

Premier Dance Center Competition Team Handbook

The Premier Dance Center competition team is a competitive dance company designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected for company will possess the following:

- ✓ Must be physically fit with emphasis on healthy mind and body
- ✓ Must be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- ✓ Must have solid technical and performance skills
- ✓ Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- ✓ Must have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- ✓ Have respect for the team and staff
- ✓ Show support for the studio, teachers, and fellow dancers
- ✓ Must have a supportive family base that shows respect for the teachers and students at all times

Commitment

Competition participants are required to participate from August 2023 through July 2024. This is a serious commitment and will not be taken lightly. Participants are expected to fulfill this commitment. All students and their parents will be required to sign a parent/student agreement. Premier Dance Center will compete in a minimum of 3 competitions per year, the annual recital, and the summer national competition. Students must perform in all regional competitions and recital to participate in the national competition. Students must perform in all national/regional competitions and recital to be eligible for team tryouts the following year. Nationals may only be excused for injury, family emergency, or pre planned school activity. If you cannot attend a competition for any of these reasons, please discuss with Victoria as soon as possible. We will also have “conditioning days” on some days throughout the year. It will be mandatory to attend at least 3 conditioning classes. If a student cannot attend for any reason, please discuss a private lesson makeup with Victoria. If a student chooses to audition for another dance company at any time during the year, this will end their commitment with Premier Dance Center Company effective immediately.

Financial Commitment

Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment. All competition teams are required to purchase a team warm-up, which includes a jacket and sometimes matching pants. Competition members must have it on at all times during competitions. The warm-ups need to stay in good condition. A new warm up must be purchased if there are rips, stains, and/or holes. In an effort to keep things simple, the base fee for company is around \$150 for the first year. This includes the price for jacket and shirt. The fee does not include any team practice attire, family t-shirts, hoodies, costumes, yearly tuition, competition fees, or hotel/travel costs. Competition fees vary for each competition. Competition fees will be invoiced to you and is due 3 months before each competition. If you do not pay on time, your child may not be eligible to compete.

- ❖ Hotel fees are not included- this is an option you have and you will be given more information when the time comes. Transportation to and from the competitions is not provided or arranged.
- ❖ Competition Fee estimate per competition:
 - Groups: \$55-\$75 per competition
 - Duets/Trios: \$70-\$100 per competition
 - Solos: \$120-\$150 per competition
- ❖ Monthly tuition-see fees below
- ❖ Costumes- \$85-\$115 each

The Director and Coaches

Mrs. Victoria is the Director for all competition members. It is her job to teach the girls dance, keep the team on schedule, and prepare for competition. It is not her job to babysit. If any student cannot get along with her team, parent meetings will be called. If meetings do not resolve the problem, the dancer will be dismissed from Premier Dance Center Company. Any disrespect coming from the students will result in a dismissal from the class or studio for that day and if the problem persists possible elimination from team. Parents will be notified IMMEDIATELY if any student is dismissed from class.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all dance classes. When it comes to school and family activities, you will find Premier Dance Center to be very accommodating and flexible. However, by accepting placement in this program, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness or school/family activities must be cleared through Mrs. Victoria Carrier. Student absences will be recorded. If more than 3 absences have been met (not including extra holiday practices), it is possible that dancer may not be able to compete in the upcoming competition. If dancer misses class 10 days before competition, he/she will not be able to compete and you will not receive a refund for fees. You may also be required to take some private lessons to catch up for a \$40 per hour fee. Being part of the competition is a team effort and attendance is very important to the other dancers. Being a well-rounded individual is important, and I support students pursuing other activities, however, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught and students must be present! Students also must arrive ON TIME to practice and to competitions. Our motto is "If you are early, you are on time and if you are on time you are late." Students are also expected to perform full out when present. If a student is not performing full out for any reason, a doctor's note must be presented.

Grades

Teaching your child is more than just teaching them dance. I also like to teach them balance. How to balance school and other recreational activities. I am a firm believer that school is most important because only 3 percent of kids that grew up dancing become professional dancers and even becoming a professional dancer requires attending a college where you can major in dance. While I know not every student is capable of banner roll, an effort will still be required from the student. If necessary, students will be required to show their report card to Ms. Victoria every 9 weeks. If your GPA or grades are not satisfactory to what your parents want, then they can show me the report card and probation for the following 9 weeks will be discussed. If grades do not improve the following 9 weeks, dismissal from the team will be discussed. This does not only help the students but it helps the parents when it comes to being stern about good grades.

Opportunities Available

Dancers will be automatically signed up for the competition class and their required classes. There is a fee for all classes. We have multiple opportunities. You are able to audition for our contemporary, jazz, or hip hop competition teams. In addition to groups, you may be chosen for duets, trios, and/or solos. All Contemporary and Jazz dancers must enroll in a technique class scheduled by Mrs. Victoria.

❖ Monthly tuition prices:

Team Technique.....\$50

1 group....\$50

2 groups.... \$90

3 groups..... \$125

4 or more groups.....\$150

Duet/trios....\$50

Solos.....\$50 per hour (must practice 2 hours total a month)

Due to limited schedule availability, solos can be broken down into 30-minute weekly sessions or 1-hour sessions every other week. If a dancer has 2 solos, practices can be broken up into 45 minute weekly sessions or 1.5 hours every other week.

❖ Unlimited TEAM Rate (including regular classes, not including SOLOs)...\$150

❖ Unlimited TEAM Rate (including regular classes and one SOLO)...\$200

❖ Unlimited TEAM Rate (including regular classes and two SOLOs)...\$225

If needed, student can take private lessons at the private lesson rate (varies by teacher).

Students will be placed in either intermediate or recreational divisions depending on their scores at auditions and their overall skill level. Teachers will make final placements. No exceptions! Placement decisions are final and any complaints of placement will result in immediate removal from company team.

Competitions

The competition schedule for the 2023-2024 season will be announced sometime in August. All dancers are required to participate in all competitions and performances. The mandatory regional competitions are never more than 5 hours away. Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception of a cash prize for a solo/duet/trio which will be given to the dancer(s) via a credit to the dancer(s)' account. Any group awards such as plaques or trophies will go to the studio for display. Any medals or ribbons must be held by the student getting the award until the next class day when we will pass them to all the members of the group, duet, or trio. As a team, Premier Dance Center approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- ✓ Educational Opportunity- competition against the finest teams allows our teachers and student the opportunity to “see what is out there” and grow from there.
- ✓ Pre-professional Opportunity- students who wish to pursue the professional world of dance have an opportunity to grow and develop their performance skills through competition team.
- ✓ Fun Family Activity- Premier Dance Center wants to attend competitions that are fun for the whole family. Students learn team-building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self confidence that will last a life time. Having fun is the number one priority for this program.

The Competition Experience

It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of Premier Dance Center should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your child’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. Each judge is very different and all of the judges have different opinions. It is important to remember that if it was a different judge or a different set of judges, your child could always be scored differently. It is important to keep your competition experience positive, and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your child. We do not foster competition within our team, and all we ask from our students is that each child works to their full capacity and lifts each other up. We want all the dancers to have an enjoyable competition experience. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and is uniquely different. While at competition, please do not allow your child to run around the competition venue. The staff of Premier Dance Center will only be responsible for your child while practicing and walking them to and from the backstage area. Parents must pick up dancers in dressing room immediately following performance.

Attire

Students are expected to wear the correct clothing and the correct shoes depending on the team. Students must have hair pulled back at ALL times! Black tops must be purchased from Premier Dance Center. Shorts or leggings must be solid black and can be purchased anywhere. Students should have on tights if they choose to wear shorts. If any student shows up with incorrect clothing, shoes, or no shoes at all, they will be sent home for the day.

Class Etiquette

Students will work hard and perform full out in every class unless we are notified of any personal injuries. Parents of students not practicing full out will be notified immediately. Absolutely NO CELL PHONES will be allowed to be used inside of classroom. Phones are to be placed in the cubbies outside on silent and will not be touched until class is over. If students are found being lazy or disrespectful to other team mates, they will be dismissed from the class for that day and if the problem persists possible elimination from team. Parents will be notified IMMEDIATELY if any student is dismissed from class.

Make-up and Costumes:

Specific makeup is required for all competition teams and will need to be purchased by you. By accepting placement in this program, you agree to wear the costumes designed/picked by the director and/or choreographer. The costumes will also be the same one used in the annual recital. Please note that dancers will wear tights and/or fishnets with every costume. Please see your child's teacher closer to competition to find out exactly which brand of tights and/or fishnets they will need.

Jewelry and Nail polish:

Specific jewelry will be required for each routine. This includes chokers, hair pieces, and earrings. Please see Ms. Joyce closer to competition season for correct jewelry. If your child's ears are not pierced, you will be responsible for getting a clip-on kit. Nail polish should be a clear or nude coat only. No white tips or color.

Competition Critiques and Scores

Every competition we attend gives us video and/or audio critiques. The students will listen to the critiques following each competition. If a judge specifically calls out a student in a group for a mistake, the mistake must be fixed by the next competition. If a judge repeats that mistake at the next competition for the same student, the student will be removed from parts of the group routine. Ms. Victoria will make every effort to assist in fixing mistakes but it is ultimately up to the student to practice at home. Practicing once a week is not effective in any sport. This includes any technique issues, facials, energy, and memory. The more experience on stage the student gets, the more comfortable they will become. Parents also need to keep students positive while at competition and enforce practicing at home to help minimize any mistakes. Score sheets may be acquired by solo parents if asked. All other scores sheets will just be reviewed in class.

Social Media

Social media is a huge outlet of advertisement for the studio. Parents and students may not post any negative remarks about the studio or any dancer/parent. Slander of any kind will not be tolerated. Team parents and students are a huge representation of our studio so please be mindful of what you post on your personal social media sites. If students are seen making an inappropriate post of any kind, they will be asked to remove it from their page immediately. We also ask that you do not promote any studio other than Premier Dance Center on your personal page. You may "like" other studios on social media but please do not share their post out of respect for PDC and our staff. We also ask that if you see Premier Dance Center's post please like, comment, and/or share the post. Even a simple emoji comment makes the post show up in other's news feed and word of mouth is our best advertisement!

Behavior

We expect Premier Dance Center Team members to be on their best behavior at all times in and out of the studio as they are a direct reflection of our studio. How they act at school and/or competitions is very important to us. We want to show that our students are not only talented but well behaved. If we have behavior problems that are brought to any of our staff's attention, the issue will be addressed and consequences will be distributed immediately.

Nutrition

At the end of the day our students are athletes. They must treat their body as an athlete would. This means eating healthy and exercising. Even something as simple as stretching every morning helps. We understand that many of our students may not have time to eat healthy or exercise everyday but we highly suggest making it a part of your weekly routine to add in some kind of cardio. This helps tremendously with their stamina when it comes to performances and it also helps to prevent injury. Even if students just need a snack after school and before classes try to include healthy snacks like cucumbers, celery, grapes, etc.

Parent Roles

Premier Dance Center is a drama free zone! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. The studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment, and disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, or the director. It makes no difference to Premier Dance Center, how good your child is or who you are. You are not permitted to bring into this facility, that which is full of fabulous families and children, any negativity whatsoever.

Your role is the following:

- ✓ Lift up and support all of our children.
- ✓ Cheer for all students, not just your own, at competitions
- ✓ Teach your child that there is always going to be someone better than they are
- ✓ Teach your child to be happy for others
- ✓ Give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling
- ✓ Stand firmly behind the teaching staff
- ✓ Work with the teaching staff, showing your child that you are behind their teachers

The most successful children are those whose parents support their teachers and coaches 100%. These are the ones who do not bad-mouth or question any teacher of the studio or coach in front of their team. We all want our children to succeed, but success is not measured by the ribbon a child brought home, or by a row in which they stand on stage, or by how many pirouettes they can do. Instead, it is measured by the effort that they put forth. If they give all they've got to give, what more can anyone ever expect? Please remember that Victoria is here to teach your children to dance and she is not certified to deal with parent drama amongst each other. If you cannot act like adults and solve your issues, you will be banned from the studio because Premier Dance Center Company will be a drama free team! If you cannot leave the drama at home, we are not the studio for you.

End Notes:

Teaching is my utmost passion and I can't imagine doing anything else. Thank you for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to work with your children. I take my job very seriously and your child and their success in the program is my priority. Making decisions regarding placement in the Premier Dance Center competition team and in the many routines that we produce is a long and difficult process which evolve around teacher evaluations. Please remember that no child is ever "held back," but instead, encouraged to develop their skills to their fullest. I want each child to reach their full potential as a dancer. Company placement decisions are FINAL. Any complaints about team placements will result in removal from Premier Dance Center Company team immediately.

Please sign and return the attached agreement to the front desk at registration. Please complete one form for each of your children who have been placed in Premier Dance Center Competition Team.

Company Letter of Commitment

This correspondence serves as an agreement between you and Premier Dance Center as produced and directed by Mrs. Victoria Carrier. Your child has been selected to be a member of the 2023-2024 competition team(s), an honor as well as a privilege. Your signature below indicates that you have read and fully understand all of the requirements and/or consequences associated with your Premier Dance Center handbook. Furthermore, your signature and that of your child's indicates your acceptance of those terms and conditions, and that you are well aware of the commitment involved in this program. Your signature also indicates that if you or your child does not follow the rules of the handbook, you may be dismissed from team and your child will not be eligible for tryouts the following dance year.

Child:

Being a member of the competition team means that you will be actively participating from August 2023 through July 2024. Your commitment to this program means that you will be participating in all performances, competitions, and recitals that are scheduled during this time period. Your commitment to this program means you will come to class each time dressed appropriately with proper shoes and attire. You will also come to class with a positive and ready to learn attitude. You will remember that you are a role model for younger and regular class dancers who aspire to be on competition team with you. You will always dance FULL OUT unless an injury has occurred. You will win and lose competitions with grace but most importantly you will always stay humble. In addition to the above, I understand a violation of my commitment to this program/contract has serious consequences that may result in my being permanently dismissed from the program.

X _____

Date _____

Parent:

Please be sure you feel comfortable with your ability to handle the fees incurred for this activity, as with most competitive activities, there are many uncontrollable circumstances and we don't want to catch anyone off guard. Monthly tuition, competition fees, costumes fees, etc. all have due dates. These due dates are always posted on the team group page on Facebook and usually emailed out to each child. Monthly tuition is due at the beginning of each month and is late after the 10th of each month. All other fees are late after the posted due dates. Late fees will be added to any late payments including but not limited to tuition, costume, and/or competition fees. There shouldn't be any excuses for lack of knowledge of a due date or amount. It is each parent's/student's responsibility to be aware of fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest coming in to the studio at least monthly to check balances with Ms. Joyce. We do try as much as possible to keep you up to date with email and our facebook, however it isn't always reliable. Please be advised that all payments are non-refundable and competition fees will only be refunded if the competition cancels and allows refunds. Please note some cancellations may result in a credit for the following year.

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child's account and activity requirements. In addition to the above, I understand a violation of my commitment to this program/contract has serious consequences that may result in my child and myself being permanently dismissed from the studio.

X _____

Date _____