



2020-2021 LTDS Performance Team

A Guide for Students and Parents

OUR GOAL FOR THIS TEAM IS TO HAVE FUN WHILE WORKING HARD AND PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE NEXT LEVEL. ALL CLASSES AND FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH THIS THEORY IN MIND. THROUGH DANCE WE HOPE TO INSTILL THE FOLLOWING VALUES: PREPARATION, DEDICATION, TENACITY, PERSEVERANCE, ALTRUISM, TEAMWORK, RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS, GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP. WE BELIEVE THESE VALUES WILL FOLLOW THE DANCERS BEYOND THE STUDIO AND INTO THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES. WE WANT THE GIRLS TO UNDERSTAND THAT "TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER, IT'S NOT ABOUT WHO'S THE BEST, BECAUSE WE'RE ALL THE BEST!"

➤ Dates and/or expenses listed in this handbook are subject to change. Any changes will go out in an email.

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FOR OUR DANCERS

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, reach a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Being a part of the LTDS Performance Team is a privilege that dancers and their parents must appreciate and respect. Participation in the program is restricted to dancers who are ready to make achieving their personal best a priority. There will be times when classes, rehearsals, or performances will be scheduled when your non-dance friends or family may be headed to the mall or the movies.

We encourage dancers to be as dedicated to their academic studies as they are to their dance training. If your participation in this program affects your grades or the expectations and goals set by your parents, we cannot allow you to be a member of the team.

Reasons why this team might not be a good fit for you:

- You're involved in extracurricular activities that could interfere with your class, rehearsal, or performance commitments.
- You're doing it because you want to keep up with your friends, but you are not passionate about dance nor the commitment.
- You're doing it because your parent(s) want you to.
- You're primarily focused on winning awards.
- You're not fully committed to attending all classes and rehearsals.

Performance Team Benefits

The program focuses on educating young people to strive for their personal best in anything they want to accomplish. We achieve our goals for the program by offering young people the chance to:

- gain a sense of balance in life by managing their commitments to both dance and academics;
- participate in a physical activity that enhances understanding of the value of a healthy body;
- develop a sense of confidence when speaking or making a presentation in a public setting, which is also a great benefit in college or job interviews;
- work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the classroom;

- enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents;
- discover the results of hard work and determination; and
- develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

In addition, making a commitment to the policies set forth in this handbook teaches our young people that there are boundaries that must be respected in order to succeed in the program.

FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that’s comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

➤ You play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value.

Dos and Don'ts

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

Classes

All team members are required to be enrolled as a student of LTDS. They must be enrolled in the tap/jazz combo class and ballet class to strengthen technique. You will be emailed and given a Performance Team practice schedule monthly. Performance Team is a commitment from September 2019 until July 2020. The dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to all Performance Team Classes. There will be a choreography/travel fee paid to the choreographer and a \$20 monthly fee added to your tuition for instruction, you will be notified of the due date. Extra routines will also have the above charges. This monthly fee is due with tuition on the 1st of each month, if the fee is not paid by the 10th of each month, your account will be charged a \$20 late fee. If your child is in more than one routine, a \$20 late fee will be charged for each routine.

All dancers must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the program.

In order to be eligible to be a part of any extra group, duo, trio, solo routines, the team member must compete in the team dance.

Attendance

Attendance is extremely important for a performance/competition team. Every person must use their best effort to attend all regular and performance team classes. Members are allowed **3 unexcused absences** from their performance team classes during the year. Upon the 4th unexcused absence, the member will immediately and unfortunately be dismissed from the team. Please call or text us as soon as you know your child will be absent at (337) 541-1278. Also, we ask absences be brought to our attention 24 hours before the class begins. We also ask that the dancers arrive to practices on time. There will be consequences for tardiness and these will be at the teacher's discretion. **The same attendance rules apply for ballet and combo classes, 3 unexcused absences and the students will be dismissed from the team.**

There will be a \$40 charge for all Performance Team absences, excused or unexcused. If your child is 15 minutes late for any practice you will be charged the \$40 absence fee. This begins in September and ends in July. This fee must be paid by the team member's next scheduled class at the studio or account will be charged \$20 a day until paid.

Excused: Family event (wedding, funeral), contagious illness (accompanied by a Dr.'s note), school functions where a grade is received, trips which were planned and paid for before auditions. If they are not contagious, they must attend and observe so they do not get behind.

Unexcused: Non-contagious illness, injury, sports/extra curricular functions, homework, work, tardies.

Dancers who miss a class where choreography is taught, will not be in that section of choreography.

All team members must be present at the last practice before a competition or performance. Important information is given at that time, along with any last minute corrections or changes. Any absence whether excused or unexcused the practice before a competition/performance will result in the team member not participating in the competition/performance.

All classes are dedicated to choreography or "cleaning" the choreography. A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par. When we clean choreography, we may also make changes. Dancers who miss a cleaning session may not be properly prepared for an upcoming performance and could end up disappointing themselves, their team, or the studio. With that being said, if a dancer misses an important cleaning session, they will be taken out of that part of the dance.

An important lesson taught through our Performance Team is the value of teamwork. Dancers who miss a rehearsal because of a non-emergency circumstance are letting their fellow dancers down in many ways. We expect parents to nurture the values that dance education teaches; therefore, you should never encourage your child to let the group down.

If parents have a conflict that prevents them from taking their children to a scheduled rehearsal, we will be more than happy to arrange transportation with other parents from the same group. Our goal is to help all children make their commitments.

➤ **Dancers: True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do.**

Injury

If a dancer is injured during the year and the dancer is unable to compete, the dancer will be charged a \$200 re-blocking fee.

If a dancer “quits” or is dismissed from the team between September 2020-July 2021, they will be charged a \$500 re-blocking fee. They will also be responsible for any travel/choreography fees the choreographer may charge to “fix” the routine.

Classroom Attire

The LTDS dress code must be followed for all Performance Team practices and Conventions. If a team member is not dressed correctly for class, they will not be able to participate in class and it will be counted as an unexcused absence. If the dress code is not followed at Convention there will be consequences for the team when we return to the studio.

Respect

Respect for the school, its teachers, and its choreographers is essential.

Guidelines for behavior:

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of every class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are a must in every class and rehearsal.
- Choreography must never be questioned.
- Finish every class or choreography session with a thank-you to the teacher or choreographer.
- When wearing your school jacket or other apparel to non-dance events, be sure that the activities and your behavior reflect positively on you and the school.

Appreciate the Critique

Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

FOR DANCERS AND PARENTS

Image

The children and parents involved with the LTDS Performance Team participate in many outside activities, all of which reflect LTDS' philosophy.

Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from other schools.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact the director of our school.
- Dancers should be properly dressed for all events. Dancewear or costumes should always be covered with LTDS jackets and pants.
- Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

Costumes

Performance Team costumes will be worn at all competitions, performances, and the revue. With your costume you will receive any tights or fishnets which need to be worn, performance pair of shoes, makeup kit, eyelashes, stones to add to costume, and jewelry. The cost of the costumes and accessories deposit will be \$200. Once all costumes and accessories are ordered, you will be notified of your balance. Shoes and tights must be purchased through the studio to ensure a uniform appearance on stage. Costumes are ordered from professional manufacturers, however some costumes might need adjustments or enhancements and in this case you are responsible for alterations.

Please Note: Team members must have a **PERFORMANCE** pair of shoes and a **PRACTICE** pair of shoes, which will be ordered by the studio. Also, don't wear a performance pair of shoes outside, in dirt, rocks, grass, etc.

Be sure to bobby pin all headpieces, even if you think it's not necessary. Bring emergency supplies like extra tights, needle and thread, clear nail polish for last minute runs and lots of safety pins and bobby pins

Warm Ups & Bags

New team members will need to purchase PT backpacks. The fee for the backpacks will be due with the instruction fee. All members will also purchase competition shirts to be worn with their warm ups. This fee will be due with the costume/accessory deposit.

Dancers may not be seen in costume unless they are on stage. LTDS jackets and matching pants are required and can be purchased through the studio in October. Warm-ups also protect the costumes from getting spilled on or damaged because costumes are not washable. Depending on time of awards at competitions, costumes should be removed immediately after performing. All dancers must wear the comp tshirt with their jacket and pants to go on stage for awards. Dancers must wear warm-ups over their dance attire when not in class at convention. Remember we will only put in 1 order this year so don't miss it.

MAKE-UP

All girls are required to wear "stage" make-up to each performance/competition. A unified look is best and when team members have different colors on their faces, it breaks up the continuity of the group and overall look of their performance. You will be notified later on make-up and hair decisions. Note: Hair pieces may be required to keep a unified look.

The Competition Experience

For dedicated dancers, the satisfaction of an excellent performance is all the motivation they need to work harder to continue improving. Don't judge how you feel about your performance by the size of the trophy or the color of the medal.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider students' participation in competitions not merely part of their dance training; it's also an important part of how we influence their growth as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about; whether they win—or which award they win—is secondary.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education!

➤ **We believe the lessons learned through revue performances are just as valuable as the competition experience.**

General Performance and Competition Policies

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Here's what you can do to make the most of this opportunity.

- Arrive at the venue at the given time ready to warm up and practice the routine. Allow extra travel time in case of traffic
- Present yourself in a professional manner, with costumes pressed, shoes cleaned, and all accessories accounted for.
- Treat competitors and teachers from other schools with respect.
- Treat the directors and staff of the competition with respect.
- Keep your area of the dressing rooms clean and never bring food or drink where it is prohibited.
- Wear your warm up jacket and pants to all competition events and during the award presentations.
- Refrain from video recording at competitions, this is a rule of the competition. If caught our team could be disqualified. You may video the showoff, but please don't post to any social media sites.
- Don't take photographs in the competition dressing rooms. You never know who could be undressing in the background.
- No cell phones on stage during competition time or during awards.

Competition Scheduling

When planning a competition weekend, be prepared for performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Once a schedule is prepared you may find that you do not have to attend the entire weekend, but you must be prepared to do so. There are no exceptions.

Approximately one week prior to the event, the competition company will supply our office with an itinerary. Schedules will be emailed to all dancers and their parents as soon as they are received.

Competition Critiques

At many of the competition events, the schools receive performance critiques from the judges. These critiques are the property of the school and will be played for the dancers during class time. It is very important not to miss the class after competition. This is when the dancers listen and apply the critiques.

Award Presentations

When presented with an award, always show professionalism by thanking the person who presents you with the award. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. The director will designate the dancer which will go up to receive the award.

Independent/Team Entries

No dancer may compete or attend any competition/convention as an independent entry without the permission of the school director. No dancer is allowed to be a member of another performance team/company, it is considered a conflict of interest. The dancer must be attending all the conventions scheduled by the studio to be approved to attend extras. This is to keep the girls working as a team and to avoid jealousy and unhealthy competition amongst the team. Also, any classes taken outside of the studio must be approved by the director. These classes consist of but not limited to privates, master classes, workshops, etc.

Cash Prizes

Cash Prizes awarded to the team will be utilized for Performance Team activities and end of the year medals.

Costume Common Sense

- ✓ Always have a second pair of tights available.
- ✓ Place costumes in studio garment bag for travel.
- ✓ Carry hats in a hatbox or container to prevent them from damage.
- ✓ Place your name in all costumes and shoes.
- ✓ Check seams, trim, headpieces, etc. for repairs that must be made prior to the next competition.

ACCOUNTS

It is essential that all accounts remain in good standing throughout the year so that we can continue to offer this wonderful opportunity to our students. Those students whose accounts are not up to date will not be allowed to compete or attend convention. There will be a \$20 late fee for all PT fees that are not paid on time and \$50 late fee for convention/competition fees not paid on time.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Members of the performance team are the ones who represent the studio to the community. Throughout the year, the team may be asked to perform at special events, as a team member you are expected to participate in all events.

CONVENTIONS

For the 2020-2021 dance season we will attend 3 dance conventions. It is mandatory that your child attends at least 2 of these conventions and it is encouraged for them to attend more than 2. If a team member does not attend 2 of the listed conventions they will not be allowed to audition

for the team the following year. Convention is a wonderful opportunity for your child to attend classes taught by the top choreographers in the world of dance. They have the chance to win scholarships and experience amazing dance outside of our studio. In one weekend of classes, your dancer will leave with a months' worth of technique training. All dancers must audition for scholarships, there will be consequences for the team if the dancers "skip" auditions.

STUDIO, COMPETITION, AND CONVENTION ETIQUETTE FOR DANCERS AND PARENTS

1. Always have respect for your team members, teachers, and parents.
2. Do not talk while you are in a class or while others are performing. Listen to your instructor and follow classroom rules.
3. Do not talk about or make fun of dancers on our team or from other studios.
4. Parents: If you have an issue with a teacher, the studio, another child, dance, costume, etc please call us to discuss this first. It is not acceptable to talk about others in or out of the studio. This is not setting a good example for the kids nor is it healthy.
5. Negativity will not be tolerated by parents or students.
6. Be positive and willing to learn new things.
7. No bullying will be tolerated. That includes physical, emotional, taunting, calling names, talking about one another, etc. If you are a victim of this behavior, you must come to a teacher or staff member immediately so we can address this issue. This goes for students and parents inside and outside the studio.
8. If you cannot say anything nice, do not say anything at all. We are not here to build up our own children or ourselves by tearing down someone else's.
9. Do not talk about other dancers, and where people should stand in numbers, or what team they should be on, or whether they should be on the team; this is the studio's responsibility. It is also the studio's responsibility to teach the classes and call extra practices if needed.
10. Clean up after yourselves at the studio and at convention.
11. Place bags under chairs in convention rooms, not on top of chairs.
12. Be an encouragement by supporting others in classes, performances, and competitions and be humble.
13. Be sociable and make new friends.
14. Be a Team Player!
15. Social networking is a personal choice and freedom of speech (facebook, instagram, twitter, snapchat, etc), but it is not ok to post negative comments about our team members, other teams, or negative ideas associated with competitions and members of the LTDS family.
16. Each convention/competition has their own set of rules which we will make you aware of before the conventions/competition.
17. We are a team, so when one team member makes a bad choice at the

studio/competitions/conventions, they are letting down the team and the studio, so that means there will be consequences for the team for the behavior.

LTDS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THESE RULES/REGULATIONS AS WE SEE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BEST BENEFIT THE STUDIO AND TEAM.

LTDS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISMISS ANY TEAM MEMBER FROM THE TEAM IF THE DANCER OR HER PARENTS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

By signing below I am indicating complete agreement and compliance with any and all terms and stipulations of the LTDS Performance Team obligations, calendar, financial responsibility, rules, policies and expectations. I understand that failure to comply with the above rules and regulations will result in dismissal from the team.

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____