Team Bonding Events Saturday, September 12th

Times TBA/Separated by groups throughout the day

*Please refrain from holding any team parties/events on your own until The Studio has hosted the above event. Thank you!

First Day of Classes Monday, September 21st, 2020

NOTE: South Lyon WILL NOT be hosting Pumpkinfest this year, therefore there will not be a Pumpkinfest Parade/Costumes/Rehearsals

MAIN CONVENTION 2021

In a normal season, students are required to attend 1 Convention. Due to Covid-19, this year's convention opportunities will be optional. Dancers are welcome to choose any of the following conventions listed if they can't make it to 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.

HOLLYWOOD CONNECTION Jan 15th-17th, DETROIT RENAISSANCE CENTER

OR

LA DANCE MAGIC April 16th-18th, DETROIT RENAISSANCE CENTER

OPTIONAL CONVENTIONS 2020-21

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

ASH TBA

NUVO January 22nd - 24th, DETROIT

VELOCITY Feb 19th - 21st, LANSING

REVIVE March 26th - 28th, SOMERSET INN, TROY

JUMP April 3rd - 5th, DETROIT RENAISSANCE CENTER

DANCEMAKERS April 16th - 18th, LANSING

COMPETITIONS 2021

We will attend 3 local competitions. It is early in the season—due to Covid-19, some competitions have not finalized their schedules. All dates and locations are tentative. The Studio reserves the right to change these events. Solos, duet, and trios may choose additional events which are listed below.

EDGE TBA (Note: Current August 2020 event moved to the PCF Center, Detroit)

BRAVO April 16th-18th Walled Lake, MI Walled Lake Western High School

OR

ONPOINTE Date TBA Howell, MI

STARQUEST Feb 26th-28th Walled Lake, MI Walled Lake Northern High School
or May 21st- 23rd Walled Lake, MI Walled Lake Northern High School

STARQUEST NATIONALS June 20th-24th Galveston, TX

OPTIONAL COMPETITIONS 2020 - 21

TURN IT UP TBA

PLATINUM March 19th - 21st South Lyon, MI South Lyon East High School

ON POINTE TBA Howell, MI Howell High School

APPLAUSE October 17th - 18th Walled Lake Western High

March 12th - 14th Grand Rapids, Van Singel Center, April 30th - May 2nd Walled Lake Western High

ONSTAGE NEW YORK TBA

** Solos/duets/trios may attend any of the optional competitions listed or additional events found online.

SHOWS/PERFORMANCES

STUDIO HOLIDAY SHOWS – Dec 5th or 6th OR Dec 12th or 13th, 2020

STUDIO PRODUCTION/RECITALS – May 15th and 16th OR May 22nd and 23rd, 2021

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 2020 to be considered for a certain group. Please do not expect your child to make a team beyond their age. Dancers are cast/placed by age, ability level and how cohesive they are with a group. It is a possibility for a dancer to spend 2 - 3 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 9 - 14 YRS

JUNIOR ELITE 9 - 13 YRS

Any of these levels can be split into two groups.

ADVANCED 10 - 16 YRS

SENIOR 10 - 18 YRS

PREMIER 10 - 18YRS

TEEN ELITE/ELITE 10 - 18YRS

PRESTIGE 12 - 18YRS

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 group chat text and email. The Studio sends out an email labeled *‘‘Company Announcements’’ every 1 - 2 weeks. Please check your email and group chat 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 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 5 - 10 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 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.**

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 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 trend in 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. 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 that 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, 14th, 2020, and ending June 26th, 2021. Should you decide to drop out, you are still responsible for all payments mentioned within from September 2020 through June 2021. 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 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 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 August 3rd and 4th (add August 5th for Tap) where they will be taught routines, review technical aspects, and then audition. **Information on proper times for ages/ genres is listed under "Important Dates/Company Dancer Auditions" in this packet.**

All dancers please wear any combination of black—your choice of leotard, sports bra, leggings and/or dance shorts. No baggy shorts, please. Tights are optional. Have your hair pulled in a neat bun. Choose a clean-cut 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 need to be registered for auditions by Friday, July 24th. Auditions are \$85 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 private audition, which takes place later in August. Private auditions are \$120.

Results of auditions will be sent via mail and should arrive to you by **Friday, August 14th.** 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 Tara. You reserve every right to hear why your child did or did not make a specific team. Please do not make calls/texts/emails to other instructors regarding the decisions made at auditions. Bringing these types of questions to them puts them in a situation that could jeopardize their job. Thank you for understanding.

If you and your dancer have read and agree to the information in this contract, please fill out the page 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 3rd.

CIRCLE THE FOLLOWING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF:

Contemporary/Lyrical Hip Hop Tap Comp II
Solo Duet Trio Small Group (4-5 Dancers)

Production

***Note this would be a new production number, different from last year’s 80s Mix. We do plan on taking 80s Mix to one competition.**

Specialty Group

***Note Hotel California will continue and run through the entire 2020-21 Season. If you are part of it, we hope to have you continue unless you specify otherwise. If you circle Specialty above it means that you would like to be part of a Specialty group, or would like to add on another one along with Hotel California.**

****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 that 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:

We have read The Studio’s 2020-21 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 _____

Dancer’s Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number to Contact _____