

*PDT Dance Arts*

# Competition Team Members

2024-2025 Season

## Competition Team Information



### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the 2024-2025 season of the PDT Dance Arts Competition Team! In this packet you will find all of the information necessary for a successful season with the team. Please make sure you read and understand the following so you and your child know all expectations prior to signing up for a position on the team.

We are excited to work with you! Let's get started!



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## Competition Team Levels

### Ambassador

Team Directors will choose 2 Ambassador members. These students will be hand selected by the Team Directors to act as the leader of each location's portion of the team. They will host a group chat to keep everyone informed, keep up with social media, helping Elite level students with social media posting, act as the role model for all other team members, and display exemplary behavior as that role model. The ambassadors will work together to bring the campuses together and keep a close bond between the studios. The ambassadors will work closely with each other, the PTO (to plan events and other fun things for the team), the team directors and the studio director keeping track of everything team related and providing communications and maintaining high morale throughout the competition team. Ambassador applications will be available prior to auditions. Ambassador applicants will be interviewed at the end of the audition process for instructors to evaluate the best candidates for the Ambassador program. Ambassadors will have this leadership position to put on their resumes and college applications, as well as the priceless life skills learned through working the program.

#### The Ambassador Requirements:

- Must be an Elite or Excelled team member.
- Must have exemplary attendance & dedication to their craft.
- Must always follow all PDT Policies and be able to hold others accountable.
- Must be communicative with the Team Directors, the PTO and the Studio Director.

*The ambassador position can be replaced at any time if the chosen ambassadors fail to follow through with responsibilities.*

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### Elite Team Member Ages 11-19

The Elite Team Members will be hand selected by the instructors after auditions have closed. These students show an elite level of dedication to their training, the studio and their team. They will show leadership qualities and stand as role models to all underclassmen. Elite Team Members will show support for the Studio, their Team and all families involved. Dancers considered for the Elite Team will be interviewed at the end of the audition process to ensure they are a good fit for the program. Elite



team members will work closely with the Ambassadors to maintain positive morale throughout the team, aid in social media management and provide ideas for events & activities.

Elite team members will have this level of leadership to put on college applications & resumes, as well as the priceless life skills acquired through this program. If an Elite member is not capable of maintaining the high level of expectation involved, they will be demoted to the Excelled or Apprentice programs without refund.

### **Elite Level Requirements**

#### **Class Training**

Elite level members will take a minimum of 8 classes per week with the opportunity to take additional classes to increase their technical expertise at no additional cost..

- 2 Ballet & Pointe Classes (Ballet with pointe 2x per week)
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Jazz Class
- 1 Contemporary Class
- 1 Modern
- 1 Skill Training
- 1 Jazz Funk or HipHop

#### **Competitions & Conventions**

Elite members will be required to attend 3 mandatory conventions. One convention will include competing with competition group dances that consist of Elite & Excelled team members.

- 4 Mandatory Competitions - 3 competitions + 1 Competition/Convention
- 3 Mandatory Conventions
  - Summer Intensive
  - Weekend Class Convention
  - Spring Convention with Competition

#### **Master Classes**

Elite Team Members will be required to attend all additional master classes through-out the season. The PTO will be fundraising to help assist with the costs for these opportunities.

#### **Performances**

The performances this season will include

- “The Nutcracker” at the Eisemann Theatre November 18-23, 2024.
- “Body Language 2025” Date & Venue TBA



If an Elite member is unable to perform at competition, in “The Nutcracker”, or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

## **Excelled Team Member** Ages 9-19

Excelled Team Members will display an excelled level of dedication to their training and the team. With the goal of becoming an Elite Team member in the future, these dancers will practice & learn accountability, strength of character and what it means to be a role model in addition to improving on their technical skills and movement quality. They will look to their upperclassmen to model positive growth & behavior practices and be a positive role model for underclassmen. If a student in the Excelled program is showing exponential progress, exemplary behavior & attendance, they have potential to be promoted to the Elite program at mid-term of the season. Likewise, if they are not capable of maintaining the Excelled level of expectations, they can be demoted to the Apprentice program at any time throughout the season.

### **Excelled Team Member Requirements**

#### **Class Training**

Excelled level members will take a minimum of 8 classes per week with the opportunity to take additional classes to increase their technical expertise at no additional cost.

- 2 Ballet & Pointe Classes (Ballet with pointe 2x per week)
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Jazz Class
- 1 Contemporary Class
- 1 Modern Class
- 1 Jazz Funk or HipHop Class
- 1 Skill Training Class

#### **Competitions & Conventions**

Excelled level members will be required to attend:

- 3 mandatory competitions & 1 Convention/Competition
- 3 mandatory conventions
  - Summer Intensive
  - Weekend Class Convention
  - Spring Convention with Competition



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### Master Classes

Excelled Team Members will be required to attend all additional master classes through-out the season. The PTO will be fundraising to help assist with the costs for these opportunities.

### Performances

The performances this season will include

- “The Nutcracker” at the Eisemann Theatre November 18-23, 2024.
- “Body Language 2025” Date & Venue TBA

Excelled level members will be required to perform in “The Nutcracker” and the “Body Language” Performance at the end of the season. If an Excelled member is unable to perform at competition, in “The Nutcracker” or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

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### Apprentice Team Member Ages 7-19

Apprentice Team Members will have a concentration of dedication to their training and learning what it takes to progress as a dancer and team member. With the goal of becoming an Excelled Team member in the future, these dancers will learn & practice teamwork, goal setting, strength of character and strong work ethic, in addition to improving on their technical skills and movement quality. These members should show a hunger to learn and should improve exponentially throughout the season. If a student in the Apprentice program is showing increased progress, exemplary behavior & attendance, they have potential to be promoted to the Excelled program at mid-term of the season. Likewise, if they are not capable of maintaining the Apprentice level of expectations, they will be replaced in the choreography and unable to participate in competition.

### Class Training

Apprentice level members will take a minimum of 7 classes per week with the opportunity to take additional classes to increase their technical expertise.

- 2 Ballet & Pre-Pointe/Pointe Classes (Ballet with pre-pointe 2x per week)
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Jazz Class
- 1 Contemporary Class
- 1 HipHop or Jazz Funk Class
- 1 Skill Training



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### Competitions & Conventions

Apprentice Team members will be required to attend:

- 3 mandatory competitions
- 2 mandatory conventions
  - Summer Intensive
  - Weekend Convention

### Master Classes

Apprentice Team Members will be required to attend all additional master classes through-out the season. The PTO will be fundraising to help assist with the costs for these opportunities.

### Performances

The performances this season will include

- “The Nutcracker” at the Eisemann Theatre November 18-23, 2024.
- “Body Language 2025” Date & Venue TBA

Apprentice Team members will be required to perform in “The Nutcracker” and the “Body Language” Performance at the end of the season. If an apprentice member is unable to perform at competition, in “The Nutcracker” or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

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## Novice Team Members - Ages 7-19

Novice Competition Team Members are in their beginning year of competitive dance. They will be learning teamwork, goal setting, strength of character and what it takes to achieve goals through this program. In addition to this, they will be building a strong technical foundation to increase their skills and gain the necessary tools to move into the Apprentice level.

### Class Requirements

Novice Members will be in the Competition Team Training program, and required to take 7 classes per week.

- 2 Ballet with Pre-Pointe Classes (Ballet with pre-pointe 2x per week)
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Jazz Class
- 1 Contemporary Class

## Competition Team 2024-2025 Season



- 1 HipHop or Jazz Funk Class
- 1 Skill Training

### Competitions & Conventions

Novice Team Members will be required to attend:

- 3 mandatory competitions
- Required 2 Mandatory Conventions.
  - Summer Intensive
  - 1 Fall Convention

### Performances

The performances this season will include

- “The Nutcracker” at the Eisemann Theatre November 18-23, 2024.
- “Body Language 2025” Date & Venue TBA

Novice team members will be required to perform in “The Nutcracker” and the “Body Language” Performance at the end of the season. If a novice team member is unable to perform at competition, in “The Nutcracker” or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

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## Petite Team Members - Ages 5-7

Petite Competition Team Members are our tiniest dancers in their beginning year of competitive dance. They will be learning teamwork, goal setting, strength of character and what it takes to achieve goals through this program. In addition to this, they will be building a strong technical foundation to increase their skills and gain the necessary tools to move into the Apprentice level.

### Class Requirements

Petite Members will be required to be enrolled in the Foundations II training program. Petite members have the option of upgrading to higher training programs should they want to take additional classes to add to their training.

- 1 Ballet Classes
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Jazz Class





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### Competitions & Conventions

Petite Team Members will be required to attend:

- 2 mandatory competitions

### Performances

The performances this season will include

- “The Nutcracker” at the Eisemann Theatre November 18-23, 2024.
- “Body Language 2025” Date & Venue TBA

Petite team members will be required to perform in “The Nutcracker” and the “Body Language” Performance at the end of the season. If a petite member is unable to perform at competition, in “The Nutcracker” or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

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### HipHop Crew Team Members - Ages 5-19

HipHop Crew members will follow all policies set forth as Competition team members. They will display dedication to their training and their team. They will learn and promote strength of character, teamwork, and goal setting in addition to training in their technical skills.

### Class Requirements

HipHop Crew members will be in the Foundations II program, and required to take 3 classes per week. Additional classes will move them up into the Excelled training programs and are *strongly* encouraged to promote progression and team building skills.

- 1 HipHop Technique classes
- 1 Acro Class
- 1 Jazz Funk Class

### Competitions & Conventions

HipHop Crew members will be required to attend:

- 3 Mandatory Competitions
- 1 Mandatory Weekend Convention



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### **Performances**

HipHop Crew Team members will not be required to perform in “The Nutcracker” but may do so if he/she takes 2 ballet classes in addition to the HipHop Crew Required classes. HipHop Crew members will need to pay the performance fee for Nutcracker, as this is optional and not included in your membership fee. HipHop Crew members will be required to perform in the “Body Language” Performance at the end of the season. If a HipHop Crew member is unable to perform at competition or “Body Language” he/she will be removed from the competition team.

### **Master Classes**

HipHop Crew Team Members will be required to attend additional HipHop master classes through-out the season. The PTO will be fundraising to help assist with the costs for these opportunities.



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## Class Participation & Attendance

All team members are required to attend their mandatory classes every week. This is to ensure all dancers maintain and progress with:

- Strength
- Flexibility
- Technical expertise
- Movement quality
- Choreography knowledge
- Physical & mental skills necessary to be a competitive dancer.

This is so they are able to safely and confidently execute the choreography for competition.

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### Absence Reports & Make Up Classes

If your child has to miss class for ANY REASON, you will need to fill out an absence report on your DSP portal. Injuries and illnesses will require a doctor's note. If a dancer is injured, the dancer is expected to attend & observe ALL classes and rehearsals to take notes and continue progression.

All missed classes will need to be made up in an equivalent class. If your child is taking more classes than the required classes in their level, they will acquire make up classes prior to absences.

Dancers may take any class of a lower level as make up classes, other equivalent classes are options as well.

### Class suggestions for make up classes:

- Missed 1 Ballet class = 1 Ballet class of a lower level
- Missed 1 Jazz Class = 1 Jazz Funk class
- Missed 1 Tap Class = 1 Tap class of a lower level
- Missed 1 Contemporary Class = 1 Modern Class
- Missed 1 HipHop, Acro, Jazz Funk, Pointe, Modern Classes = Any of these can make up for the others.

Frequent class absences will result in the following order:

1. Removal of solos & duet/trios.
2. Removal from group choreography.
3. Removal from the team.



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### Rehearsal Attendance

Students are given 4 rehearsal absences for the season. These absences can be used for any event, (illness, personal day, vacation, etc.) There are no excused or unexcused absences. You may use your 4 absences as you see fit.

- 5th absence - Student will pay the instructor & other dancers in the piece for a 30 minute additional rehearsal at the Instructor's private lesson rate plus \$10 per dancer in the piece.
- 6th absence - Student will be removed from the choreography and replaced with an understudy *without refund*. Additional details on page 32.

### Convention Attendance

Students must attend all mandatory conventions. These are an important part of the growth of a dancer. Convention experience is an essential part of education & training to benefit your child and his/her team. Failure to attend mandatory conventions will result the following consequences:

- 1st missed convention (*Including all days of every convention*) - Solo privileges will be revoked. Dancer will no longer be permitted to perform his/her solo at any mandatory or optional competitions.
- 2nd missed convention (*Including all days of every convention*) - Dancer will be removed from the competition team.

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## Competition & Performance Dance Pieces

### Casting

Competition Dance pieces are cast by the PDT instructors. Parents are not permitted to choose which pieces their child participates in. Parents are permitted to limit the number of dance pieces their child participates in for budgeting purposes. This will need to be noted on your agreement form.

Performance casting is done by the instructors. Parents are not permitted to choose which parts their child will be cast in for the Holiday Performance. Parents are permitted to limit the number of costumes necessary for their child for budgeting purposes. Parents are permitted to indicate whether the child has a heavy schedule in the fall. These will need to be noted on your agreement form.



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## Choreography

Choreography will be created by PDT instructors or instructors directly hired by PDT Dance Arts with a contract to provide choreography. Outside choreography will not be performed by PDT Dance Arts Competitive Team members, or competed under PDT Dance Arts at competitions. This is for the moral & ethical protection of external choreographers and to promote ethical business practices. There are copyright, intellectual property ethics and other factors that go into hiring choreographers that require a contractual agreement. If you would like us to consider hiring an outside choreographer, you will need to speak with Miss Katie, Miss Lindsey or Miss Stephanie for direction on what this will entail. At PDT Dance Arts we believe in ethical business practices and appreciate your understanding on this.

Likewise, Choreography provided for your dancer by a PDT Instructor is owned as intellectual property by that instructor under PDT Dance Arts. Anytime this choreography is performed, permission must be granted by that instructor and credit must be given to the instructor and performed under PDT Dance Arts. Our quality instructors and the creativity they offer each piece of choreography should be highly respected. The fee you pay for their service is to borrow the creative intellectual property, and receive their time, critiques & the expertise they have to offer.

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## Rehearsals

**Competition Rehearsals:** Rehearsals are MANDATORY. If your child is chosen to participate in a specific dance piece, he/she is required to attend ALL rehearsals for that piece. When scheduling is released, if your child is unable to attend rehearsals for that piece, please notify us so we can remove or replace your child in that piece. A student is permitted no more than **4 absences per year** for a given rehearsal. *(See Rehearsal Attendance details above.)*

**Performance Rehearsals:** Rehearsals for the holiday performance are MANDATORY. If your child has a difficult schedule in the fall, please note that in your agreement form so that we are able to give them a part in the Holiday performance that does not require heavy rehearsal time or responsibility to other dancers.

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## Performances

All performances are MANDATORY. This includes all competitions, competitions with conventions, “The Nutcracker” and “Body Language 2025”. Dates for all of these items will be presented no later than September 1, 2024. If you discover an unresolvable conflict with these dates, please notify us so we can remove your child from the competition team. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this.



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## Solo, Duet & Trio Performances

### Solos

Elite Team Members will be given priority for Solo performances, followed by Excelled Team Members, and then Apprentice Members. This will be on a first come, first serve / team level basis. To reserve your solo time slot, you will need to fill in your agreement form. Solos are a privilege and will be scheduled based on available studio time, instructor availability and dedication of the student.

#### To compete a solo, members must:

- Take a 30 minute private lesson for each solo.
- Attend ALL mandatory classes & rehearsals with exemplary attendance.
- Attend ALL mandatory conventions, master classes, performances & competitions.
- Maintain a positive & humble attitude, be a strong supporter of the team and demonstrate eagerness & hunger to learn and grow.
- Demonstrate a strong dedication to improvement in technical and performance skills

#### Solo privileges may be revoked if:

- The student is exhibiting negative behavior (including but not limited to gossiping, inflated ego, putting others down, etc.)
- The student is demonstrating lack of dedication to the team
- The student exceeds the number of permitted absences for classes & rehearsals.
- There is failure of payment to the instructor for private lessons.
- There is failure to attend reserved private lessons.
- There is failure to attend mandatory competitions, conventions and/or events supporting the dancers training and the competition team.

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### Duets & Trios

If your child would like to do a duet or a trio with another dancer, please indicate so on your contract form. All parties must agree to the commitment of the Duet/Trio, including all fees, rehearsal & lesson times presented.

#### To compete a Duet or Trio, members must:

- Take a 30 minute private lesson for each duet/trio.
- Attend ALL mandatory classes & rehearsals with exemplary attendance.
- Attend ALL mandatory conventions, master classes, performances & competitions.



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- Maintain a positive & humble attitude, be a strong supporter of the team and demonstrate eagerness & hunger to learn and grow.
  - Demonstrate a strong dedication to improvement in technical and performance skills

### **Duet/Trio privileges may be revoked if:**

- The student is exhibiting negative behavior (including but not limited to gossiping, inflated ego, putting others down, etc.)
- The student is demonstrating lack of dedication to the dance partners and/or the team
- The student exceeds the number of permitted absences for classes & rehearsals.
- There is failure of payment for the 30 minute duet/trio choreography and/or private lesson time.
- There is failure to attend duet/trio rehearsal private lessons.
- There is failure to attend mandatory competitions, conventions and/or events supporting the dancers training and the competition team.

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### **Optional Competitions & Conventions**

Optional Competitions are open to solos, duets, trios and small groups. All members of the dance must be in agreement to register for optional competitions/conventions. An individual sign up for optional competitions/conventions will be available in August of 2023.

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## **Private Lessons - Technique**

Private lessons may be requested to improve technical skills. A dancer does not have to perform a solo to receive a private lesson for technique. Priority for technique private lessons will be awarded to Novice & Apprentice members first, followed by Excelled and Elite members. To request a technique private lesson you will need to select that on your agreement form.

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## **Performances**

### **Holiday Performance**

- **What:** The Nutcracker
- **When:** November 18-22
- **Where:** The Eisemann Bank of America Theatre
- **Performance Fees:** Performance fees are included in your membership.



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- **Costumes:** Costumes will be billed separately. Parents may select the number of costumes their child will be permitted to have for “The Nutcracker” on their contract form.
  - **Tickets:** Tickets will be on sale via the Eisemann Bank of America Theatre.
  - **Participation:** Participation for Ambassador, Elite, Excelled & Apprentice Competition Team dancers is MANDATORY. Parents may limit participation for budgeting purposes and/or scheduling conflicts.
    - HipHop Crew dancers may participate in “The Nutcracker” if they take 2 ballet classes per week in addition to their required classes.

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## Body Language 2025

- **What:** Our end of the year showcase of all of our competition & recreational group dances.
- **When:** End of May/Beginning of June 2025 depending on venue availability.
- **Where:** The Eisemann Bank of America Theatre or The Courtyard Theatre depending on venue availability.
- **Performance Fees:** Performance fees are included in your membership.
- **Costumes:** All costumes will be the competition dance costumes from the season. Novice and HipHop Crew members may elect to perform with recreational classes they take for an additional costume fee.
- **Tickets:** Tickets will be on sale via the venue we are able to obtain for those dates.
- **Participation:** Participation for all competitive dancers is MANDATORY.

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## PDT Dance Arts Representation

As members of the PDT Dance Arts Competition Team, your child will be representing PDT Dance Arts at all times. We are proud of our Team Members, we expect our Team Members and their parents to be proud of each other, their instructors, their training and themselves. You are PDT Dance Arts.

### Attire

All PDT Team members are required to:

- Follow dress code at all times while in class & at events. Dress the part - Dance the part. If your child is dressed inappropriately for class, they will not work to their fullest potential.
  - For conventions team members may dress in other dance wear, as long as they dress respectfully and are comfortable dancing in their attire.





- Students who do not follow dress code for class will be asked to observe class and will receive an absence for that class.
- Wear the appropriate shoes and hairstyles for class. This is not only for their look, but for their safety.
- Wear their Team Jacket at competitions when not on stage.
- Wear their Team Jacket at conventions when not in class.

There is a plethora of team dancewear and warm-ups on our dress code page of the website. [www.pdtdancearts.com/dresscode](http://www.pdtdancearts.com/dresscode). There are also fun items for parents and grandparents! We strongly encourage our parents to get in on the Team spirit & show support for your child when we are at competitions and conventions.

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### Social Media

We encourage parents & students to like PDT Dance Arts on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, and download the PDT app.

Please share anything and everything PDT releases on social media. This is the best way you can show you are proud of your dancer and his/her teammates. PDT will never post last names and will never post anything with a student that has elected NOT to allow photos.

Please do not post videos of class combinations without the instructor's permission. This is for the protection of the students, the choreography, intellectual property rights, and music rights. If the instructor has given permission students may post videos of themselves doing the combinations and fun things they have learned in class!

Do NOT take photos or videos of dancers that are not your own. This is for the safety and privacy of our children and can result in legal actions being taken.

Do NOT post photos or videos of children that are not your own without consent. This is for the safety and privacy of our children as well as copyright & personal rights laws and can result in legal actions being taken.

PDT Dancers and Parents are held to a very high standard of respect and class both in the studio and out. Our Ambassadors and Elite team members will be monitoring social media for any lude behavior or misconduct on social media posts. This includes but is not limited to:

- Use of drugs, alcohol, or vaping
- Inappropriate sexual behavior
- Foul language
- Negative posts about PDT team members, PDT students, staff, families and/or PDT Dance Arts



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- Violence
  - Illegal activities

If any of these are brought to our attention, parents will be notified and immediate appropriate action will be taken.

Support for PDT on social media is the best way you can display your team spirit. Congratulating your friends, your child's friends, and the instructors on their hard work not only encourages them to keep up their great work, but also unites everyone as a team. We love to support our students in all of their accomplishments, we ask that you join us in our pride for these dancers in their hard work and achievements!

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## Parent Teacher Organization

The Parent-Teacher Organization is comprised of the parents of our dancers. We would like to help parents get involved by including you in organization of events, master classes, fundraising & more! The PTO tasks will include all parents of competition team members, but participation in meetings is voluntary. We recommend attendance to meetings so you know expectations of your responsibilities at events, competitions and fundraising.

### The PTO will assist with:

- Organization of Events
  - Team Night
  - Lock In
  - Banquet
  - Parades & community festivals
  - Performance Opportunities
  - Master Classes
- Assistance with building & transporting of props
- Bringing in guest teachers for master classes
- Social Media sharing
- Fundraising for events & master classes
- Support for our incredible team of dancers



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### **PTO Structure**

The PTO is to provide support and financial assistance for our competition team dancers. All meetings will be run in a business format with minutes being taken at each. We will hold nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary of the PTO to ensure all meetings are positive, supportive of our team, and supportive of our children. The PTO will work closely with Miss Lindsey & Miss Stephanie as well as the PDT Ambassadors to plan events and distribute funds where they are needed for the events & master classes. A system of checks & balances will be in place to ensure no single parent is running the PTO or taking on all of the responsibilities..



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## Etiquette

### Student Etiquette

#### Classroom

- Follow dress code
- Come to class with a mission to learn and work to your fullest potential
- Do not talk unless you are asked a question
- Clap & cheer for your instructor/classmates when appropriate
- Do not compare yourself to others or judge others in the class. Everyone is on their own personal dance journey and deserves to be treated with respect.
- Do not make ugly comments to others as they attempt to learn. The classroom is a safe place for all dancers to explore their capabilities and discover new things in a healthy growing environment.
- Leave all negativity and your hardships from the rest of the day at the door. Dance class is where we release those thoughts and concentrate on building & bettering ourselves. Your class time is for YOU. If you're having a bad day, no one should know about it while you are in class. Your teachers are always willing to listen to you after class.
- Pick up after yourself & take care of your home away from home.
- If you break something or see something is broken, please let the front desk know so we can get it repaired.
- If you see someone needing a friend, be that friend!
- If you have a problem you need assistance with, please do not be afraid to ask! We are here to help you!
- Thank your instructor at the end of class for the information & guidance they have provided you.

**Social Media** - See the Social Media information on Page 17.

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#### Competition

- Proudly wear your Team Jacket when you are not performing and when you are on stage for awards!
- Clap for everyone and remember all performers have put in a lot of hard work. They deserve kudos as much as you do.
- If someone is rude to you, smile and walk away. Do not engage.



- Assume someone is always listening. Keep your negative thoughts & opinions to yourself. Do not speak ill of others. If you have a concern, you are welcome to speak with Miss Lindsey, Miss Stephanie or Miss Katie in private.
- Respect the audience. Do not move through the audience during someone else's performance. Their friends and family want to see them dance, they do not need you marching yourself in front of them as they are trying to watch. Wait until the piece is over to leave or take your seat.
- Respect your teammates and other competitors in the dressing room and throughout the competition. You know what it feels like to have your belongings moved, stepped on, & disregarded. Do not do this to other people. Find your spot and keep your belongings organized.
- If someone congratulates you, thank them with a smile! If someone is rude to you, smile and walk away.
- Respect your parents during competition. Your parents have sacrificed and paid a LOT of money for you to have this experience. They deserve your gratitude for everything they have provided you. Thank them any chance you get!
- Respect your instructors during competition. They have put in countless hours preparing you for competition, many of which you do not even see. They deserve your gratitude for everything they have given you for this experience. Thank them any chance you get!
- Respect the Judges. This may be difficult if you do not receive the scores you hope for. Judging is a very difficult job with very long hours and scores do not always reflect the amount of work you have personally put into your training. They have a small amount of time to assess what they see and give you a number. It is only a number, not a reflection of who you are as a dancer or as a person. If you are unhappy with the scoring, we can talk about it in class as we listen to critiques.
- There is no room for envy in this studio. Jealousy, envy and insecurity bring out the worst in everyone. Part of our mission through this program is to build your self worth and confidence so that you can appreciate the worth in others. When you see someone else that is amazing, this does not take what is amazing about you, away from you. Learn from them. Appreciate them, and use that to grow.
- Remember this is an Experience. PDT Dance Arts has never been about the trophies - they do not matter. Your awards are not a reflection of your growth as a dancer. Your value to PDT Dance Arts is not based on how many super double platinum ruby titanium high scores you can get. You are an essential piece of our puzzle that makes up a beautiful work of art when we work together. This experience is for fun, learning, growth as a dancer, growth of character, performance opportunity and the chance to share your talent & hard work to make someone in the audience feel something. This is a privilege, and you should feel grateful for this opportunity!



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If all dancers follow these simple guidelines, all dancers will have a positive experience in class and will continue to grow and thrive!

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## Parent Etiquette

### Questions & Communications

If you have Class, Rehearsal, Competition, Event or other non-financial related questions:

- Check your emails
- Check the Band app
- Check the Calendar
- Check the Team Page
- Check with one of the Studio Ambassadors.

If you can not find the answer to your question, Email [info@pdtdancearts.com](mailto:info@pdtdancearts.com) so we can direct the email to the correct person to help you!

If you have financial related questions email Mr. Greg at [mr.greg@pdtdancearts.com](mailto:mr.greg@pdtdancearts.com)

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### Concerns

If you have a concern regarding your child, another child, another parent, a PDT Staff member, or a PDT policy, please email us at [info@pdtdancearts.com](mailto:info@pdtdancearts.com) and briefly describe your concern. Miss Katie will set you up with a meeting with the best staff member and/or parties involved to address and resolve the concern.

- **Keep It Personal - We Will Too!** Please do not discuss your concerns with your friends, display it on social media or attempt to gain external validation with regards to any concerns. The best way for us to help you resolve any concerns you may have regarding your child & his/her dance education is for us to work together to find the best solution. We are on your side. We want to see your child succeed! We are happy to help in any way we can!
- **Timing is Key!** - Please do not stop a teacher during or between classes to discuss any matters. Class time is for students paying for class. They deserve their teacher's undivided attention. If you send us an email we will make sure it gets to the right person to help you!
- **Boundaries are Awesome!** - Please do not text or call teachers or staff directly. Our staff members have lives outside of the dance studio and they deserve their privacy & personal time for family & friends.



- There are a few exceptions to this to make sure communications are clear. If you have a question that needs a rapid answer, please message your Studio Ambassador. He/She will get you the answer you need from the PDT Staff Member.
  - Example: What time is rehearsal?
- One exception would be if you need to cancel or reschedule a private lesson and your instructor has given you permission to contact them for that purpose.
- Another exception would be if there is a dire need for information for the PTO or Ambassadors to complete a task for a set deadline.
- If it is a message of any other topic, an email would be great! Please follow protocol for questions, comments & concerns above. We appreciate your help with this!

If we have a concern regarding your child, we will contact you directly to request a meeting.

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### **Outside Training & Choreography**

**Taking Classes at a Different Local Studio** - At PDT we want to be sure our dancers are trained with the best technical skills to ensure healthy longevity for our dancers. While there are many incredible instructors out there, we do not trust our dancers' health & well being to just anyone.

- If you'd like to request a master class with a specific instructor, please bring your suggestions to Miss Katie and she will make arrangements with the PTO.
- If you are looking for additional conventions, you can sign up for optional conventions on your agreement form.
- If you are looking for additional classes or Intensives please speak with Miss Lindsey, Miss Stephanie or Miss Katie for trustworthy options & suggestions.

Additionally, it is considered rude and unethical to take classes at other local competing studios while your child is a member of the PDT Competition Team.

We understand PDT is not going to be the perfect fit for everyone. Negativity from one person can decrease morale for the whole team causing friction & division. If you find that PDT Dance Arts is not a good fit for your child and/or your family, please notify Miss Katie to discuss options for dismissal from the competition team so you are free to explore other options. We want the best for all of our dancers, even if that means letting them go. For the protection of our staff, dancers and other families in the studio, we ask that you handle any situation of this nature with respect and maturity. Should you choose to create toxicity throughout the team rather than handling your concerns in a respectful manner, your child will be dismissed without refund.

**Outside Choreography** - Please see the choreography portion on page 13.



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## Parental Behavior

Bandwagoning, gossip, and other petty behaviors will not be tolerated. You are as much a part of our team as your child. We ask that you keep your thoughts & intentions positive and choose your words & actions wisely when in the presence of your fellow team mates and students.

- Part of our goal is to help our students learn they do not need external validation; that their beauty, strength & self-worth come from within. Seeking external validation through gossip or complaints is a good way to display one's character & insecurities. We do not want that type of behavior around our students. If parents display this type of behavior we will have to take appropriate action for the protection of our students and other families.
- We understand frustrations and concerns may arise, we are happy to work with you directly to help you and/or your child resolve any of your dance related frustrations & concerns.

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## Student Assistance

Our students put in a lot of hard work, it can be exhausting. Dancers can feel elated, joyful, defeated, & frustrated and a rainbow of other emotions when it comes to dance. They may be on cloud 9 one day, but might express the end of the world on another. If you notice your child is struggling, mentally or emotionally, please communicate with us so we can see how we can help. If we are unable to help directly, we can help direct you to other professional resources at your request. Your child's mental & emotional well being is as important as his/her physical well being. Happy healthy dancers = a happy healthy dance experience!

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## Competition

- Proudly wear your PDT gear when you are at competition! We have plenty of options for everyone in our store!
- Clap for everyone and remember all performers have put in a lot of hard work. They deserve kudos as much as our children do.
- If someone is rude to you, smile and walk away. Do not engage.
- Assume someone is always listening. Keep your negative thoughts & opinions to yourself. Even if you think you are being discrete, there are eyes & ears everywhere. We do not want to model this behavior for our young impressionable children.
- Do not speak ill of others. If you have a concern, you are welcome to speak with Miss Lindsey, Miss Stephanie or Miss Katie in private.





- Respect the audience. Do not move through the audience during someone else's performance. Their friends and family want to see them dance, they do not need you marching yourself in front of them as they are trying to watch. Wait until the piece is over to leave or take your seat. Do not save seats or sit in the designated areas for instructors & directors.
- Respect your teammates throughout the competition. This includes students and parents. Keep your thoughts, words and actions kind and thoughtful!
- Respect your children during competition.
  - Your children want your approval. They want to impress you with all of their hard work and talent. You are there to be their #1 fan & cheerleader.
  - Do not attempt to coach your own child, our instructors are professionals in this industry and are capable of doing so. Parent coaching undermines the instructors and will confuse your child.
  - Do not impress your nervousness onto your child. This will make them nervous and they will not perform to the best of their ability. If you get nervous for your child, it is best you turn them over to their instructor so they can get in the proper headspace for performance. If your child needs assistance in the dressing room but you are unable to mind your tension/nervousness, we have several parents willing to help your child so you can relax and enjoy your child's performance.
- Respect your instructors during competition. They have put in countless hours preparing your children for competition. They deserve your gratitude for everything they have given your children for this experience. Their knowledge, creativity, time and care goes to each and every student. Thank them any chance you get!
- Respect the Judges. This may be difficult if your child does not receive the scores they hope for, moreover, you hope for. Judging is a very difficult job with very long hours and scores do not always reflect the amount of work our children have put into their training. They have a small amount of time to assess what they see and give a number. It is only a number, not a reflection of who you are as a parent, who your child is as a dancer or their value as a performer. If you are unhappy with the scoring, you are welcome to speak with Miss Katie, Miss Lindsey or Miss Stephanie in private.
- Gossiping, bandwagoning, and general negativity will not be tolerated. YOU are PDT Dance Arts. Speaking negatively about your studio, your director, your instructors, your fellow parents or your child's team members, is speaking negatively about yourself at a much higher volume. This type of behavior demonstrates envy & insecurity. At PDT Dance Arts, we encourage our students to build genuine self worth and self confidence so they do not feel the need to cut others down to build themselves up. We appreciate your help with this by modeling behavior with class and respect. We understand conflicts may arise, in this instance you are welcome to reach out to Miss Stephanie, Miss Lindsey or Miss Katie to help with conflict resolution.



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- Remember this is an Experience. PDT Dance Arts does not put your child's value in the trophy. Your child's awards are not a reflection of their growth as a dancer. Their value to PDT Dance Arts is not based on how many super double platinum ruby titanium high scores they can get. They are an essential piece of our puzzle that makes up a beautiful work of art when we work together. This experience is for fun, learning, growth as a dancer, growth of character, performance opportunity and the chance to share their talent & hard work to make someone in the audience (you!) feel something. Find gratitude in the fact that you are able to provide your child with such an incredible life experience!
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## Benefits

Team students are given a locker in the break room to keep their belongings. If there are not enough lockers for all dancers, students will share.

- PDT is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.
- If there is anything left outside of the lockers in the evening, it will be thrown away.
- Students are responsible for keeping the locker room clean.
- If the locker room is found messy, locker privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the season.
- Please do not leave food in the lockers or the locker room! - It attracts icky pests!

The PDT Competition Team Program is an investment in your child. Students will be learning life skills such as:

- Leadership skills
- How to hold themselves and one another accountable
- Problem solving skills
- How to manage their time and weigh their priorities
- How to work together toward a common goal
- How to act with professionalism in stressful situations
- How to support their friends and gain independence
- Responsibility for their actions / or lack of action
- Grace, humility and gratitude
- How to connect with others and form meaningful relationships
- How hard work equates to achievement and achievement equates to growing self worth
- How attitude affects outcome of any given task
- How the body works through movement
- Development of artistry and growth in creativity



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- Patience with progression & working toward goals
  - The physics of dance and why technique is important
  - Physical self respect and the importance of treating the body well
  - How to promote confidence in one another and in themselves
  - The importance of respect for others & themselves
  - Character and confidence development
  - Creativity, Artistry & intellectual development
  - And of course... proper technical skills for learning to dance wisely, safely and fully.

PDT students will be learning a craft, skills, and the art of expressing themselves in a healthy and active way. The lessons learned through dance are life long and will stay with your child through any endeavors they may face in their future. The benefits of these opportunities are infinite.

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## Priceless Opportunity

### Member Dues

Member dues include:

- All Mandatory Convention Fees
- Performance fees for “The Nutcracker”
  - Includes Videos
- Performance fees for “Body Language 2025”
  - Includes Videos
- Dress Rehearsal fee for Competition
- Competition administrative tasks
- Rental of U-Haul, sets, scenery & props
- For first year Competition Team dancers 1 team jacket (*\$60 additional for Jackets.*)

Dues

- New Members Novice, Apprentice, Excelled, Elite - \$1480
- Returning Novice, Apprentice, Excelled, Elite Team Members & Ambassadors - \$1420
- New Petite Team Members - \$370 with Nutcracker participation / \$270 without.
- Returning Petite Team Members - \$310 with Nutcracker Participation / \$210 without.
- New HipHop Crew Members - \$780 with Nutcracker Participation / \$680 without.
- Returning HipHop Crew Members - \$720 with Nutcracker Participation / \$620 without.
- Sibling Discount - 10%



Member Dues for Apprentice, Excelled, Elite & Ambassadors can be paid up front or in 3 installments. HipHop Crew & Novice Team Member Dues will be due July 22nd, 2024.

- Installment 1 - June 15, 2024
- Installment 2 - August 10, 2024
- Installment 3 - September 15, 2024

### Training Program

#### Novice, Apprentice, Excelled, Elite & Ambassador Team Members

- Annual Program (Competition Team Training Tuition Program) - \$4320
- If Paid in Full by July 1st, 2024 (10% Discount) - \$3888
- Paid in Full Savings \$432
- \$0 Down Monthly Payments - \$360/Month

#### HipHop Crew & Petite Team Members

- Annual Program (Foundations II Training Tuition Program) - \$2371
- If paid in full by July 1st, 2024 (10% Discount) - \$2133.90
- \$0 Down Monthly Payments - \$181/Month
- *Note:* If student upgrades to higher level training programs these amounts will change.

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### Per-Dance Dues

Per Dance Dues are one collective due for each group dance your child participates in. We have made it easy and convenient for you by putting all of the costs that go into a single dance into the Per-Dance Due.

- **NOTE:** Cost per dance may vary depending on casting.
  - *For example:* Elite or Excelled members may be placed in a dance with HipHop Crew members. This dance only competes at the 3 mandatory competitions, (not conventions). The per-dance fee will be **lower** (\$525) for that dance.
- Parents may limit the number of dances your child participates in for competition for budgeting purposes. You can indicate this on your Competition Team Agreement Form.

Per-Dance Dues include:

- Choreography
- Weekly Rehearsal Time



- Instructor Per-diem for competition
- Costume
- Accessories
- Competition Fees for all required Competitions (Dues vary based on how many competition fees are included in this fee)

### Per-Dance Dues by Level

- Excelled, Elite & Ambassador Dancers - \$610
  - 4 Mandatory Competitions (3 Competitions & 1 Convention Competition)
- Apprentice Dancers - \$525
  - 3 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)
- Novice Dancers - \$525
  - 3 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)
- HipHop Crew Dancers - \$525
  - 3 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)
- Petite Dancers - \$450
  - 2 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)

### Per-Dance Dues can be paid up front or paid in 3 installments.

- 1st Installment - October 15th
- 2nd Installment - November 15th
- 3rd Installment - February 1st

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**Solo & Duet/Trio Performance Dues** \*Note\* Costumes, choreography & other fees associated with solos, duets & trios are not included in these fees.

### Solos

- Excelled, Elite & Ambassador Dancers - \$175 x 4 = \$700
  - 4 Mandatory Competitions (3 Competitions & 1 Convention Competitions)
  - Second solo may not be permitted to perform at convention competition. This would be billed at \$175 x 3 = \$525
- Apprentice, Novice, & HipHop Crew Dancers - \$175 x 3 = \$525
  - 3 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)

### Duets/Trios

- Duet/Trio - Elite, Excelled & Apprentice Dancers - \$90 x 4 = \$360



- 4 Mandatory Competitions (3 Competitions & 1 Convention Competitions)
- Duet/Trio - Apprentice, & HipHop Crew Dancers - \$90 x 3 = \$270
  - 3 Mandatory Competitions (No convention competitions)

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### Optional Competitions & Conventions

Optional Competitions are open to solos, duets, trios and small groups. All members of the dance must be in agreement to register for optional competitions/conventions. An individual sign up for optional competitions/conventions will be available in August of 2024. Once you have signed up to participate in an optional competition or convention you may not cancel.

- Optional Conventions - \$385 each.
- Optional Competition/Convention Solos - \$185 each.
- Optional Competition/Convention Duets - \$95 each dancer.
- Optional Competition/Convention Small Groups - \$75 each dancer.

*Note: These fees may increase depending on the competition/convention fees & required media package fees.*

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### Mandatory 2024-2025 Season Photo Shoot - \$150

**When:** September 7th - 9:00am

**Includes:** Headshots & up to 3 dance shots.

This season's mandatory photo shoot will be with Ken Osadon . He is an incredible dance photographer and we are privileged to be able to have him do our competition team photos this season! For samples of his work, you can see his instagram at: [kodancephotography](https://www.instagram.com/kodancephotography)

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### Credits, Late Fees & Penalties

#### Costume Budget

The Per-Dance fee includes a \$200 budget for costuming. This season we plan to have more custom made costumes which may or may not meet this budget. If the costume chosen for a dance is over the \$200 budget, you will be notified and charged the additional cost of that costume. If the costume chosen for a dance is well under the \$200 budget, you will be provided a credit back to your account!



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### **Late Fees**

If you do not pay your fees, we can not pay ours. There will be a 15% late fee added to all unpaid balances after the 8th of each month. Balances 90 days past due will be sent to collections. If you need to meet with Mr. Greg on forming a payment plan, he is happy to work with you!

### **Missed Rehearsal Penalty**

If your child misses 4 rehearsals you will be notified your child has reached the maximum allowances for rehearsal absences. After the 5th missed rehearsal, the instructor and other dancers will have to come in for an additional rehearsal for that dance on your child's behalf. If an additional rehearsal must be scheduled on your child's behalf, a "Missed Rehearsal Penalty" will be charged. If the instructor fails to notify the parent with a 3rd absence warning, there will be no charge.

- The instructor will be paid directly his/her private lesson fee.
- \$20 will be charged and credited to each remaining dancer in the piece.

### **Re-Blocking Penalty**

Many of our dancers and the instructors know how frustrating it is when a dance has to be re-worked. For the protection of our committed dancers & instructors, we will be implementing a re-blocking penalty. If a dancer decides to quit after choreography has started, or is removed from a dance, a reblocking penalty fee will be charged to cover the added rehearsal time and stress it causes to have to re-work an entire dance due to one person.

- \$450 will be charged for the instructor.
- \$20 will be charged and credited to each remaining dancer in the piece.

The exception to this is if the dancer is injured & will be out for the season. Parent only needs to provide the doctor's note stating the dancer will not be capable of completing the season.

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### **PTO Membership Dues**

The PTO membership dues will be \$35 per family. All families will participate in assisting the PTO. Participation responsibilities can be requested via the meetings or assigned if you choose not to participate in the meetings. PTO membership dues will be annual and required for all competition team families.

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## National Finals

This season we are attending a National Finals in the summer of 2025. We are taking your thoughts & opinions on where we will be attending national finals. The final decision on national finals location will be made prior to competition casting August 2nd. The PTO will be in charge of fundraising to assist with the competition fees associated with National Finals. Competition fees for Nationals are higher than regional competition fees. These are NOT included in your per-dance fees, these will be billed separately. Ideally, we would love to have our competition fees fully funded by our PTO fundraising so all of our dancers can attend!

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## Thank You & Welcome!

We would like to thank you for your participation in the PDT Competition Team! Not only will your child's involvement on the team help them to attain a strong performing arts education, but it will also teach them life long skills to be successful individuals. They will develop skills to communicate, connect with their teammates and form life-long bonds with their friends, as well as instill values such as responsibility, time management, determination and perseverance. We appreciate the opportunity and privilege of being able to work with these young people! We look forward to a fun and exciting new season!