

HIGHLAND ★ PARK DANCE COMPANY

Highland Park Dance Company
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HP Dance Company Competition Team Tryout Packet 2026-2027

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.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TRYOUT?

- RISING 4th-8th grader for the 2026-2027 school year. (*Please note that some rising 4th graders are not quite ready for a competitive environment. After tryouts, we may recommend your daughter remain on a Performance Company for one more year in order to tryout again the following year)
- **Must fill out and submit the online registration form.**
- Must submit a registration fee of \$50 (or \$100 for late registration after March 25th).

PARENT TRYOUT MEETINGS

At least one parent is highly suggested to attend a parent meeting at Highland Park Dance Company.

- **Option 1:**
 - Wednesday, February 18th
 - 10:00am - 11:00am
- **Option 2:**
 - Wednesday, February 18th
 - 8:00pm - 9:00pm

CHOREOGRAPHY LEARNING DAYS:

- NEW TO COMPETITION TEAM - Incoming 4th-6th grade:
Wednesday, March 25th 5:00-6:00pm
- CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS - Incoming 5th-6th graders
Wednesday, March 25th 6:00-7:00pm
- ALL Incoming 7th-8th grade: (New and Current)
Wednesday, March 25th 7:00-8:00pm
- 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

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

Friday, March 27th - 4:00 - 5:30pm - incoming 4th - 6th graders

Friday, March 27th - 5:30 - 6:30pm - incoming 7th & 8th graders

** PLEASE NOTE * None of our HP Dance teachers will be giving any additional private or group lessons prior to tryouts from Wednesday, March 25th through Saturday, March 28th.*

TRYOUT DATE:

- Incoming 7th-8th grade:
Saturday, March 28th - 11:00am - 12:00pm
- Incoming 4th-6th grade:
Saturday, March 28th - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Please do not arrive to the studio prior to 12:45pm as we will be on lunch break and the studio will be closed.

NEW TEAMS ANNOUNCED VIA EMAIL:

Thursday, April 2nd - 4pm

MANDATORY PARENT TEAM MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 8th time TBD per team placement

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 (incoming 4th-6th and 7th-8th) 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. Light makeup is acceptable but not required at all.

3. **Who should attend the optional open gym time on Friday, March 27th?**

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. Sign up for the open gym is not necessary and is free to all who have signed up to tryout.

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

On Saturday, March 28th, 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).
- *Please note that we are always looking for potential! Dancers are not expected to come to tryout day with the routine mastered perfectly.

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:

- Chaine 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 2026-2027 HP Dance Co. Competitive teams via Constant Contact email at **4pm on Thursday, April 2.** 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.*

“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 2026 REQUIREMENTS

All team members are required to attend AT LEAST 8 full days of **Drill Camp** (either “Intermediate” or “Advanced”). Team members are encouraged to come to our first camp option the week of May 11-14 from 4:00pm - 7:30pm.

Entering 5th-6th (+ 4th graders on team) "Intermediate"	May 11-14 Camp	4:00-7:30pm
	June 1-4 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm
	June 8-11 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm
	June 15-18 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm
	June 22-25 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm
	August 3-6 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm
	August 10-13 Camp	12:00 - 3:30pm

Entering 7th & Above "Advanced"	May 11-14 Camp	4:00-7:30pm (for teams only)
	June 1-4 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 8-11 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 15-18 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	June 22-25 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	Aug 3-6 Camp	12:00-3:30pm
	Aug 10-13 Camp	12:00-3:30pm

FALL 2026 REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Requirements

INTERMEDIATE ENSEMBLE TEAM (*This is an option for 4-5th graders who show the maturity and skill to handle a more competitive dance environment, but who might not be quite ready for a full team)

- 1-2 hours of Team Practice
- 1 hour Team Technique and Skills Class
- 1 hour Team Ballet Class

INTERMEDIATE FULL TEAM

- 2-4 hours of Team Practices
- 1 hour Team Technique and Skills Class
- 1 hour Team Ballet Class
- 1 hour Stretch & Strengthen Class

ADVANCED FULL TEAM

- 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 2027 REQUIREMENTS

All of the same requirements as Fall 2026, with the addition of what is listed below.

- 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 competitions (every weekend in Feb. through the beginning of March)
- One weekend overnight travel competition (*not required for Ensemble Team)
- 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.*