



## ***Competition Information Packet***

### ***How does competition work?***

The students on our competition team compete in solos, duos, trios & groups. Students learn their dance in two 1-1.5 hour sessions, in August or September (for the choreography fee) and have ½ hour private lessons once a week to perfect their dance (per dance). We will attend 4 local competitions (2 for pre-compete students) and the students will perform their dances for family and friends at an informal showcase in January & a recital in May. There also may be additional opportunities to perform.

### ***Benefits of competition:***

Encore at the J is proud to offer the competition experience to our dancers. We consider participation in competitions a part of our student's training as dancers and influence on them as people. For students who participate with the right focus, the experience gained in competition can boost their self-confidence. Students who feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, grow as dancers through the competition experience. Hitting the stage and doing the best you can, that's what it's all about; whether you win – or which award you win – is secondary. We attend competitions with strong talent. Our goal is not to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both our students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. For us, competition is an education! If you need some more positive notes about competition...

- More performances- dances would be performed in front of large audiences at competition
- Attention to detail in their dancing/become stronger dancers- students grow stronger throughout the year working on comp dances, and they are able to hone in on their strengths.
- Opportunity to be exposed to more dancing- a LOT of studios compete, and students are inspired by strong dancing.
- Perfect more skills- having the opportunity to work one on one with a teacher provides students with more insight.
- Team unity- being around other dancers super early in the morning/on the weekends/in rehearsal/at competitions/in front of large crowds, etc. only builds team unity!

### ***Cost & Due Dates:***

There are a lot of expenses that go along with competition, so I want to draw those out here.

*\* please note, some are estimates.*

- Cost of choreography (solo, duo, trio): \$150-225 (Two 1 & ½ hr lessons to learn dance)
  - Due at time of first choreography lesson
- Private lessons: meeting once a week= \$240/10 pack of lessons, roughly three 10 packs per year- groups, duo/trios will split costs.
  - Due before first private lesson, Maggie will notify families when their 10 packs are finished to purchase more
- Costume: \$90 for the first costume, \$60 each additional costume
  - Due October 1
- Dance Shoes: \$15-60, depending on group dance (most students already have the appropriate shoes)
  - Due before first rehearsal

- Make Up: \$55 for kit- includes eyeshadow, blush, brush, eyeliner/mascara & lipstain.
  - Due October 1
- Team Gear: \$45 Team Jackets. \$50 backpacks. \$17-25 shirts. All optional.
  - Due October 1
- Entry fee per competitions: \$50-\$150, depending on groups or solos
  - Due January-March
- Group Rehearsal fees: \$180-\$300 depending on group size. Includes choreography, comp classes, and rehearsal fees
  - Due in August

**Some scholarships are available. Please ask Ms. Maggie for an application if you are interested!**

***Attendance:***

***Being a member of Encore Competition Team is a year commitment. We set all our pieces in the summer (August/September), and we start rehearsals in September. Competitions are in February*** March, April, May & ***possibly*** June. They also may have additional special performances (i.e. pre-show at Theatre in the Park or Open Stage) if the opportunity arises. We hold our competition students to a high standard, and we value our time in the studios as much as we value our time with our families.

- A dancer may have 6 absences from September—May from their team rehearsals and no more than 1 per month.
- Solo/Duo/Trios may reschedule lesson times if there is a conflict. If a solo dancer misses more than 1 rehearsal (*and chooses not to reschedule*) per month from January-April, their solo will be pulled from competition. We need to value the time of both the student and the teacher. Competition fees and series sales will not be refunded.
- If a dancer will be absent from practice, simply send us an email with the reason for absence, at least 24 hours in advance to let us know.
- A private lesson cannot replace the importance of a team practice. If a dancer has a lot of unexcused absences and does not have an acceptable knowledge of the routine, the dancer will not be able to compete in the next upcoming competition/performance. The competition/performance fee is non-refundable if the dancer is not able to perform.
- ***Dancers cannot miss the practice before a competition or performance.*** Doing so will result in her inability to compete or perform without a refund.
- **Please make sure you are respectful of your teammates and your teacher's time and give a 24-hour notice if you will miss your lesson. Dancers will be charged for "no shows" or for giving the teacher with less than a 24-hour notice of an absence. Remember, the time at the studio is time away from our families and lives, too! Be considerate.**

***Scheduling/the Shabbat:***

Scheduling for competition is intense- they are sent out sometimes a week before a competition, and solo can compete early in the morning, late at night, or on Saturdays. Students are asked to be at competition at least an hour and a half before they are scheduled to dance, just in case the comp is running ahead of schedule. They do not allow people who are late to be squeezed in. **Sometimes, competitions get so full that they start solos on Thursday mornings (AKA during school time).** However, we can make some requests. If a student is scheduled to dance on say, a Saturday, we could request that they are moved to Sunday or Friday instead. It is not promised we can reschedule every dance, so we want to only make requests for religious reasons. In that case, they will not be able to be scored overall, but their dance would be adjudicated. Please let me know if you would like to discuss more.

***Parents at Competition:***

Call for dancers is an hour and ½ before they are scheduled to dance, and it is the same for parents. I will not “hold” a dance to wait for parents to arrive. Please DO NOT text your student backstage to ask them to wait for you to arrive. They need to be focused on their dances. Also, please do not leave your student unattended with me. I am not babysitting, and if there is an emergency, your student needs to be taken care of by their parents. There are too many students for me to keep track of everyone, and often times, I am taking care of my own family. Please be responsible for your dancer.

*Pre-Competition Team Requirements:* Entering grades 1<sup>st</sup>-up. Enrolled in at least 1 other Encore dance class (in the emphasis they are competing in) during the week. Students must show dedication to the team, have outstanding attendance, and understand that they are committed to a team. They will work hard & push themselves! Pre-competition team members will perform at the Competition Showcase in January, 2 competitions (between February and May) and recital. Group: Must be enrolled in the category they are competing in and available for additional group rehearsals during the week (Sept-June) and 2-3 weekend competitions in the Winter/Spring. Students must show dedication to the team, have outstanding attendance, and be willing to take critiques. They will work hard & push themselves!

**PLEASE SEE SKILL REQUIREMENTS BELOW**

*Competition Team Requirements:* Entering grades 1<sup>st</sup> and up. Enrolled in ballet & the category they are competing in during the week, as well as either Strength/Stretch & Conditioning, Acro or Team class. Competition members have at least 1 year of Pre-Competition Team experience. Group: Must be enrolled in the category they are competing in and available for additional group rehearsals during the week (Sept-June) and plan on attending 4 weekend competitions in the Spring. Students must show dedication to the team, have outstanding attendance, and be willing to take critiques. They will work hard & push themselves!

**PLEASE SEE SKILL REQUIREMENTS BELOW**

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***Competition Team Requirements:***

The Encore Competition Team is held to a high standard. Students must be in good standing financially and must meet the following requirements.

- Dancers must have been on Pre-Compete Team at least 1 season before they are eligible to join competition.
- Competition team dancers must be enrolled in ballet & the emphasis in which they are competing as well as either Strength/Stretch & Conditioning, Acro or Team classes (see below).
- Team members treat themselves, their teachers and all other students with respect.
- Team members remember that they are role models to all our students. They handle themselves respectfully and are responsible with what they say/do on social media. They speak respectfully about themselves, other dancers, our team, our program and ALL other dancers at competition.
- Team members come to class on time, wearing dance attire (**LEOTARDS REQUIRED**), with hair pulled up, ready to dance
- Team members take critiques seriously and do their best to apply critiques. This team is focused on continuing to improve.
- Team members respect the time of their teachers and the investment of their parents. They do not miss rehearsal without good reason.
- Competition Team members realize that they are part of a team and put their egos aside. They understand that each dancer has their own talent, and that we put what is best for the team first.
- Team members put competitions FIRST. They understand that they are on a team and that they are not allowed to let their team down. Students in group pieces WILL NOT miss competition unless they have given Maggie notice as soon as the competition schedule is released.
- Teen Team members are responsible for having open communication with Miss Maggie. Maggie will send schedules, rehearsal times, additional reminders directly to students via text. Students who are on the group chat are responsible to helping to communicate information to their families/Miss Maggie.

### ***Comp Required Classes:***

All members are REQUIRED to take the following classes:

- Sunday Team Class
- Ballet AT LEAST once a week
  - \*more hours strongly recommended
- The styles in which they are competing

PLUS:

- Strength, Flexibility, Stretch and/or Team Class
  - Acro- STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
  - ANY/ALL OTHER CLASSES- additional training will only make our dancers stronger as performers and as a team!

### ***Pre-Comp & Comp Team Skills***

Ages 6- 9:

- Must have a growth mindset and be goal-orientated
- Chassé through toe/ball/heel, correct arms & timing
- Single Pirouette on right, working left. Clean passé and proper arm placement & spot. Working towards doubles.
- Strong battements- brushing, with legs straight & pointing through ankles. Correct posture and alignment, strong arms, 90 degrees.
- Clean right and left side leap, pointed toes on chassé and leap, straight legs, correct posture and lifted focus, proper arm placement.
- Working turns in second, able to hold leg at 90 degrees in relevé and plié (2 counts down, 2 counts up, 2x in a row).
- Must have right or left split completely down, working towards center split.
- Stage presence! Performance quality - Dancer should be able to perform confidently to audience without looking at other dancers or teachers in the wings.

Ages 10 - 13:

- Must have a growth mindset and be goal-orientated
- Mastered all requirements listed for ages 6-9.
- Double Pirouette on right, working left. Clean passé and proper arm placement & spot.
- Working turns in second, able to hold leg at 90 degrees in relevé and plié (2 counts down, 2 counts up, 4x in a row).
- Turns in second, clean- leg at 90 and in true second position, strong arms- pull to clean double.
- Right and left leg splits- working over-splits. Middle split preferred.
- Développé the leg to at least 90 degrees with proper turn out, strong supporting leg
- Stage presence! Performance quality- Dancer should be able to adapt performance quality to different movement styles.

Ages 14+:

- Must have a growth mindset and be goal-orientated
- Mastered all requirements listed for ages 6-13.
- Four pirouettes on right, clean passé and proper arm placement.

- 4 Turns in second clean, triple at the end.
- Right and left leg splits- working over-splits. Middle split preferred.
- PERFORMANCE QUALITY & EMOTIONAL EXECUTION. Dancer should be able to clearly articulate the story/subject matter as laid out by the choreographer.