

TINY & MINI COMPETITION DANCE TEAMS

We are very excited to announce the 24th 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 groups (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

Who can audition? K-3RD grade unless otherwise noted

What can you audition for? 3 options (minimum is one- JAZZ)

(main team timeslot) Tuesday's 6:15-7:00 p.m.

****Extension team options/details below****

Rehearsals will be on weekends or Fri. nights, starting in Aug, expectation is to learn faster, be stronger, no consistent set weekly rehearsal slot throughout the season of dance.

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 (except for Showcase Nationals) that we attend & all studio comps. Their rehearsals are separate from class time and primarily in Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec on the weekend.

Mini Team~Hip Hop will be no more than 15-18 dancers that are also members of either Tiny or Mini team. They too will compete at all Showcase contests (except for Showcase Nationals) & all studio contests.

Mini Team~Lyrical (bringing it back for 2025-26) undecided on small or large division, again dancers that are also members of either Tiny or Mini team with strong technique. They too will compete at all Showcase contests (except for Showcase Nationals) & all studio contests.

Mini Expressions Elementary Team (4th-6th grade)

Who can audition? 4th-6th grade unless otherwise noted.

What can you audition for? 5 options (minimum is two- POM & JAZZ)

(main team timeslot) Tuesday's 5:00-6:15 p.m.

****Extension Team Options****

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 that we attend (except for 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 15-18 dancers that are also members of either Tiny or Mini team. They too will compete at all Showcase contests (except for Showcase Nationals) & all studio contests.

Mini Team~Lyrical (bringing it back for 2025-26) undecided on small or large division, again dancers that are also members of either Tiny or Mini team with strong technique. They too will compete at all Showcase contests (except for Showcase Nationals) & all studio contests.

The expectation is that these extra groups are a higher level of work ethic and expectations to 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 rehearsal time when possible. Miss Torre will continue to choreograph the Hip-Hop routine w/assistant Reagan, but we have a change in choreographers for the new season for the opens. Miss Heather with Miss Britlynn & Miss Carlee=Tiny Open, Miss Reagan with Miss Lauren McBride=Mini Open. Lyrical =Miss Heather with assistant TBD.

It is also always possible a 4th grader might remain with the Tiny team or a 7th grader makes the Mini A team.

Those 5th & 6th graders interested in auditioning for either of our Junior Teams please print the Junior/Senior Team Packets. A bigger commitment is needed if you take on two teams. You must be at the Junior/Senior audition to be considered for that team as well.

Please turn in all paperwork for any team you are interested in PLUS sign up in the lobby for the groups you want to be considered for. If you change your mind, please let us know.

Leadership Positions

Later in the fall the dancers will be evaluated throughout classes by coaches/teachers giving input. The dancers will get to vote as well. What are we looking for? -strong work ethic, good attendance, technique, great memory, gets along well with others, is modest and sweet with teammates, past behavior in all classes & the passion for the team and all teammates. Who is eligible? Returning dancers that are 2nd/3rd grade or 5th/6th grade.

Read on for further information

Does the team timeslot fit into your schedule? Tiny timeslot=Tuesday 6:15-7:00, Mini's=5:00-6:15. 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 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 strength & conditioning/technique/leaps/turns non-recital class plus several strength & conditioning classes/privates offered in the summer. Ballet is highly recommended for all but required if you make the extension groups. Mini's~ your requirement is additional two classes, ballet AND a leap/turn/technique class. 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! This is ballet with Ms. Chelle and the team Strength and conditioning class plus the Master Class/es required. 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 at 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 3-4 additional practice times on a Friday/Saturday/Sunday (most likely 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. The 2 master classes are also required if in town. These are big name teachers and when you learn in a hype, fun, fast paced atmosphere you grow as a dancer/performer. If out of town for a summer master class, you can jump in any other class to make-it up.

Everything included in the 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 at the studio by Wednesday, May 7th.

Possible TEAM COMPETITION DATES- for Tiny/Mini. **full schedule will come out mid-August

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:

*1-2 studio circuit (stage) contests for Tiny and Mini's w/the junior and senior teams (TBD) Feb/Mar/April/May

*1-2-3 Showcase America (gym floor) competitions in either Feb/March

*all 3 Studio circuit (stage) contests for the extension teams (opens, hip hop & lyrical) w/the Junior & Senior teams in February/March/April/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 \$65.00 a month **(2 instructors per team)**

IN ADDITION---Each individual will be ordering the following items...costs are approximate.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Costume or costumes depending on # of routines you are in | \$80.00 each approx. |
| - NEW Dance shoes (jazz shoes for team, dance paws for open/lyrical) | |
| - 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 | \$110 approx. |
| - Make-up (on own) | \$20.00 approx. |
| - Garment bags (order on your own @discount dance) | |
| - Showcase America entry fees (each dancer contributes toward group entry fees) | \$90.00 total depends on # of dancers |
| - Any studio circuit(stage) /entry per routine you are in | \$60.00-\$65.00 per dancer per routine |
| - 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. | |
| - Initial choreo fee per the all teams *new 2025/26 -same as Jr/Sr have always been | \$25.00 (vision/music search & cut/costuming/design ~all prior to class work) |
| - Final extension fee of extension teams only choreo/admin/studio use | \$75.00-\$100 approx. depends on # chosen per group |
| - Gym rental (shared) winter use Northridge | \$30-40.00 depends on # on team |
| - Accounting fee (Pam Drewry handles all very detailed team accounting) | \$30.00 Ledgers handed out 3 x's a season |

Team Spirit Wear -ordering online in June. Everything we use or will require will be online like last year & they feel confident they have the kinks worked out. You will have a deadline. You will pay for these when ordering, it will not be going on team ledger. There are many required items so please make sure you order everything needed for the year at this time!! SO CRUCIAL that you note this. Once it's closed you cannot order or re-order any items. When it comes to "spirit wear" we offer, I request that you contact me for any use of the dance studio logo. I don't mind homemade items but if using the logo you need permission. I also ask that any gifted items to the dancers go through me because it might be that we have these in the works. Plus when it comes to certain items I don't want it to be singled out per team. Due the longevity of the Jr Elite team (formerly Vantasia Dance team) and the Senior team (formerly Butler Kickline traditions under Lori or Vandalia Dance Ensemble...the first way we did combo of Kickline/ studio dancers/Vantasia kids) we do have a few traditions/gifts etc that will be for those oldest teams only. Again, please understand that from our youngest to oldest we have some traditions that wait until they are older.

**** 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 for 1 group and **\$50** for any additional groups)

***AUG. 1ST ~ \$150** (3rd team payment due plus an additional **\$100.00** extension fee 1 group and **\$50** for any additional groups)

***SEPT. 1ST ~ \$150** (4th team payment due plus an additional **100.00** extension fee 1 group and **\$50** for any additional groups)

Side note....Sept. 15th the first studio tuition payment will go through TINY team payments will pause for revaluation after Sept.

OCTOBER 15th ~ \$50.00 (5th team payment due plus an additional **\$50.00** extension fee 1 group & **\$50** for any additional groups)

***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, 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.

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 April 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.

YOUR NECESSARY TEAM INFO will include the following: This informational packet, 2025-26 contract, permission/tryout 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 to the desk in order to audition **7 DAYS PRIOR**. You will also register for summer AND fall classes 7 DAYS 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 Team Liaison Melissa McBride if you need to turn in your envelope after May 7th. Mcbridegirls@att.net

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. 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. You will receive the gym schedule (November-ish) 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 20th (K-3rd) 5:30-6:45, (4th-6th) 7:00-8:30 then Wednesday, May 21st ...(7th-12th) 5:30-7:15 then Senior Pom only 7:30-8:30.

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.

During the younger kids 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, doesn't ask "what time is it" lol)

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 work ethic.

Results will be posted on studio door by 9:15 p.m. and also on studio Facebook/Instagram 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", contract 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/s, in all classes for attendance, work ethic, focus, strong technique, growth over the years, bigger skills, WOW factors, flexibility, memory, high quality performance ability, exceptional behavior in all classes & willing to put in the work on own. 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!

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/S AUDITIONING FOR~

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

GRADE for 2025/2026 _____

SCHOOL YOU ATTEND _____ BIRTHDATE _____

Repeat~ if you are also wanting to be considered for Junior A or B, you must attend that audition. Several kids are on Mini's and Jr B each year. A few Mini kids might be ready for Junior Elite but must be on Mini's first and foremost. All Mini's routines will be considered first before a Junior team. It is possible though that we see a dancer that looks to be a good fit for Mini Jazz/Pom plus Open and then Junior B Jazz/Hip Hop combo. So maybe we do not put them on Mini Hip Hop because it's just too much. We look at all options and what's the best fit for each dancer and based on what that team needs.

****If you grab a Junior/Senior packet please note~this year \$150.00 start-up payment PER TEAM is necessary. If you are in 6th grade you pay \$150 per Mini and \$150 per junior. This will help things not get behind later. You do not pay an additional \$150 if on Tiny's and trying to add Mini Lyrical or Mini Hip Hop.**

DANCER
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Did you also sign the chart and check off the groups you are interested in please!

Please make a copy of the below contract that you will be signing and turning in.
Those receiving a contract per team, you only need to turn in ONE.

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 and to support all required fundraisers that benefit the team expenses.
- I agree that any rules that apply will be followed and if not, a demerit may be issued. A certain number of demerits will result in a consequence to be completed by the dancer.
- 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, solo/duet/trio.
- 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/Coach of the teams.
- 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 21st of 2025 to May 21st of 2026 or until the season concludes after the chosen Nationals summer event regardless of if team or optional solo.

Student

Date

Parent

Date

Dance Expressions

Date