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# IMAGINE DANCE TEAM POLICIES AND HANDBOOK

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2021-2022

## Introduction

Downers Grove Park District strives to offer high quality & developmentally appropriate dance classes to teach techniques in a safe, creative, and athletically stimulating environment. Dance classes within the program will work with your child's individual talents and help them grow artistically and physically. Imagine Dance Team focuses on strengthening the foundations of a dancer's technique and confidence, while also providing opportunities for personal growth, leadership and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment. It is our hope that dancers will not only create a strong foundation for dance, but also create lasting friendships & memories!

When considering joining Imagine Dance Team, please consider the following before making the commitment:

## Rehearsals and Performances

- Each piece will meet once per week to rehearse; rehearsals will be 45 minutes long. A schedule will be sent once placement decisions have been made.
- Team members are expected to attend all rehearsals for each piece they commit to. It is important for all members of a dance to present, to allow the group to grow and develop into a unified and cohesive performance piece. Your child should not be missing dance for other sport practices, play rehearsals, etc. Make sure the schedule works for you and your family before committing to the company.
- Team members choosing to compete are expected to attend all competitions. We practice as group and perform as a group – a piece practiced with 7 dancers will not perform as well with only 6 dancers. If you will miss a competition, let us know as soon as possible; fees may not be refundable.
- Team members are expected to perform at all community performances. Community performances offer excellent opportunities to practice developing routines.
- Excessive absence from rehearsals, competitions or performances could be grounds for dismissal without refund.

## Class Commitments

- Members must take a ballet class during both Fall and Winter-Spring sessions.
- Members must take a class in the style corresponding to the piece(s) they are cast in – for example, a member dancing a hip hop routine should be enrolled in both a ballet & a hip hop class, as well as the rehearsal for the routine.
- Members must have appropriate attire and shoes for all classes and rehearsals, and be on time for all classes and rehearsals. As dance team members, other students look up to you – be sure to set a good example and represent the team well.
- Imagine Dance Team members are not permitted to compete for any outside dance studio or companies. Dancers may perform at school functions & events.

### Communication

Communication is fundamental to a cohesive team. Communication will primarily be sent through email; it is of utmost important that you check your email regularly, and respond to confirm that you have read and received team emails. Emails will come from the dance program supervisor, Anna Fontanetta, [afontanetta@dgparks.org](mailto:afontanetta@dgparks.org). We suggest adding this email to your address book to help prevent emails from being filtered as spam.

Dance staff are not to provide parents with personal emails or phone numbers, and parents are to refrain from soliciting this information from staff.

An optional parent contact directory will be sent out so that parents may arrange carpools for competitions and practices, if desired.

### Code of Conduct:

A positive attitude and self-discipline are important aspects in training. Cooperation with the coach and abidance of rules is necessary for a positive and safe dance experience.

- Arrive on time to practice with a positive attitude and ready to work
- Have proper attire & shoes for practice
- Pay attention during warm ups. Warming up & stretching properly will help avoid injury
- Be aware of your surroundings and respect the space of your other teammates
- Pay attention to demonstrations, instructions and feedback
- Report any injuries to your instructor immediately
- Do not leave the dance room without permission:
  - Once you arrive, you are not to leave the dance room until practice has ended
  - If you need to leave early, you must notify your instructor for permission
- Have respect for your coach, teammates, and the facility:
  - Respect your instructor and any teaching assistants; do not argue or talk back
  - Respect your teammates. Verbal or physical fighting, profanity, disrespectful language, attitude or body language is not acceptable
  - Respect your teammate's belongings. Do not touch or use anyone's personal belongings without permission
  - Remember to take all of your belongings at the end of practice

The Downers Grove Park District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of him/herself or others. A positive approach will be used regarding correcting behavior, involving and notifying parents when necessary. If an unsuitable behavior occurs, staff will use age-appropriate rules and consequences specific to each situation. Staff will be forced to evaluate the enrollment of any member whose behavior is continually inappropriate. Poor sportsmanship or failure to abide by the code of conduct may result in removal from the team.

### Competition and Performance Code of Conduct

- Arrive on time
- Check in with your coach upon arrival and before departing
- Stay in the appropriate area whether it is a class room, dressing room, or staging area. If you have to leave your dance area, notify your coach before doing so
- Stay with the coach and team for the duration of the competition and awards. Members must wait until dismissed by the coach
- Be properly attired – when not in costume, wear your Imagine Dance Team warm-up jacket or top
- Bring a water bottle. A healthy snack is encouraged
- Behave appropriately during the competition:
  - Maintain a positive attitude and compete to the best of your ability
  - Cheer for your teammates
  - Show respect for other teams and coaches
  - Refrain from horseplay before, during, or after competition
  - Remain seated with your teammates
  - Use of profanity will result in removal from the competition
  - Keep all your belongings in the designated team area during and after the competition. Help clean up if needed

### Parent Code of Conduct

It is equally important for parents to set an example for good sportsmanship and respect.

- Bring your dancer on time to practice every week, and plan for them to stay the entire length of practice
- If we email information, **please be sure to respond to confirm it was received**
- Team events will be hosted only through the Park District. Outside or personal events are not regulated by the Park District; it is up to you as parents to encourage your children to be welcoming and inclusive.
- Abide by the instructor's routines and methods. Do not teach or modify routines with your dancer
- Parents are not allowed to watch practice in the dance room, except on designated parent observation days. Parents are always welcome to wait outside in the hallway.
- Good sportsmanship and respect must be displayed at all time to teammates, coaches, other parents, judges, and opposing teams
- Friends and siblings are not allowed in the dance room
- Please come up to dance room either when dropping off or when picking up your dancer from practice, so that the coach can share information or other notes with you

### TENTATIVE Fees and Costs

Fees for rehearsals can be broken out into multiple payments. Fees for costumes, team warm-ups and competitions will be due in two fall installments. Class fees are due seasonally at time of Registration, or can be broken out into multiple payments.

#### **Rehearsals:**

Solo: \$1,536  
Duet: \$778  
Trio: \$512  
Groups: \$495

#### **Classes:**

Fall: approximately \$147-\$196; Winter-Spring: approximately \$260-325

Rehearsal & class fees are dependent on length of class and number of weeks, and may change depending on actual class schedules. Winter-Spring class fees include Spring Recital costumes and fees.

#### **Competitions:**

Solos: \$130-\$140  
Duet/Trio: \$65-\$75  
Groups: \$60-\$70

Fee is per routine, per competition. We will attend 3 competitions in 2022

**Costumes:** \$65 per costume, per routine

**Team warm-ups** (jacket, t-shirt or tank top): \$65

**Makeup:** Members will provide their own makeup. A list with suggested colors/shades & products will be provided.

### 2021-2022 Competitions and Performance Opportunities

Due to COVID-19, many events are uncertain/unscheduled at this time. We hope to be able to schedule additional performance opportunities throughout the year.

- TENTATIVE Competition weekends:
  - February 18-20
  - March 11-13
  - April 22-24
- Competitions can span multiple days over a weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). All competitions are local (within the Chicagoland/suburban area).
- Spring Recital: May 2022
- Rotary GroveFest: June 22-26 2022 (one day only – TBD)
- Due to COVID-19, we will likely NOT attend a Fall Convention in 2021