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KICKS 2023-2024 Company Info & Agreement

Please consider the Terms of Agreement stated below for all dancers interested in participation in the KICKS Dance Company. Signed Company Agreements will be collected on Saturday, September 16th during our Team meet & greet and photo session. Listed here is ALL the information you will need to know and understand to have a great season including dates, times, costs, requirements and procedures. If you are interested in becoming a Company Dancer, but have any questions or concerns please contact us via email (kicksaod@gmail.com).

Company Auditions – Tuesday, August 29th

4:45pm-5:45pm Dancers ages 6-9 AND/OR Beginner/Intermediate or level (all last year's KICKS Fundamental C, Combo A and B, and Adv Petite levels). Please try to arrive 15 minutes early if possible (by 4:30pm) to register and warmup

6:00pm-7:00pm Dancers ages 9-13 AND/OR Intermediate or Intermediate/Advanced level (all last year's KICKS Select Junior and Adv Junior 1 and 2 levels). Please arrive 15 minutes early (by 5:45pm) to register and warmup.

7:15pm-8:45pm Dancers ages 13+ AND/OR Intermediate/Advanced or Advanced level (all last year's KICKS Select Teen, Adv Teen and Adv Senior levels). Please arrive 15 minutes early (by 7:00pm) to register and warmup.

Audition Process: Dancers will arrive 15 minutes prior to the audition times listed above. They must submit a completed and signed audition form at this time. Each dancer will receive a number to wear during the audition process. They will then spend some time on their own to stretch and warm up. Once the audition begins, dancers will learn a short, fun Ballet combination, Jazz combination, and Lyrical/Contemporary Combination that will each be performed in smaller groups. If time permits, they may be asked to Improv or Tap.

What to wear: All dancers should look presentable. It is recommended that they wear a leotard, tights, optional skirt for Ballet, optional shorts or leggings for Jazz and Lyrical, and hair pulled back into a bun. Dancers should bring all dance shoes that they currently own such as ballet slippers, jazz shoes, tap shoes, sneakers, etc. No need to buy something if you do not already own.

Audition Fee: There is a \$25 audition fee per dancer for all new or non-current company dancers. All current (2022-2023) Company Dancers do not need to pay the Audition Fee.

Company Philosophy

The KICKS Company Program is designed to provide dancers with opportunities beyond the four walls of the studio. We strive to inspire, motivate, challenge and enrich young lives. Company is for dancers who want to enhance their dance training through performances, competitions and conventions. However, competition is not about winning. It is about striving to be the best YOU can be by setting reasonable goals and improving yourself as an individual. As a pre-professional training program focused on dedication, demonstration, character-building and competition, participation in KICKS Company ensures life lessons that will carry dancers forward in every area of their life.

Yearly Transitions & Progress

Dancers will be placed in groups where WE, the studio, decide is the best fit. Divisions are designed by evaluating certain criteria (such as technique, movement quality, strength, performance skills, professionalism, attitude, work ethic, teamwork, maturity, and experience) that the studio feels will allow students to dance to the best of their ability. Students will progress at different rates, and they will have up and down moments throughout this journey. TRULY Loving dance and being enthusiastic about classes is how a student will thrive in this program. Our staff will evaluate each student throughout the year in classes and at performances and we will make a final decision after Company Auditions. With these factors in mind, placements will be determined on an annual basis. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. We ask that you trust our expertise and know that we have your child's best interest in mind!

2023-2024 Class Requirements

Junior 1 Company

- Minimum class requirements - Weekly Ballet, Jazz, Tap, and Lyrical classes plus Saturday company rehearsals.
- Optional classes that are highly recommended – Hip Hop, Musical Theater, and Acro

Junior 2 Company

- Minimum class requirements - Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Stretch & Tech, and Tap classes plus Saturday company rehearsals
- Optional classes that are highly recommended – Hip Hop, Musical Theater, and Acro

Teen 1 & 2 Company

- Minimum class requirements - Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Stretch & Tech, and Contemporary classes plus Saturday company rehearsals
- Optional classes that are highly recommended – Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theater, Pre-Pointe/Pointe, and Acro

Senior 1 & 2 Company

- Minimum class requirements - Weekday Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Stretch & Tech, and Contemporary classes plus Saturday company rehearsals
- Optional classes that are highly recommended – Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theater, Pre-Pointe/Pointe, and Acro

Attendance

All Company members are expected to maintain consistent attendance throughout the year. Regular attendance creates team spirit and success! Please be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Being part of Company will mean having to choose the team over other recreational opportunities. We understand that even with the best intentions, absences may occur; please adhere to these requirements:

- COMMUNICATE any and all delays, emergencies or absences as soon as possible. Please notify the office in writing of all known conflicts, or call the studio if your conflict is last minute.
- Never leave a class or rehearsal without being dismissed. This is for your safety and out of respect for your teacher and your peers.
- It is the student's responsibility to arrange to learn choreography from any missed class or rehearsal. Dancers are required to learn material that was missed by the next class and/or rehearsal.

- September through December dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 4 regular weekday classes and 3 weekend company classes/rehearsals.
- January through March dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 3 regular weekday classes and 2 weekend company classes and rehearsals.
- April through May dancers may miss, arrive late, or leave early a TOTAL MAX of 2 regular weekday classes and 2 weekend company classes and rehearsals.
- If you miss more than the max without extreme emergencies or injuries, you will be removed from your company routines.
- In the case of potential COVID-19 exposure you are expected to attend and fully participate in your classes (if physically well) via Zoom.
- If a student is recovering from an injury, they are expected to be fully participating in all classes for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to a performance, or they will be unable to participate, regardless of monies spent. If the student is sitting out for an extended period of time, choreography adjustments may be made. Once changes are made they may be permanent for the remainder of the season.
- If several rehearsals/classes are missed within a short time frame, prior to a performance, it will be at the studio's discretion to restrict participation in the scheduled event, regardless of monies spent. This may mean losing the opportunity to perform "specials", since group routines are expected to be the top priority. The team comes first!

Health

Please be certain you feel well when participating in classes or activities. Communicate all injuries with the studio and instructors. Do not knowingly bring any form of contagious illness into the studio. Dancers are expected to take care of themselves to ensure good physical and mental health. Dancers are expected to observe classes and rehearsals when recovering from any injury or illness if possible. If a dancer should need to sit out of class due to injury, they are expected to provide a doctor's note before returning to activity. Please communicate with the office ANY personal issue that we should be sensitive to while the dancer is in our care.

Dress Code

All dancers must follow the dress code. For all Ballet and Pointe Classes – dancers must wear a leotard, pink/salmon tights, ballet slippers and MMO d/or pointe shoes and hair in a proper bun. They have the option of wearing a ballet skirt as well. For all Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary Modern, Contemporary and Tap classes – dancers must wear form fitting dance attire (such as a fitted top or leotard and fitted shorts, capris or leggings) and must have their hair completely pulled back in either a ponytail or bun. No baggy clothing.

Respect, Responsibility & Teamwork

As a member of the KICKS Company program you represent yourself, your family, and the entire KICKS Academy of Dance community. We applaud you for conducting yourself in a mature, positive, and responsible manner!

- Students should come prepared, on time and properly dressed, for all classes and rehearsals. They will come to class with a positive attitude and be ready to give 100%.
- Dancers are expected to know where and when they need to be at all times, for all events, performances and competitions.
- The dancer agrees to maintain academic grades that are acceptable to their parent's standards.
- The dancer agrees to have proper hygiene and cleanliness at all times, and to abide by the dress code.
- Personal presentation is very important when working with a team. Please refrain from dying your hair unnatural colors, noticeable tattoos, unusual piercings, etc. You may be asked to cover these up if it creates a distraction or prevents us from looking like a unified team.

- The dancer agrees to refrain from illegal and non-prescription drugs, steroids, or any other substance used to increase physical development, as well as consumption of alcohol, and use of tobacco.
- The dancer agrees to keep their belongings organized and clean and to leave all areas in the same condition or better than they found it at classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Be cautious not to overwhelm the lobbies, and be sure to keep your voices down while waiting for your classes to begin, so as not to disturb another class in progress. Always show your support and courtesy to all KICKS dancers, not just your fellow Company members.
- If a company dancer is in a romantic relationship they agree to not have any public displays of affection at KICKS or at any KICKS outside event.
- Under no condition may a piece of competition choreography learned through KICKS be posted online. Under no condition may any photo or video be posted online that would associate KICKS to actions contrary to the standards outlined in this 'Company Agreement'. As a representative of KICKS and our Company Program, it is also unacceptable to participate in internet dialogue that involves anything inappropriate or negative towards any student, teacher or program of KICKS or any other dance school or event. Posting inappropriately on social media will result in dismissal from the Company program.
- Students will not communicate with staff members on personal phone lines or drive in their cars, unless coordinated through KICKS.
- All dancers will treat each other, their parents, their teachers and the KICKS staff with the utmost respect. Never talk or act negatively to anyone. We want to keep KICKS a positive and encouraging environment.

Student Drama Free Clause – If a student is involved in any unnecessary/inappropriate scene or conflict, it may result in a suspension or dismissal from the KICKS Dance Company. Any monies spent will not be refunded.

Parent Involvement

This program relies on a positive atmosphere to promote a positive learning environment for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the students and the KICKS staff makes an important impression on your child. You are a role model for your child on how to interact with others in a professional setting, and it is this mutual respect that provides the ultimate education. 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 this program's educational process. There must be a great level of trust between parents and staff members, as our over goal is to give dancers the best experience possible. Misunderstandings may happen and emotions sometimes run high. As a parent, you may disagree with a placement, training/choreographic procedure, etc. It would be best to wait 24 hours before contacting the studio owner, a staff member, or a parent to discuss any misunderstandings or concerns.

Parent Drama Free Clause – If a parent is involved in any unnecessary/inappropriate scene or conflict, it will result in a suspension or dismissal of your dancer & family from the KICKS Dance Company. Any monies spent will not be refunded.

Costs & Payments

There is no extra cost or company fee to be in the KICKS company. You are only required to pay for your quarterly tuition according to the number of total hours of classes per week (and registration fees if applicable) for all required classes (plus any optional classes). Saturday rehearsals are free for our mandatory routines. Company choreography is free for the mandatory routines. Dancers may have the option to add a couple optional routines and will be required to pay a choreography fee for those. Company dancers are also required to participate in our two performances (Dec and June) and pay the required performance fees for each,

Other fees required are event fees such as competitions, conventions, benefit performance fees, etc. We will email a google form for each event with a due date and total amount due. Approximate amounts due will be included in our events doc coming soon. All company payments must be made separately from studio payments.

Fees will be higher if forms are turned in after the due date. For the event fees, a 3% cc fee will be added to all event fees or you may pay via venmo, cash or check to avoid the cc fee.

Costumes & Company Products

In order to keep costs down, we order recital costumes for each class in October and use those costumes for our competition routines. We may also reuse costumes that we have in our inventory; we may reuse costumes from previous recitals/performances, and students may be required to donate their costumes from previous recitals or events for other students to wear; we may purchase new costumes; Students may wear the same costume, multiple times, over the span of several years. Students may also need to purchase small costume accessories or pieces such as dance shorts, tops, pants, etc

Students are required to purchase their own performance tights, earrings, hair accessories and make up. In addition, you should be prepared to occasionally purchase dance shoes specific to a certain routine, if they are different from those required for class. For example, you may need a certain color of sneakers for Hip Hop, or a pair of character shoes for a stylized Jazz piece, etc. Costumes for "specials" will be an additional cost. ALL Company members will be required to purchase a KICKS Company jacket. Purchase details for all additional items will be provided.

Please be conscientious about the care of your costumes, personal dance attire, props, and makeup. We look forward to our dancers looking polished and professional.

- The dancer/parent agrees to take responsibility for all costumes, tights, shoes while in their care whether the property of the dancer or of KICKS.
- The dancer/parent agrees to be prepared for all performances with all costume pieces and personal dance attire as required.
- The dancer/parent agrees to immediately report to the office any costume/prop that is damaged.
- Dancers are requested to wear their KICKS Company Jacket when attending outside conventions, competitions or events, and at all Competition award ceremonies.

Competitions and Performances

Company members should review the Company Calendar of Events document. This will include specifics about the performances, competitions, conventions, and team events that will be scheduled during the dance season. It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. With this in mind, Company members will be given many different outlets to learn, grow and show-off the results of their hard work.

- Competitions are often long, sometimes spanning for an entire weekend. It is important for all divisions to support each other, so dancers may be required to attend portions of the competition when they may not be scheduled for dances of their own. Families should keep entire competition weekends blocked out and will receive details about time requirements the week prior. In addition, all students are expected to remain for all award presentations.
- Parents and other family members are admitted into most competitions at no cost.
- Parents agree to never make an unnecessary or inappropriate scene or conflict. You are also a representative of the KICKS Academy of Dance community. Doing so could affect your child's ability to participate in the Company program, regardless of monies spent.
- KICKS staff will handle all communication with the directors of our outside activities. Dancers/parents will never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate, nor question the results of any competition.
- Dancers and parents agree to never speak negatively about teachers, dancers or parents from other schools.

- No dancer may compete in any competition as an independent entry. If you would like to enter an additional competition, please discuss this with KICKS staff, and we will get you registered!
- Entry fees must be collected, and registrations submitted, several months early to secure our space at events. Please recognize that once event registrations have been submitted, we are unable to get refunds; therefore we are unable to offer any refunds back to you.

Communication

We will send an email to every company parent and dancer every Monday to communicate things weekly. You MUST read these each week! All members will also receive a complete competition/workshop calendar outlining our schedule for the year, along with hotel and pricing specifics. Students and their parents will be expected to return all necessary paperwork, permission slips and fees on a timely basis. If a deadline is missed, a late fee may be assessed.

Social Media Conduct

All dancers need to be wise and smart in the way they act, talk and write on social media and texts. Everyone needs to be kind. If someone is not being a team player, not following the rules of the studio and/or not conducting their behavior in a kind way they will be removed from the Company. Posting inappropriately on social media will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the Company.

Company Buddies/Sisters/Brothers

Each dancer will be given a company buddy/sister/brother for the season as a fun way to connect with a special friend. This will make Saturday Company Classes and events super awesome!

Special Numbers

All dancers in the Company are eligible to do a special number (solo, duo, trio) to be performed at most competitions (but not all Conventions and NOT at the Recitals unless they are graduating seniors). Please refer to the Special Number Contract for specific details and pricing.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdkBRQDEH7rouS5TaTfNm4hx3RqmuBPiGEkiWXaH42KTjG6gg/viewform?usp=pp_url

Concerns

If you or your child ever have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment to speak directly to the studio director rather than discussing it publicly or with other Company families. We want this to be a positive experience for your child, and we take that responsibility very seriously!