

TINY & MINI COMPETITION DANCE TEAMS

We are very excited to announce the **22nd** year for the Dance Expressions competition dance teams. Our goal is to provide an introduction to the exciting world of competition dance for our Tiny & Mini team (3-4 competitions). We take it up a notch with our extension teams (6-7 competitions). Team life IS a bigger commitment than a regular dance class and it takes both the dancer AND parent commitment for the entire group to succeed. Please read on and take into consideration these things to think about before making this commitment. I would advise a team folder for all handouts including this one to refer to later on in the year. Any veteran team mom will be happy to answer questions of our new prospects.

Tiny Expressions Primary Team (K-3rd grade) & Mini Expressions Elementary Team (4th-6th grade)

Tiny team will compete in the jazz category & Mini team will compete in Jazz & Pom categories.

A second B team~ There is a possibility a second team will be chosen. This could be a Mini B OR a Junior B team. The B team is open to dancers that could range from 5th-9th grade that we feel have the potential but just might not be ready for the select division. We want them to have the same experience of a jazz routine plus Pom or Hip Hop in order to prepare them for either the next level the following year or to continue progress for future auditions. It is also always possible a 4th grader might remain with the Tiny team or a 7th grader makes the Mini A team. We will also have where you can indicate if willing to do the Mini team and the Junior B team if we think that's a good fit.

EXTENSION teams... (re-configured for 2023-24) these are other optional additions to be considered for

Tiny Team~ Small Group OPEN for the Tiny Team will be up to 9 dancers. Open category allows us to choose any style. This group will be chosen at May auditions & will compete at all Showcase contests (with the exception of Showcase Nationals) & all studio comps. Their rehearsals are separate from class time and primarily in Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec on the weekend.

Mini Team~ Small Group OPEN for the Mini Team will be up to 9 dancers. This group will be chosen at May auditions & will compete at all Showcase contests (with the exception of Showcase Nationals) and all studio contests. Their rehearsals are separate from class time and primarily in Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec on the weekend.

Hip Hop will be no more than 15 dancers that are also members of either Tiny or Mini team. They too will compete at all Showcase contests (with the exception of Showcase Nationals) & all studio contests.

Lyrical is something we want to suspend for now so the Mini team can put full concentration into the 4 other options & so we can work to bring up the level of the team.

The expectation is that these groups work on their own, keep up and attend all rehearsals, maintain a positive attitude, and put forth extreme efforts. We will only rehearse as necessary & if staying at an elite level we will eliminate when possible. Miss Torre will choreograph both the Hip-Hop routine & Open routines. Both routines will be assisted by a student teacher.

Leadership positions...(re-configured for 2023-2024)

We felt it was best to sadly do away with the officer lines for the younger groups. Several factors played into this decision but mainly the changing of times. Within the Showcase America circuit that dance category has sadly dwindled. This is where the "Open" division switch over is happening. We also want to stay in the "small group" division at studio circuit competitions but no longer feel we need "officers" at such a young age. We will be changing over to the way we do the older teams for a few officer titles. We will do this later in the fall. We will be implementing a heavier vote within our coaches and teachers plus add in a possible audition for 1-2 positions (Captain and Co-Captain).

What are we looking for? -strong work ethic, good attendance, technique, great memory, gets along well with others, past behavior in all classes & the passion for the team and all teammates.

Read on for further information

Take a look at the 2023-2024 class schedule to see if the team timeslot fits into your schedule. The team will work on fundamentals of competition dance and putting together a competition Jazz and/or Pom routine. Extension teams will work outside that time slot, yet occasionally run their completed show in that class.

We will require that each team member take an additional studio class/es to further dance skills & technique, this is mandatory from Sept/May, and we cannot make exceptions! Tiny's~ your required 2nd class is to be a jazz or ballet or lyrical. It is also highly recommended that you take one of the technique/leaps/turns non-recital class. Ballet is highly recommended for all but required if you make the "open" group. Mini's~ your requirement is additional two classes, ballet AND a leap/turn/technique class (even if it's the Sept-Dec one on Tuesdays) We do offer a "take 3 classes, receive the 4th free" option.

Summer classes & requirements- now required for all team kids to get to the level we strive to be at! Whether this is ballet with Ms. Chelle or a class in any other style, we need to require this to push to the level of our competitors. If you are on vacation one week or have a conflict 1 week you can jump in an additional class the following week. In addition to these requirements, if they receive an asterisk next to their name after auditions, they need at least two 45-minute private lessons with a recommended teacher/student teacher over the summer. They grow so much in a private lesson. In the winter months we will add 4-5 additional practice times on a Friday/Saturday/Sunday closer to competition time. We will have access to a gym for a few practices. Good attendance is mandatory for both their dance team & other classes and for the benefit of all involved. 1 master class is also required but both are highly recommended if in town. These are big name teachers and when you learn in a hype, fun, face paced atmosphere you grow as a dancer/performer.

Everything included in the NEW AUDITION PACKET must be filled out in completion and turned in at least one week prior to auditions. You must be a registered Dance Expressions upcoming FALL and SUMMER student in the portal one week prior to auditions. NEW-they will not be able to walk in the night of tryouts and turn in paperwork. It MUST, I repeat MUST be turned in 7 days prior. The administration portion of auditions has become lengthy & we must stress this! Once the studio is closed after the Recital, we will give an additional drop off night for paperwork or you may contact our Head Team Mom Melissa McBride, info listed below. The suggestion is to turn in to the studio by Wednesday, May 10th.

TEAM COMPETITION DATES- for Tiny/Mini

We normally compete at 2-3 Showcase America Dance (gym floor) competitions & 1 studio competition. The extensions groups will have the additional contests listed below.

Tentative dates & contests:

*1 studio circuit (stage) contest for Tiny and Mini Jazz w/the junior and senior teams (TBD)

*(Showcase America) TENTATIVE Centerville Invitational- Sunday, February 26th, 2024 (all routines)

*(Showcase America) Tipp City Invitational~ Saturday March 9th, 2024 (all routines)

*(Showcase America) Senior Expressions Invitational "STATE" - Saturday, March 16th, 2024 (all routines)

*3 Studio circuit (stage) contests for Tiny and Mini extension teams w/the Junior & Senior teams in February, March, April or May TBD by end-summer when all schedules are released.

***Contests can last anywhere from 5 hours to 10 depending on how many teams enter. We only do a few so it needs to be your priority.

All team members will be required to stay for awards.

COST- Always APPROXIMATE

Cost per for the Tiny team class is \$50.00 a month; Mini team class is \$60.00 a month (**2 instructors per team**)

IN ADDITION---Each individual will be ordered the following items...costs are approximate. You will receive an order form at auditions.

Returning member costs will be lower since they have many items.

- Costume or costumes depending on # of routines you are in \$75.00 each approx.
 - NEW Dance shoes (jazz shoes for team, dance paws for Open)
 - order/pay for @ open house in Aug \$50.00 approx. in total
 - Hip Hop shoes ordered on own in the fall \$60.00 approx.
 - 4-5 competition team and optional parent shirts/tanks \$15.00/\$20.00 each
 - Studio logo jacket & team black leggings \$80.00 & \$30.00
 - Make-up \$20.00 approx.
 - Garment bags (order on your own @discount dance)
 - Showcase America entry fees (each dancer contributes toward group entry fees) \$40.00 total depends on # of dancers
 - Any studio circuit(stage) /entry per routine you are in \$55.00 each
 - Mini Pom wear and tear/rental fee \$20.00
- *Poms are \$35/40 per a single pom, we used to borrow from Kickline and I would give them the \$ to build back up funds so we could borrow again. Same goes now for Senior Expressions, everyone pays a rental fee to build up the \$1700.00 for new sets every couple of years. Too expensive to buy every year.
- Open choreo/admin/studio fee \$200.00 approx. depends on # chosen
 - Hip-Hop choreo/admin/studio fee \$150-200.00 approx. depends on # chosen
 - Gym rental \$50.00 depends on # on team
 - Accounting fee (Pam Drewry handles all very detailed team accounting) \$30.00 Ledgers handed out 3 x's a season

**NEW (2023) PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Your first payment (start-up fee) of **\$150.00** will still be due with your packet in form of a **check** made out to Dance Expressions. *This check will be returned to you or torn up with your permission if your dancer is not selected for a team this upcoming year.*

All team fees will be paid through your Parent Portal this year. Portal payments will be starting July 1st and payments will be charged monthly until paid in full. You do not need to worry about registering for Team fees, we will take care of that for you. Payments will be charged as follows:

***JULY 1ST~ \$150** (2nd team payment due plus an additional **\$100.00** extension fee or Mini Hip Hop and **\$50.00** for Tiny or Mini Open)

***AUG. 1ST ~\$150.00** (3rd team payment due plus an additional **\$100.00** extension fee for Mini Hip Hop and **\$50.00** for Tiny or Mini Open)

***SEPT. 1ST~ \$100.00** (4th team payment due plus an additional **\$50.00** for Tiny or Mini Open)

Side note....Sept. 15th the first studio tuition payment will go through

OCTOBER 15th \$50.00 for Mini Hip Hop and **\$50.00** for Tiny or Mini Open

***FURTHER MONTHLY fees on the 15th of every month ~ depending on your ledger balance and projected expenses.**

Pam Drewry, our team accountant, creates an on-going ledger for you. She adds your payments, your spirit wear order, our chosen costumes in Sept/Oct & starts to add contest entry fees in all you will receive your first ledger and then will know if you will continue to pay a monthly fee of \$100 or \$150 or maybe you'll be caught up with just those few payments.

PLEASE NOTE* PLEASE NOTE*PLEASE NOTE* These fees may or may not cover your team expenses. Our fees are based on previous year but not an exact. They differ if you are new or a veteran and how much spirit wear you order. Receiving your ledgers from Pam several times in a dance year will help you know where you stand. We are lucky to have her & love this consistency for all 5 groups. Your final team statement will come out by Feb. 1st with any balance or credit due or due back to you by March 1st. We will start individual fundraisers in September and any money earned will go toward class tuition/team payments. If the payment doesn't go through a \$25.00 late fee will occur and this will start in the summer. There have been times that families have skipped all summer payments hence the late fee needing to be the incentive to pay all team payments on time.

(new) TEAM ENVELOPES~ will include the following: This informational packet, contract, permission/tryout form, team spirit wear form. You will turn in everything required of you with the \$150.00 check which we will wait to deposit until after audition lists are posted. You'll keep this informational packet but everything else must be filled out and returned in the provided envelope in order to audition 7 DAYS PRIOR. You will also register for summer and fall classes 7 DAY prior as well. If we need to adjust classes after that we can do that, but we need all team kids secured in classes with their spot saved.

Please contact our last year's team moms via email for questions & Team Liaison Melissa McBride if you need to turn in your envelope after May 10th.

Monicalynsmith@yahoo.com Monica Morris-Tiny team

Gallup08@yahoo.com Amanda Gallup-Mini team

Mcbridegirls@att.net Melissa McBride or hercs_momma21@yahoo.com Sarah Renner-Junior teams

Cathy79@woh.rr.com Cathy Cox-Senior team

Parent commitment- Please understand that team members missing too many classes or important gym rehearsals will **not** dance at a competition. Family vacations or other activities that interfere with a Jan/Feb/March rehearsal are not excused. You cannot make these up with a private lesson. It affects the entire team, not just your child. Zoom does not replace a rehearsal. There is a no tolerance policy. If you miss a contest for a reason beyond illness/death in family, you will sit out your next team performance. Again, it affects your hardworking teammates. Please make sure you can commit before your tryout. In Jan/Feb/March the leaps & turns class will become an extension to the Mini timeslot. If you are not in the leaps class, this will become a 30-minute class cost for those months. There will be other leaps/technique classes you can jump into so plan ahead. You will receive the gym schedule as soon as I can make arrangements with the schools, however, please be flexible because we are at their mercy. If you quit the Tiny or Mini team mid-year you will not be permitted to try back out & are still responsible for all fees per your contract. Competition parents will be asked to help with things such as fundraising, being a room mom at competitions, assisting with costume accessories, hosting a team/parent get together etc. I appreciate all of your help. We have a fantastic family organization.

AUDITIONS are Tuesday May 23rd...(7th-12th)4:15-6:00, (K-3rd) 6:15-7:15, (4th-6th) 7:30-8:45

Please wear any style of form-fitting dance wear (crop top/leggings, leotard/booty shorts, leotard, tight top/bike shorts etc dance shoes of choice, hair & make-up glam @ the studio. 7th-12th you need a clean look of course but you do NOT have to go over the top (hair/make-up)because of your timeslot.

During the audition several judges will observe the dancer as if they were in a dance class. They will be doing various leaps, turns and jumps. They will also learn a short dance routine/s. They will be judged on technique, flexibility, ability to learn quickly & showmanship while performing. Coach evaluations based on the previous year will be considered.

They will be rating you 1-10 in the areas of...

Maturity (handles constructive criticism, works well with others, emotional strength)

Work Ethic & focus (pushes self, excited to learn, knows material in class but focused, does not distract others)

Attendance (good attendance in ALL classes, ALL practices...required 2nd class means you must be in class, on time to events & classes)

Technique (growth in this area)

Attitude (passionate, excited, positive energy)

*New dancers will obviously not go through this portion of the process but if you are a student of Dance Exp your class instructor might be contacted in order to get better idea on character.

Results will be posted on studio door by 9:15 p.m. and also on studio Facebook page

The decision of the judges is final. If you are able to commit to everything mentioned above, please turn in the provided "Audition Form" with your startup fee. Reminder you must register with the studio, pay registration fee and do not forget about summer registration. This is required if trying out for a team.

Opportunity to become a soloist~ This is just a sidenote on how the solo opportunity comes about. We watch the kids all year, in all classes for attendance, work ethic, technique, growth, performance ability, wow factors, flexibility, memory, exceptional behavior in all classes, quiet & willing to work. The family must be in good standing with the studio with tuition and commitment/attendance. The soloists selected each year will receive an invitation in April and/or May. It's not something we can invite everyone to do. Please understand and respect our policies which we hope will not be discussed with other dance moms/student teachers/teachers in a negative manner.

GOOD LUCK AT AUDITIONS!

Lori

Tiny and Mini Audition sign-up form~~~

I _____ along with my son/daughter _____ understand the time commitment, money obligation, attendance policy plus audition process. If I quit the team for any reason, I understand I am obligated to pay for any and all items ordered and that I will not be able to tryout for the same team in the future.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDITIONAL PHONE _____

CIRCLE TEAM AUDITIOING FOR~

Tiny Expressions Jazz Open
Mini Expressions Jazz/Pom Open Hip Hop

GRADE for 2023/2024 _____

SCHOOL YOU ATTEND _____ BIRTHDATE _____

Willing to be a team member on Junior B instead of Mini's YES or NO *we prefer to only be observed for Mini's & we understand if we do not make Mini's, we may not make any team*

Willing to be a team member on Mini's **AND** Junior B. YES or NO one team only please.

If you are in 5th / 6th grade and up, and want to be considered for Junior Elite team, please grab the additional Junior/Senior paperwork and audition permission form & include that in your "turn-in envelope" & but only one \$150.00 start-up payment is necessary. You must be in the Junior audition to be considered for the Junior Elite team.

DANCER
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Dance Expressions Competition Cast Agreement

By signing below, you agree to the following terms:

- I have read the team and/or solo guidelines and understand the costs and payments required to be a member of the Dance Expressions Competition Cast.
- I have read and agree to adhere to the rules involving conduct and behavior including the requirement that each dancer/parent always maintain a positive attitude in all studio classes, lessons, competitions and when representing Dance Expressions at any function.
- I agree that all dancers and parents are expected and required to support and encourage all team members and work together as a team.
- I agree that all dancers must represent the team in a positive manner and that any behavior of the dancer, which reflects negatively on the team, may lead to the immediate dismissal from the team and any group or solo.
- I agree that all dancers and parents will be respectful to all dancers, teachers, and faculty inside and outside of the studio. This includes refraining from negative comments about the studio, teachers, faculty, dancers and/or parents including in person, phone, texts, Internet and all social media sites.
- I agree that all dancers and parents are to respect the professional decisions made by the teachers and staff.
- I agree to abide by the attendance requirements set forth in the attendance policy.
- I agree that all competition, contest, costume, lesson and all fees paid by the dancer/parent are non-refundable once paid by the dancer/parent regardless of whether the dancer participates in any competition or contest and regardless of whether the dancer remains a member of the team/group through the end of the terms of this agreement unless this contract is cancelled in accordance with the terms set forth below.
- I agree and understand that failure of the dancer/parent to follow all team rules, policies and procedures including but not limited to the rules set forth above may result in the dismissal of the dancer from the team and any solo, duo, trio or other group choreographed and/or connected with Dance Expressions. I understand the decision to dismiss a dancer is in the sole discretion of the Director of Dance Expressions.
- I agree that if my child/dancer is dismissed from any team, group or solo or my child voluntarily quits any team, group, or solo (other than by reason of moving more than 25 miles from Dance Expressions, disability, or death) I remain responsible for the remaining tuition fees until the end of the terms of this Agreement.
- If my child can no longer participate by reason of the dancer moving more than 25 miles from Dance Expressions (or if Dance Expressions relocates more than 25 miles from the dancer's residence), disability or death, all prepaid and/or future fees and costs will be proportionally divided and I shall only be responsible for the period of time my child actually participated in the team, group or solo and that any refund necessary under this provision shall be made within 30 days of notice of the reason for cancellation.
- I agree and understand that all decisions regarding participation in competitions, contests, team functions, groups, including all solos, duos, trios and teams, are in the sole discretion of the Director of Senior Expressions.
- As the legal parent or guardian, I release and hold harmless Dance Expressions by Lori Jene, Inc. ("Dance Expressions"), its owners, agents, employees, and all instructors, teachers, choreographers working on behalf of Dance Expressions from any and all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury that may be sustained by the dancer and/or the undersigned, while in or upon the premises or any premises under the control and supervision of Dance Expressions or in any lesson, meeting, competition, practice for any team, group or solo or in route to or from any such lesson, meeting, competition, practice or the premises of Dance Expressions.
- Dance Expressions, including its owners, agents, and employees, is hereby granted permission to take photographs of the dancers to use in brochures, websites, posters, advertisements and other materials.
- All information and material of a personal or private nature that is acquired directly or indirectly from parent shall be returned to the parent by regular mail within 30 days after the expiration of the contract or after the expiration for any reason of the dancer's participation in the team, group or solo.
- All costuming and accessories/props/poms borrowed from Dance Expressions and/or a staff member must be returned within 7 days of team dismissal and/or end of season.
- I understand that I, the parent/dancer, have the right to cancel this Agreement until midnight of the third business day after acceptance of the dancer on the team, group, or solo. In order to cancel, I understand I must give written notice of cancellation by hand delivery, mail or email to Dance Expressions.
- I agree that this Agreement remains in effect from May 24 of 2023 to May 23 of 2024 or until the season concludes after the chosen Nationals summer event.

Student

Date

Parent

Date

Dance Expressions

Date