



Dear Parents of Students interested in the Dance Works Competition Company,

Thank you for your interest in the Competition Company for the 2019–2020 season. Membership in the Company requires a tremendous amount of time, hard work, and teamwork. This letter is intended to answer many of your questions and give you an idea of how much dedication is expected.

Explanation of Teams:

We have four competition teams: **Rubies** (approximate ages 7-9), **Emeralds** (approximate ages 10-11), **Sapphires** (approximate ages 12-14), and **Diamonds** (approximate ages 15 and up). There are times when there is some overlap of ages on teams. For example, an eleven-year-old may be a Sapphire, a 12 year-old may be an Emerald, etc. The teams typically compete in 5-6 competitions per season including our national competition in the summer. Some of the competitions are held in the local Nashville area, while some may require travel to places such as (but not limited to) Atlanta, Birmingham or Chattanooga. Our summer national competitions are typically further away in places such as Florida so, please be aware there is some travel involved. Each team will have specific dances for only their teams, but combine to perform our yearly production number. The Rubies will have 2-3 individual team dances plus the production piece. The Emeralds, Sapphires and Diamonds will have 3-4 individual team dances plus the production. In addition, there may be some optional dances which combine members of all the teams to form larger groups or lines, or some selected to make small groups. This will be determined after auditions. *New: In an attempt to keep travel costs down, we will not compete production or hip hop at all out of town competitions.

Auditions will take place July 22nd through July 31st (Prep Camp) and August 3rd (Judge's Evaluation)

- Dancers should audition in their age bracket as of **January 1st 2020**, however, **Dance Works staff may ask some dancers to audition in a group above their age.** You **do not** have to audition in the younger age bracket as well. Based on scores, judges and staff decisions, the dancers will be placed in the best-fitted team. There is also the possibility that some dancers may be placed in a younger age group if they are close to the age cut-off. Just because a dancer was on the team the previous year does not mean they automatically move up or make the team at all. Each dancer regardless of previous year team placement has to be able to execute the skills required of that team and match those skills or have the quick potential to match those of the other team members.

If you have any questions about this, please email brenda@danceworksinc.com or see Mrs. Brenda.

***Please be sure you are registered for the required Prep Camp through the office. July 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31.**

Throughout the required camp (July 22-July 31) dancers will learn the combinations and skills, and on Saturday, August 3rd, they will audition for judges. Make-up auditions can be made with advanced notice only and must be scheduled with the studio prior to August 1st. Dancers do not have to come with a prepared routine. However, at the end of each audition, each dancer will have the opportunity to show the judges 2 8-counts (16 counts) across the floor by themselves. This is their chance to show the judges their strongest point. It may be a tumbling pass. Only show a pass that you are fully capable of performing without a spot or assistant, a favorite leap or turn, or a combination of anything they would like to perform.

July 22 – July 31st (Prep Camp)

Ages 7-11	5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Ages 12-UP	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, Aug. 3rd (Auditions)

Ages 7-9	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Ages 10 11	11:45 AM – 1:30 PM
Ages 12-up	1:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Results will be posted on the website, www.danceworksinc.com or emailed by Sunday, August 4th.

*If you do not make the competition teams, please consider the recreational teams. Auditions for Rec-teams will be held August 17th. Please see additional handout for Rec-Team information.

Competition Parents Meeting: Tuesday, August 13th at 6:00 PM. This is for all those who make the team. This is to answer questions and to discuss the upcoming season and schedule.

What to wear for auditions: Basic leotards and tights are best. Proper dance shoes are a must. Dancers will need jazz shoes or foot mittens and ballet shoes for the audition. The auditions will be primarily jazz and ballet. Hair should be completely pulled back from the face. Boys should also have correct shoes, and it is preferable that you wear jazz pants and a non-baggy shirt.

Please arrive a few minutes earlier than your audition time. When you arrive, the dancers will be signed in and receive a number in which they will wear throughout the audition. If the age group preceding your audition runs over, please wait quietly out in the lobby and begin to stretch and warm up. We ask that when auditions are in progress, parents leave the building and pick up at end of auditions.

*During the auditions, dancers will be evaluated on technique, attitude, and most of all stage presence. For the younger dancers, attention span and behavior are also evaluated. The audition will include general ballet and jazz technique exercises, and a short lyrical and/or jazz combination which will be performed in small groups.

*Parents, please be aware of the obligations involved with the competition teams. Furthermore, please be sure that you and your child are willing to graciously accept the results of the audition. Please understand that I cannot and will not discuss the results or performance of other dancers with you.

• **Practice Times for the 2019-2020 Season: (Schedule is subject to slight change and will be finalized after auditions)**

*Competition teams will use the month of August for conditioning and technique. The following August schedule is for August 7th – August 21st. We will begin the regular class schedule the week of August 26th when all classes begin. There will be no dance Labor Day weekend.

<u>Schedule for August 7-August 21:</u>	<u>Rubies and Emeralds</u>	<u>Sapphires and Diamonds</u>
Mondays:	4:00 PM – 6:30 PM	6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Wednesdays:	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Below is the regular schedule for September through end of May.

*The below Saturday times are considered Schedule A, on occasion we will switch the times for Rubies/Emeralds and Sapphire/Diamonds which we call Schedule B. Extra rehearsals, when scheduled, are typically held on Saturdays after 2:30pm. You will receive advanced schedule.

New this season: All competition members are required to take at least one conditioning/flexibility and Acro class per week in addition to the classes listed below. Please see the previous studio schedule for times.

Rubies

<i>Mondays</i>	<i>4:00 PM – 5:15 PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
	<i>5:15 PM – 6:30 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>4:30 PM- 5:30 PM</i>	<i>(leaps and turns)</i>

<i>Saturdays*</i>	<i>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
	<i>10:00AM – 11:30 AM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>

Emeralds

<i>Mondays</i>	<i>4:00 PM – 5:15 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
	<i>5:15 PM – 6:30 PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>4:30 PM - 5:45 PM</i>	<i>(leaps and turns)</i>
<i>Saturdays*</i>	<i>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
	<i>10:00AM – 11:30 AM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>

Sapphires

<i>Mondays</i>	<i>6:30PM – 7:45PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
	<i>7:45 PM – 9:00 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>6:30 PM – 7:45 PM</i>	<i>(leaps and turns)</i>
<i>Saturdays*</i>	<i>11:30 AM – 1:00 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
	<i>1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>

Diamonds

<i>Mondays</i>	<i>6:30 PM – 7:45 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>
	<i>7:45 PM – 9:00 PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>7:45 PM—9:00 PM</i>	<i>(leaps and turns)</i>
<i>Saturdays*</i>	<i>11:30 AM – 1:00 PM</i>	<i>(ballet technique)</i>
	<i>1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</i>	<i>(choreography)</i>

Competition class will start Wednesday, August 7th. All regular classes begin the week of August 26th. No classes on Saturday, August 31st or Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day.

Contracts: In order to ensure that each company member is aware and fully committed to fulfilling their obligations, it is necessary that each member and parents sign a promissory contract. This contract will include a specific attendance, costume, payment, and behavioral policy. Please understand the necessity for such compliance if we hope to have a successful competition season.

Financial Obligations: Before auditioning please carefully consider the financial responsibilities involved. Besides your \$175 tuition for an **11month season**, there are additional fees such as costumes (can run approx \$200 per costume), competition fees (\$75 per dance each competition, approximately 6 competitions), jackets (for new members, approx. \$120), travel expenses (for out of town competitions or conventions) and much more. Sibling pairs on the competition team will receive 20% of the second dancers tuition. **If you still have an outstanding balance from last year or the summer session, this must be cleared up before your dancer will be allowed to audition this year.**

Solos and Duo/Trios: These will be selected by the faculty. Please let us know if you are interested in doing any of these extra numbers by Monday, August 26th. **You must inform us at auditions if you are interested in doing solos. Solos will be determined at audition based on your audition performance.** There will be a separate category for judging to determine solos. Seniors are allowed solos without further audition. Remember there are many additional costs with solos/duo/trios. **If a soloist is missing technique classes and having attendance issues, that solo and/or duo-trio will not be registered for the next competition or furthermore until issue is resolved.** Please remember that additional fees and times are required of solos/duos/trios.

*** HIGH-SCORE SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Highest scoring dancers for each team will receive a \$200 scholarship towards their Dance Work's account.

Thanks again for your interest in the Dance Works Competition Company. Good luck to everyone. If competition does not work out for your child, remember that there are other classes to enjoy, and you may always try again next year. I am looking forward to seeing your dancer at auditions with big smiles and a positive attitude.

***Sincerely,
Brenda Brunelle
Dance Works***

brenda@danceworksinc.com