



COMPETITION HANDBOOK

Parent & Student



2022-2023 SEASON
DIAMOND DANCE STUDIO
Willow River, MN

Competition Summer Classes

Required:

- Bootcamp Week – Class will be held twice during the week of June 20th.
 - Levels 1 & 2 will be 3 hours at a time.
 - Cost: \$60
 - Mini's will meet for 1 hour at a time.
 - Cost: \$30
 - Instructor: Madi
- Auditions – Week of July 11th.

Optional:

These classes are not required but they are highly recommended. One of the biggest critiques received from judges in the past is needing to work on proper technique.

- Competition Technique Session 3 – July
 - Instructor: Sara
- Competition Technique Session 4 – August
 - Instructor: Sara
- Tumbling Session 2 - June 27-30th
 - Instructor: Madi

Auditions

Requirements/Information

- Must be age 4 or older.
- Must have at least 1 year of recreational dance before joining a competition team.

What to Expect?

- During audition week, guest judges will observe technique, work ethic, class etiquette, muscle memory, etc.
- The dancers will learn combinations during the audition and will be looked at in a group setting as well as smaller groups (maybe 3-5 dancers at a time).
- Auditioning for competition does not mean you automatically are accepted into a competition team.
- Arrive for class prepared to dance wearing appropriate tight-fitting clothing, footwear, and hair tied away from face.

What is taken into consideration?

- Previous work ethic, attendance, accountability, etc. is taken into account.
- Performance abilities out on a competitive stage or recital stages.
- The amount of effort given through the entire audition process.
- Sportsmanship towards the other dancers also auditioning.
- Listening to judge critiques and suggestions.

How is the decision made?

- The guest judges will take notes on each dancer.

- After auditions are completed, the judges will discuss the results and determine each dancer's placement.
- The finalized results will be sent out via email.

Is there a cost to audition?

- Yes! There is a \$50 fee to audition for competition teams.

REQUIRED- SIGNED CONTRACT

Parent and Dancer will need to return the competition contract signed and dated by the first day of auditions. If the contract is not signed the dancer will not be considered for placement on a team.

Audition Form

Due on the first day of auditions

- **Convention: Celebration Talent in Duluth MN (Saturday, September 24th)**

At the convention dancers have the opportunity learn the following:

- Learn from professional dance instructors
 - Learn different styles of dance: jazz, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, ballet, modern, etc
 - Be challenged
- **Specialty groups**
 - *New this year! If there is interest, we will be adding mixed age small groups. This will give dancers of similar skill and dedication levels to dance together and learn from each other. Dances will be choreographed to blend together the different sizes, which allows for unique and fun routines! Special small groups will meet one hour per week and will learn one routine.
- **Production**
 - Production is a 6-8 minute dance that will be performed at the winter showcase, the spring recital and at one competition. Production requires 20 dancers, however we will proceed with less dancers, if needed. This year will be a musical theater number to Annie. We meet once a month on a Sunday at 4pm.
- **Nationals**
 - Nationals will be optional for our dancers. Nationals would be in June or July and will have a slightly elevated cost. We will only attend nationals if we can find an event in MN. Nationals is a fun way for your dancer to challenge themselves at the end of the year. At nationals, they offer everything a regional competition does plus classes taught by the judges, scavenger hunts, a pizza party, and a chance to win grand nationals on the last day of the competition.
- **Solos/Duets/Trios**
 - Required to be in a group as well in order to audition for one of these options.
 - Limited spots available, not everyone is guaranteed a slot.
 - Taught by either Madeline Jahnz or Sara Bitton
 - Practices are once a month.
 - Required to attend all competitions their groups attend.
 - Can do more than one solo routine. This may require more lessons.

Competition Information:

Competition commitment is June through May each year.

Competition schedules are sent out around 1 week before each competition. DO NOT email the studio asking for the schedule ahead of time as it is not available.

Competition Expectations:

- All students are expected to attend all classes.

- Students may have up to 4 unexcused absences classes between August-May. Illness related absences are counted as excused. Along with any other absences approved by the studio owner.
- Poor attendance can result in termination from competition.
- For dancers to hold themselves in a high regard with respect for others and personal property.

Teachers Assistant

If your dancer is interested in becoming a teacher assistant for our upcoming season, please email us at our DDS email (diamonddancemn@gmail.com). If approved, your dancer will receive a special DDS teacher assistant Hoodie, a special end of the year pin, and you will receive a discount of \$15 per month, per class. Regular attendance is required to receive all listed above.

Competition Levels:

- Mini Level – These dancers will dance 1 hour per week with their group.
- Pre-Comp/Sport & Activity Level – These dancers will dance 1-2 hours per week with their group.
- Competitive Level – These dancers will dance 3 hours a week with their group.

Extra Practice Options

- Private Lessons
 - o These lessons provide one-on-one time with an instructor to work on technique, tumbling and/or routines.
 - o Not guaranteed to be scheduled will depend on availability and studio time.
 - o Cost \$45/lesson
 - o Email to inquiry
- Open Studio Time *NEW*
 - o One hour time slots will be available to use the Willow River studio that can be signed up for on Sign-up genius.
 - o Once signed up you will receive a passcode pin for the studio
 - o Cost of open studio time is \$10/hr.

Sports and Activities Guidelines:

The sports and activities guidelines are in place to make sure that the commitment to dance is taken just as seriously as any other sport/activity. We want our dancers to be well rounded and to enjoy all the activities they are passionate about. The following guidelines are enforced for our competitive level of dance only and do not pertain to the pre comp/sport & activity level and mini level.

- Dancers are expected to arrive ready and on time when there are no activities/sports conflicts. Other sport practices will not be excused however, games are excused with the following exceptions:
 - o Dancers may not miss more than 2 weeks of practice in a row due to other sports/activities.
 - o Dancers are required to be at all practices 2 weeks prior to the first two competitions and 1 week after the first two competitions. This guideline is in place so if there are critiques that need to be addressed in the routines, all dancers are at classes to make those changes.
- If another activity/sport conflicts directly with dance practices the dancer/parents will work directly with the studio owner to come to a compromise that will work for both activities. Once the compromise is figured out an exception form will be signed by both the instructor, the dancer, and the parent so all parties state that they have agreed.

Competition Etiquette – Performance/Competitions

- Speak and behave respectfully. Please keep negative thoughts to yourself.
- Refrain from going into the dressing rooms to allow dancers to have their space unless they need assistance to get ready.
- Only move around the auditorium in between dances.
- Dancers are not allowed to have cell phones out on stage for the awards ceremonies.

- Dancers are required to attend their awards ceremony at each competition.
- All dancers and parents/guardians are required to watch all DDS performances at competition if they are in the building.
- No Photography is allowed at competitions; it can result in disqualification of the studio if caught.
- Students under the age of 16 must be supervised at each competition.
- If your dancer misses a performance they will be immediately cut from the team.

Competition Class Etiquette

- No Gum
- Hair up and out of face
- Dress appropriately
- Wear required shoes
- Respect fellow dancers and teacher
- Follow the studio rules

Student Injury Policy

If a student is injured, they must notify the instructor and studio owner. If students are out more than one week, a doctor's note is required. If your dancer has limited function, the studio owner should be notified by the parent. When students are injured they are still required to attend classes to participate as much as they are able or to observe the routines. They are also required to attend the scheduled performances and tuition will still be required each month. However, if a student's injury takes them out of competing for the season, there may be exceptions to this and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have concerns about this policy, please bring it up to the studio in a respectful manner so they can be discussed.

Tentative Performance Dates:

These dates are a general idea of the season and events are subjects to change. Competition dates will be confirmed after auditions.

- Winter Showcase: February 4th, 2023
- Comp Picture Day: January 15th, 2023
- Competitions: Not all groups will perform at all 4 scheduled competitions. Once Results of the auditions are posted the number of competitions for each group will be sent out.
 - o February – Tentative February 24-26
 - o March- Tentative March 17-19
 - o April – Tentative April 14-16 or April 21-24
 - o May – Tentative May 5-7
- Spring Recital: May 20th, 2023
- Nationals: June or July 2023

Competition good to know information:

- Some competitions run ahead which is why there are arrival times sent out. These arrival times are not suggestions and the dancers are expected to be there on time.
- Competitions can sometimes run Tuesday-Friday the week of competition so be prepared that you might have to take off work or get a hotel during the week.

Competition class attire options:

Clothing needs to be tight fitting. This helps the instructors to be able to view a dancer to determine correct hip, arm, and core technique to help prevent injuries.

- Leotard, shorts (tight fitting), tights
- Shorts (tight fitting), tights, bra top
- Leggings/capris, bra top

Competition Related Fees:

Payment Expectation:

- Payments will be paid on time due on the 15th of each month
- Payments can be made with debit/credit card, cash, or check.
- Any returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee.
- Payments can be set to be automatically charged on your account each month.
- Unpaid fees will result in the dancer being pulled from classes or performances.
- Individualized monthly tuition projection for the upcoming season can be created.

Competition Related Fees

- Competitions per routine, per competition:
 - Solo = \$115/dancer
 - Duet/Trio = \$70/dancer
 - Group - \$60/dancer
- Convention (Optional)
 - Cost: \$100
- Costume Fee
 - \$75 per costume
 - Production costume per costume = \$65
 - Earrings = \$10 (If required)
 - Rhinestone Hair Piece = \$10 (If required)
 - Rhinestone necklace - \$10 (If required)
- Competition Jacket – A new one does not need to be purchased each year.
 - Fee of around \$50
 - Order from the Northland Apparel Website.
- Media Fee
 - Up to \$30 (This will vary depending on competition)
 - Some competitions have a required media fee. This fee can vary in price. Last year, we had a competition with a media fee of \$30 per dancer. If there is a media fee that is required with registration, parents will be required to pay the media fee. More information will be included about this once we finalize the competition schedule.

Studio Related Fees

- Tuition Fees – Based on weekly hours per family
 - 6 classes/hours per month: \$165
 - 5 classes/hours per month: \$135
 - 4 classes/hours per month: \$120
 - 3 classes/hours per month: \$105
 - 2 classes/hours per month: \$80
 - 1 class/hour per month: \$50
 - Private lessons: \$45
 - Production Lessons: \$15/per lesson
- Registration Fee –
 - \$10 fee will be due in September and February
- Media Fee – covers the videography costs at each recital.
 - \$10 fee will be due in January and May
- Apparel/Footwear/Accessories Fee (If needed)

- o Tights = \$10
- o Leotards = \$15-\$30
- o Shoes = \$15-\$30
 - If shoes are falling apart, they need to be replaced or fixed (no matter what time of the year).

Extra Competition Costs

- Hotels
- Food/Gas
- Trophies or pins for Purchase (Optional)
- Competition Merchandise (Optional)
- Competition Photos (Optional)
- Improv (Optional)

Fee Payment Schedule

Fee schedule may be different depending on the number of competitions your dance is attending based on the results of the auditions.

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| <u>August 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #1 ● Convention Fee (If applicable) | <u>September 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #2 ● Fall Registration fee | <u>October 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Costumes Fee ● Accessories Fee | <u>November 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #3 | <u>December 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #4 |
| <u>January 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● National Competition (If applicable) ● Media Fee | <u>February 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Spring Registration Fee | <u>March 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees | <u>April 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees | <u>May 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Media Fee |

Parent Responsibility:

Communication:

- Our primary source of contact is email so please make sure to frequently check your email account.
- If your Dancer will miss or is late for class the studio must be notified via email, facebook message, or phone call.

Transportation:

Rides to and from classes, competitions, events and performances will be the parents' responsibility. Carpooling is encouraged.

Parent Etiquette – At the Studio

- Respect class time and refrain from entering any of the studios/classes unless invited in.
- Do not speak ill towards any student or DDS staff member.
- Do not gossip.
- Do not vent in the lobby area.
- Complaints and frustrations should be directed to us via email.

- Do not communicate with your child during class unless it's an emergency as this will cause a distraction for the class.
- Do not watch the class too often. The less you view the class the more progress you will see at the end of each session.
- Make sure to communicate with the studio. The studio cannot fix issues if we are unaware there are any.
- Please keep interactions with the instructor/owner to a minimum at the end of the night.

Support System

Your child has entered into a competitive program where hard work is required along with grace and responsibility.

- Let your dancer know how proud of them you are.
- Leave criticism up to the dance professionals
- Sit back and watch your child do what they love.
- Encourage your dancer.
- Believe in them on and off stage.

Contact Information

Diamond Dance Studio Contact Information:

Notice: Direct contact with instructors and staff via personal social media accounts and phone numbers will be strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances should you reach out to the studio staff other than to the contact information listed below. When you receive a response, it will be either from Madeline (owner) or Autumn (office manager). We thank you for respecting our personal lives and keeping it separate from the studio.

Email – diamonddancemn@gmail.com

Facebook – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

Instagram – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

TikTok – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

Studio Phone – 218-372-8427

Band App – More information will be sent out in August.