

COMPETITION DANCER HANDBOOK
A guide for students and parents
2019-20
Updated July 2019

The first step to becoming successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals and performances. **Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. (This means more ballet classes)** Come to each class prepared to learn without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. **True progress is made when you look at each class**, rehearsal or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teacher and choreographer you work with is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. **A correction is an honor**; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography or "cleaning" the choreography. **A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group.** Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par. When we clean choreography, we may also change it. ***Dancers who miss a cleaning session may not be properly prepared for the upcoming performance and could end up letting themselves, their team or the studio down.***

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Arrive at performances at least two hours prior to the scheduled time, unless otherwise advised by your teachers. **Present yourself in a professional manner, with costumes pressed, shoes cleaned and all accessories accounted for.** Then go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

FOR THE PARENTS:

We're in the together! We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere for our faculty, participants and their parents; it promotes a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. **Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and faculty, makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for you child in how to interact with others in a professional setting.**

Your child's presence at all classes, rehearsals and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Dress rehearsal is mandatory. Dress rehearsal will be scheduled in February if you're planning a trip please check first for when dress rehearsal is, **ALL DANCERS MUST ATTEND.** This is not a choice if you are part of our team all dancers must be at dress rehearsal.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal – perhaps even greater value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. **Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training.** It's important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps your children will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork and understand what hard work can accomplish. **Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies and souls of our students, to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance. Always a life lesson is learned in our Classroom of dance!**

Class or Choreography Placement

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder.

Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

Please see your child's instructor if you have any questions or concerns about your child's placement. Dancers or parents **DO NOT CHOOSE THE** routines your dancer would like to be in.

Dos and Don'ts

Some parents may compare their child's progress, or class, or choreography placement to that of others in the program. Encourage your child to focus on their own accomplishments. A healthy competition in class is good!! **Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow dancers, or other parents in front of your child – or other students – could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will react to their parents in a way that imitates the parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.**

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring important behavior patterns through their example. Our studio's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think and act respectfully to their peers, the adults in their lives and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education,
Don't Panic & please do not talk to other parents when questions arise about your own child. Make an appointment to speak directly to the director of the studio. *And please do not talk to the instructors in between classes we may look like we are available but we are not classes are back to back. Please Call the good old fashion way.*

Please do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes; all communication must be made through Ms. Roxana. Please contact the studio by phone or email. Thank you! roxanasde@gmail.com or 248-625-1930

FOR DANCERS AND PARENTS

Image

The children and parents involved in the Competition Program participate in many outside activities, each of which becomes a reflection of the studio's philosophy. Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools and our school.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- We never solicit recruit dancers from other schools.
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact the studio.
- 24 hour rule.....If your upset about something PLEASE give it 24 hours then contact the studio.

Classes

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to all rehearsals and performances. Excellent attendance is a must! Please email the studio and Ms. Roxana at least 1-2 weeks before you miss a class (not the day of). Please talk to your instructor. Illnesses such as a fever or throwing up are excused; sore muscle and a stomach ache are not excused the dancer must still come to class and watch. Homework, and after school activity not mandatory for a grade, sports games, birthdays, family gatherings, and being out of town are all not excused. Your child commits themselves to the RDE Elite Dance Company and they are the best of the best here at the studio. Our staff expects them

to take their attendance seriously. Dancers must be in class 2 weeks before a competition.

Dancers will receive a class schedule in August/September. It includes certain classes for each age group. **There may be additional classes, including master classes, in which it is expected that all team members will participate.** There will be an additional charge for the master mandatory classes held on Saturdays.

No dancer may miss the two weeks before a competition during the season. A season starts in September and ends after Recital (or nationals). Dancers who need to be excused from class time are required to notify the studio. Any dancer excused from a rehearsal is responsible for learning any missed choreography prior to arriving for the next class time. Non – National year.

Dress rehearsal will have a cost per dancer...this will be determined at a closer date to the dress rehearsal.

All dancers must attend rehearsals and class in proper dance attire and appropriate shoes. Female team members are required to wear their hair pulled back in a bun for all rehearsals and dance class

It is expected that all dancers will be on their best behavior during rehearsals and work as team players at all times.

Tuition and Expense Policy

Part of the commitment to the Competition Program is being up to date with all accounts related to participation. There is a late fee added to your account of \$15.00 for tuition after the 10th of each month. **Thank you!**

A COMPETITION REGISTRATION FEE OF \$60.00 PER DANCER

All costumes must be paid for in FULL before receiving them.

The Focus is Not Simply on Competing

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competing and our goal to give each student a genuine respect for dance as an art. We consider participating in competitions not simply part of our students training as dancers; it is also an important part of how we influence them as people. With the right focus the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go on stage they are growing through the competition experience. Hitting the state and doing the best they can do is what it is all about; which award they receive is secondary.

ABOUT COMPETITIONS

Attendance

When a competition runs over the entire weekend we expect our dancers to attend the full event of group numbers, whether or not they are competing that day. **We work as a team always available to support each other!**

All team members must be present at awards and wear proper warm up.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Your event schedule will be handed out one week prior to the event. This will have directions to the competition location and your arrival times. Dancers must arrive two hours early and be dressed. Please be early. The dates for competitions will be out in November. Exact times are not out until one week prior to the event. You must keep the entire weekend open until you have the final schedule. We understand the problems this causes, but you must understand that the scheduling is out of our hands and that you must be available the entire weekend. The schedule handed out in the fall will only include cities.

If any dancer is in band or orchestra and will be having Festival, Please give Ms. Roxana the dates ASAP and we will try our best not to schedule those date for an event. Also, Homecoming & PromThank you.

Arrival

Please arrive early. Be dressed with hair and make-up done, correct tights, extra tights with no funs, all costume parts, and clean shoes. You must be ready with your group at the listed time and be ready. If you are walking into the building at this time you are late. Don't worry about not having a designated meeting place. We always find each other at the events. Parents, once the dancers are completely ready and with a teacher feel free to go to the audience and see the show.

Food/lunch at competition- packing a lunch for the day of competition is BEST!
HEALTHY FOODS depending on how the weekend is running parents may decide then if they would like to meet and go out to lunch together. Each child likes certain foods, so please pack lunches.

Senior Dancers

If a boyfriend is attending the competition he needs to be in the audience not back stage with the dancer, the girls need to stay focused. They are welcome to watch & sit in the audience with the RDE Family. Remember the younger dancers are watching your every move.

Dancing

Parents, be aware that competitions often fun out of published order. Stay in the audience to be sure you do not miss your dancers act. Dancers should not leave the competition in between dances without having their teacher's permission. This is due to the fact that the

schedule order may change. Be positive and supportive of all dancers from our studio and others.

Awards

All team members **must be present at award and wear their warm up suit!**

The team trophy, plaque, or medal comes back to the studio and each dancer receives a pin, button, or ribbon depending on the event. Dancers may purchase their own trophies at the event check-in table. The awards are based on the opinion of three judges, please keep this in perspective. We must have good conduct at all times. This applies to the dancers and their parents.

Exit

Be sure to leave the dressing area extra neat and clean. Parents should double check their dancer's costumes and shoes. Be sure to leave nothing behind. Make sure dancers do not bring iPods or any thing they treasure to the competition.

Code of Conduct & Dress requirement at the Studio

Code of Conducts

- Competition dancers must come in ready to dance
- Respect your teachers
- Respect all team members
- Be on your best behavior in the lobby
- Use cubbies and hooks for bags and coats
- Leave chairs to sit in
- Clean up after yourself
- Help pick-up after others and leave the lobby neat
- Be helpful and a studio leader
- Make everyone feel welcome

Dress Policies

- Hair in a bun **for all dance classes**
- Dance attire is a must
- You must have the correct shoes for the subject
- No food in the studio rooms
- Absolutely no gum
- All Ballet classes pink tights, black leotard, and hair in a bun.

Extra Class Rehearsal

In the past more practices are needed prior to the first event. The staff will do their best to give as much prior notice of extra rehearsals as possible. Please make every effort to attend.

if we are not dancing on the Friday of weekend competition, we will have extra rehearsals that night.

Additional Requirements

RDE spirit wear..... Dancers need to wear their cover ups on stage for awards. These need to be worn at all RDE events.

Competition students must be enrolled in:

New Minis ~ Ballet, Tap & Jazz plus 1 comp class

Junior ~ Ballet, Tap & Jazz, Lyrical, Jazz/Musical Theater, HH & Grade I
(cecchetti class)

3 regional competitions for the season

Senior/Teen - Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Cecchetti, Contemporary, Lyrical, Jazz ,
Choreo/Improv , HH/Poms

3 regional competitions a year starting in March 2020

All Dancers will attend workshops throughout the year. Either studio guest teachers will come to the studio or we will do an offsite workshop. All dancers are required to attend workshops and guest teacher classes. This varies year to year.

Information will be emailed to the dancer & parent, please get RDE your correct email.

Dancers need to Contact Ms. Roxana if they will be late to class or rehearsal.

Junior Teen & Senior dancers need to be responsible & keep their parents informed!

All families will be contacted by email for all information, reminders, newsletters, billing.

Thank you,
RDE Staff

Any Questions or concerns please contact Roxana by phone 248-625-1930 or email roxanasde@gmail.com Thank you again. As always we are looking forward to an exciting and fun filled year of dance! Thank you so much!

Warmly, RDE