

# ***PRE-COMPETITION TEAM HANDBOOK***

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Tiny Tot Pre-Competition Dance Team. This team is designed to prepare the students and their parents for the Superstars Competition Dance Team. Not only will it enhance the students dance skills and techniques, but it will also prepare you for some of the other obligations and responsibilities that accompany being a member of the Superstars Competition Dance Team in the future. In order for the Pre-Competition Team to function efficiently and adequately, we have developed some rules and guidelines for the team.

## **CLASSES:**

Members of the Pre-Competition Team are only required to take the Pre-Competition class. An additional ballet class is not required, but members are encouraged and welcome to enroll in a ballet technique class, as ballet is the core to all forms of dance. A strong foundation in ballet will certainly benefit the future of any dancer. In addition, members of the Pre-Competition Team will not be included in the Production Team. The Production Team is introduced to competitive dancers at the Mini Team level.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is CRUCIAL and expected. Excessive absences not only hurt the team member, but all other members of the team. Extenuating circumstances that contribute to an absence may be discussed with Mr. Jay.

## **COMPETITIONS:**

The Pre-Competition Team will participate in ONE competition at the end of the competition season. We will compete with 2 routines - 1 tap & 1 jazz number. You will be notified as to the date of the competition sometime between Thanksgiving & Christmas. Most competitions are scheduled for Friday-Sunday of a given weekend. Once you've been informed of what weekend the Pre-Competition Team will compete, please clear your ENTIRE weekend for the competition. Unfortunately, the competitions will not advise us as to our performances times until a week before the competition. Therefore, it is impossible for us to know when your child will perform - it could be any time! The competition is MANDATORY. 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.

The group entry fees for each entry at a competition are \$35 per dancer for each routine they enter in the competition, so your total entry fees for the year would total \$70.

In addition to the one competition the team will participate in, you may be asked to attend one of the other Des Moines competitions the Superstars Competition Dance Team competes. Attending this competition will be for observation purposes only. This will better prepare you for what to expect for the competition we will attend at the end of the season.

## **COSTUMES:**

Costumes are an essential part of competitive dancing. A different costume is required for each routine a team competes with in order to achieve the best overall effect. Members of the Pre-Competition Team will also be required to purchase 2 separate costumes for competition: 1 for their tap routine & 1 for their jazz routine. The cost for each Pre-Competition Team costume will be \$68, making your overall costume fee \$136.

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 and other accessories will also be added to the costumes. The \$136 costume fee will cover all these costs.

## **SHOES:**

Depending on the costume and style of their routines, Pre-Competition Team members may be required to purchase a separate pair of tap and jazz shoes for competition use only. Matching shoes make for a unison look on stage and again, contribute to a cohesive and professional look on stage. 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.

## **HAIR:**

Once again, a unison look on stage is essential and hair is no exception. Longer hair is preferred for competitive dancers. It is much easier to work with and allows for a variety of options to best fit the style of each routine. 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.

**WARM-UPS:**

This year, the Superstars Competition Dance Team will be phasing in new warm-up jackets. The new jackets will not be mandatory for Pre-Competition Team members. If, however, you would like to purchase a warm-up jacket, the cost is \$85.

**COMPETITION WEBSITE:**

In addition to the bulletin board outside Studio A, Mr. Jay has set up a website strictly for the competition teams at the studio: <http://superstarscompetition.com>. Important information regarding the team will be posted to this site. It would be to your benefit to check this site weekly for updates. Mr. Jay plans to post practice schedules; competition information and schedules; costume, hair & make-up checklists; photos and other miscellaneous information pertinent to the team. We're really excited about this new aspect to the team and feel it will be very beneficial.

**RECITAL:**

Members of the Pre-Competition Team will not perform in the Finale and will perform in ONE recital.

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:**

Many of the special events the Superstars are invited to perform for are the perfect opportunity for the Pre-Competition Team. The more exposure the students have to performing, the better. Members of the Pre-Competition Team will participate in many of these special performances - you are expected to participate in all events that you are asked to.

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

Participation in a solo, duet/trio or small group is reserved for members of Superstars Competition Dance Team only.

**BOOSTER CLUB:**

The Superstars Booster Club is available to any and all members who wish to be involved. The Booster Club is designed to help defray competition costs and to help the teams at the studio run more efficiently. 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.

**PARENTS:**

We must stress the importance of parental cooperation and support - it is crucial in making any team successful. As most of you know, Ms. Jan just celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Superstars. In addition, Mr. Jay has over 10 years of experience as a dance educator. It is understood that Ms. Jan & Mr. Jay will make all decisions pertaining to the team. All decisions will be based on what is best for the students, the team and the studio in general.

Finally, the Pre-Competition Team is a relatively new aspect to the competitive curriculum we offer at the studio. With that in mind, please understand that we are learning as we grow. We have attempted to cover everything that will be required of the team. It is possible that additional requirements and expectations may arise. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in advance should such instances occur.

*\*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.*

It is always exciting to welcome new members and families to the competition teams. Get ready to become a crucial part in the wonderful tradition we have established! 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.

I'm really excited to begin working with a new group of students. I am looking forward to the beginning of the year and hope you are too.

Thank you so much & I will see you soon!

Jay Peterson, Director of Dance Education  
Jan Stivers, Owner/Director