



"Where we strive for excellence in technically refining dancers"

**OFFICIAL DANCE DYNAMICS DANCE COMPANY HANDBOOK
AND BINDING CONTRACT FOR THE 2020-2021 ELITE
COMPETITIVE TEAM & PERFORMANCE TEAM.**

Dance Dynamics, Inc. is a dance studio and competitive company that specializes in the education and preparation of dancers to learn and compete in the professional dance market by offering quality education, top of the line instructors, and invaluable performance and training opportunities. We pride ourselves in being a group of dedicated & talented dancers who through constant hard work strive to be part of an amazing award winning team.

Dance Dynamics Dance Company Packet

The intent of this packet is to inform the dancers and parents of the responsibilities of becoming a company member. While the responsibilities are great, the belief is that this will help all of our dancers reach that next level in technique & performance that is expected from them. We strive for **excellence** at Dance Dynamics, and try to make all company decisions based on what is best for the company as an **entire group**, please keep that in mind when reviewing these rules, signing the contract, and joining our **TEAM**.

Rehearsal Time Block:

Elite Competition team rehearsal will meet once a week EVERY WEEK for each dance. Company rehearsal will fall on weekdays M-Th and on Saturday mornings. Your dancer only has to attend the time blocks for their selected dances.

ELITE COMPETITION TEAM- Our elite team has a required amount of weekly classes & rehearsals to attend dependant on how many dances they are placed into after auditions. This team is not allowed to participate in any other school dance team or group. Being a member of our Elite Team is an intense time commitment, and has very few allotted absences. Rehearsal times will be held during the week as well as during the company rehearsal time The Elite team is at the studio 4- 5 days a week.

Solos

DDDC will select 7-10 soloists for this season. Solos will be assigned by Brittnie after auditions. If you are chosen for a solo after auditions, there will be a \$75 a month fee on top of your monthly tuition & competition costs. The reason for this extra cost is having a weekly private with an instructor and for their specific choreography for your child.

Requirements:

Class Requirements

It is a requirement of all elite company dancers to complete a weekly curriculum of classes. These classes are separate from rehearsals and are designed to enhance their training and technique. **ALL** members are placed in classes based on their current level of technique and ability, not by their age. We do require an extensive amount of class for our Elite members which are non negotiable.

We are constantly striving for perfection and to be the absolute best we can be. This comes from hard work & dedication to your weekly classes & your rehearsals; they work hand in hand with one another.

Class attendance determines technique; therefore, it is extremely important that classes are not missed. If classes are consistently missed, or a member is not keeping up with their technique they will not be allowed to perform at any competitions or shows until they are caught up; and their involvement in our company will be reconsidered.

Below are the listed required classes for each dancer.

- **ELITE TEAM-** are required to take: 2 ballet classes, 2 jazz classes, 1 modern class, and 1 lyrical class per week. Tap, Musical Theater & hip hop aren't required unless you are in a piece for Musical Theater, Tap or Hip Hop.

ELITE Competition Dance Guidelines

After the auditions, you have now been placed in specific dances for competition and certain recreational technique classes throughout the week. You CANNOT, at any time throughout the year, drop out of any dances once placed in them and your contract is signed. Once you have made the commitment you are set for the entire competition season. If a dancer is unable to commit to all pieces he/she was picked to be in, then they are allowed to choose from the top of the list down. If chosen to do a solo, the dancer must participate in all chosen duets/trios/group dances FIRST, then if finances allow, they can additionally have a solo. During our season you are not allowed to take classes with another studio or team, or audition for another studio or team. If a dancer is wanting to audition for HS dance team they need approval from Brittnie to miss classes and may *NOT* attend clinics 2 weeks in a row.

There is a \$150 (non refundable) commitment fee due upon signing of the contract in August. This fee also pays for our week intensive in August

Absence and Rehearsal Policies

Sick- If a company member is sick, but not contagious, they are expected to attend class or rehearsal and watch if necessary. If, however, they are contagious, then a parent needs to call and speak with Brittnie. If a dancer has a serious illness where they are out for over 3 days of classes, DDI will need a doctor's note confirming the illness and then a release before they are able to return to the studio and classes. If a student has a serious illness the month of competition, it is up to the director's discretion as to the participation of that dancer in that month's competition, even with a doctor's release. Unless a dancer is *SERIOUSLY* injured they are always expected to participate in class & in rehearsal, **no exceptions**. If you are injured, and need to sit out, you still **MUST** attend class and watch.

Exceptions for class/rehearsal missed other than serious illness-with doctor's note-will only be made for the following reasons: death in the family, final exams, school required activity, immediate family member hospitalization, religious sacrament or milestone graduation, or a serious injury that impairs the dancer's movement in class. Even though these exceptions will be accepted, please let Brittnie know of the dates as soon as you know them. Please turn in any planned dates you might have of family events, parties, vacations, etc. All dates must be turned in **via email**. Dates submitted in any other way (including verbal) will not be considered.

ELITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Weekly Class Absence: Each Elite Team company member is allowed **3 absences per class per semester for the entire company year**; this includes weekly classes only. Once a dancer has accumulated **4 or more** absences in 1 semester, their participation in company dances may be reconsidered. You may not miss 2 classes 2 weeks in a row.

Rehearsal Absence: Each Elite Team member is only allowed 2 absences for the **ENTIRE company year**. No back to back absences allowed.

Other Absence Notes for *Elite* Members:

Being sick is **not** an excused absence.

You are not allowed to miss 2 rehearsals back-to-back, or 2 classes 2 weeks in a row back-to-back. Please arrange your vacations accordingly so that you never miss 2 in a row. There are absolutely **no exceptions** to this rule. If you do miss 2 rehearsals in a row you will be charged a \$150 penalty fee. This means if we are scheduled to have no rehearsal because of spring break you cannot also miss the week before our break; that makes 2 missed rehearsals in a row. If you miss 2 classes 2 weeks in a row you will have to have a private lesson and pay for the instructor.

Class Preparation and Appearance

Preparation: When attending class, all company members and performance team members need to be on their best behavior. DDDC dancers set the example for everyone else, remember it is a privilege and a choice to be a member. If any company member is inappropriate in class, or out of class, membership will be reconsidered. You must always be prepared for class at all times. Preparation for class means bringing all dance shoes to *every single class*, wearing the appropriate attire & having extra hair ties and bobby pins.

Appearance: Your hair must *always* be pulled away from your face-including bangs. **No piercings, tattoos, or unnatural hair colors are allowed while performing with Dance Dynamics Dance Company.** We want and expect a clean cut, well dressed, professional looking company at all times. You are always representing our company and our studio and need to look your absolute best and cleanest while being a part of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company.

Class Attire: Company and performance members need to always attend class in formfitting and proper attire. NO BAGGY CLOTHES OR JACKETS (except in hip hop class) Hair should always be pulled away from the face. For ballet, hair needs to be secured in a bun (no exceptions), no loose hair. All Dancer's need to maintain a good personal hygiene. Please keep deodorant in your bags and reapply as necessary.

- **Ballet classes:** must be attended in a leotard, tights (pink or black), pink canvas ballet shoes. No shorts and no tops—unless it is winter and it is cold in the dance room. You will not be allowed into class without the appropriate attire, shoes, and hair. If you are not allowed into class, this will count as an unexcused absence.
- **lyrical/modern/Jazz:** Leotard & tights is preferred but tight fitting pants or leggings and tight fitting tank top is acceptable. Sports bar & shorts is always acceptable.
- **Hip hop/tap:** attire might vary by instructor. You will abide by each instructor's wishes-no matter what. What is not acceptable is: hoodies, scarves, or jeans.

Please realize all rules in this handbook are for the good of the entire company. We do what is best for everyone and need to remember that decisions made and rules broken affect an entire team of members. Once you agree to be a member, you are a part of a TEAM. We have rules for a reason and expect everyone to follow them. (Parents & dancers)

Competition and Convention and Performances

All conventions, performances, company trips, competitions, and Nationals are MANDATORY unless otherwise stated. We will be attending 1 convention for Junior/seniors. We will also attend 4 competitions for the 2022 season. There will be NO NATIONALS for this season. If you ever have a conflict with a schedule (competition, convention or any other) you MUST communicate with Brittnie. You are the parent, and I am the coach, we need to work together to do what is best for your child and my dancer. Communication is KEY, please make sure you are always keeping me in the loop with everything.

Required Conventions we will attend in 2020:

- TBD – will be available in August

Health and Homework

Dancers, remember, your body is your instrument and it will only work for you if you are good to it. Do your best to eat healthy! This doesn't mean you have to swear off all junk food, but be careful to watch your intake, especially on days that you are dancing. Parents, we need your help with this. Make sure your child has eaten before they come to the studio, in addition to sending them with healthy snack and/or meals. If students are here for 4+ hours please pack a HEALTHY dinner with them and we will always give them time to eat. If they are here for under 4 hours they need to eat before they come or when they get home. Please do not send them here with fast food., or with money to go buy candy. They need to properly nourish their body to train correctly & effectively.

Homework and school are #1. They come before any dance function or class. If dancers are here for 4+ hours we will allow them time to do homework if it is necessary. If they are here for less than 4 hours they can find time to get their homework done at home. If grades start to suffer, a meeting will be called between Brittnie, and the dancer and parent. Parents need to keep in contact with Brittnie about any problems dancers may be having in school. We expect all company members to maintain a B average or their participation in company will be reconsidered. We are preparing our dancers for their future and school is just as important as their dance training with us. We expect ALL members to put full effort into their dancing and into their schoolwork and grades.

We do not expect any child to miss dance class because of homework, but we understand it happens. We need to be able to find a way to get the homework done efficiently and not miss class, as class is the *most* important part to your technique and what will make you or break you as a dancer.

Fundraisers

We offer several company and individual fundraisers through the year to help with company cost. These Fundraisers are not required but strongly encourages for all dancers. All fundraiser events are a great time for the company to be together and work together as a team to raise money to be split equally among all members. Fundraisers are your opportunities to get every extra cost paid for so take advantage of all of them.

Studio Cleaning

The dance studio is a place that you/or your dancer will spend many, many hours. All company dancers are expected to set the standard and keep the studio clean. This is all of our 2nd homes so pick up after yourself and don't leave any of your belongings behind. Please put all your dances bags/shoes/coats on the hooks and out of everyone's way. Throw away you garbage, take home all of your belongings. CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES!!!

Company Commitment to Personal Conduct

Company Code of Conduct

These rules stand for elite company members and performance team members at all times whether they are at the studio or not. Disregard for any rule will result in immediate dismissal.

Note: You are a member of DDDC from try-out to try-outs (August- Nationals)

There will be NO SMOKING, DRINKING, DRUGS, SWEARING, VULGAR EXPRESSIONS OR DISRESPECT TOWARD ANY ADULT AT ANY TIME!!!

It is the expectation that all students will be respectful to everyone present at all times. The dancer's behavior at the studio and away are a direct representation of the team and the studio. There are numerous people looking up to you and looking to you in setting an example.

Be considerate of others at all times.

Refrain from speaking negatively about any person, place or thing.

Be positive. It's contagious 😊

Responsibility of the Teachers/Choreographers of Dance Dynamics:

The teachers and choreographers are responsible for the selection, supervision and placement of their routines for the season. We will choreograph dances for our dancers to the best of their ability, run rehearsals professionally, and be sure dancers are ready and prepared for competition and performances. We will teach, make corrections, and monitor progress of dancers and routines. We will make necessary changes and meet the needs of each individual dancer. The instructor/choreographer may remove a dancer from their routine at any time as a consequence for poor behavior or violating any of our rules, with NO refund. All teachers and choreographers will work together throughout the season to make our team the best and the strongest it can be.

Responsibility of the Parents:

Please provide support for your dancer and your TEAM. Please help in arranging team bonding nights, dinners at competitions and events and fundraising for the team. We do expect all parents to help with and participate in fundraising as it is a team activity. Parents are not authorized to supervise rehearsals or make choreographic decisions. Any questions or concerns throughout the season need to come directly to Brittanie. We expect all families to be a part of the team as a whole, supporting ***all dancers and routines***, not just their child.

Responsibility of the Dancers:

To attend your classes and work hard, apply corrections, and always show respect to other classmates & instructors. Show up to classes and rehearsals on time and practice routines at home during their free time. Listen and pay attention and work hard in every class & rehearsal. Stay dedicated to your team for the ***ENTIRE*** season. Show up to every competition to support all their teammates. Wear your warm ups proudly and represent our company and studio with respect at all times. Respect your teammates, always be kind, and encourage everyone to always do their best.

Please respond to team communications and emails promptly.

Honor your commitments to the team: practices, classes, performances & competitions.

No contacting Brittanie beyond business hours or on her personal phone. If you have an issue please either send an email, or call the studio phone. I will answer or respond during business hours or the following business day.

There will be 3 “open forum” meetings per year. I encourage all parents to attend. We will discuss any issues at that open forum. You may speak openly and as a team we will find resolutions if any are needed.

CONTRACT :

Joining this team and signing this handbook is a ***CONTRACT***. Brittanie reserves the right to remove a dancer from any piece or out of the company at any time ***without refund*** due to any of the above conducts not being upheld. If you have a solo, that will be the first routine to be pulled, then duets, and then group numbers. All members need to keep their grades at a B average or they will have their solos/ duets pulled immediately.

Dancers are NOT allowed to drop out of the team during the course of our 10 month contract.

Once you join the team and make the commitment you need to fulfill it. It is not fair to the team when people decide halfway through the year that it is too much of a commitment or they just don't want to do it anymore. Please remember you are joining a ***TEAM***. This is a binding contract, and you are expected to fulfill it. ***Elite Members:*** First month's tuition is due by September 1st. If you decide to leave the company before our season is over there will be a ***\$1500*** re-choreography fee as well as paying the remainder of your company cost fees. The only exceptional reason for leaving is moving out of state or an injury preventing the dancer from finishing the season.

COMPANY COST COMMITMENT: Monthly Tuition Fees

ELITE TEAM MEMBERS (1-2 dances) \$300 p/m (unlimited classes included)

ELITE TEAM MEMBERS (3-4 dances) \$350 p/m (unlimited classes included)

ELITE TEAM MEMBERS (5+ dances) \$400 p/m (unlimited classes included)

*Multiple student family discount is 10% off of above price, and will never exceed \$600 p/m.

*This fee includes all dance classes and rehearsals for company for the 10 month program September-June. It DOES NOT include competition costs; that is a separate fee.

*Competition costs range for each competition and vary for each dancer depending on how many numbers your dancer is in on top of your monthly tuition payment. I add up your total (competitions, costumes, shoes, tights etc) and split it up into 9 months and that is how I get you company monthly fee.

Company Fees (Not Tuition)

I will add up your total cost for the entire company year and divide it into a 9 month payment plan and you pay a monthly balance on the 15th of every month IN ADDITION to your monthly tuition fee. Your tuition is due on the 1st of every month. Company payment is due on the 15th of every month.

*All payments must be paid in cash or by check, or debit or credit ONLY, no credit cards accepted.

Costume/Shoes/Make up Details:

Shoes

Shoes will also be required as part of the costumes. The exact type and color will be determined when the costume is decided. We will try to keep the number of required shoes to a minimum. This cost will be added into your costume invoice or added into your monthly payment option

Hair, Make Up, and Jewelry

You will be in charge of ordering specific mascara, eyeshadows, bronzer, blush, & lip stick.

This will be your makeup kit for the season. An email explaining what you will need will come out in October.

Hair needs to be LONG, please no hair cuts for the season. Small trims only.

Company Warm-up Clothing

All DDDC members are required to have company warm-ups. During any performance/competition/convention, members must wear them over their costumes at all times. There will be warm ups for the performance team and the Elite Competitive team. During conventions, company members are expected to wear their warm-ups at all times when traveling to and from their classrooms.

A required jacket & tank top (\$110) for our team will need to be purchased through Maria Martin at the signing of your contract. Black leggings are to be worn with your warm ups. You can purchase any other DD clothing through Maria to wear throughout the year as well. Parents can purchase their own tops through Maria as well. We encourage parents to please always have DDDC clothing for every event.

Competitions and Conventions for 2022

NOTE: We have tried to work around spring breaks and locations but we cannot always guarantee that stuff won't fall on those weeks/weekends. Please remember you **can't miss** classes the week leading up to competition, you can't miss rehearsal the week before a competition, and you **can't miss 2 weeks in a row** (this includes any weeks we are closed for rehearsal) This also includes missing classes 2 weeks in a row. Please do not schedule vacations that conflict with competitions & conventions. You have 6+ months notice of every competition & convention.

Weekends off for 2021/2022 season- No Rehearsal

Note: After competitions are complete, we will still have regular rehearsals in preparation for recital and nationals.

FIRST REHEARSALS-Rehearsal and intensive classes will be the week of August 16th for elite company members. Fall session and regular weekend rehearsal will begin the week of August 23rd.

We will be closed:

Thanksgiving week - no rehearsal or classes

Christmas break- Sunday December 19- Saturday January 1st

Spring Break- TBD

****First mandatory rehearsal back after Christmas break will be Sunday January 2nd for ALL DANCERS.**

Dance Dynamics Dance Company Binding Contract

- Brittnie reserves the right to take any student out of a dance or the company at any time ***without refund*** due to inappropriate conduct such as speaking negatively, inappropriate class attire, poor class or rehearsal attitude, attitude toward a teacher or adult, and not putting full effort into rehearsal, at all times. Tuition will be waived if pulled from company, however, monthly company fee will not be.
- If you are on the elite competition team chose to leave the company before our season is over and the contract is up, you will owe a \$1500 re-choreography fee and still need to pay the remainder of your company monthly fee.
- I understand that all costume and music items are the sole property of Dance Dynamics Dance Company and may not under any circumstance be used outside of a DDDC performance without Brittnie's permission.
- I understand my financial commitment and know that what I agree to pay in September will stay my payment for the next 10 months. I will pay my tuition and all competition payments on time and not expect Dance Dynamics to front the money for me.
- I understand that I must be in classes & at rehearsal EVERY WEEK. I am not ever allowed to miss 2 rehearsals in a row and I know I need to commit fully to my ***TEAM*** to be the best possible dancer and team member I can be.
- I will not be a part of any other studio or team while in contract with the Dance Dynamics Dance Company.
- Members of the Elite Team-Upon signing this contact I will pay \$150 to Dance Dynamics to cover intensive week rehearsals and classes and my commitment to the team.
- We understand, as parents and dancers, that we are a part of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company and performance team. We agree to ***ALL RULES*** in this contract for the next 10 months.

I have read the entire Dance Dynamics Dance Company packet and contract and agree to ALL of the rules/guidelines stated. By signing this contract, I understand that I am now a member (or parent of) Dance Dynamics Dance Company for the 2021/2022 season and agree to represent Dance Dynamics, Inc. ***AND*** Dance Dynamics Dance Company to the best of my ability.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

*Note: please sign this page with student and parent needed signature. Keep one copy for your records and return one copy by Saturday August 14th, 2021. You cannot be a member of the Dance Dynamics Dance Company without both the dancer and parents' signatures on this contract. This is a **contract** between the dancer, parent, and Dance Company that is binding for the next **10 months**.