

2020 – 2021 Company Handbook

Please sign and return by July 10 when you accept your teams along with the \$50.00 per family commitment fee and the \$5.00 per team music editing fee.

RCD offers competition opportunities to all ages and wants every child to shine! Competition allows students to grow as performers, gain self confidence, stage presence and good sportsmanship...the feeling of being part of a team. Being a competitive student requires dedication and commitment not only to themselves but to their classes as well. Anyone interested in joining the RCD teams must exhibit commitment, maturity and a good work ethic.

Our team as a whole will be referred to as RCD Company dancers. Any student on any team that competes with us will be referred to as a Company dancer. Our company teams are for ages 5-18 (at 18 you must be a Sr in High school....once graduated you can no longer compete on teams.)

Junior company:

Pee Wee Jazz Team, Jr Rising Star Team, Jr Lyrical Team, Jr Jazz Team, Jr Hip-Hop Team, Jr Musical Theater Team, Jr Tap prep Team

Senior company:

Teen Jazz Team, Sr Jazz Team, Teen Lyrical Team, Sr Lyrical Team, Sr Tap Team, Sr Hip-Hop Team, Sr Musical Theater Team

Production is for our Junior and Senior Company (Not for Pee Wee Team)

Team Requirements for Junior and Senior Company Dancers (Pee Wee Team see below):

- Weekly rehearsal class
- Jumps and Turns
- Ballet Technique
- Strength and Conditioning
- Additional Ballet Class
- Akron Children's Workshops (4 weeks in the studio in the Spring) \$55.00 (if you were a competitive dancer at the studio for 2019 / 2020 you have a credit)
- Marching in The Kent Homecoming Parade in October (possibly not this year due to COVID 19)
- Marching in the Kent Memorial Day Parade
- 3 Regional Competitions (Tap Prep team will attend 1-2) and Nationals is uncertain at this time

Pee Wee Team Requirements

Pee Wee Team

- Weekly Rehearsal Class
- Strength and Conditioning
- Ballet class
- Marching in The Kent Homecoming Parade in October (possibly not this year due to COVID 19)
- Marching in the Kent Memorial Day Parade
- 3 Regional Competitions and Nationals is uncertain at this time

COMMITMENT FEE:

Once dancers accept their spots on their teams in June, we are requiring for this year a commitment fee. This fee will be non refundable.

What is this fee: This fee will go into your account towards your competition fees. This will ensure we can pay our deposits to competition companies and guarantee our spots. We lost 2 competitions last season due to deposits needing to be in really early and they were already full.

Fee \$50.00 per family (Non -refundable)

We will also add on our music editing fee of \$5.00 (Non-Refundable) per team you are on.

Example: you make and accept 3 teams. Your commitment fee in July would be \$65.00

(\$50.00 goes into your account towards your competition entry fees and \$15.00 pays for your music editing for your teams). This fee needs to be turned in with this signed contract by July 10.

MONTHLY FEES:

To get an idea on monthly pricing to be on a competitive team:

Pee Wee Jazz

\$43 – Weekly rehearsal class

\$33 – Strength and Conditioning

\$28 – Ballet Class

Total monthly fees \$104.00

If you add any other classes to your schedule, they would be \$23.00 each until you reach cap.

Junior and Senior Company

For one team:

\$43 – Weekly rehearsal class

\$33 – Strength and Conditioning

\$28 – Jumps and Turns

\$23 – Ballet Technique

\$23 – Additional Ballet Class

Total monthly fee \$150.00

If you add any other classes or teams to your schedule, they would be \$23.00 each until you reach cap.

Solos - \$60.00 per month and is a shared 30 minute time slot with another solo each week

Duet / Trios - \$35.00 per person per month and is a shared 30 minute time slot with another duet each week.

Individual Cap \$210.00 per month (solos and duet / trios are not included in cap)

Family Cap \$310.00 (solos and duet / trios are not included in cap)

Competition fees can either be paid in full or broken up in a payment plan.

Payment plan will begin in October and be spread out in payments as follows:

October, November, December, January, February, March

We will bill you for your competition fees in August so you are aware the cost and can decide what plan is best for you.

Average comp fees

\$100 - \$135 for solo entries

\$60 - \$80 for duet / Trio - per dancer

\$45 - \$55 per team / per dancer

We add a \$5.00 per routine per competition fee to cover our teachers to attend competitions and covers administrative costs for registering, music uploading, etc...

Once competition fees are paid, they are non- refundable.

AUGUST COMP CAMPS:

Every year we have our competitive teams come in during the month of August to learn choreography. Our goal is to have this remain the same depending upon what is happening with COVID 19 during this time. We may need to make some adjustments as far as smaller classes in studio combined with virtual. We will keep you updated with August Comp Camps as soon as we know more! August comp camps is required of every company dancer. One week is always excused for vacations.

Cost for August Comp Camps:

Pee Wee Team - \$105.00

One Team - \$105.00

Two Teams or more \$210.00 (family cap still applies at \$310.00)

Cost includes Choreography fees, rehearsal fees and any extra strength training, technique or conditioning classes we will be offering.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

We are changing up our attendance policy for this year as we navigate our way through COVID 19.

Each Dancer can have up to 4 unexcused absences from sept – June for their comp team rehearsals, Ballet classes and technique / conditioning classes. However we are being a lot more lenient on what is counted as excused.

Excused:

Death in the family

School function that is required or for a grade (sports practices and games do not count)

Family Emergency

Fever

Cough not due to allergies

If you feel ill even without a fever (if absences become excessive we may ask for a doctors note)

Injury accompanied by a doctors note

If you've been around someone who was diagnosed with COVID 19 – your 2 week quarantine

VOLUNTEER:

We ask each family to volunteer for something below. We will have a sign up in August for these.

Depending on what happens in the upcoming year with COVID 19, some of these events may be altered or cancelled.

- **Props – Building / Painting**
- **Props – Setup on stage at competition**
- **Costumes – Embellishments (teacher will do one and parent volunteers will do the rest. This will keep cost down on costumes.**
- **Fundraisers – To organize and advertise fundraisers for dancers to bring cost down of competing.**
- **Father Daughter Dance Committee**

- Year End Banquet Committee
- Ice Cream Pep Rally Committee
- Big Sister / Little Sister Committee (running and organizing this program)
- Lock in Chaperones
- Backstage help Christmas Show
- Backstage help June Show

DRESS CODE FOR COMPETITIONS:

Awards - Please wear your competitive Team jacket and black leggings. If you do not own a Jacket, a studio shirt will be ok. When walking around at competition, please wear your studio jacket or a studio t-shirt over your costume. You should look and act as part of a team at every competition. Please remember that our studio does not compete against each other but competes as a TEAM.

AUDITORIUM AND BACKSTAGE ETIQUETTE:

Please remember that every time we attend a competition, all dancers and their family and friends are representing RCD. We have worked very hard to have an outstanding reputation in the dance world and we will strive to keep that.

AUDITORIUM ETIQUETTE:

- Only enter or exit the auditorium in between numbers – never while someone is dancing. It blocks the view of someone else trying to watch the routine and is distracting to the dancers on the stage.
- No recording any dances. If you are caught recording a dance, the company can disqualify the routine that was on stage. Every competition sells recordings of the dances. At Showstopper regionals, the studio will purchase a digital version of each routine and email it through dropbox to all of our company families. –
- No talking during numbers – it's a distraction to everyone around you. Please take all talking or cell phone use outside of the auditorium.
- No talking negatively about another studio or dancer – you never know who is in earshot.

BACKSTAGE ETIQUETTE:

- No rehearsing your numbers in the wings. It's very distracting to the dancer on stage and you will end up being in the way of the numbers entering and exiting the stage. Please rehearse and warm up in a hallway.

* Only whispering backstage – no talking loudly.

* No talking negatively about another studio or dancer

* Be positive and supportive to all your fellow dancers

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Bullying is not tolerated in our studio. This includes; - Talking negatively about any student, parent or teacher from our studio.

- Putting negative comments about another student, teacher or the studio on any social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc...)

- No whispering how another student looks or acts.

- No rude gestures - no eye rolling, no glares, etc...

- RESPECT for all

All students will be monitored by teachers inside and outside of the studio - If any of the above rules are broken, it will be grounds for probation or automatic dismissal from all competitive teams. We ask that all parents who overhear anything or students that overhear anything need to come up and talk to one of the teachers privately so we can take care of the problem before it gets out of control. If you are listening to someone talking negatively about someone else, you need to report it (and it will stay anonymous) or you are just as much at fault and will have consequences as well.

If any student is caught with drugs or alcohol or is viewed with either on social media, student will be removed from all teams immediately.

OVERALL CONDUCT:

No parent or student will be allowed to talk negatively about another student in class (this means no comparing also). Every dancer here is an asset to their team (or they wouldn't be here) and every dancer also has their flaws. No student should ever be judged or critiqued by anyone other than their teacher. If a parent or student is caught discussing other students in a negative way - the student will be dismissed from all teams and the child of the parent who is discussing will be dismissed from all teams. We want to keep the studio a fun and safe environment for everyone.

No negativity at competitions. If you dislike another studio's routine or their costume please do not discuss it at a competition. Especially in the audience! - The child or parents of the child might be within ear shot.

We compete as a studio and not against each other. If a soloist or group from our studio scores really well or places an overall we expect everyone from our studio to congratulate them even if maybe your child's solo or group did not score as high or place. Everyone will have their time to shine. If parents congratulate other soloists or groups from our studio that did really well (even if your child did not score high) it sets a good example for the kids to follow suite.

All of our kids should be courteous backstage to all other studios - tell them Good luck, or they did a great job or you like their costume - complimenting always makes everyone feel better.

During awards you must sit as a team quietly and attentively. Please stand and clap for every first place overall winner be it our studio or another studio. When receiving your awards up front on the stage, stand in 5th position and make sure to thank whomever hands you the award.

We strive to instill a good work ethic as well as good sportsmanship in each of our dancers. To stay a company dancer, you must strive for both of these at all times. Any bad sportsmanship shown is grounds for dismissal. If you did not receive a score you were anticipating it's ok to be disappointed however it's not ok to get upset on stage. Your attitude after awards should be - I'll work harder now and next time hopefully my score will be higher - If you can't handle critiques or get upset every time you don't win then maybe competing is not a good fit for you. Every competition is different with different judges and different opinions.

Disrespect towards Teachers

- A. Do not talk in class while you are dancing, doing warm ups or while your teacher is talking
- B. Never tell your teacher "no", "I Can't" or "I don't like the choreography"
- C. When a teacher asks you to go full out in practice, we expect you to go full out.

***Please follow dress code. If at any time you show up to class not in dress code you will be asked to leave.**

*** No Cell phones in class....if we see one out, we will confiscate the phone until a parent is able to pick it up.**

*** At any time if a student talks out of turn, is disrespectful to either teacher or other dancers, that student will be asked to leave class and it will count as an absence.**

Video

No video of any of our competitive teams, duets / trios or solos with their choreography can be posted on any social media until after the competitive season Begins. This ensures that none of our choreography will be reused by any other studios. We will let you know when it's ok to start posting. Please remember that being on a competitive team is a privilege and not a right. The Privilege to be on a competitive team can be revoked at any time. We ask that you set the example for all students at the studio and follow the dress code the studio has set, be polite to all students, and show a good work ethic inside and outside of the studio.

CUT HERE – Please only send the bottom half in – you keep the rest of the contract at home.

2020 / 2021 COMPANY CONTRACT

- **I understand that I am under contract to follow these guidelines when the season begins in August until the season ends in June or after Nationals.**
- **I understand if I post anything questionable on social media which includes alcohol and drug use or that is disrespectful to another dancer, teacher or the studio I will be removed from the studio immediately.**
- **I understand the financial cost of being on a competitive team and that my commitment fee, Music editing fee and competition fees paid are non-refundable.**
- **I understand all policies in regards to attendance, dress code and requirements.**
- **I understand that we are a TEAM and I will be kind and courteous to all of my fellow dancers and teachers.**
- **I understand our code of conduct (for both parents and dancers) as well as auditorium etiquette and backstage etiquette.**
- **I understand that dance is a sport and injuries may happen but that the studio will take all precautions and preventatives to help avoid injuries. (We also have a liability waiver each student will sign at the start of the season).**
- **Any lost or stolen items the studio will not be held responsible.**

Each dancer is required to have a birth certificate on file to compete (to prove age if needed at a competition). If you competed in the past with us, we already have one. Please turn in your copy of your birth certificate with this contract if you are new to our company.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

