

HIGHLAND ★ PARK DANCE COMPANY

Highland Park Dance Company
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Performance Company Information Packet 2023-2024

Introduction

We are so glad you are interested in potentially becoming a member of a Highland Park Dance Company Performance Company. Developing and training young dancers through teams is one of our most favorite aspects of what we do. We strongly believe that being trained on and contributing to a team is one of the best ways to grow in dance ability as well as in several vital areas of life such as character, work ethic, and integrity.

Highland Park Dance Company uses Christian values as the basis for our curriculum and instruction. We choose to glorify God in all aspects of our dance training and to show God's love to each student. It is our commitment as teachers and role models to set a positive example in action and in speech.



What is “Performance Company?”

Performance Company is the perfect opportunity for rising 3rd-5th graders to learn how to be part of a team but without the responsibility or pressure of competitions. Our Performance Companies practice together on a weekly basis and perform at local community events. These groups have made appearances at events such as Highland Park High School basketball games, Christmas tree lightings, HP Village LOCAL, elementary school carnivals and fundraisers, Chi Omega Christmas Market, assisted living homes, and more.

General Information

Anyone interested in a position on the HP Dance Co. Performance Company must read this packet fully and complete the online registration form. HP Dance Co. communicates primarily through email. Once you provide us with your email address, we can send notes, reminders, updates, etc. directly to you. You may provide multiple email addresses if you would like (for multiple parents, work emails, etc.). We advise everyone to check your email daily as we send out emails regularly.

After registering for an HP Dance Co. Performance Company, you will be responsible for attending all practices, performances, and other HP Dance Co. required events. Please know and understand that by registering for our program, you are committing yourself for the entire 2023-2024 school year, as well as some Summer 2023 commitments. This is a substantial time and financial commitment that should not be entered into lightly.

While there is no “tryout” for Performance Company, we accept all applicants who register before the deadline, and *then level dancers into appropriate team groupings*. These groupings are done differently every year. In the past, we have grouped by age/grade level and other times grouped by ability. This year, we plan to have one group of newer, more recreational dancers, and another group of more experienced, technical dancers. *****Please note that these groupings are still very broad. There will be a wide range of dancers on each team. All dancers will have the ability to grow and develop regardless of team placement.*** We've had many dancers who started out dancing completely recreationally with no experience who have gone on to become skilled dancers on our competitive teams.

Those interested in the purely **recreational group**: Simply register online for Performance Co. before the deadline.

Those interested in the more **technical group** will need to be evaluated this May for placement. Register online for Performance Co. before the deadline, and mark these dates on your calendar:

- 1) **Saturday, May 6 @ 1-2pm** - The girls will come to the studio to learn a very small piece of choreography. We will email out videos with counts and music to those who are unable to attend this day.
- 2) **Tuesday, May 16 @ 4-6pm** - The girls will perform the small combo in order to be evaluated for the technical group. This will be an extremely relaxed and low pressure placement day. Normal dance attire is great; no need for any special attire/make-up/etc.

After the evaluation, those who have been placed in the more technical group will be notified via email that week. Those who are not placed in the more technical group will still be able to participate in the recreational group.

For those who are interested in the more technical group, but are unable to attend the placement day on May 16, those girls will need to be evaluated in August at the first Performance Co. practice of the fall semester. The recreational group will still be an incredible training tool for those who are interested in moving on to dancing competitively in the future.

Prerequisites for Eligibility

- Must be a rising 3rd-5th grader for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Must attend one (1) summer dance camp at HPDC during 2023 (can be 1 full camp or 4 individual days).
- Must fill out the online signup form and submit the registration fee:
 - \$50 for registration before May 6, 2023
 - \$75 for registration before May 16, 2023
 - \$150 for registration before August 15, 2023

Requirements and Time Commitment

Summer 2023 Requirements

HP Dance Co. offers lots of summer dance camps for elementary students throughout June, July, and August. Over the summer, all Performance Company members are **required to attend at least one dance camp**. While attending one dance camp is the minimum requirement, dancers would benefit from attending as many summer camps as possible. Dance camps are 4 days long, and you also have the opportunity to register for individual camp days. As long as you can amass 4 days of camp over the summer, then your requirement will be satisfied.

2023-2024 Fall & Spring Requirements

- Weekly requirements (3 hours total):
 - 1 hour/week of Company practice (**Wednesdays 4-5pm**)
 - 1 hour/week of Ballet (there will be a couple options to choose from)
 - 1 hour/week of any other level 2 class (Ex. Jazz, Turns & Leaps, Hip Hop, etc.; there will many options to choose from)
- Miscellaneous requirements:
 - Extra practices (as needed)
 - Private lessons (as needed)
 - Community performances
 - 2-3 each semester
 - Dates and times TBA

Policies

The following policies will be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year. Please read through these policies and direct any questions to info@hpdance.com *before* registering.

Practice & Performance

Dancers are constantly moved within a routine. There are no guaranteed positions for any routine and a position within a routine is subject to change at any time. Team members may be removed from a dance or a team due to injury, attitude, or commitment level. Only dancers and directors are allowed inside of the studio during team practices. Parents are not permitted to watch practices.

Costumes, team warm ups, and practice attire are expected to be clean and tidy for all performances. Each member will be responsible for having on the *correct* attire for practice and performances. Parents are responsible for their children at performances and special events. Each parent must make sure their child is dressed and where they are supposed to be at all times during performances.

Attendance

Please notify your director if you will not be attending practice for any reason. If there is an absence due to illness, please provide a doctor's note upon returning to practice. If a dancer has an illness emergency within one hour of the beginning of practice, keep in mind that directors will most likely not see any messages, as they will be occupied teaching and/or preparing for practice.

Directors can require individual members to attend additional private lessons outside of practice if the director thinks the dancer is falling behind or needs to be caught up after absences.

Discipline

HP Dance Co. parents are very important to the program. However, in order to run an effective program that is designed to meet the needs of many dancers, the team must come first. The best interest of the team will always take priority over an individual, and all decisions will be made accordingly. We kindly ask that every parent and student that is a part of the HP Dance Co. program show complete support. Please allow us to mold and shape your child even when that process is sometimes trying. The road to success is filled with bumps that must be overcome.

The interaction between parents and HP Dance Co. staff should be conducted as a professional business relationship. Because of this, we ask that parents not contact staff outside of reasonable daytime hours.

Code of Conduct

All HP Dance Co. Performance Company members are expected to uphold our standards and code of conduct at all times (both inside and outside of practice). Failure to comply will warrant tardies or even dismissal from performances or from the entire HP Dance Co. program.

All HP Dance Co. Performance Company members are expected to be courteous and respectful to all HP Dance Co. staff, team members, and all others (Philippians 2:3). Members will behave with good sportsmanship at all times. Members will cheerfully and faithfully execute all requirements involved with being a team member.

Members will use self-control in their speech (Proverbs 25:28). Cursing, gossiping, or bullying will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the team. This applies to speech in person, as well as on the phone and over social media (Ephesians 4:29, 32).

Members will remain in their classroom at all times unless they have specific permission from the director. All Members will maintain classroom discipline as required by HP Dance Co. If a child becomes a disruption, they will be removed from class or practice and given an absence (Romans 14:13, 19). A follow up conference with a parent and the student will be required for the student to be able to attend class again.

Performance Company Costs

Participation in Performance Company is \$500 each semester paid in separate installments. In addition to Company tuition, members will also pay the normal rate for their required ballet and other level 2 classes. Members will also purchase performance attire and costumes (approximately \$150).

Anyone who does not pay the full amount required will not be able to participate in the program. There is a \$25 late fee for each week that a balance goes unpaid. There is also a returned check fee of \$25. Once payments are made, there will be no refunds.

Other fees to be collected throughout the year (these are **not** included in the team tuition amount mentioned above):

- Summer Camp tuition
- Team apparel (includes practice attire, warm ups, team bag, costumes, props, etc.)
- Extra team practices and choreography learning sessions

*****Please keep a copy of this document for your records. To officially register for Performance Company, you must fill out and submit the online registration form.***