

# HIGHLAND ★ PARK DANCE COMPANY

Highland Park Dance Company  
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## HP Dance Company Competition Team Tryout Process 2024-2025

### INTRODUCTION

We are so glad you are interested in potentially becoming a member of a Highland Park Dance Company Competition Team! We strongly believe that being trained on and contributing to a team is one of the very best ways to grow in dance ability as well as in several vital areas of life such as character, leadership, 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.

### COMMUNICATION

HP Dance Co. communicates through email ([info@hpdance.com](mailto:info@hpdance.com) or Constant Contact) and TEXT MESSAGING.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TRYOUT?

- RISING 4th-8th grader for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Must fill out and submit the online registration form.**
- Must submit a registration fee of \$50 (or \$100 for day-of or late registration).

### MANDATORY PARENT TRYOUT MEETINGS

At least one parent must attend a mandatory parent meeting at Highland Park Dance Company on either Wednesday, April 17th or Sunday, April 21st (\*This meeting is **REQUIRED** for first-time members only. Not required for parents of returning team members).

- **Option 1:**
  - Wednesday, April 17th
  - 8:00-9:00pm
- **Option 2:**
  - Sunday, April 21st
  - 5:00-6:00pm

### **CHOREOGRAPHY LEARNING DAYS:**

- New + Returning incoming 4th-6th grade:
  - OPTION 1: Friday, April 19th 4:00-5:00pm OR
  - OPTION 2: Saturday, April 20th 9:00-10:00am
- New + returning incoming 7th-8th grade:
  - OPTION 1: Friday, April 19th 5:00-6:00pm OR
  - OPTION 2: Saturday, April 20th 10:00-11:00am
- Dancers may choose to come to EITHER learning option. They will be exactly the same. PLEASE ONLY CHOOSE ONE.
- For those who are absent on this day, don't worry - videos with counts and music will be emailed out after the learning clinics are over.

### **OPTIONAL OPEN GYM PRACTICE**

**Friday, April 26th, 4:00-6:00pm:** All incoming 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade welcome to come run routines in our open studios while teachers watch and give helpful feedback.

### **TRYOUT DATE:**

- New + Returning incoming 4th-6th grade:
  - **Saturday, April 27th**
  - **1:00pm - 4:00pm** (Specific Time TBD)
- New + returning incoming 7th-8th grade:
  - **Saturday, April 27th**
  - **9:00am - 11:00am** (Specific Time TBD)
- Everyone: Please keep Sunday, April 28th from 1:00-3:00pm available for a potential overflow day.

### **NEW TEAMS ANNOUNCED VIA EMAIL:**

**Friday, May 3rd - 4pm**

### **MANDATORY NEW TEAM MEETINGS: (Both Dancers and Parents)**

- May 6<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00pm (Specific day/time TBD by team)

### **APPAREL FITTINGS and MANDATORY FIRST TEAM PRACTICES:**

- May 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm (Specific day/time TBD by team)

## FAQs

1. **What kind of choreography will be taught for tryouts?**  
Prospective team members will learn a jazz routine that includes primarily dance movement and footwork with some skills included. All dancers will learn the same routine, but movements and skills will be modified for incoming 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade dancers.
2. **What should dancers wear for choreography learning day and tryout day?**  
Dancers should wear any type of all black, form-fitting dance attire, preferred turning footwear (tan or black jazz shoe, half-shoe, etc.) and should make sure hair is tightly secured away from your face.
3. **What if a dancer cannot make the choreography learning day?**  
If you are unable to attend the learning session, you may also learn the tryout choreography by watching the provided video.
4. **Who should attend the optional open gym time on Friday, April 26th?**  
This open gym time is just another opportunity for dancers to utilize our large studio space with a mirror. Coming to this practice is **not a requirement** to tryout. It is only an added bonus for those who would like some additional teacher guidance to practice. You must register online through your HP Dance Co. account before attending.
5. **What does tryout day look like?**  
On Saturday, April 27th, prospective team members will perform the learned choreography for the judges in small groups of 4-5 dancers. Once every group has performed at least once, judges will then call back groups of dancers to return to the judging room to be re-evaluated. If we finish early, we will let the girls know to call and notify parents.
6. **What are the directors looking for in determining team placement?**
  - The ability to execute provided dance movement with proper technique, timing, placement, pathways, and overall athleticism and coordination
  - The ability to blend alongside other dancers of similar age and ability level when executing choreography.
  - Strong performance presentation (projection, posture, energy, smile).

## 7. Are skills important in determining team placement?

While skill building is important long term, these items are secondary to dance movement when selecting intermediate teams. Skill level will be more important when determining junior level teams.

### Intermediate (4th-6th) Skills:

- Chainé Turns
- Right Kick (standing and/or on the floor)
- Single or Double pirouette
- Right Leg Leap
- Press Leap
- Chainé turns
- Toe Touch
- X-Jump
- **Developing** a Russian Leap
- **Developing** a Switch Leap
- **Developing** Turns in 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Advanced (7th-8th) Skills:

- All the previously mentioned 4th-6th skills
- Extensions/Kicks
- Triple turn/Quad turn
- Double Toe Touch
- Firebird
- Russian
- Switch Leap
- Belles Seconds
- Axel
- Calypso
- Turning Russian
- Right Splits
- **Developing** Switch Tilt
- **Developing** Acro Skills
- **Developing** all of the skills listed above on the left

*\*\*The judges recognize that these are developing skills, and they will be looking for and discerning potential rather than perfection on all of these skills listed above.*

## 8. Does every dancer make a team?

**Not everyone who auditions is guaranteed an invitation to join a team.**

Dancers must be able to execute dance movements and some skills at an appropriate level for their age group. Anyone trying out may be placed on a team above her age group. Sometimes a director may choose to move an exceptional dancer up to the next age bracket. This is always at the director's discretion.

9. **How are team decisions announced?**

We will announce the 2024-2025 HP Dance Co. Competitive teams via Constant Contact email at 4pm on Friday, May 3. If you are not extended an invitation to join a team, we would be happy to schedule a meeting to discuss how to make improvements for next year. *Note to rising 4th graders: If you are not extended an invitation to join a competition team, we strongly encourage you to consider joining our Performance Company in order to gain more experience and training in a group setting. Tryouts / team placement for Performance Company will be the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.*

***“We want all dancers who would thrive and benefit from a team environment to have a place with us! It is always our goal to place as many dancers on teams as possible. There is no predetermined number of teams each year, nor is there a predetermined number of ‘spots’ available on any given team.”***

**SUMMER 2024 REQUIREMENTS**

All team members are required to attend 8 full days of **Drill Camp** (either “Intermediate” or “Advanced”).

<b>CORRECT</b> (Fully satisfies the Summer requirement for team):	Summer offerings that are beneficial, but do <u>NOT</u> count towards the summer requirement for team:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 8 days of <b>Drill Camp</b> (“Intermediate” or “Advanced”)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Intermediate CLINICS</li><li>● Advanced CLINICS</li></ul>

**FALL 2024 REQUIREMENTS**

Weekly Requirements

**INTERMEDIATE TEAMS**

- 2 hours of Team Practices
- 1 hour Team Belles Prep Class
- 1 hour Team Ballet Class
- 1 hour Stretch, Strengthen, & Kick Class

### *JUNIOR TEAMS*

- 2 hours of Team Practices
- 1.5 hours Team Belles Prep Class
- 1 hour Team Ballet Class
- 1 hour Stretch, Strengthen, & Kick Class

*While this is the bare minimum number of hours required, team members may need more instruction in more areas in order to improve. Please ask your directors if you would like some guidance about which classes would best supplement your training (Turns & Leaps, Contemporary, etc.)*

### Monthly Requirements

- 3-4 hours of weekend practices (could be spread over multiple weekends; could include Saturdays or Sundays)

### *Miscellaneous Requirements*

- Extra practices (as needed)
- Private Lessons (as needed)

## **SPRING 2025 REQUIREMENTS**

All of the same requirements as Fall 2024, with the addition of:

- Weekly weekend practices (as opposed to monthly)
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday competitions (every weekend in Feb. through the beginning of March)
- One weekend overnight travel competition
- Year-End Celebration Banquet
- Commemorative photo shoot
- Year-End Recital

*Please keep a copy of this document for reference.*

*After reading this document fully, you must submit the **online sign-up form** available on Wednesday, April 3rd to complete your registration for tryouts.*