

2019 / 2020 COMPETITIVE TEAM HANDBOOK

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.)

OUR DANCE COMPANY:

Pee Wee Jazz Team (ages 5-9) Coach: Miss Carolyn

Jr Company (ages 9-12)

- **Jr Jazz Team – Coach: Miss Leslie**
- **Jr Lyrical Team – Coach: Miss Christina**
- **Jr Hip-Hop Team – Coach: Miss Halle**
- **Jr Musical Theater Team – Coach: Miss Leslie**
- **Jr Rising Star Team (Jazz) – Coach: Miss Carolyn**

Sr Company (ages 12-18)

- **Teen Jazz Team (ages 12-15) – Coach: Miss Kaycee**
- **Sr Jazz Team (ages 14-18) – Coach: Miss Hannah**
- **Teen Lyrical Team (ages 12-15) – Coach: Miss Christina**
- **Sr Lyrical Team (ages 14-18) – Coach: Miss Christina**
- **Sr Hip-Hop Team – Coach: Miss Halle**
- **Sr Tap Team – Coach: Miss Kaycee**
- **Sr Musical Theater Team – Coach: Miss Leslie**
- **Sr Rising Star Team (Lyrical) – Coach: Miss Carolyn**

Production Team (ages 9-19) – Coaches: Miss Leslie & Miss Hannah

TEAMS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. RISING STAR TEAMS:

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Ballet Technique Class or Ballet class
- Jumps and Turns
- Recreational Jazz for Jr Rising Star and Recreational Lyrical for Sr Rising Star
- Akron Children's Workshop in the Spring
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

2. PEE WEE JAZZ TEAM:

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Ballet Class
- Recreational Jazz Class

- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

3. JR COMPANY:

A. Jr Hip-Hop:

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s workshop in the Spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

B. Jr Jazz and Jr Lyrical

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s workshop in the spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Ballet Technique Class
- Additional Ballet Class
- Jumps and Turns
- Recreational Jazz Class if on Jazz Team and Recreational Lyrical Class if on Lyrical Team
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

C. Jr Musical Theater

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s Workshop in the spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Ballet Technique Class
- Additional Ballet Class
- Jumps and Turns
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

4. SR COMPANY

A. Sr Hip-Hop:

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstopper’s Convention in October
- Akron Children’s Workshop in the spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

B. Sr Tap:

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s Workshop in the Spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Recreational Tap Class
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

C. Teen & Sr Jazz / Teen & Sr Lyrical

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s Workshop in the spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan,
- Ballet Technique Class
- Additional Ballet Class
- Jumps and Turns
- Recreational Jazz if on teen or sr jazz and Recreational Lyrical if on Teen or sr Lyrical
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

D. Sr Musical Theater

- August comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Showstoppers Convention in October
- Akron Children’s Workshop in the spring
- Once a month weekend rehearsals – Oct, Nov, Jan
- Ballet Technique Class
- Additional Ballet class
- Jumps and Turns
- Homecoming Parade – October and Memorial Parade in May

5. PRODUCTION

- August Comp Camps
- Weekly Team Rehearsal Sept – June
- Once a month weekend rehearsals - Oct, Nov, Jan
- Must be on another comp team
- Ballet Technique Class
- Additional Ballet class
- Jumps and Turns

COMPETITIONS AND CONVENTIONS:

All of our teams will be attending 3 Regional Competitions and 1 National Competition. Our regional competitions are local (Akron, Youngstown, Cleveland, etc...). Our Nationals in 2020 is still undecided until schedules start to come out. Regionals will be anywhere from end of Feb to beg of May and typically start Friday evening and end Sunday evening. If you are only on one team, you will only compete one day. Nationals will be end of June / beg of July and are typically a full week. We will have a full calendar of dates mid – end of August. We will know which weekend each competition is but we will not find out the specific schedule of which days which routines will compete until about 2 weeks prior to the competition. We recommend keeping the whole weekend free until the final schedule comes out.

Entry Fees for competitions:

- Team entry fees: They range between \$45 - \$65 per dancer, per group, per competition. National entry fees tend to be about \$10 higher than their regional fees. We add a \$5 coach’s fee to each entry to cover expenses from travel, hotel & paying our teachers. (Example: you are on one team and the Entry fee is \$45.00 per dancer...with our coach’s

fee it goes up to \$50.00 per dancer on that team). Once a competition entry fee is paid, no refunds.

FEES: (NEW THIS YEAR!)

Aside from monthly class fees, we will be rolling all other expenses into one amount and split into monthly payments. No more nickel and diming.

- Absolutely NO REFUNDS once fees are paid
- Class fees must be paid before we can accept your competition payment
- Competition payments must be paid separately and by check or money order

Fees rolled into one Amount:

1. Competition entry fees - TBA
2. Akron Children's Workshop Fee \$65.00
3. Showstopper's Convention Fee \$240.00
4. Company Lock In / Mock Comp Fee - \$25.00 per dancer (covers pizza, craft, Paper Goods and Judges Fees)

Fees Schedule (split into even payments):

July – Costume Fees

August – First payment

September – Second Payment

October – Third Payment

November – Fourth Payment

December – No Payment Due Unless you decide to have your payments split into 6 payments

January – Fifth Payment

All Competition Fees are due by the 20th of each month. After the 20th a \$20.00 late fee will be added to your payment.

The only other cost associated with competitions are hotels. All 3 of our regionals are local but some families do get hotels depending upon if they are there for more than one day or how close their dances are. Nationals is typically one week. You are responsible for booking your own hotels if staying in hotels. We do not do a block of rooms or make any reservations.

There is no spectator fee for watching a competition.

COSTUMES AND ACCESSORIES

Team costume money will be due in July. Team costumes are worn all year for competitions, performances and year end recital. Each team will have a different costume. Costumes will run about \$100.00 per team (some teams might be less) and includes:

- Costume
- Accessories / hair piece if needed
- Music editing for the team
- Any Crystals or appliques applied to the costume

We will assign style and color of tights in September and you will be able to purchase those from our in house dance store.

Earrings – We will assign a set earring for each costume in September and you will be able to purchase them from our in house dance store.

Makeup and Hair – Hair will be assigned in September as well as makeup.

AUGUST COMP CAMPS

August Comp Camps are required for all company dancers. These camps will run 3 weeks in August (August 12 – 29). During these camps, they will learn their choreography for each team as well as conditioning to get ready for the new season. Schedule will be posted end of April.

Cost of August Comp Camps:

- One Team - \$140.00 for the 3 weeks
- Two or more Teams - \$200.00 for the 3 weeks

Price includes:

- 2 hours per week of rehearsal time per team
- Music Editing
- Choreography
- Stretch, Strength and Conditioning Classes

MONTHLY FEES:

Your Monthly fees are September - June

1. RISING STAR TEAMS:

your monthly fees will be \$130.00 for this team which includes the following requirements:

- ½ hour rehearsal class once a week
- Ballet Technique or Ballet Class
- Jumps and Turns
- Recreational Jazz or Lyrical Class
- Any Weekend Rehearsals that might be scheduled

Each class or team you add on to your schedule will be an additional \$20.00 each to your monthly fees. If you decide to pay the cap of \$200.00 per month, you can take unlimited classes in your age and level.

2. PEE WEE JAZZ TEAM:

- **Peewee Jazz Team your monthly fees will be: \$115.00 and this includes:**

- Team rehearsal – ½ hour once a week
- Ballet Class
- Rec Jazz Class
- Any Weekend Rehearsals that might be scheduled

Any Additional class added to their schedule will be \$20.00 each.

3. JR AND SR COMPANY TEAMS:

- **Just Jr or Sr Hip-Hop: \$50.00 per month and includes:**

- Team rehearsal – ½ hour once a week
- Extra weekend rehearsals

Any other classes you add to your schedule will be based on our discount policy

- **Just Musical Theater \$140.00 per month and includes:**

- Team rehearsal – ½ hour once a week

- Ballet Technique
- Additional ballet class
- Jumps and Turns
- Extra weekend rehearsals

Any other classes you add to your schedule will be \$20 per class

- **Just Sr Tap: \$85.00 per month and includes:**

- Team rehearsal – ½ hour once a week
- Recreational Tap Class
- Extra weekend rehearsals

Any other classes you add to your schedule will be based on our discount policy

- **One Team (Jazz or Lyrical): \$160.00 per month and includes:**

- Team rehearsal – ½ hour once a week
- Ballet Technique
- Ballet Class
- One Rec Class in the same style of dance as the team they are on
- Jumps and Turns
- Extra weekend rehearsals

- **Two or more Teams: \$200.00 per month and includes:**

- Rehearsals during Jr or Sr Company Rehearsal time
- Ballet Technique
- Ballet Class
- One Rec class in each style of dance as the teams they are on
- Jumps and Turns
- Extra Rehearsals once a month in Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan & Feb
- Any other classes the studio offers in dancer's age and level

ATTENDANCE

- **Pee Wee Team & Rising Star Teams**

- Dancers are allowed 6 Unexcused absences from Sept - June or they will be removed from the team. If a dancer has excessive excused absences even with a Dr note, the studio has the right to remove them from the team. Attendance will be strictly enforced in their team rehearsal, Ballet Class & Jumps and Turns. Please read about unexcused and excused absences in this handbook.

- **Jr and Sr Company**

- Dancers are allowed 3 Unexcused absences from Sept – June for their team rehearsals on Thursdays and weekend rehearsals and 6 Unexcused absences from Sept – June for Ballet Technique & Jumps and Turns. If a dancer has excessive excused absences even with a Dr. Note, the studio has the right to remove them from the team. Please read about unexcused and excused absences in this handbook.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Death in the family / Funeral
- Dr Note Excusing the dancer from class

- Mandatory School Function for a grade (School Sports or Clubs are not excused)

WEEK BEFORE EACH COMP:

- Attendance is mandatory on the last Thursday before a competition unless a Dr. note is provided or a school function that counts for a grade.

DUETS AND TRIOS

A few duets and trios will be chosen after auditions. Carolyn and Leslie will choose all duets and trios. You must be on 2 or more competitive teams to be chosen for a Duet / Trio. If you are chosen and accept, the fee is \$30.00 per month. Attendance policy – no more than 6 unexcused absences or you will be removed from the Duet / Trio. If it was a Duet then the Duet will be cancelled. You must accept all your teams that you are invited to before accepting a Duet / Trio. There will be 2 Duet / Trios scheduled in a half hour time slot September – June. In August there will be weekend rehearsals to learn their choreography.

The fee to learn the choreography in August will be: \$70.00 per dancer and includes:

- 4 hours of learning choreography
- Purchasing and editing music for your duet / trio

Competition Entry fees range between \$50 - \$70 for each dancer in a duet / trio per competition.

Props for a Duet / Trio – If a prop is decided on between teachers and parents of the duet / trio, parents of the duet / trio are in charge of purchasing, building and transporting to and from competition.

Costumes – Costumes for a Duet / Trio needs to be a collaborative effort between teacher, students and parents.

CONTACT WITH TEACHERS – No students or parents are to contact teachers via their phones through texting or calling. You can contact your teachers through our studio email, studio phone or Competitive Teams face book page. Please do not friend request our teachers on Facebook as it is a policy we cannot accept friend requests from current students and parents.

VOLUNTEERING:

This year we are making it mandatory for all families to volunteer for something. We will have a signup after auditions. Mom or Dad or both can sign up! Things we need volunteers for:

1. Crystallizing and embellishing group costumes – We will do one costume and then we need a small group of parents that can finish the rest of the group.
2. Fundraisers – We need a group of parents that can run a few fundraisers to help raise funds for comp jackets, conventions, costumes, etc...
3. Building Props – We will pay for them, we just need builders
4. Prop crew – To help load and unload props and set them up on stage at competitions.
5. Father Daughter Dance Committee
6. Year end Banquet Committee
7. Lock In Chaperones
8. Backstage help Christmas Show
9. 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, 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 loud conversations
- No talking negatively about another studio or dancer
- Be positive and supportive to all your fellow dancers

FUN EVENTS:

- August – Welcome back party for Company dancers and their families
- October – KSU Homecoming Parade – Mandatory for All Company Dancers
- January – Mock Comp and Team Party
- May – Team Banquet
- May – Kent Memorial Day Parade – Mandatory for All Company Dancers unless required to march in a diff parade
- July – Performance during Kent Heritage Festival
- Big Sister / Little Sister program

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Bullying

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.

COMPETITION 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.

We want to have a fun and successful competition season so we all need to work together to do this!
2019 / 2020 COMPANY CONTRACT

- I Understand the cost and fees of being on a competitive team
- I Understand that class fees need to be paid before competitive fees
- I Understand my commitment to my team and all performances listed above is from August 2019 – June 2020.
- I Understand if my child should have to leave a team or is removed from a team, all money paid is non refundable.
- I understand the attendance policy.
- I Understand the studio rules for bullying and Respect and studio conduct
- I Understand the drug and alcohol policy

Must provide a copy of birth certificate before Student can participate on competitive teams. If we already have a copy, you do not need to turn one in.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

