



# Great Lakes Dance Academy Company Auditions/Contract 2020-2021

A competitive dance team is designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected for company 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

## **Company Class Requirements**

All Company members are required to take 2 Baller Classes each week. You must have the splits on one side, a 90° held arabesque on relevé and a clean double pirouette in ballet slippers. This will be tested in auditions.

## **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.

Company 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 (TBD)

An order form will be provided at the parent meeting. Orders are not placed until they are paid in full.

## **Parent Involvement**

Company involves a commitment on the parent's behalf as well as the dancers. For company 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 with something that you share an interest or have expertise in.

## **Other Sports and Extra Curricular Actives**

Our Company team was first created for those dancers who have a passion for dance and want to pursue it farther than just a few classes a week. We expect the dancers that audition for company 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 company members choose to also participate in other team sports, school plays, band/choir etc. please make every effort to not miss company 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.

## **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 3 unexcused absences have occurred, it is possible the dancer may not be able to compete in the competition OR they may be required to take some private lessons at a cost to catch up. 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!

## **Required Classes**

Each dancer is required to take 2 ballet classes per week and attend their competition rehearsals. In addition, students may be required to attend extra rehearsals as necessary and determined by the choreographer.

## **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 competition, when present to help support their team mates 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 plié

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 make-up. 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 a 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.

Fees:

	Option A	Option B	Option C
Solo	\$250	\$350	\$450
Duo/Trio	\$360	\$450	\$540

**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 3 extra hours in the studio for a total of 9 hours, split in any way throughout the dance year.

**Option C:** This option includes everything in Option A and 6 extra hours in the studio for a total of 12 hours, split in any way throughout the dance year.

Private lessons are always available if you feel you need more than 12 hours of rehearsal time with your choreographer.

Once we hear back from everyone who was approved for a duo or trio, we will then announce who you will be dancing with. 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. Soloists may or may not get to choose the choreographer they wish to work with as well as Option A, B or C above. Choreographers available for solos are Ms. Brandy and Ms. Alissa. For solos, duos and trios please make payments directly to the choreographer, and not to the studio.

Competition Entry Fees: TBD

You will be given a workshop and competition schedule at the beginning of the season. Each dancer's competition costs vary based on the number of dances the dancer is participating in and if it's a group, duet/trio, or solo. Entry Fee deadlines will be clearly defined and must be paid timely! If you do not pay on time, a late charge will be added, and it is possible the dancer will not be allowed to compete.

In addition, transportation to and from the competition is not provided or arranged nor are any hotel fees for competitions too far away to commute.

Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception of a cash prize for a Solo/Duo/Trio which will be split 50/50 with dancer(s).

### **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 ground 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.

*Warmly, Ms. Brandy*



**Please sign and return this page. Keep the Company contract for your reference.**

Both dancer and parent have read and understood all that is expected as a member of the GLDA Company . 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: \_\_\_\_\_