

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Your child been selected as a member of the Superstars Competition Baton Team.

The Competition Baton Team has established a tradition of excellence, culminating in another successful season this past year. We are excited to continue that tradition again this year. Being a member of the team will provide wonderful opportunities for each student. It will enhance their skills as a twirler and performer, in addition to giving them the confidence to perform in public as a member of a team as well as an individual. The structure of the program is designed to improve the abilities of each twirler. Being selected for the team is a tremendous honor and should be taken very seriously. Included in this letter are some of the guidelines and expectations required of each team member.

Please read the information in this letter carefully to make sure you understand the expectations and responsibilities of all team members! Each student and parent will be asked to sign a contract before classes start based on the expectations spelled out in this letter. By signing, accountability to all rules and regulations is assumed.

CLASSES:

Competition Team members are required to take the following classes at the studio during the year in addition to their competition class:

1 Baton Technique Class

-Proper technique of twirling and body work are essential to a twirler and will improve all aspects of each student's skills. This class will NOT perform in recital and will focus solely on proper twirling and body technique throughout the year. This class is being offered to competition team members for a reduced rate of only \$12/month!

Production

-The Production Team will compete at competitions during the season and will include all members of each team at the studio. The team will also represent the Superstars at all public performances, including the State Fair. Production practices will be held on Saturday once a month. A schedule of which Saturdays the team will meet each month will be handed out at the beginning of the year. We understand that Saturdays are not ideal, but if the schedule is given to you far enough in advance, you are expected to make every effort to attend each practice, as it is the only time the Production Team will meet. If any student must miss a Saturday Production lesson, it is their responsibility to learn what it missed and be totally prepared for the next lesson. The Production Saturdays will be structured in such a way that each team will meet with Ms. Dawn and Ms. Denise for choreography and rehearsal.

Please be aware that we are unable to give a breakout of rehearsal times at this point due to the size of this year's team. You will be informed of practice times in advance. Sometimes changes must be made to the Production schedule to accommodate conflicts. Additional practices may be called at various times in order to prepare for an upcoming performance or competition. Because Production practice will only be held once each month, the cost for this class has also been reduced to only \$12/month!

*Attendance to all classes is CRUCIAL and members will only be allowed 3 absences in each of their required classes before they are dropped from the team. This stipulation has been abused in the past and will be more strictly enforced this year. Baton technique is a required class, so don't miss it. Extenuating circumstances that contribute to an absence may be discussed with Ms. Dawn.

COSTUMES:

Members of the competition team will wear a separate costume for team and production. These costumes will be worn at competitions throughout the season, in addition to extra performances and the recital. In order to best fit a routine, certain costumes will be ordered from a professional costume company, while others may require the services of our seamstress. If necessary, rhinestones will also be added to the costumes. The costume fee will cover all these costs. Please refer to the included fee list for more detailed information on costumes.

WARM-UPS:

Each member of the team is required to purchase a matching warm-up jacket that will be worn over their costume at all performances and competitions. No exceptions! Twirlers may not be seen in costume unless they are performing. In addition, the warm-ups promote team unity. Warm-up jackets are **MANDATORY** for all team members. Cost for the warm-up jackets is \$85 plus tax. We suggest ordering big so that the jackets can be worn for several years.

SHOES:

Members of the team will be required to purchase a pair jazz shoes for competition and performance use only. This way, shoes will look nice and neat for all appearances and will not get dirty or scuffed up during practice. Also, matching shoes make for a unison look on stage. Since these shoes may only be worn for performances and competitions, another pair must be worn for practice. There are no special requirements for practice shoes and they may be an old pair from a previous year.

MAKE-UP:

All girls will be required to purchase the SAME make-up for competitions. Again, a unison look on stage is best and when team members have different colors on their face, it breaks up the continuity of the group and overall look of their performance. Colors will be chosen once costumes are chosen. As the competition season approaches, you will be given a list of required make-up to purchase on your own from any retailer or department store in the area.

HAIR:

Once again, a unison look on stage is essential and hair is no exception. Some teams may be required to purchase a fake hairpiece so that all members look the same. When a hairpiece is worn, it is attached to either a ponytail or bun. If hair is not long enough to put in a ponytail or bun now, please start growing it out so that it can be in time for the competition season. If a hairpiece is not required, hair must still be done the same and you will be notified as to what to do with the hair so that everyone looks the same.

COMPETITIONS:

Each team will compete approximately 4 times throughout the season. Two competitions typically take place in the Des Moines area while two competitions are out-of-state. The out-of-state competitions may take place in Omaha, Kansas City, or the Chicago area in order to expose the team to other studios and styles. All other competitions will take place in the state of Iowa. The group entry fees for each entry at a competition are \$10 per twirler for **each routine** they enter in the competition. Please refer to the section entitled "ACCOUNTS" on the next page for more information regarding entry fees.

A schedule of which competitions the team will participate in and their dates will be finalized and made available during the first half of the year. The competition schedule will be posted on the competition website and the bulletin board outside Studio B. Most competitions are scheduled for Saturday or Sunday of a given weekend. Once the competition schedule is finalized, please clear your day for the competition. Unfortunately, the competitions will not advise us as to our performances times until a week before each competition. Therefore, it is impossible for us to know when your child will perform - it could be any time!

Competitions are **MANDATORY... NO EXCEPTIONS!** There will be consequences for any member that does not attend a competition and will be determined at the discretion of the directors. If you know of any conflicts prior to the schedule going out, you are urged to notify Ms. Dawn or someone at the studio. We cannot guarantee a competition won't be scheduled for the weekend in conflict, but early notification may eliminate consequences for your child if a competition were to be scheduled for the weekend in question. Once the competition schedule is finalized and published, you are expected to make arrangements to attend each competition in the event of a conflict. The teams work hard all year for the competition weekends and it is unfair to all team members and their families if any given team member does not participate. Extenuating circumstances that may contribute to missing a competition can be discussed with the directors - however, there is no guarantee that consequences will not be applied.

COMPETITION WEBSITE:

The competition teams at the studio have a website strictly for them: <http://superstarscompetition.com>. This website will be the center for all important information regarding the team. Announcements, schedules, checklists, requirements ... *you name it* ... will be posted to this site. You are **strongly** urged to check this site weekly for updates.

BULLETIN BOARD:

A bulletin board is located outside Studio B and important information and announcements regarding the team will be posted there as well. During competition season, it would be to your benefit to periodically check the bulletin board for updated information. It is the parents' responsibility to know what is going on.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!!!

In today's world, email is a vital tool in conveying important information to the team. It is extremely important that you provide us with an email address so we may contact you at any given time to relay important information regarding the team. (If you don't have an email address, please let Ms. Dawn know so special arrangements can be made.) If you would like email updates sent to your child's email address, you must sign a consent form to let us know it's ok.

ACCOUNTS:

It's essential that all accounts remain in good standing throughout the year so we can continue to offer this wonderful opportunity to our students. Entry fees will be figured into your tuition. Refer to the attached sheet for information regarding additional fees.

RECITAL:

Members of the team will perform in ALL recitals. In addition, members of each competition team at the studio will perform in the Finale. An additional t-shirt will be required for this number, and will cost \$20. Participating in all shows and the Finale is an honor reserved for the team.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Members of the competition team are the ones who represent the studio to the community. Throughout the year, the Superstars are asked to perform at special events. As a competition team member, you are expected to participate in all events that you are asked to if possible.

BOOSTER CLUB:

The growth of the team and the success and reputation it has built, has made it is necessary and essential for everyone to get more involved in the Superstars Booster Club. We understand that competition is expensive, but also feel it is extremely rewarding and beneficial. Therefore, fundraising through the Booster Club would help defray some of the cost and would allow us to do more. The money raised by the team could go towards entry fees, costumes, props, etc. In order for any and all fundraising efforts to operate smoothly, it is imperative that we have all parents (and team members for that matter) involved. More information regarding the Booster Club will be sent home once the year has started. Any parent that wishes to have a more active role in the decision-making for the Club is asked to contact Ms. Ann in the office.

PROPS:

This year, a \$25 prop fee will be applied for each team member. Ms. Dawn already has some ideas for this year's routines that will require props. In order to make this happen, volunteers are essential to assist in creating, building, and transporting the props to the competitions. If you are interested and willing to volunteer for the Prop Committee, please contact the studio.

REGIONALS/NATIONALS:

I would like to try to attend the Regional and National Competitions this year for the baton competition team. Regionals are held in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Nationals are held at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. We will have a parent meeting at the beginning of the year to get individual commitment levels on attending regionals or nationals, which are held in the summer.

If you are a returning member of the competition team, thank you for all your hard work last season - it was certainly unforgettable! You represented the Superstars in such a fantastic way and it was so rewarding to watch some of the tremendous improvement! If you are a new member, WELCOME! Get ready to become a crucial part in the wonderful tradition of the Superstars Competition Baton Team! My goal with the team is for them to have fun, but to also learn something in the process. All competition classes and functions should be approached with this theory in mind.

**We reserve the right to alter or change these rules and guidelines as we see necessary in order to best benefit the studio and the team.*

NORWALK SUPERSTARS
COMPETITION CONTRACT

Please sign the following and send to the studio before classes start in the fall.

IMPORTANT!!!

A signed contract is required before any student may begin participating in any competition classes this fall. Students will be asked to sit out of their competition classes until a signed contract has been turned in to the studio. Any classes that are missed due to lack of a signed contract will count against the student's attendance requirement.

STUDENT:

As a member of the Superstars Competition Baton Team, I will:

- *always try my hardest in each class
- *practice outside of class
- *have a good attitude during and outside of class
- *respect Ms. Dawn, Ms. Denise and all other staff members at the studio
- *respect all other members of the Superstars Competition and Production Teams, as well as the members of teams from other studios

I have read and understand what is expected of me as a member of the Superstars Competition Baton Team. I will abide by all the rules set forth in order to best benefit the team and myself.

Signature

Date

PARENT:

I have read and understand what is expected of me as a parent of a Superstars Competition Baton Team member. I will also abide by all the rules as set forth above in order to best benefit my child, the entire team and the studio.

Signature

Date