



## Great Lakes Dance Academy Company Contract 2024- 2025

A competitive dance team is designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected during the Competition Auditions will possess the following:

- Be physically fit with emphasis on healthy mind and body
- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- Have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- Have respect for the team and staff
- Show support for the studio, teachers and fellow dancers!

Audition Fee: \$35 - Payment is due by cash, check or venmo.

Tuition is \$325 per 10 week session for all competition dancers.

Renting a locker? \$12 per session will be charged to AKADA accounts.

\$25 Costume Deposit for each approved dance

GLDA Competition Tuition: **Tuition is Non-Refundable. AKADA Account balances need to be paid in full prior to the beginning of session one.**

### **Costumes and Dress Requirements**

Costumes that will be purchased or made for competition will cost anywhere between \$60 and \$100.

Dancers will be asked to purchase a costume, shoes, specific tights and appropriate undergarments for shows depending on the pieces in which they are dancing. All purchased items must fulfill the requirements announced by the directors to maintain uniformity in appearance. Parents and students may be asked to assist in the preparation of costumes, including rhinestoning or altering. Again, costume costs will vary on the number of

dances each dancer is dancing in. If you quit or are dismissed from a team, you are required to leave your costumes at the studio for another person to fill your spot. This is not negotiable. Your costume will be returned to you at the end of the season. If you do not leave your costumes, for each costume needed, your account will be charged a replacement cost. Team members need to have their hair in a bun (no bangs), wear a solid black sports bra or solid black leotard and black shorts to company class. Bring ballet slippers and jazz shoes to each class. Boys are to wear a solid black t-shirt and black jazz pants/basketball shorts and black jazz shoes. All members are required to purchase a warm-up jacket, as well as tan and black jazz shoes.

### **Parent Involvement**

This team involves a commitment on the parent's behalf as well as the dancer's. For the competition team to run smoothly we need the assistance of parents in many ways. We encourage you to let us know if you would like to help out with something that you share an interest or have expertise in.

**Parent Meeting: A few meeting dates/times will be announced. 2-3 options will be given. Each GLDA Competition dancer needs to have at least one parent present.**

**Parents need to sign off on their dancers eligible for the student teacher program. - Please refer to eligibility forms.**

### **Other Sports and Extracurricular Activities**

Our Competition team was first created for those dancers who have a passion for dance and want to pursue it further than just a few classes a week. We expect the dancers that audition for Competition to put this team as a top priority. Being a part of the team is a year-long commitment and we take it very seriously. **If team members choose to also participate in other team sports, school plays, band/choir, etc..., please make every effort to not miss Competition class or regular classes. Excessive absences that are due to other team sports or activities may result in the loss of competition solos/duos/trios/group pieces. Please plan accordingly.**

### **The Competition Experience**

It is important to understand that the "competition" aspect of being a member of a competitive dance team should be considered a "performance" opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and each dancer's growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep competition experiences positive, and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your dancer. Team members are not in competition with each other. Students are encouraged to strive to improve themselves and to work to their full capacity. Each dancer is uniquely different, each with their own strengths and their own weaknesses and each brings their own talent to the team as a whole.

### **Attendance/Tardies**

Attendance is mandatory for all dance classes. The studio tries its best to be flexible and accommodating with conflicts due to school and/or important family activities. However, by becoming a member of a team, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness must be approved in advance. Student absences will be recorded. **If more than 2 unexcused absences have occurred, dancers will not be eligible anymore for a solo this season. If you are not eligible for a solo because it is your first year, this will be applied to the dancer the following year. Any time an absence occurs, students are responsible to learn what was missed before the next class, either with a private lesson or from a friend.**

Students must arrive on time for class or earlier. Missing the first part of class causes the students to become behind on stretching and warming up which can lead to injuries. More than 3 tardies may result in additional classes assigned by the competition teachers to make up for the lost time.

Also, frequent tardies and absences may result in students to drop their solos, duets or trios regardless if they are prepaid or not. Being part of the competition is a team effort and attendance is very important to the other

dancers. Dance teachers do understand that they are dealing with busy children and socially active teens with many school demands. Being a well-rounded individual is important; however, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught... students must be present!

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### **Required Classes**

Each dancer is required to take their **ballet class/classes** each week as well as a **jazz, lyrical, and tap (Dance Intro, Primary, Rising Stars - tap is required for these levels)** on top of attending their competition classes. In addition, students may be required to attend extra rehearsals as necessary and determined by the choreographer.

**Required classes** for competition dancers will be offered at a **bundled price of \$375**. All other recreational classes will not be offered in a bundle package.

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### **SATURDAY/REHEARSAL TIMELINE: Price Included in Tuition**

**Saturday rehearsals** will take place **every other Saturday from September - November** for **ALL dancers**.

**Saturday rehearsals** will take place **every Saturday during the month of January** for **ALL dancers**.

**Session 1** is tentatively scheduled for **September 8th - November 22nd**

GLDA Winter Holiday Production/Recital is scheduled for **November 22nd & 23rd @ GLCFA**

Dancers will have a week off of rehearsals following the show. Starting **December 1st - December 6th** dancers will have a two week schedule of rehearsals to attend

**- Times & Schedules TBD-**

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### **Competition/Audience Etiquette:**

Do not enter or exit the auditorium during any performance. If you think you will be getting up and down a lot, please be seated closer to the back of the auditorium. Do not allow young siblings to walk/run up and down the aisle or wander around unattended. It is distracting to other audience members.

Absolutely, positively, no picture taking or videotaping in the auditorium. The studio could be kicked out of the competition if anyone is caught doing it, so please don't! You will have ample opportunities for pictures during awards or out in the hallway.

Keep chatter/talking to a minimum while you are seated. If you want to have a conversation with someone or use your phone, please go out in the hall! Remember to put phones on vibrate. Students are encouraged to watch other Footnotes teams as they perform at competitions, when present, to help support their teammates and create a sense of unity.

After competition, all students will listen to the judges' critiques and are expected to apply the corrections suggested. Students should expect to hear the honest truth from the judges and appreciate what they have to say.

## **Judging**

Every competition has different criteria for judging routines. The four basic things that routines are ALWAYS judged on are:

### *TECHNIQUE:*

The reason for all that extra ballet tech and stretch/strength classes is TECHNIQUE! This includes:

- pointed feet
- turn-out
- extensions
- proper execution of turns
- use of pli 
- placement of hands

TECHNIQUE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST 50% OF A ROUTINE'S SCORE, SO GET TO THOSE BALLET CLASSES!

### *OVERALL PERFORMANCE QUALITY:*

How well each student knows their routine and how well they entertain the judges and audience with it. Also, in this area is the use of facial expression to convey the "feeling" of the routine.

### *CHOREOGRAPHY:*

Choreography scores are based on appropriate choice of music and costumes, use of stage, difficulty of routine and how well the movement in the dance relates to the music. ***This is often the smallest portion of the overall score.***

### *APPEARANCE:*

This pertains to costume fit, whether undergarments are showing, neatness of hair and makeup. Hats and hair pieces must be securely attached and, if performing in a group, consistently placed. Costumes will be tested BEFORE the first competition to determine if you need to pin or secure it during our mock competition. This is non-negotiable for all students and all teams, including solos/duets/trios. Double check that you have the proper bra/tight/shoe for each different dance. Wardrobe malfunctions can bring down a score very quickly!

## **Awards**

Awards Ceremonies are usually held a few times each day of competitions and are the MOST FUN time of the weekend! Students are required to wear their warm ups on stage for all award ceremonies that they attend. They are required to attend all award ceremonies for the teams that they are on but students often like to go on stage for others.

Awards are the time to:

- Hoot and holler (parents AND dancers)
- Take pictures
- Sit back and relax

The most important thing to remember about awards is that ALL scores are the opinions of 3 or 4 judges with different opinions.

## **Financial Commitment**

Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment.

## Choreography Fees:

	Option A	Option B	Option C
Solo	\$375	\$475	\$575
Duo/Trio	\$375	\$475	\$575
Small/Large Group:	\$150 individually		

**Option A:** This option covers the choreographer's time to pick out music, cut music, choreograph the dance, pick out costume options and includes **6 hours** of time in the studio to set and clean up the dance, split in any way throughout the dance year.

**Option B:** This option includes everything in Option A and **2 extra** hours in the studio for a total of **8 hours**, split in any way throughout the dance year.

**Option C:** This option includes everything in Option A and **4 extra hours** in the studio for a total of **10 hours**, split in any way throughout the dance year.

Private lessons (or added rehearsal times) are always available if you feel you need more than 10 hours of rehearsal time with your choreographer.

### CHOREOGRAPHER VENMO ACCOUNTS:

Miss Brandy - Venmo: @Brandy-Lynn-1993

Miss Hailey - Venmo: @Hailey-Bruce

Miss Cassie - Venmo: @Cassie-Solberg

Miss Danielle - Venmo: @Danielle-Laufersky-1

Your duo/trio has been assigned a choreographer and they will pick a dance style for the group. You will need to agree upon one above payment option that will be split equally among all members of the duo or trio.

For solos, please make payments directly to the choreographer, and not to the studio. **If you are eligible for a solo, and it is your very first solo, your style and choreographer will be assigned to you.**

**If your dancer is a senior in high school, they have the option to add a second "new" solo. If senior dancers want to go this route, each solo has to be matched with 2 separate choreographers. All other (non senior) dancers that are eligible for solos have an option of a second solo, but it has to be a solo from a previous year.**

### There are additional competition fees:

- **\$100 deposit fee for every team competition this season. This will be used towards your fees. This fee is due prior to session 1. There will be 3-4 mandatory team competitions for the 2025 season (January - May).**
- **\$15-\$20 Competition Season: One time Dress Rehearsal Fee**
- **\$5 Registration Fee for every attending Competition - depending on the competition**
- **\$20 GLDA ADMIN Fee for every attending Competition**
- **Costume Fees: Between \$55- \$115 dollars per costume**
- **\*Routine Fees for every attending Competition - Example below \***
- **\$25-\$45 Media Fee - When Required**
- **Team Jackets & Team Pants will be sized and ordered in the Fall. Payment will be due when the order form is filled out.**

Entry Fees vary from each competition. Below is an example of what you would pay for in fees for **each** competition. It all depends on what type of dance and how many dances your dancer is in.

**\*\*THESE FEES ARE COMPETITION FEES, NOT GLDA FEES\*\***

**Small Group Entry Fee: \$85**

**All team line/production Entry Fee: \$80**

**Solo Entry Fee: \$165**

**Duo/Trio Entry Fee: \$90**

Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible.

### **Social Media and Studio Etiquette**

We are implementing a new policy. Please do not take this personally or lightly. If you post negative things on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc..., or exhibit behavior reflecting negatively on our studio, we will consider this grounds for probation or suspension from the company. This includes the behavior of the parents. If we are in a public situation (competitions, performances, conventions, etc.) the expectation is that you will conduct your behavior responsibly. Remember you are a representative of Great Lakes Dance Academy Company. If there are situations that need to be addressed, please remember that we can handle those upon return to the studio. In a public forum, it is unacceptable. This issue may not have been addressed in the past; however, it will be going forward.

Our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, we realize that conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful of one another. Be kind to one another. There is no room for personal conflicts amongst the team. Do not bring them to the dance studio. It is hard to stop gossip among students and parents all together, but we do not want it to become destructive. If you have a problem with a parent, instructor or staff member, please contact Ms. Brandy to discuss your concerns and make the proper corrections.



**Please sign and return this page @ Auditions. Keep the Competition Contract email for your reference.**

Both dancer and parent have read and understood all that is expected as a member of the GLDA Competition Team. We understand that these policies are created to ensure the absolute best training and most positive and rewarding experience for everyone. Both dancer and parent understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract could result in the dancer's dismissal from the team.

Dancer's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_