



COMPETITION HANDBOOK

Parent & Student



2023-2024 SEASON
DIAMOND DANCE STUDIO
Willow River, MN

Competition Summer Classes

Required:

- Bootcamp Week – Class will be held Monday-Thursday the week of June 26th.
 - Levels 1 & 2 will be 3 hours at a time. (*Cost \$105*)
 - Mini's will meet for 1 hour at a time. (*Cost \$55*)
 - Class Locations and Times
 - Mini Bootcamp: 4:30pm-5:00pm (All Class days are required for bootcamp)
Studio A (Studio A) w/Madi Monday and Wednesday.
Studio B (Studio B) w/Sara Tuesday and Thursday.
 - Level 1 Bootcamp: 5:00pm-8:30pm (All Class days are required for bootcamp)
Studio B (Studio B) w/Sara Monday and Wednesday.
Studio A (Studio A) w/Madi Tuesday and Thursday.
 - Level 2 Bootcamp: 5:00pm-8:30pm (All Class days are required for bootcamp)
Studio A (Studio A) w/Madi Monday and Wednesday.
Studio B (Studio B) w/Sara Tuesday and Thursday.
- Auditions – July 10-13th (*Cost \$55*)
- One of the following “a la cart” classes is also required (*Cost \$55*)
 - Competition Technique (Session 1) June 12-15
 - Tumbling June 19-22
 - Competition Technique (Session 2) June 19-22
 - Competition Technique (Session 3) July 17-20

Auditions

Requirements/Information

- Must be age 4 or older.
- Must have at least 1 year of recreational dance before joining a competition team.

What to Expect?

- During audition week, guest judges will observe technique, work ethic, class etiquette, muscle memory, etc.
- The dancers will learn combinations during the audition and will be looked at in a group setting as well as smaller groups (maybe 3-5 dancers at a time).
- We will always try to find a place for everyone. However, auditioning for competition does not mean you automatically are accepted into a competition team.
- Arrive for class prepared to dance wearing appropriate tight-fitting clothing, footwear, and hair tied away from face.

What is taken into consideration?

- Previous work ethic, attendance, accountability, etc. is taken into account.
- Performance abilities out on a competitive stage or recital stages.
- The amount of effort given through the entire audition process.
- Sportsmanship towards the other dancers also auditioning.
- Listening to judge critiques and suggestions.

How is the decision made?

- The guest judges will take notes on each dancer.
- After auditions are completed, the judges will discuss the results and determine each dancer's placement.
- The finalized results will be sent out via email.

Is there a cost to audition?

- Yes! There is a \$55 fee to audition for competition teams.

Audition Form

- Due on the first day of auditions

REQUIRED- SIGNED CONTRACT

Parent and Dancer will need to return the competition contract signed and dated by the first day of auditions. If the contract is not signed the dancer will not be considered for placement on a team.

Different Group/Class/Comp Options

- **Convention: Celebration Talent at the DECC in Duluth MN (September 24, 2023) and DX Brooklyn Park Community Center (Saturday and Sunday November 11-12 2023)**
At the convention dancers have the opportunity to learn the following:
 - Learn from professional dance instructors
 - Learn different styles of dance: jazz, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, ballet, modern, etc
 - Be challenged and grow as a dancer!
- **Specialty groups**
 - This will give dancers of similar skill and dedication levels the opportunity to dance together and learn from each other. Dances will be choreographed to blend together the different sizes, which allows for unique and fun routines! Special small groups will meet one hour per week, will learn one routine, and will compete at 4 competitions.
- **Production**
 - Production is a 6-8 minute dance that will be performed at the winter showcase, the spring recital and at two competitions. Production requires 20 dancers, however we will proceed with less dancers, if needed. This year, the production routine will be a musical theater number to Matilda. We meet once a month on a Sunday at 4pm. The schedule will be sent out after auditions.
- **Nationals**
 - Nationals will be optional for our dancers. We will attend the DX Nationals in Shakopee in June and will have a slightly elevated cost (details in comp related fees). Nationals are a fun way for your dancer to challenge themselves at the end of the year. At nationals, they offer everything a regional competition does plus classes taught by the judges, scavenger hunts, a pizza party, and a chance to win grand champion!
- **Solos/Duets/Trios**
 - Required to be in a group as well in order to audition for one of these options.
 - Limited spots available, not everyone is guaranteed a slot.
 - Taught by either Madeline Jahnz, Sara Bitton, or Abileen Erwin
 - Practices are once a month.
 - Required to attend all competitions their groups attend.
 - Can do more than one solo routine. This will require more lessons.

Competition Information:

Competition commitment is June through May each year.

Competition schedules are sent out around 1 week before each competition. **DO NOT** email the studio asking for the detailed schedule ahead of time as it is not available.

Competition Expectations:

- All students are expected to attend all classes.
- Students may have up to 4 unexcused absences classes between August-May.
- Poor attendance can result in termination from competition.
- For dancers to hold themselves in a high regard with respect for others and personal property.

Excused/Unexcused Absences:

- Excused absences: Illness, School Required Events, Family Emergencies
- Unexcused absences: Anything not listed above.

Opportunities for discounts:

- **Teachers Assistant**
 - If your dancer is interested in becoming a teacher assistant for our upcoming season, please email us at our DDS email (diamonddancemn@gmail.com). If approved, your dancer will receive a special DDS teacher assistant Hoodie, a special end of the year pin, and you will receive a discount of \$15 per month, per class. Regular attendance is required to receive all listed above.
- **Studio Cleaner**
 - We are looking to hire two competition dance moms to thoroughly clean both Studio A and Studio B once a week. By doing this, you would receive a discount on your monthly tuition that will be discussed. Send email to diamonddancemn@gmail.com if interested). As of 6/20/23, we have filled these positions.

NEW Parent Committees:

This year we are going to have a group of parent volunteers run committees to help plan and/or volunteer for the following events for Diamond Dance this year:

- Competition Kickoff Party
 - All day event from morning until early evening.
 - We will have games, different events, and team bonding.
 - This party will be FREE to all competitive dancers.
 - Send a packed lunch with your dancer for the day.
- Recital (Winter and Spring)
- Spring Award Banquet
 - The Spring Award Banquet will be celebrating our competition season. With Dinner, dancing, and awards.

Details: Decide the theme for the events, help with supervision, in charge of set up and take down for decorations, etc. More information will come once committees are decided.

NEW Competition Lead Parents:

New this year we will be assigning a parent for each group at the competition to be the lead parent. The lead parent will be in charge of making sure all the girls are ready for stage, practicing the routines before going on stage, and getting the group backstage to check in when it is time.

Early Contract Termination Fee:

If you decide to pull your dancer after September 1st, a \$250 early termination fee will be charged to your account. We have put this in place due to when dancers quit mid-season it affects all the dancers on the team along with the instructor because the dances have to be re-choreographed.

Competition Levels:

- Super Mini Level & Boys Team– These dancers will dance 1 hour per week with their group.
- Sports Team Level – These dancers will dance 2 hours per week with their group. An additional hour will be scheduled when the entire group can attend practice. This will be scheduled each month when solos/duets/trios schedule is organized.
- Competitive Level (All except for mini, boys, sports, production, and specialty groups) – These dancers will dance 3 hours a week with their group.

Extra Practice Options

- Private Lessons
 - These lessons provide one-on-one time with an instructor to work on technique, tumbling and/or routines.
 - Cost \$45/1 hour lesson & \$23/ 30 min lesson.
 - Lessons can be scheduled through dance studio pro.
- Open Studio Time
 - One hour time slots will be available to use the Willow River studio A or B that can be signed up for Dance Studio Pro.
 - Once signed up you will receive a passcode pin for the studio. Once you receive a passcode, you will continue to use the same code.
 - We can see who enters the studio through the kwikset app and do have multiple cameras that we check on a regular basis. Please stay out of the office when using open studio time.
 - Cost of open studio time is \$10/hr

Sports and Activities Guidelines:

The sports and activities guidelines are in place to make sure that the commitment to dance is taken just as seriously as any other sport/activity. We want our dancers to be well rounded and to enjoy all the activities they are passionate about. The following guidelines are enforced for our competitive level of dance and do not pertain to the sport team level.

- Dancers are expected to arrive ready and on time when there are no activities/sports conflicts. Other sport practices and games will not be excused; no exceptions (unless on the Sports Team):
 - Dancers may not miss more than 2 weeks of practice in a row due to other sports/activities. This includes missing any portion of the class.
 - Dancers are required to be at all practices 2 weeks prior to the first two competitions and 1 week after the first two competitions. This guideline is in place so if there are critiques that need to be addressed in the routines, all dancers are at classes to make those changes.
 - Exceptions are made leading up to the performance part of comp season but NOT the mandatory practices once competition's start.
 - Dancers may not use an unexcused absence to miss class for a sports game.
 - If dancers miss the above practices for a sports game, they will be immediately cut from the team.
 - If dancers miss more than 4 practices for a sports game (for any amount of time) during the season, they will be required to schedule private technique lessons equal to the time missed with either Sara or Madi. 30 min lessons cost \$23 and 1 hour lessons cost \$45.

Sports Team:

- The sports team will be scheduled for 2 hour practices every month. Families will be billed for this amount of hours each month. When the solo/duets/trios are scheduled, parents from this group will be asked about their sports game schedule. An additional hour will be added when the entire team can attend practice. The fee of \$8 per additional hour will be added to your bill the following month. We know things can change so we will make sure the additional hour happens before you are billed for the time.

Competition Etiquette – Performance/Competitions

- Speak and behave respectfully. Please keep negative thoughts to yourself.
- Refrain from going into the dressing rooms to allow dancers to have their space unless they need assistance to get ready.
- Only move around the auditorium in between dances.
- Dancers are not allowed to have cell phones out on stage for the awards ceremonies.
- Dancers are required to attend their awards ceremony at each competition.
- All dancers and parents/guardians are required to watch all DDS performances at competition if they are in the building.
- No Photography is allowed at competitions; it can result in disqualification of the studio if caught.
- Students under the age of 16 must be supervised at each competition.
- If your dancer misses a performance they will be immediately cut from the team.

Competition Class Etiquette

- No Gum
- Hair up and out of face
- Dress appropriately
- Wear required shoes
- Respect fellow dancers and teacher
- Follow the studio rules

Student Injury Policy

If a student is injured, they must notify the instructor and studio owner. Injured students are still required to attend classes to participate as much as they are able or to observe the routines. Injured students are required to attend the scheduled performances and tuition will still be required each month. However, if a student's injury takes them out of competing for the season, there may be exceptions to this and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have concerns about this policy, please bring it up to the studio in a respectful manner so they can be discussed.

Number of Competition Routines:

- All Groups, solos and duets will attend 4 competitions.(Except for Super Mini and Boys Group)
- Production will attend 2 competitions.
- Nationals will be optional for all routines.
 - *If the entire group agrees to go to nationals, you will not have regular practice after May. There will be one practice before Nationals at no cost as a refresher.*

Tentative Performance Dates:

These dates are a general idea of the season and events are subjects to change. Competition dates will be confirmed after auditions.

- Winter Showcase: February 3rd, 2024
- Competitions: Not all groups will perform at all 4 scheduled competitions. Once Results of the auditions are posted the number of competitions for each group will be sent out.
 - February – Either Gems or Precision Arts Tentative: February 23rd-25th
 - March- ID Chanhassen High School: March 15th-17th
 - April – Ovation Superior High School, Superior WI: April 12th-14th
 - May – In10sity in Monticello: May 3rd-5th
- Optional Competitions:
 - Masquerade – March 8th-10th
- Spring Recital: May 18th, 2024
- Nationals: Dance Extreme June 10th-16th, 2024
 - Shakopee High School, Shakopee MN

Extra Practice Dates:

This year during winter break all groups including production will be required to attend a practice which we will be held at one of the local auditoriums to prepare for the upcoming competition season. Survey/Poll will be sent out on DSP in November. Solos/duets/trios will practice their routines on stage during their group practices.

Competition good to know information:

- Some competitions run ahead which is why there are arrival times sent out. These arrival times are not suggestions and the dancers are expected to be there on time. Generally, the arrival time is 2 hours before their first dance. We typically have people arrive three hours early for our first competition of the year.
- Competitions can sometimes run Tuesday-Friday the week of competition so be prepared that you might have to take off work or get a hotel during the week.

Competition class attire options:

Clothing needs to be tight fitting. This helps the instructors to be able to view a dancer to determine correct hip, arm, and core technique to help prevent injuries.

- Leotard, shorts (tight fitting), tights
- Shorts (tight fitting), tights, bra top
- Leggings/capris, bra top

Competition Related Fees:

Payment Expectation:

- Payments are due on the 15th of each month. Our new system has a reliable and convenient auto pay feature. If you sign up, your card will be processed on the 15th each month. This is not required but is highly recommended.
- Payments can be made with debit/credit card, cash, or check. There is a convenience fee for cards being used online in dance studio pro. Credit cards will be charged 3.05% plus 30 cents and ACH payments will be charged .8%. Cash/check can be dropped off in the payment box which is located in the lobby of the studio.
- Any returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee.
- Unpaid fees will result in the dancer being pulled from classes or performances.

- Individualized monthly tuition projection for the upcoming season can be created. Email the dance studio to request.

Competition Related Fees

- Competitions per routine, per competition:
 - Solo = \$130/dancer
 - Duet/Trio = \$75/dancer
 - Group - \$60/dancer
- National Fees
 - Solo = \$145
 - Duet/Trio = \$85
 - Group = \$70
- Convention (Optional)
 - Celebration Cost:
 - All Dancers for One Day Event = \$130
 - DX Cost:
 - Juniors-Seniors One Day = \$165
 - Juniors-Seniors Two Day = \$220
 - Mini One Day = \$70
 - Mini Two Day = \$115
- Costume Fee
 - \$100 per costume per routine
 - Earrings = \$10
 - Rhinestone Hair Piece = \$10
 - Rhinestone Necklace - \$10
- Competition Jacket – A new one does not need to be purchased each year.
 - Fee of around \$50
 - Order from the Northland Apparel Website.
- Media Fee
 - Up to \$35 (This will vary depending on competition)
 - Some competitions have a required media fee. This fee can vary in price. If there is a media fee that is required with registration, parents will be required to pay the media fee. More information will be included about this once we finalize the competition schedule.

Studio Related Fees

- Tuition Fees – Based on weekly hours per family
 - 10 classes/hours per month: \$270
 - 9 classes/hours per month: \$240
 - 8 classes/hours per month: \$215
 - 7 classes/hours per month: \$190
 - 6 classes/hours per month: \$165
 - 5 classes/hours per month: \$135
 - 4 classes/hours per month: \$120
 - 3 classes/hours per month: \$105
 - 2 classes/hours per month: \$80
 - 1 class/hour per month: \$55
 - 30-45 minute class per month: \$50
 - Private lessons: \$45
 - Production Lessons: \$15/per lesson
- Registration/Media/Recital Fee (RMR) –
 - \$30 fee will be due in September and February

- This fee covers the registration fee for administrative costs, the media fee which will give you access to photography and videography from the recital, and the recital fee which covers some of the costs associated with putting on the recital.
- Apparel/Footwear/Accessories Fee (If needed)
 - Tights = \$10
 - Leotards = \$15-\$30
 - Shoes = \$15-\$30
 - Foot Undies = \$15
 - Half Ballets = \$15
 - Jazz Shoes = \$30

Note: If shoes are falling apart, they need to be replaced or fixed (no matter what time of the year).

Extra Competition Costs

- Hotels (Optional)
- Food/Gas
- Trophies or pins for Purchase (Optional)
- Competition Merchandise (Optional)
- Competition Photos (Optional)
- Improv (Optional)

Fee Payment Schedule

Fee schedule may be different depending on the number of competitions your dancer is attending based on the results of the auditions. Individual yearly cost estimates can be provided when requested once group assignments are complete. Send email to diamond dance titled Cost Estimates – (Last Name) to inquire.

<u>August 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Costume Fees ● Accessory Fees ● Celebration Talent Convention Fee (If applicable)	<u>September 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #1 ● Fall RMR* fee ● DX Convention Fee (If Applicable)	<u>October 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #2	<u>November 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #3	<u>December 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● Competition #4
<u>January 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● All Optional Competition Fees	<u>February 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees ● National Competition Fees (If applicable) ● Spring RMR* Fee	<u>March 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees	<u>April 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees	<u>May 15th –</u> ● Tuition Class Fees

*RMR Fee – Recital, Media, and Registration fee cost rolled into one single fee.

Parent Responsibility:

Communication:

- Our primary source of contact is email on a regular basis so please make sure to frequently check your email account.
- During competition weekends, your primary source of contact is through the band app. Make sure to turn your notifications on during these weekends. The band app will be set up after auditions. We will also use the band app for last minute class cancellations.
- If your Dancer will miss or is late for class the studio must be notified via email, facebook message, or phone call.

Transportation:

Rides to and from classes, competitions, events and performances will be the parents' responsibility. Carpooling is encouraged.

Parent Etiquette – At the Studio

- Respect class time and refrain from entering any of the studios/classes unless invited in.
- Do not speak ill towards any student or DDS staff member.
- Do not gossip.
- Do not vent in the lobby area.
- Complaints and frustrations should be directed to us via email.
- Do not communicate with your child during class unless it's an emergency as this will cause a distraction for the class.
- Do not watch the class too often. The less you view the class the more progress you will see at the end of each session.
- Make sure to communicate with the studio. The studio cannot fix issues if we are unaware there are any.
- Please keep interactions with the instructor/owner to a minimum at the end of the night.

Support System

Your child has entered into a competitive program where hard work is required along with grace and responsibility.

- Let your dancer know how proud of them you are.
- Leave criticism up to the dance professionals
- Sit back and watch your child do what they love.
- Encourage your dancer.
- Believe in them on and off stage.

Contact Information

Diamond Dance Studio Contact Information:

Notice: Direct contact with instructors and staff via personal social media accounts and phone numbers will be strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances should you reach out to the studio staff other than to the contact information listed below. When you receive a response, it will be either from Madeline (owner) or Autumn (office manager). We thank you for respecting our personal lives and keeping it separate from the studio.

Email – diamonddancemn@gmail.com

Facebook – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

Instagram – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

TikTok – Diamond Dance Studio @ diamonddancemn

Studio Phone – 218-372-8427

Band App – Groups will be established once auditions are completed. We will use this for communications during the whole comp season for class announcements, weather related closures, and competition communication.