



## **Fusionworks Dance Academy Performance Team**

### **A Guide for Students and Parents**

#### **About This Handbook**

FOR MORE THAN forty years our school 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 our educational philosophy of developing the whole child. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the school performance team, the Intensive Dancer Program commitment, and the school.

➤ Dates and/or expenses listed in this handbook are subject to change. Please check your email each week for updates from us.

## **About Our Performance Team**

Directed by Deb Meunier and the Fusionworks Dance Academy school staff, the performance team is made up of dancers from Level I and Level II classes who study intensively in various dance forms and then perform in regional and national competitions. Dancers in Level II are expected to mentor and help with the younger dancers in Level I during rehearsal times. Dancers in both levels train in their own classes and then come together during the designated rehearsal times. At times the dancers may also be asked perform for the benefit of the local community, such as in a senior center or at a community event.

Through hard work in an Intensive Dancer program in classes, rehearsals and carefully coached mentoring, our young dancers become well-rounded, confident people who gain knowledge and perspective about themselves through helping others and team work. They also learn through competitions to perform to the best of their ability and with a positive spirit.

We train our young dancers to be the best they can be within themselves. Self motivation, compassion, responsibility, and cooperation are instilled as tools for life. We believe in team work, and in instilling a sense of generosity towards others in the studio, on the stage, and in the community. Level II students who participate in the Fusionworks Dance Academy Performance Team may use their community performances for their high school community service requirements and for college scholarship applications.

## **FOR OUR DANCERS**

Congratulations! You have been invited into our school Performance Team and Intensive Dancer Program. 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. You will be expected to miss very few dance classes throughout the year and to give 100% of yourself to your dancing and your school dance company.

Membership on the Performance Team is a privilege that dancers must appreciate and respect. Participation in the program is restricted to dancers who are ready to make achieving their personal best a priority. There will be times when classes, rehearsals, or performances will be scheduled when your non-dance friends or family may be headed to school dances or the movies.

We encourage dancers to be as dedicated to their academic studies as they are to their dance training. If your participation in this program affects your grades or the expectations and goals set by your parents, we cannot allow you to continue in the program.

Reasons why this program might NOT be a good fit for you:

- You're involved in extracurricular activities that could interfere with your class, rehearsal, or performance commitments.
- You already know that you are going to miss 4-6 weeks in the fall to play soccer.
- You're doing it because you want to keep up with your friends, but you are not passionate about dance nor about the commitment.
- You're doing it because your parent(s) want you to.
- You're primarily focused on winning awards.
- You're not fully committed to attending all classes and rehearsals.

### **Program Benefits**

This program focuses on educating young people to strive for their personal best in anything they want to accomplish. Preparing, rehearsing, and participating in competitions is hard work. Through this work, we offer our dancers the chance to:

- Gain a sense of balance in life by managing their commitments to both dance and academics
- Participate in a physical activity that enhances understanding of the value of a healthy body
- Participate in ongoing community service through donated mentoring and at times donated performances.
- Develop a sense of confidence even when under pressure, which is a great benefit in college or job interviews.
- Work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the studio
- Enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents

- Discover the results of hard work and determination and develop the ability to sometimes fail and yet stay determined to grow and be positive.
- Develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

In addition, making a commitment to the policies set forth in this handbook teaches our young people that there are boundaries that must be respected in order to succeed in the program.

## **FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”**

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

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process. Dancers who sign up for Performance Team and the Intensive Dancer Program may not take extended times out for another extra-curricular activity.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally.

### **Understanding Dance Education**

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve.

Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that’s comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

We want competitions and training for them to always be in a positive and generous spirit to all involved.

Our goal is to educate the minds and bodies of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

### **Dos and Don’ts**

Some parents may compare their child’s progress or class placement to another child’s. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments. Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers and stronger people.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through our examples. Our school’s faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It’s our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child’s dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with the Artistic Director.

If you do request a conference with us, please listen carefully to what your child’s teachers or the Artistic Director have to say. Our teachers spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

### **Class Placement and Performance Casting**

The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child, whether they are in the competition team or not.

Placement decisions in both classes and casting in performances are derived from many years of teaching experience. 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. Casting is highly individual and the factors that go into the decisions are complex. Please trust our professional judgement and know that we will do the best we can for every child.

### **MANDATORY class and rehearsal requirements for competition dancers**

- In order to qualify for participation on the Performance Team, dancers must be in the Intensive Dancer Program and they must take a minimum of four classes a week at Fusionworks Dance Academy throughout the year.
  - Two of these classes *must* be in Ballet technique.
  - Two of these classes *must* be in Modern.
  - Other classes may be chosen from any of the forms offered at the school, including more classes in ballet and modern.
- Performance Team dancers may not start classes later than the opening of classes in the school season.
- Performance Team dancers may not take a semester or half semester off for any reason.
- No more than five regular class days per school year may be missed.
- No more than one Performance Team rehearsal per school year may be missed.
- Any Performance Team dancer with poor attendance in either regular classes or rehearsals will be dismissed from the program.
- Participation in the teen summer classes and/or camps is mandatory to participate in the following season.
- All dancers must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the program.

### **Rehearsals**

All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography and building repertory for competitions and community performances. A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par.

Dancers who miss rehearsals may not be properly prepared for an upcoming performance and could end up disappointing themselves, their team, and the school.

### **Performance Team dancers are allowed to miss one rehearsal in the school year season.**

- This may not be the rehearsal in the two weeks before a competition performance.
- If a dancer misses a rehearsal in the two weeks before a performance, that dancer will be taken out of that performance.
- A 'season' of classes starts in September and ends at the school recital in June. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- A 'season' of rehearsals starts in October and ends in June. There may be gaps in the schedule where there are no rehearsals. The dates of rehearsals will be given a minimum of two months in advance.
- Dancers who need to be excused are required to notify the school 24 hours before the scheduled rehearsal, unless it is an extreme emergency in family or health. Any dancer excused from a rehearsal is responsible for learning any missed choreography before arriving for the next rehearsal.
- All team dancers must attend rehearsals in proper dance attire as designated in the school dress codes. Female company members are required to wear their hair pulled back or in a bun for all rehearsals.

## **Rehearsal and Performance Schedules for September 2018 - February 2019 Season:**

Rehearsals will begin on October 4.

Rehearsal Time: Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30

Rehearsal and Performance Dates will Span: October 2018- February 2019

NO REHEARSALS on November 8<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving, December 20, and Winter Holiday vacation break.

### **Competition Performances:**

Parents will be responsible for transporting their children to competition performances.

We will notify you of competition date ranges a minimum of two months in advance so that you may plan accordingly.

Specific competition *times* will be given within 7 days prior to each competition.

**\*\*Please note that specific days and times are not within our control. We are assigned days and times by each individual competition company.**

### **FEES:**

#### **Dues for the Performance Team Members**

The following are the required dues for the rehearsals during the school year.

Full Season Dues - \$350 per school year, from October to June.

- Full payment due by October 4, 2018
- There are no late payments accepted.
- Students may not participate unless payment is received on the due date of the first rehearsal.
- Checks are made out to: Fusionworks Dance Academy, with memo line "Performance Team Dues"
- Performance Team dues are separate from tuition for all ongoing classes held at Fusionworks Dance Academy and do not apply to any ongoing classes at Fusionworks Dance Academy.
- These dues are separate from individual entry fees into competitions, which are determined by each competition and by the number of dances a student performs in a competition.
- There are separate fees for each dance that a dancer participates in. For example: if a dancer performs in a modern, a ballet and a jazz dance, that will result in three entrance fees.
- Entrance fees will be emailed to parents well in advance of each competition so that parents may make the final decision on how many dances a child may participate in.

### **Additional Expenses**

#### **Costumes & Logo Attire**

##### **Logo Attire –**

- All Performance Team dancers will be required to purchase and wear a Fusionworks Dance Academy jacket to all performances. Purchase of Logo attire will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- Logo attire will cost approximately \$65-\$75, depending upon current market prices. **\*\*Once you purchase a jacket you do not have to re-purchase another one if it still fits your child.**

##### **Costumes –**

- Costume payments for competitions are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Competition dancers will require one costume *for each dance form* they are performing in.
- The typical cost of a costume is \$50 to \$75.
- We will notify parents of costume costs a minimum of one month before the first competition.

- Costumes must be paid for in full at the time of ordering.
- Dancers will use the same costumes for an entire school year of competitions since we will do the same dances at each competition.

### **Other Considerations**

All Performance Team programming/performing is separate from the Fusionworks Dance Academy annual summer recital. The same admission is required for the annual recital as it is for all other students.

### **For the Dancer - Respect**

Respect for the school, its teachers, and its choreographers is essential.

The teachers and choreographers selected to work with our Performance Team and Intensive Program dancers are among the finest and most experienced available. They are selected because of their professionalism and knowledge of what is technically and emotionally right for the dancers.

Guidelines for behavior:

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of every class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are a must in every class and rehearsal. Hair must be up!
- Finish every class or rehearsal with a thank-you to the teacher or choreographer.
- When wearing your school logo attire or other apparel to non-dance events, be sure that the activities and your behavior reflect positively on you and the school.

### **Appreciate the Critique**

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.

➤ Dancers: 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.

## **FOR DANCERS AND PARENTS**

### **Image**

The children and parents involved in the Performance Team participate in many outside activities, all of which reflect the Fusionworks Dance Academy philosophy.

Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools.
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event.
- Dancers should be properly dressed for all events. Do not arrive at or leave any event in your dancewear; always wear a cover-up and logo attire.
- All team members are required to wear their logo attire to and from all performances.
- Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

## **Termination of Enrollment**

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the school owner or director to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Inability of Fusionworks Dance Academy to meet the child's needs if a child has special needs.
- Not adhering to the attendance rules in both classes and rehearsals, as stated in this guideline.

If a Performance Team dancer is dismissed or leaves the program, an understudy will replace him or her.

## **Student and Parent Use of Social Media**

Use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogging, and other online social media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide Fusionworks Dance Academy students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO have permission to post on the Fusionworks Dance Academy Facebook Page or on Instagram
- You DO NOT have permission to post on any personal pages of Fusionworks Dance Academy teachers or Artistic Director's Facebook pages.
- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises Fusionworks Dance Academy. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or Fusionworks Dance Academy.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Fusionworks Dance Academy.

## **Staying Informed**

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and emails that come from us!

A parent or guardian must come in when dropping their child at each rehearsal.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at (401) 334-3091. Please do not post questions on the school's Facebook page.

We answer email and voicemail on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at [AD@FusionworksDance.org](mailto:AD@FusionworksDance.org)

**Website: [Fusionworksdance/the-academy.org](http://Fusionworksdance/the-academy.org)**

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

**Facebook Page: Fusionworks Dance Academy**

"Like" the Fusionworks Dance Academy page on Facebook to receive updates on school events and to see and post fun photos of our work in the studio. Please invite your family and friends to "like" the school.

## A Final Note

### WELCOME TO THE FUSIONWORKS DANCE ACADEMY PERFORMANCE TEAM!

We look forward to an exciting, rewarding season!

#### Schedule for Fall of 2018 and January-February 2019

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	
Oct 4	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Oct 11	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Oct 18	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Oct 25	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Nov 1	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Nov 8	Rehearsal	Studio	*6:15-7:15	*shortened rehearsal
Nov 15	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Nov 22	NO REHEARSAL	Dinner Table ☺	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Nov 29	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Dec 6	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Dec 13	Rehearsal	Studio	*6:15-8:00	*extended rehearsal
Dec 20	NO REHEARSAL			
Dec 22-Jan 6 Winter Break	NO REHEARSAL			
<b>2019</b>				
Jan 10	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
Jan 17	Rehearsal	Studio	*6:15-8:00	*extended rehearsal
Jan 24	Rehearsal	Studio	*6:15-8:00	*extended rehearsal
**Jan 26-27	COMPETITION <i>On Stage America</i> Regionals	E.Prov High School	Exact day and time TBD	
Jan 31	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
February 1	Rehearsal	Studio	6:15-7:30	
February 10	COMPETITION Take Center Stage Dance Competition	Location TBA/Providence	Exact time TBA	