

# **NORTH SHORE DANCE STUDIO**

## **Student Performing Company**

### **Policies for 2019-2020**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide students with learning experiences above and beyond the normal training given during classes at North Shore Dance Studio. With more opportunities to perform, dancers will learn proper showmanship and performance techniques. Dancers will feel a sense of accomplishment and self-worth when presenting a dance to an audience.

#### **A. COMPANY REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**The position as a regular dance member and the opportunity for advancement in the company is based on attendance in class, your attitude, dedication to the company, and most importantly your ability level.**

**All Company members are required to take summer dance classes at North Shore Dance Studio.**

**\*Special Guest Teacher Workshop the week of August 12-16 is also required.**

1. Ballet classes are required of all Company members (excluding Tap and Hip-Hop Companies.)

All Company members must take ballet class/classes at their level and fulfill the requirement at that level. This means taking ballet class 2x/week if you are at level IV and above. The Nutcracker performance is mandatory for Ballet company members. The only option of 1x/week is the Level III or below. If you are in only Tap and/or Hip Hop Companies, there are no other classes required but ballet and jazz are still recommended.

2. Members are to promptly attend the Dance Company classes each week, missing no more than four (4) classes or Rehearsals in a semester.

3. Company members and parents represent NSDS! Members must set a good example for all students at NSDS.

4. Dance Company members are role models for others to follow and proper behavior includes cleaning up after yourselves, showing a positive and mature attitude towards everyone at the studio, and attending classes regularly.

5. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of The Company, which means there will be higher expectations and greater responsibilities. Members may be suspended from a performance or asked to leave the dance studio by the director for the following reasons:

- a. If a dancer is not able (due to missed rehearsal or lack of practice) to perform the dance according to the standards of the group.
- b. If a dancer misses key rehearsals or performances.
- c. If a dancer does not exhibit a positive attitude regarding The Company or NSDS.
- d. If a dancer does not conduct him/herself in a mature and responsible manner at the studio or place of performance or competition.
- e. If a dancer does not maintain proper health and fitness.
- f. If a dancer exhibits poor choices that are dangerous or illegal. I.E. Underage drinking and/or drug use.
- g. If a dancer displays inappropriate or lewd language, behavior, cyber-bullying, bullying, pictures, or content

on any and all social media accounts. Including, but not limited to; Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

These previous items are important and will not be taken lightly. No refunds will be given if asked to exit the company and or studio.

6. Members and parents must show respect for their instructors and fellow Dance Company members. This means discussing problems and concerns directly with the instructor instead of talking about them with other dancers or parents. This creates rumors and gossip, and will not be tolerated. If there is any sort of issue regarding the students, the matter will only be discussed with the teacher, parent, and student present. This is so everything addressed is open and clear towards all three parties.

7. Competition among Dance Company members can sometimes be very strong, as all want to be the best. Dancers chosen to perform extra dances or to have front placement in a dance should not be resented for this assignment. Please show support for everyone in the group. It is the teacher's decision on where students will be placed, and is based on ability and cohesiveness within the group(s).

8. The commitment you make The Company means that Company classes and performances come first, before extra curricular activities such as dance team, cheer leading, and sports activities. Understand that a rehearsal for an extracurricular activity does not take precedence over a competition or performance. Please arrange a release from other organizations to attend company functions. We are not discouraging participation in other activities, but want you to realize the importance of your commitment to The Company.

9. Extra Dances and Production Numbers. Solos, duets, trios and small group members will be chosen by the directors based on the dancer's ability, audition results, reliability, and dedication to the company. Compatibility with fellow dancers and summer class attendance are also evaluated. **There are additional fees for extras dances.** You will be notified shortly after auditions on who will be participating in an extra dance.

## B. DRESS CODE

### 1. Company Dress Code -

- a. All ballet classes: black leotard and pink tights and hair in a bun
- b. Shoes include: Black/tan jazz bootie, nude "foot undeez", black/tan tap shoes, pink canvas split-soled ballet shoes. Final shoe decisions will be made in late fall.
- c. Hair is to be pulled back in a ponytail. A bun is required for all ballet classes.
- d. Complete theatrical make-up is required for all performances.
- e. A Company jacket, warm-up suit, sweatshirt, or shirt must be worn to all outside events.

## C. COMPETITIONS & PERFORMANCES

### 1. Taking part in the competitions is a requirement to being in the Company.

Competitions are not optional! All the choreography is finished and it is unfair and rude to expect the teachers and dancers to change everything that has been worked on over the past 6 months in order to accommodate a dancer's absence. You have made a commitment to the Company and we thank you for your consideration to this rule.

2. Extra rehearsals may be scheduled prior to a performance.

3. Dancers accepted into the Company may be attending various out-of-town events. All company members are expected to provide their own transportation and meals. When an overnight stay is necessary, lodging will also need to be accounted for on your own.

4. Before any concert or performance we expect that all dancers get a good nights rest and refrain from any late night activities. This is to be sure that all performers are alert and at peak performance ability. We also want to eliminate the risk of injuries and being alert and rested will help with this.

5. Company members will be attending 3-4 competitions and workshops/conventions in the Midwest area during the year. Competition fees are usually \$40.00-\$150.00, based on the number of dances. There are no refunds for any competition fees.

6. Company members may also perform for community events, parades, nursing homes, etc. when invited.

## D. FEES

1. **Costume Fees:** Each company costume fee is \$115. Additional costume fees may be required if you are chosen for an "extra dance".

2. **Commitment Fee:** A one-time fee of \$300.00 will be due for the 2019-2020 season and will need to be turned in upon signing contract and registration. This fee will be applied toward your competition fees. The Commitment Fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.

3. **Departure Fee:** There will be a departure fee of \$300 for any individual who leaves the company at any point during September-June. Contracts need to be taken seriously. Families will be responsible for tuition, costume, and competition fees.

4. **Miscellaneous:** Company Jackets, Jewelry, Make-up, Hair Items, Travel, Food, Lodging. These items will be required for each company member during the season.

## E. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be sure that your child receives a good nights rest before any concert or performance.

2. Encourage your child to manage their homework time wisely. Dancers are allowed to bring homework to competitions/events, but there is often not a lot of time available for this.

3. Provide transportation for dancers to all rehearsals, classes, competitions, and events.

**4.** Provide your loyalty and support; this is extremely crucial to the success of the Company. If you have a concern please speak with the director immediately instead of discussing it with others. We are open to suggestions, but change can only happen once we know what the issue is. We also encourage parents to attend dance competitions and concerts.

**5.** Setting a good example for our younger dancer and community means abiding by all state regulated laws. All underage drug and alcohol use is strictly prohibited and will cause termination from the company with no refunds given.

**6.** Be prompt when returning emails regarding upcoming events and be sure to frequently check the website for any and all information associated with being a part of the company.

**7.** Speak with your child at length the importance of following through on a commitment and the expectations of signing a contract. Understand that being a part of the company is a September-June commitment.

**8.** Encourage your dancer to speak with his or her teacher about any questions or concerns regarding the company or class. Staff will not participate in conversations about any dancer with a parent without previously having spoken with the dancer involved. This eliminates false communication. If the problem cannot be resolved between student and staff member, a meeting involving staff, student, and parent will be set up.

**9.** No dancer will be allowed to participate in class until a registration form, contract, payment, and credit/debit card number has been provided.

**10.** Dancers and Parents are expected to be diligent about checking emails, social media, postings, memos, so that there is no confusion on dates/locations/events. We provide information on multiple platforms, it is your responsibility to pay attention to the information provided.

We hope that each dance company member will feel a sense of accomplishment and self-worth when dancing. Dancers will also be representing their studio, NSDS at these different events, and we hope that they will do so with pride and enthusiasm, and set an example for other dancers. Welcome to the Company, and thank you for your cooperation.

**Let's have a great season of dance!**