



2019-20 Competitive Team Information and Policies

Thank you for your interest in the Forte Academy of Dance and Music Competitive Team! We can't wait to begin another year of working with our talented dancers.

Competitive dance is a rewarding experience, but does require a substantial commitment of time and money. This document provides an outline of what is expected financially and in terms of a team member's schedule. Please read the following information and requirements carefully and consider the information here as you decide whether to audition.

Auditions

Saturday, April 27th:

- Saturday (learning audition dances): 9:00am-12:00pm
 - *Parent meeting 9:00-9:30am while dancers warm-up. A parent must be present to fill out registration forms!*
- Saturday (audition sessions): 1:00pm-???
 - *Dancers will sign up for a 20-minute time slot*

Prospective competitive team members must audition on the date listed above. Dances will be taught on Saturday morning. Auditions in front of judges will be scheduled beginning at 1:00 pm on Saturday. Dancers should plan to audition in all genres. After auditioning, those dancers who are selected to compete will be placed on a team based on experience, maturity, and skill level.

Placement Notification

Sunday, April 28th (via email)

Parents will provide contact information before auditions. A frequently-checked email address should be included in that information, as that is how you will be notified of the audition results, and how we will give you information about returning for registration.

Competitive Team Registration

Monday, April 29th

5:00pm-8:00pm

Dancers will need to return to the studio Monday evening to accept their invitation to the team, make their payment for summer class (\$75), the summer intensive (\$95), September tuition (\$188) and team deposit (\$100 to be returned upon completion of the dance season), and set up their schedule for required fall classes. The students are considered committed to the team and their classes at this point. Completed auto-pay form must be provided on April 29. No late registrations will be accepted.

Required Classes

Summer:

- **Summer Technique Class:** Six-week session on Tuesdays, **July 9-August 15**
 - Ensemble dancers must take at least one class during the summer session to continue technical maintenance and progress.
- **Mandatory Summer Intensive: Thursday, July 25-Saturday, July 27**
 - This is an important workshop during which competitive team members will take technique classes and begin learning their routines. Over the course of the 3 days, groups will have scheduled times at which they should report to the studio to rehearse. There will also be mandatory teambuilding sessions that are required for all team members.

Regular Season:

All groups will have mandatory weekly rehearsals and technique classes. Enrollment in additional recreational classes is allowed and encouraged.

Policies

All of the regular studio policies for behavior, dress code, communication, and so forth apply to the competitive team as well. We expect all dancers to conduct themselves with a positive attitude and show respect and support to teammates, instructors, studio families, and competing dance studios. Negative attitudes, gossip, and bullying have no place on our team. Team members who violate this policy will be dismissed from the team.

Packages

Ensemble Package
Jazz, Lyrical, and Tap entries
3 weekly rehearsals, 3 weekly technique classes
<i>Ensemble dancers are eligible to add a solo</i>

Attendance

Regular attendance is **imperative**, as absences negatively impact not only the missing dancer, but the entire group. **Dancers must be on-time, dressed properly, and attend their full class to be counted as present.**

- **Competition Technique Classes**
Three absences not made up **within two weeks** could result in the student being removed from the competition dance at the teacher/choreographer's discretion. Attending class but "sitting out" counts as half of an absence.
- **Competition Rehearsals**
Two absences are allowed for the entire dance season (September through June). There are no rehearsal make-up classes. After two absences, the student's participation is at the discretion of the teacher/choreographer and alternates may be substituted in or private lessons may be required. Attending class but "sitting out" counts as half of an absence. Absences due to serious illness will be excused only with a signed doctor's note that restricts activity for specific dates.

Competition Schedules

Since most competition companies do not provide specific times until only 1-2 weeks prior to the event, dancers should plan to keep the entire weekend of competition open until times have been confirmed. Competitions will take place in the late winter/spring of 2019. We will distribute dates and times via email as soon as they become available to us.

	Ensemble
Number of Competitions	2

If a dancer is unable to compete for any reason (injury, etc.), they will be expected to turn in their costume and accessories for potential alternates to borrow. All items will be returned to the original dancer.

Recital

All competitive numbers will be performing in the June recital. Dancers should plan to attend both the dress rehearsal and recital performance(s) to complete the dance season and receive their deposit refund.

Costs and Fundraising

Competitive team classes are priced in packages that make competitive dance more affordable. Here is a budget of financial considerations:

Expense	Estimated Cost	Deadline
Tuition Packages	\$188 monthly for Ensemble (6 weekly classes)	September tuition due April 29, 2019 Subsequent tuition due monthly on the 15 th of the previous month (via autopay)
Summer Technique Class	\$75	April 29, 2019
Summer Intensive	\$95 includes team shirt	April 29, 2019
Refundable Team Deposit	\$100 per dancer (Refundable if dancer completes season per contract)	April 29, 2019
Premium costumes	\$90 each (3 costumes)	July 25, 2019 (via autopay)
Competition Fees	\$30-\$50 per group entry per competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensemble will pay 6 entry fees (3 dances x 2 comps) \$60-\$115 per comp for solos/duos/trios	November 2019-February 2020 (via autopay)
Rhinestone Fee	\$15 per costume	December 2019 (if applicable, via autopay)
Accessories/Jewelry	\$10-\$30 per costume	December 2019 (if applicable, via autopay)
Tights	\$15-\$25 per pair	December 2019/January 2020 (via autopay)
Dance Shoes	\$20-\$75 per pair	Purchase by mock competition
Makeup	\$10-\$30	Purchase by mock competition
Team Gear	\$50-\$150	October 2019
Workshop	\$50-\$75	December 2019/January 2020

* \$100 will be refunded to you in June if you complete the dance season on the team with all the entries for which you registered

Solos: Ensemble dancers are eligible to enroll in a solo, pending studio and instructor availability. Rehearsals for a soloist cost \$120 monthly for a weekly half-hour rehearsal. If interested, please indicate this on your registration form at auditions.

We plan on appointing a fundraising chair to help coordinate fundraising efforts for competitive team members who wish to participate. The chair will provide the studio with a single payment of monies raised during a fundraiser, which will be applied evenly to the accounts of those who participated. Please note that the studio is not otherwise affiliated with these efforts (other than approving proposed fundraising events). Regardless of whether you are fundraising or paying out-of-pocket, full payments **MUST** be submitted by deadlines. Dancers with a balance past due on their account may be suspended from competition or permanently dismissed from the team.