

HOTVDA COMPETITION TEAM Q&A

1. Who can join the competitive team?

- a. Any dancer interested in becoming part of a competitive dance team environment may audition. Classes are geared towards the serious dancer who is committed to practicing and improving their technique. We are looking for dancers with potential for growth, those who are enthusiastic and passionate about dance and those who are willing to work hard and practice to get great results. Dancers must have positive attitudes, be respectful all off staff and dancers and be supportive of the other dancers in the competitive program. All dancers are expected to adhere to the Team Contract throughout the dance season.

2. What are “auditions” and when are they held?

- a. Due to the increased interest in competitive classes, we feel auditions are the best way to handle class placement for all dancers. Dancers will be grouped based on ability shown at auditions along with attitude, effort and growth we’ve seen over the past year for returning members. Class placement will be determined by instructors and decisions will be final!
- b. **Auditions will be held at HOTVDA the week of May 22nd**. Dance clinics will be held on Monday and Tuesday evening for dancers to learn a short routine and practice skills they will be asked to demonstrate. Auditions will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. **Tryout results will be emailed and posted on the studio website on June 7th**.
- c. **CONTRACTS:** Once audition results are released, dancers/parents will have to sign and return our team contract, along with a \$100 deposit, to confirm they accept the classes they’ve been placed in. **CONTRACTS AND DEPOSITS WILL BE DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH**. Failure to return the contact and deposit by the deadline will result in your dancer(s) not being placed in our competitive program. This \$100 deposit will go towards dancer’s accounts at the end of our dance season, unless the team contract has been breached. In that case, the \$100 DOES NOT go towards the balance of the account and will be used for the added expenses we incur for having to re-choreograph or re-stage routines and added administrative expenses.

3. Will everyone trying out make the competitive team?

- a. While we cannot guarantee that everyone trying out will make the competitive team, our goal is to include as many students as possible. Instructors will work hard to form groups based on ability and technique shown by dancers. Solo, duo and trio opportunities will be given to dancers that have shown exceptional commitment and technique. Anyone who may not make the team this year is encouraged to enroll in our summer and recreational program to continue to improve their dance technique and then tryout again next year.

4. When do competition classes meet?

- a. Competition classes will be held at the dance studio on Sunday’s. Solos, duets or trios may have classes on week nights but that will dependent on dancer/teacher/studio availability. **Any dancers auditioning for a solo, duo or trio must list weekday availability for class times!** We will distribute a detailed Fall class schedule in June. Classes start the week of September 10th and run through early-mid May when we have our annual recital.

5. What is the time commitment?

- a. All solos meet for 30 minutes **every other week**. Duets and trios meet for 30 minutes and groups meet for 45 minutes each week. Ballet is held for one hour every week and Strength and Conditioning is held 30 minutes each week. Our attendance policy will be strictly enforced for all classes! **Dancers are only allowed four absences from their class over the course of the dance season. Dancers CANNOT MISS practice in the week leading up to a competition!** Any attendance issues will be handled by Kim and the instructors and may result in removal from the program!
- b. Any dancer involved in our competitive program is **REQUIRED** to take a weekly ballet class (one hour in length) and strength and conditioning class (30 minutes in length) (attendance policy applies to these classes as well!). There will be a beginner, intermediate and an advanced level class. These will be scheduled on Sunday’s and I will assign dancers to the appropriate level classes.

- c. Any dancer on the HOTVDA competitive team will also be **REQUIRED** to enroll in our summer program. It's important that dancers keep working to improve their dance skills over summer. We are only setting ourselves further behind if we take 3 ½ months off dance with out practice, conditioning and stretching.

6. When do dancers attend their first competition?

- a. The competitive season will begin in early Spring for our dancers. Our first competition will most likely be held in mid-March but that will be confirmed once competitions start releasing their 2018 schedules. Competitions are typically held March – May.

7. How many competitions do we attend?

- a. This coming dance season we will attend 4 mandatory regional competitions. The dates will be communicated with parents in September. **Please plan accordingly as all dancers must attend these competitions – no exceptions!**
- b. We will discuss the possibility of attending a national level competition in fall. National competitions take place in June or July and are held in Wisconsin Dells.

8. Where are the competitions held?

- a. The regional competitions could be held in the following cities: Green Bay, Appleton, Milwaukee, Wausau, Madison, or Wisconsin Dells. Again, once we have the 2018 schedules from the competitions, we will select the ones we are attending and let all families know in September. Overnight hotel stays may be required for the out of town competitions depending on the schedules.

9. What is the cost?

- a. Audition Fee
 - i. \$5 per dancer: Due when competitive registration form is turned in on Monday, May 22nd.
- b. Registration Fee
 - i. \$25 per dancer in the competitive program. For anyone registering in the recreational program for fall, that registration fee is a separate \$25 charge.
- c. Class fees for competitive classes are as follows.
 - i. Solos = \$385 **** CLASSES MEET FOR 30 MINUTES EVERY OTHER WEEK****
 - ii. Duets = \$350 **** CLASSES MEET FOR 30 MINUTES EVERY WEEK****
 - iii. Trios = \$300 **** CLASSES MEET FOR 30 MINUTES EVERY WEEK****
 - iv. All Groups = \$290 **** CLASSES MEET FOR 45 MINUTES EVERY WEEK****
 - v. Ballet & Strength/Conditioning = \$250 **** BALLET MEETS 1 HOUR PER WEEK WHILE STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING MEETING FOR 30 MINUTES PER WEEK****
- d. Costume fees are as follows:
 - i. Small & Medium Child = \$70
 - ii. Large Child through Large Adult = \$75
 - iii. X-Large Adult = \$85
 - iv. XX-Large Adult = \$90
 - v. Add \$5 for each size over an XX-Large Adult
- e. Accessories
 - i. Makeup = \$35 (approximate cost)
 - ii. Tights = \$7-\$13 per pair depending on size and style
 - iii. Rhinestone choker = \$9
 - iv. Rhinestone earrings = \$5
 - v. Rhinestone barrette = \$8

*** Not all dancers may need these accessories depending on costume, etc. This will be communicated to parents in fall once costumes have been chosen.

- f. Competition entrance fees are as follows. **These fees are per competition.**
- i. Solos = \$120/dancer
 - ii. Duets = \$75/dancer
 - iii. Trios = \$65/dancer
 - iv. Small Group = \$55/dancer
 - v. Large Group = \$55/dancer
 - vi. Media Fee = \$22 ****only if we attend Groove Dance Competition****
- g. Any dancer on the competitive team must purchase a HOTVDA dance warm up OR jacket to be worn at all competitions. ****The price below is an estimate. Costs may be slightly higher when Fall catalogs are released****
- i. Jacket Only
 1. \$85 – name printed on jacket
- h. Dancers will also need to purchase the appropriate shoes for their classes. Shoes prices range from \$25-\$65 depending on style. Shoe needs will be communicated in Fall.

10. Are there fundraising opportunities to offset costs?

- a. Yes, there are a few fundraising opportunities offered to all dance families throughout the year.
 - i. Vande Walle Candy Bars – beginning in September, we will do monthly candy bar orders. Candy bars sell for \$1 each. There are 40 bars per box and the total profit per box is \$15.
 - ii. Kwik Trip Cards – Beginning in June, we will do monthly Kwik Trip gift card orders. These gift cards are good for in store purchases as well as gas. There is a 5% profit on all gift cards sold.

**** I am open to other fundraising ideas but need parent volunteers to help organize and run new fundraising opportunities. Please see Kim if you have ideas and are willing to help out ****

FOR ANYONE MAKING THE 2016-2017 HOTVDA COMPETITION TEAM, THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY TEAM MEETING AT THE KAUKANA MOOSE LODGE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd @ 6 PM. AT THIS MEETING WE WILL DISTRIBUTE OUR YEARLY CALENDAR, COMPETITION HANDBOOK AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING DANCE SEASON.

If you have any further questions regarding our competitive program, please email Kim Dercks at kimdercks@gmail.com