

2023 -2024

STUDIO C DANCE



**DIRECTORS-
KRISTY LOVE & MADDY SEXAUER**

STUDIO C DANCE

Competition Line Handbook

About This Handbook

Since 1992; our studio has been a leader in dance education. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our dancers and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the Studio C Competition Line and studio.

For Our Dancers

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers and choreographers you work with is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

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For the Parents: *"We're in this together"*

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents. Because your commitment to the process makes a huge difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere for our faculty, Competition Dancers, and their parents; it promotes a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and faculty, makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child in how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence at all classes, rehearsals, and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal—perhaps even greater—value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps your children will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

Class or Choreography Placement

The Studio C Staff meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. We take several things into consideration on audition day such as behavior, attitude, presentation, technique and skill level. Dancers that competed in the previous season will be evaluated by each teacher in their competition classes before the season is over. This evaluation is given to the Competition Directors and is heavily weighted in the placement decisions. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

****When registering for competition classes, please take everything into consideration, your child's school schedule, extracurricular activities, and finances. Once a student registers for their competition classes, classes cannot be dropped. If they would like to drop one class, they have to drop them all. ****

Dos and Don'ts

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. Watch for this behavior in your children as well, and encourage them to focus on their own accomplishments. Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow dancers, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will react to their parents in a way that imitates the parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures. As stated above, there are several factors that go into placements. As a proud parent of the SCCL please do not question the competition directors about placements. On the day these classes are sent out, placement is final. Competition directors will not switch dancers on account of a parent's complaint.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring important behavior patterns through their example. The Studio C Staff takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully to their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

For Dancers and Parents

Image

The children and parents involved in the Studio C Competition Line participate in many activities, each of which becomes a reflection of the school's philosophy.

Please keep the following in mind:

5. We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools.
6. We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
7. We never recruit dancers from other studios.
8. The studio directors handle all communication with the directors of our outside activities.

DRESS CODE -

**** BALLET CLASS -** ALL DANCERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR BLACK LEOTARD WITH PINK TIGHTS. HAIR MUST BE PULLED BACK INTO A SECURE PONYTAIL OR BUN. PINK BALLET SHOES ARE ALSO REQUIRED. NO SHIRTS, TANKS, SHORTS OR SKIRTS MAY BE WORN OVER THE LEOTARD BECAUSE IT CAN INTERFERE WITH THE TEACHER IN SEEING THE DANCERS TRUE BODY LINES.

BALLET IS THE BASIS OF ALL DANCE AND IT THE MOST IMPORTANT CLASS A DANCER WILL TAKE. PROPER ATTIRE NOT ONLY INFLUENCES A DANCER'S POSTURE, BUT IT ALSO HELPS IN BUILDING ONE'S SELF-DISCIPLINE WHICH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN DANCE TRAINING.

FOR ALL OTHER CLASSES - PROPER DANCE ATTIRE NEEDS TO BE WORN SO THAT WE CAN SEE YOUR BODIES!!! BAGGY SHIRTS AND LOOSE PANTS SHORTS SHOULD NOT BE WORN. DANCERS MUST ALWAYS BRING APPROPRIATE SHOES TO CLASS.

**** FROM FEBRUARY 1ST THRU THE LAST COMPETITION OF THE SEASON -** DANCERS MUST WEAR ALL BLACK DANCE CLOTHES TO ALL COMP CLASSES. THIS IS BENEFICIAL TO THE TEACHER IN CLEANING ROUTINES.

APPEARANCE –

ALL TATTOOS MUST BE COMPLETELY COVERED FOR ALL PERFORMANCES. DANCERS ARE ALSO NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE UNNATURAL HAIR COLOR FOR PERFORMANCES (SUCH AS BLUE, GREEN, PURPLE, PINK ETC.) THERE ARE SEVERAL NON-PERMANENT HAIR DYES THAT PROMISE THE DYE WILL BE OUT IN X NUMBER OF WASHES... PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE NOT EXPERIMENTING WITH THESE WEEKS BEFORE COMPETITION.

ATTENDANCE –

All competition class times are dedicated to choreography or “cleaning” the choreography. A dancer who misses a competition class can hold back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable practice time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par. If you miss a competition class or choreography session, please get with another dancer from that class to learn the missed choreography prior to the next class. When we clean choreography, we may also change it, and teachers are not required to send videos to students that have missed. As a competition dancer, it is their responsibility to know what was missed. So, keep in mind that attendance is extremely important!

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. To make the most of this opportunity:

1. Arrive at performances ready-to-perform by your “Call Time” times provided by the studio.
2. Be sure you are properly warmed up.
3. Present yourself in a professional manner, with costumes unwrinkled, shoes cleaned, and all accessories accounted for.
4. Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance.

For several classes, we bring in outside choreographers to share their love and knowledge with our students. If your class is chosen for outside choreography, dates will be available to you at our earliest convenience. These choreography sessions are mandatory. If you do not attend, your spot in that dance may be replaced by someone else.

Competition Dancers are only allowed to miss a competition class **6** times throughout the year. If a dancer misses 6 or more competition classes, they must meet with their teacher for a private lesson for a fee. It is to the teacher’s discretion for how long and how many private lessons the dancer must attend. If a dancer fails to attend make-up privates and continues to miss classes, the teacher and competition directors may expel them from the dance and/or competition line.

Tech Classes - dancers are allowed **5** absences in each tech class. Tech class may be made up to erase an absence. Please see the front desk or email the studio for appropriate make-up times; then check-in at the front desk when doing a make-up.

Private Lessons - dancers that fail to attend a scheduled private lesson with no previous warning to a teacher, the dancer will still be charged full price for the private lesson missed.

Excused Absences - Dancers may be excused if they are required to attend the following: funeral, ACT, and medical procedures. Absences will only be excused if there is a written email from a parent explaining why the dancer is missing. Texts to a teacher does not qualify.

Dancers must also be present for over half of the class, or they will be counted absent. The Staff will do our best to update dancers who have been missing several classes, however, with our new computer system; you will be able to log-in to your account to view your dancer’s absences. *Please keep an eye on this to make sure that the dancer does not go over on absences.*

ALL DANCERS MUST SHOW RESPECT FOR THEIR TEACHERS & PEERS AT ALL TIMES.
INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR COULD RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

TUITION -

Tuition is due on the first day of the month (September Tuition will be due September 1st). A late fee of \$25.00 will be added for any tuition that is paid after the 5th of the month. Our computer system will automatically add the late fee to your account. Recital tickets will not be handed out in June unless all outstanding payments including late fees are paid. Return check fee - \$25.00.

Payments for tuition, costumes & competition entry fees may be made by cash, check or credit card (VISA & M.C.).

Part of the commitment to the Competition Line is being up-to-date with all accounts related to participation. If an account is 30 days past due; dancers may be expelled from the competition line.

ABOUT COMPETITIONS

PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIONS -

All competitions are mandatory. A schedule of competition weekends will be sent out in the fall. If a dancer has any sort of conflict - the studio must be notified in writing within 3 weeks of the schedule coming out. Specific times for competition do not come out until about 2 weeks prior. Competition Date conflicts *could* result in the dancer having to be pulled from the competition line.

The week of Competitions are also mandatory. However, if a dancer cannot attend class, an email with the reason for absence must be sent at least 3 weeks prior. Competition Directors must approve the reason for absence. Once approved the dancer will receive a private lesson time, and the dancer is responsible for paying the teacher a private lesson fee.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Entry fees must be turned in by their due dates to ensure that our entries reach the competition company by their deadline. Competition entry fees are non-refundable unless there is an injury with a doctor's note. This is not our rule, it is the competitions. A late fee of \$35.00 will be added if we do not receive payment by the due date.

If you are new to the competition line & you would like information on entry fees & competing; please call or email the studio & we would be more than happy to explain!!

Parents attending Competitions

- As mentioned before, parents must always conduct themselves in a professional manor. As soon as you walk into the Competition you are representing Studio C.
- If there is a situation that would need Competition Staff involvement, parents must tell a Studio C Staff member, and we will then converse with Competition staff. Parents may NOT speak to or email Competition Staff members directly for any reason.

COSTUMES

Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent. Each competition routine will have its own costume that will be worn for all 3 competitions, recital, and Nationals every 3 years. The *average* cost of a costume is \$90 - \$150. In order to help keep costs down - Studio C focuses on reusing & buying back costumes whenever possible. Costume deposits will be spread out between August and December. Please email the studio if you need a schedule of the costume deposit due dates. **There are no refunds for Costumes.**

If a Competition dancer is dismissed or leaves the program; you are responsible for any outstanding costume costs (total cost of the costume; deposits and balances) and the student leaving the team is expected to turn in all costumes to the studio.

If a Competition dancer were to get injured or ill for some reason and is not able to compete; Studio C has the right to replace that dancer in the formations until they are well. The dancer not competing MUST loan their costumes to the replacement dancer/dancers.

If a Competition dancer shows up to a competition unprepared and without a piece of their costume, they will be unable to perform on stage until said costume piece is recovered. Parents may have to drive from the venue back home to retrieve the costume piece. It is imperative that **dancers and parents** check to make sure you have everything before leaving for competition!

Registration Fee –

There is a registration fee for all competition dancers. This fee is due when the dancer auditions. This fee covers staff administrative work throughout the year for competition dancers.

THE FOCUS IS NOT SIMPLY ON COMPETITION

OUR GOAL IS TO INSTILL A PASSION FOR PERFORMING
RATHER THAN MERELY THE DESIRE TO WIN AWARDS.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider participation in competitions not simply part of our students' training as dancers; it's also an important part of how we influence them as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go on stage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about; whether they win—or which award they win—is secondary Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and studios. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education!