

## **2024-2025 PERFORMING ARTS RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

*The Performing Arts Team is a group of dancers age 7 & up who train several days a week in preparation for performance and competition season. It is an encouraging, supportive environment for dancers looking to take their training to the next level with the Allegro Family and have more opportunity for performances outside of our Recitals. **The Performing Arts Team Commitment is year-round. PA Dancers are required to take summer classes and the season runs from August – May. This is a team activity and we expect all team members to prioritize their commitment to the team throughout the entire season.***

### **AUDITIONS: Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm**

Each member of the Performing Arts team will be selected by auditioning. Dancers will be evaluated and scored by qualified judges on their technique, style, showmanship, and discipline. The audition fee is \$25.00, and this fee must be paid by the audition date. You must attend the audition in order to be considered for the team. Please let Miss Lesley know ASAP if you have a conflict with the audition date so we can schedule a second one if needed. If selected, dancers will receive a list of classes they need to take over the summer with their audition results packet. **Team levels, and the number and style of routines given to each team level will be determined at the end of the summer session.** Levels are determined based on age, skill level, and number of dancers auditioning.

### **SUMMER CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

Dancers selected for the Performing Arts Team are required to be enrolled in both summer sessions. We realize you may have to be absent some due to travel, but please try to attend class as much as possible. As mentioned above, team levels and the number and style of routines given to each team level will be determined at the end of the summer session. **All team members must be enrolled in Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, and Hip Hop.** If you would like to be considered for a tap group, you must also be enrolled in tap. Dancers in level IV/V must also take Strength & Flex.

### **FALL CLASS REQUIREMENTS (Classes Begin Monday, August 5th)**

All Performing Arts Team members must be enrolled in the PA Blocks for the team level and styles they are selected for. PA Blocks are 30-minute classes focused solely on the choreography and rehearsal of competition routines. They must also be enrolled in a regular Ballet class, Jazz or Lyrical, and the additional required classes for their team level, which are broken down below. Our staff will place your dancer in the appropriate level for classes. **Levels are subject to change after auditions.** Taking more than the required number of classes is strongly encouraged and will help dancers progress much faster.

### **MINI TEAM (Selected based on skill level. Must be at least 7 years old or receive an invitation. This group will have 1-3 routines.)**

Dancers must take the Mini PA Block(s), Ballet, Jazz or Lyrical, and **one additional class** in the style of your choosing, excluding Production. Those who compete in Tap must be enrolled in a Tap class.

### **JUNIOR TEAM (Selected based on skill level. This group will have 2-4 routines.)**

Dancers must take the Junior PA Blocks, Ballet, Jazz or Lyrical, and **two additional classes** in the style of your choosing, excluding Production. Those who compete in Tap must be enrolled in a Tap class.

### **TEEN & SENIOR TEAMS (Selected based on skill level. These groups will have 2-6 routines)**

Dancers must take the Teen or Senior PA Blocks, Ballet, Jazz or Lyrical, and **three additional classes** in the style of your choosing, excluding Production & Pointe. Those who compete in Tap must be enrolled in a Tap class.

**PA PRODUCTION:** This routine consists of our full team of dancers. It is not required that you participate in this routine, but it is rare that someone chooses to opt out. *Production cannot be counted as one of your additional classes, as this 30-minute class focuses solely on the choreography and rehearsal of the routine.*

### **CHOREOGRAPHY CAMP**

Performing Arts Team members are required to participate in weekend camps at the studio in which they will learn most of their choreography for competition season. The tentative dates for this camp are 9/13-9/15 and 9/20-9/22 – please add these dates to your calendar now! **Attendance at the camps is mandatory for all team members.** Failure to attend will result in removal from the team.

### **ABSENCES**

Repeated absences by the same dancers make it very difficult for teachers to set choreography on the team. It is also unfair for the students who do attend class regularly to be dragged down by unmotivated team members or those who participate in too many activities. A Performing Arts dancer is allowed to be absent **5 times per year** beginning in the fall in PA Block and PA Production. **After the fifth absence, dancers will be fined \$30.00 for each additional absence.** All fines are put into the competition fund which is used for incidental expenses for the group at the discretion of the director. *Parents, please remember that you have made a commitment to this team. You are paying for these classes whether your dancer attends them or not, and we encourage you to make the most of your dance tuition by having your child at dance whenever possible.*

We do understand that school comes before dance, and that sometimes dancers get sick or injured. **Providing school permission slips and doctor's notes is necessary if a dancer is to receive an excused absence.** Dancers who are injured should still come to class and observe to avoid getting an absence, but please do not come to class if you are not feeling well and have a fever.

**Dancer of the Week:** Those selected as "Dancer of the Week" will earn one excused absence in a Performing Arts class. More information about how a dancer is chosen for Dancer of the Week can be found on the last page of this handbook.

### **COMPETITION SEASON**

Performing Arts dancers will be required to do a minimum of 3 regional competitions a year between the months of February and May. Please keep your schedules open during that time frame. Competition dates and locations are subject to change for a number of reasons, so please be prepared to adjust to a new schedule if necessary. Competitions will be selected in the fall, and we are willing to work around **school related** scheduling conflicts as long as we are notified before competitions are chosen. Vacations planned during competition season will not be considered as scheduling conflicts, but don't worry; we do not plan competitions during Florence City Spring Break. Most if not all of the competitions will be out of town, but we do not normally travel more than a few hours away. Additional rehearsals will be called as the competitions approach, and all of these rehearsals are mandatory. It is also mandatory that dancers attend all of their PA classes the week prior to a competition (PA Block, Production, and Technique). **Missing PA classes the week prior to a competition and/or any mandatory rehearsals called prior to a competition will result in a \$30.00 fine, and you will not be allowed to participate in the next competition or performance.**

### **WORKSHOPS**

We sometimes give you opportunities to train with professional teachers and performers at workshops which will allow you a better understanding of what it takes to be a professional dancer. Workshops are meant to expose dancers to different styles of dance and choreography and challenge them to think outside the box. Being exposed to different teaching styles helps dancers better understand their technique. Attendance at the designated workshop is mandatory, failure to attend will result in a \$30 fine.

## COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

The Performing Arts Team is comprised of the most advanced dancers in the studio, so we want them to represent us whenever we are invited to perform at community events. Performing Arts dancers must be available for community performances throughout the year, in addition to the studio's Christmas and Spring Recitals. We will notify you of upcoming performances/appearances as early as possible so you can plan ahead. Failure to attend community performances will result in a \$30.00 fine.

## EXPENSES AND FEES

Each dancer's family is responsible for his or her expenses for the year, including tuition, team wear, competition entry fees, workshop fees, costumes, as well as travel, lodging, and food expenses. Entry fees vary depending on the competition, but last year's fees were between \$52-\$67 per person per group routine. There is also a studio fee of \$60 per competition to cover the time and expenses of the teachers travelling with the team (\$85 for families with more than one dancer on the team). Because it is our goal to give you plenty of time to prepare for upcoming expenses, bills will go out 3-4 weeks prior to the payment deadline. However, a late fee of \$10.00 will be added each week past the due date. **Dancers will not be allowed to compete if accounts are not paid in full by the competition date.**

### **SAMPLE TIMELINE OF EXPENSES:** *(this is a rough estimation and subject to change)*

*September:* PA Team wear will be ordered. (Estimated cost with jacket and top = \$150)

*October/November:* PA Costumes will be ordered (Estimated cost = \$60-85 per costume)

*January:* Recital costumes, PA Accessories, Entry Fees for 1<sup>st</sup> Competition. **We suggest you prepare in advance for January as there are several things that are due right after Christmas.**

*February:* Entry fees for 2<sup>nd</sup> Competition

*March:* Entry fees for 3<sup>rd</sup> Competition

*April:* Recital Pictures, Opening Number

*May:* Recital fee, tickets, t-shirts, program ads, etc. All outstanding payments due.

## SOLOS, DUETS, TRIOS

Junior, Teen, & Senior Team members who have completed 1 full year on the Performing Arts Team are eligible to compete a solo, duet, or trio, as long as they also meet the following requirements:

- Hours of Class Per Week: Juniors 7 hours, Teens/Seniors 8 hours
- Must participate in at least 3 PA group routines (other than Production)
- Dancers must compete at least one duet or trio before becoming eligible for a solo.
- Due to limited choreographer availability and high routine demand, it may not be possible to compete both a solo and a duet or trio. At this time you must chose only one.

Choreographers will be assigned based on teacher availability, and music and style will be chosen by the choreographer with input from the dancer. Our staff members have different and limited availability and will put a cap on how many routines they will take on. Each teacher has their own pricing breakdown for private choreography so your cost will depend on which teacher you are working with. Payment for private lessons should be made directly to that teacher via cash or Venmo. Entry fees for solos ranged between \$125-\$159 last season, and for duet/trios \$65-\$89 per dancer. The routine must be approved by Miss Lesley before rehearsals begin and must fit within our recital theme. At competitions, these routines often get scheduled on Friday and Sunday evenings which can mean an extra day of travel expenses, so please understand that your choreographer may not be able to be there when you compete. In this case, you will be responsible for bringing a backup for your music and checking yourself in backstage. **You will save money on both private lessons and entry fees by competing a duet/trio instead of a solo.**

## **COMMUNICATION**

**E-MAIL IS OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION.** It is how we keep track of card authorizations, registrations, and various other things that come up throughout the year. **Please do not message us on Facebook, Instagram, or text our personal phones to ask questions or authorize charges.** We are not always at the studio and having everything in one place makes it much easier for us to stay organized, which is why we prefer e-mail as our main form of communication. We will send out all information regarding the Performing Arts Team via e-mail, and we will also put a copy of the information in the team mailboxes at the studio. Check your e-mail daily to keep up with the latest studio news. **We work extremely hard to put together handouts and send them out in various formats, and we would really appreciate it if you would take the time to read them thoroughly and add any deadlines to your calendar.**

## **CONDUCT**

Performing Arts dancers are representatives of the studio both inside and outside of class and are expected to conduct themselves as role models. As leaders of the studio, we expect them to comply with the dress code at all times. They should set the tone for how others conduct themselves in class, and also in the dancer lounge. Performing Arts dancers are expected to be respectful of each other at the studio, and anywhere else they interact with their teammates. Disrespect to our staff members or other dancers in the studio will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with the aforementioned rules will result in consequences up to dismissal from the team.

**Dancer of the Week:** This is something we do to reward dancers on the team who have worked hard in class, followed the rules, and set a good example for others. We feature these students on our social media pages and reward them with a free absence in a Performing Arts class (**the free absence cannot be used to miss class the week of a competition or performance**). In order to be considered for Dancer of the Week, a dancer must have attended all of the classes in which they are enrolled during the current week. They must also comply with the studio's dress code and set a good example for others during class. Dancers who do not meet these requirements will not be considered for Dancer of the Week.

## **DANCER LOUNGE**

The dancer lounge is a space where the Performing Arts Team can hang out between classes, do homework, and have a quick snack to keep their energy up. However, we do expect the dancers to clean up after themselves and take pride in the appearance of the studio. Each PA dancer will be required to complete a cleaning chart once per week. Dancers will lose access to the dancer lounge and must be picked up between classes if they cannot keep the space neat and tidy.

Performing Arts Dancers will be given assigned shelf space in the hallway or dancer lounge so they can keep their dance shoes and accessories at the studio. Please purchase them a box or cubby to keep their belongings in. We do not allow them to keep food in their cubbies, and we expect them to keep their area neat and tidy. If they cannot follow these rules, they will no longer be allowed to have a cubby at the studio.

**It is an honor to be chosen as a member of the Performing Arts Team. We want you to have a great year filled with hard work, fun, and accomplishment!**

We, dancer and parent/guardian, have read the 2024-2025 Performing Arts Team Rules & Regulations. We understand the policies therein, and we understand that failure to comply with these policies will result in consequences up to dismissal from the team.

**We understand that the Performing Arts Team commitment is from August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.  
We agree to prioritize our commitment to this team throughout the entirety of the season.**

**Dancer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancer's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contract Terms: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**