

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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

The Competition Dance 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 dancer 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 dancer. 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. (Production Team Members are required to take the following classes only)

### 1 regular Tap/Jazz class (Juniors, Preteens, Teens & Seniors)

*-This class will concentrate more on the techniques of tap & jazz during the first half of the year, with the focus shifting to recital routines after Christmas. The Junior & Preteen Teams will take this as a combination class, while the Teen & Senior Teams will take each discipline separately.*

### 1 Ballet Technique Class

*-Ballet is the core to every great dancer and will improve all aspects of each student's dancing. This class will NOT perform in recital and will focus solely on technique throughout the year. Although this class may not be each child's passion, we cannot emphasize enough how important ballet is to all dancers. A positive attitude will make a world of difference in how beneficial the class will be to each student. This class is being offered to competition team members for a reduced rate of only \$15/month!*

### Production

*-The Production Team will compete at all 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. Once again, 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 Mr. Jay for choreography, as well as with Ms. Jamie for technique and additional choreography 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. Ballet technique is a required class, so don't miss it. Extenuating circumstances that contribute to an absence may be discussed with Mr. Jay and/or Ms. Jamie.

### CAMP: OK/LA DANCE CONNECTION WORKSHOP :: Saturday, August 7, 2010

This year, the only required camp for team members will be the OK/LA professional workshop. The OK/LA professionals have been coming for a few years and all those who have attended would agree it was a fun, positive and extremely educational experience. In my opinion, the staff is comprised of extremely distinguished dance professionals and the opportunity they give to the team through this workshop is impressive. I can't say enough about the OK/LA organization and how beneficial I feel it will be for all members.

The fee for this camp is as follows: JUNIORS & PRETEENS - \$80 (4 hours of class) | TEENS & SENIORS: \$95 (5 hours of class)  
*Given the high standard & expertise of the OK/LA staff & instruction, these fees are extremely reasonable.*

Please refer to the attached OK/LA flier for more information and the entry form for this REQUIRED camp. In order to secure our booking for this workshop, all team members must register for the workshop by JULY 22, 2010. If you're unable to attend, please speak with Mr. Jay.

*All team members who register after the July 22 deadline will have to pay an additional \$20.*

### COSTUMES:

Members of the competition team will wear separate costumes for each routine they are part of. These costumes will be worn at all 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! Returning members will not be required to purchase a jacket. Any members who are new to the team will be required to purchase a jacket. 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 of tap and 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.

Unlike practice shoes, the actual color and style of the competition shoes must match the costume. Therefore, the required shoes for competition will not be chosen until costumes are ordered. You will be notified as to what color and style are required for competition after costumes are chosen. **Do not order competition shoes until this time**, as we cannot guarantee that competition shoes can be exchanged. We would hate for anyone to get stuck with a pair of shoes they won't end up using, so please do not order competition shoes until notified to do so.

### 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.

### ACCESSORIES:

Rhinestone chokers and/or earrings, etc. may be required for certain routines. You will be notified as to whether or not your child's team will be required to purchase these accessories as costume choices are finalized.

### HAIR:

Once again, a unison look on stage is essential and hair is no exception. 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. Regardless of what is done with hair, longer hair is preferred as it is much easier to work with and allows for a variety of options.

### COMPETITIONS:

Each team will compete approximately 4 times throughout the season in and around the Des Moines area. Competitions typically take place between February and May. We may compete once in Omaha or the Cedar Rapids area in order to expose the team to other studios and styles. All other competitions will take place in the Des Moines/Ames area. The group entry fees for each entry at a competition are \$38 per dancer 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 at the studio. Most competitions are scheduled for Friday-Sunday of a given weekend. Once the competition schedule is finalized, please clear your ENTIRE weekend 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!** That is the entire purpose of joining the team - to compete. 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 Mr. Jay 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.

### STAY INFORMED:

Important information and announcements regarding the team will be posted at the studio and may also be sent home with each team member. During competition season, it would be to your benefit to periodically check your child's dance bag or look for information to be posted at the studio. 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 Mr. Jay 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.

### SOLOS, DUET/TRIOS, SMALL GROUPS:

This year, team members may be offered the chance to participate in solos, duet/trios and special small groups. We will most likely hold auditions for these routines sometime in the fall. Solos, duet/trios and small groups will be selected at the discretion of the directors and will be reserved for those students who have displayed exceptional skill and talent level, outstanding hard work in and out of class, extraordinary passion for improvement, a significant display of respect and an overall positive attitude. Being selected for an additional routine is a tremendous honor and should be treated as such. The directors will make their decision based on what they feel is best for each student. These routines are for **competitions only** and will be choreographed by Mr. Jay & Ms. Jamie.

### 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. 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 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. Mr. Jay 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 building, transporting and moving the props on and off stage at the competitions. If you are interested and willing to volunteer for the Prop Committee, please contact the studio.

### NATIONALS:

We will most likely attend a National Competition again during the summer of 2011 after the regular competition season and recital is over. We will most likely attend the Talent On Parade Nationals that are held in Des Moines in order to defray travel costs.

*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 Dance 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.*