

# HIGHLAND ★ PARK DANCE COMPANY

Highland Park Dance Company  
8300 Douglas Ave. Suite 150  
Dallas, Texas 75225

214-361-4111 | [hpdance.com](http://hpdance.com)  
[info@hpdance.com](mailto:info@hpdance.com)

## HP Dance Company Competition Team Tryout Packet 2025-2026

### INTRODUCTION

We are so glad you are interested in 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 5th-8th grader for the 2025-2026 school year and select rising 4th graders.
- **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 (\*This meeting is **REQUIRED** for first-time members only. This meeting is not required, but highly suggested for parents of returning team members).

- **Option 1:**
  - Thursday, March 20th
  - 9:00am - 10:00am
- **Option 2:**
  - Thursday, March 20th
  - 8:00pm - 9:00pm

### **CHOREOGRAPHY LEARNING:**

- All Choreography this year will be learned from video. Both the full dance with music and the dance with counts will be available. A link to these videos will be emailed on Friday, March 21st to those who have signed up to tryout.

### **OPTIONAL OPEN GYM PRACTICE**

All potential team members are welcome to come run routines in our open studios while teachers watch and give helpful feedback.

**Friday, March 28th - 4:00 - 5:30pm** - incoming 4th - 6th graders

**Friday, March 28th - 5:30 - 6:30pm** - incoming 7th & 8th graders (new to team)

### **TRYOUT DATE:**

- New + Returning incoming 4th-6th grade:
  - **Saturday, March 29th**
  - **1:00pm - 4:00pm** (Specific Time TBD)
- Incoming 7th-8th grade (not currently on one of our teams):
  - **Saturday, March 29th**
  - **12:00pm - 1:00pm**
- Everyone: Please keep Sunday, March 30th from 1:00-3:00pm available for a potential overflow day.

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

**Friday, April 11th - 4pm**

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

- These meetings will be done by team in August. Dates TBD

### **APPAREL FITTINGS:**

- Matching practice apparel must be worn to all TEAM practices. These will be ordered in May at a date TBD.

## FAQs

1. **What kind of choreography will be expected 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.

2. **What should dancers wear for 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. **Who should attend the optional open gym time on Friday, March 28th?**

This open gym time is an 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.

4. **What does tryout day look like?**

On Saturday, March 29th, 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.

5. **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).

## 6. 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
- Toe Touch

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

- All the previously mentioned 4th-6th skills
- Extensions/Kicks
- Triple turn/Quad turn
- Double Toe Touch
- Firebird
- Russian
- Switch Leap
- Axel
- Calypso
- Turning Russian
- Right Splits
- **Developing** Switch Tilt
- **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.*

## 7. Does every dancer make a team?

**Unfortunately, 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.

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

We will announce the 2025-2026 HP Dance Co. Competitive teams via Constant Contact email at **4pm on Friday, April 11**. 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 take place Saturday, April 26th.*

***“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 2025 REQUIREMENTS**

All team members are required to attend AT LEAST 8 full days of **Drill Camp** (either “Intermediate” or “Advanced”). Team members are strongly encouraged to come to our first camp option the week of May 12-15 from 4:00pm - 7:30pm.

<b>Entering 5th-6th (+ 4th graders on team) "Intermediate"</b>	May 12-15 Camp	4:00-7:30pm
	June 2-5 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 9-12 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 23-26 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	July 14-17 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	July 28-31 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	August 4-7 Camp	12:00-3:30pm

Entering 7th & Above "Advanced"	May 12-15 Camp	4:00-7:30pm (for teams only)
	June 2-5 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 9-12 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 16-19 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 23-26 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	July 7-10 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	July 21-24 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	July 28-31 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	August 4-7 Camp	12:00-3:30pm

## **FALL 2025 REQUIREMENTS**

### Weekly Requirements

#### *INTERMEDIATE TEAMS*

- 2 - 3 hours of Team Practices
- 1 hour Team Technique and Skills Class
- 1 hour Team Ballet Class
- 1 hour Stretch & Strengthen Class

#### *ADVANCED TEAMS*

- 4-6 hours of Team Practices
- 1.5 hours Team Belles Prep Class
- 1 hour Ballet Class
- 1 hour Stretch, Strengthen, & Kick Class

### 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 2026 REQUIREMENTS**

All of the same requirements as Fall 2025, with the addition of:

- *Weekly* weekend practices in January and February (as opposed to monthly) - this includes, MLK day in January and President's Weekend in February
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday competitions (every weekend in Feb. through the beginning of March)
- One weekend overnight travel competition
- Year-End Celebration Banquet
- 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** to complete your registration for tryouts.*