



Fusion Dance Carroll

Competition Team
Handbook

2025-26

www.fusiondance-carroll.com

Objective:

Competition allows students to further their dance education at a higher, more competitive, performance level. It not only allows our dancers to further their training and push them to the next level, but also provides them with more opportunities for discipline, structure, and leadership moments. We train our dancers to be well-rounded not only in their technique and dance education, but as people and leaders in today's world.

Required Classes:

Ballet Technique: Competition students are required to take ballet technique. No exceptions. Ballet is the basis for all styles of dance. Students will be placed in a ballet technique class based on age and technique level. Any colored leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes, and a bun are expected of all ballet technique students.

Hip Hop: Students placed in a hip hop group are also required to take a Rec Hip Hop class.

Commitment:

- Dancers must be at **every** practice. If you have to miss a practice (ok'd only by your group instructor) for any reason, you must get with another group member to learn what you missed **before** the next practice. Do not ask your instructor. **You will be expected to know what you missed when you return.**
- **Dancers are only allowed THREE unexcused, absences from Ballet Technique.** Missing a technique class for a dance related function, school event where a grade is given (i.e. music concert), death, or family emergency is counted as excused. If dancers are missing more than the three unexcused absences, they have the opportunity to make-up class during another scheduled technique class. Please speak with Kinze regarding those make-up classes. **If the dancer is unable to make-up their classes before the season has ended, they will not be able to perform in their Competition Routine(s) at the recital.**
- Dancers are **REQUIRED** to perform in all the assigned recitals.
- Dancers are **REQUIRED** to perform at the annual Competition Showcase (Sunday, February 22nd).
- Dancers are **REQUIRED** to attend 3 regional competitions. If you need to miss a competition, you will be charged a fee for having to change the routine.
 - Regional Competitions:
 - February 27th – March 1st: Leap Dance Competition | Omaha, NE
 - March 27th-29th: Masquerade Dance Competition | Cedar Rapids, IA
 - April 10th-12th: Talent on Parade Dance Competition | Des Moines, IA
- Groups will be chosen to attend 1 national competition based on the success of the 3 regionals attended throughout the season. Heather, Kinze & Mia will decide these groups once regionals have concluded.

- We are considering a new Nationals Competition. We will finalize our decision next Spring.
- June 8th-14th: Masquerade Nationals | Minneapolis, MN
- July 6th-12th: Bravo Sumer Bash | Ames, IA
 - Cost to participate in Nationals: there will be a rehearsal and registration fee per group to participate.

Cost:

Choreography/Instruction	\$240
Costume	\$90
Registration Fees (3)	\$220
Total Cost, due October 1st	\$550/group

Extra Costs:

Competition Jackets: \$78.99

Costume Accessories: hats, gloves, earrings, necklace, etc.

Shoes: jazz, turners, hip hop shoes (pending the style and choreographer's choice).

Nationals: if qualified.

Script money cannot be used for any of these purchases.

Goals:

Dancers should be efficient in all of the following....

- Turns
- Leaps
- Splits (right, left, and middle)

Teacher – Parent Partnership

When parents and teachers work together, children tend to perform better.

1. **Establish positive contact with the teachers.** Let the teacher know that you want your child to have the best experience possible. Ask if there is any way you can help. Establishing a positive relationship will make it much easier to talk later, if a problem arises.
2. **Show appreciation.** When teachers do something you like, let them know about it. Teaching and creating choreography for competition is a difficult job, and most teachers hear from parents only when they want to complain. Your encouragement will help the teacher do a better job.
3. **Don't put the dancer in the middle.** Too often, parents share disapproval of a teacher with their children. When they complain about poor choreography or criticize their teacher's methods or decisions, the young dancers are put in a bind. How motivated will a child be to work hard to learn choreography that his/her parents believe is bad? How might such negative thinking affect his/her love of

dance? Divided loyalties do not make it easy for a child to do his/her best. On the other hand, parents who support the teacher make it easier for children to put their wholehearted effort into learning to dance. If you think your child's teacher is not handling the situation well, keep your thoughts to yourself and ask for a private meeting with the teacher to express concerns.

4. **Don't give instructions during a competition or class.** Do not give your child instructions about how to dance or perform. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the teacher offering advice at the competition. NEVER give advice or criticism to another team member. Trust your instructor and let them handle the class and performance as they see best. Feel free to share your ideas with the teachers but let them decide whether to use your advice. Making such decisions is a privilege that they have earned by making a commitment to your child.
5. **Be positive with your child.** Perhaps the most important thing you can do is be there for your child. Competitive dance can be stressful – the last thing a young dancer needs is a critic at home. Be a cheerleader for your child. Focus on the positive thing he/she is doing and leave correcting mistakes to the teacher. Let the child know that you support him/her without reservation, regardless of how well he/she scores.
6. **Support the entire team.** Praise all the dancers from your child's studio. Let them know when you think they do something well. We DO NOT TOLERATE anyone speaking badly about one another.
7. **Encourage other parents to respect the process.** Show respect for other studios and their teachers and encourage other parents to do so as well. If a parent begins to berate another studio or teacher, gently say, "that's not the way we do things here."

Our commitment to you....

We are here to offer your child confidence and a sense of self. We are here to further your child's education in dance and offer you a great experience. Every time they step into those lights, they learn something about performing: how they work under pressure, how to think if something goes wrong, how to stay focused, and how to work as an integral part of a group. We are here to support our dancers and our studio.

Studio Policies for Competition Days

- Dancers must arrive at least 1 ½ hours prior to their first performance in **FULL** costume, hair, and make-up.
- No recording devices, video cameras, or flash photography are allowed, as it goes against the rules of most competitions and could result in disqualification.
- No one is allowed to hang out backstage as an overall courtesy to those who are performing. Aside from the fact that it is unprofessional, it can be a danger for the

performers and those hanging out when quick crossovers occur or when the performers are entering and exiting the stage.

- Applause and enthusiasm are encouraged, but please no screaming. Audience screams are a distraction to the performer and for the judges who must be focused on the stage.
- Parents need to encourage, not discourage, the children.
- A team represents the personality and spirit of the studio. Good behavior and sportsmanship are the number one priority.
- No one may make derogatory statements about other dancers or studios.
- Parents and dancers in the audience should not leave the auditorium when their own performance is over. Show respect for the other performers by exiting during appropriate breaks in the program. Try never to leave while dancers are on stage. Honor their efforts, they don't walk out on you.
- Dancers and their parents must accept the judging results.
- Any questions or concerns on judging results should be brought to the studio director. No one is to approach or confront the judges.
- All dances must accept their awards graciously with a huge "Thank You".
- All dancers are REQUIRED to stay for the awards ceremony.

Competition Code of Conduct for Competitors

1. I will learn and honor the studio's rule and policies.
2. I will be a positive role model and encourage positive sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and demonstrating support for the studio and its dancers, and all other participating studios and students.
3. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any judge, teacher, dancer, parent or studio staff member. There will be no yelling, taunting, or profane language at any time.
4. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger my or another's health or well-being.
5. I will treat other dancers, teachers, judges, and spectators with respect.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at other dancers for making a mistake or not winning an award.
7. I will respect the authority of the judges and competition dancers during the competitions. I will not question, discuss, or confront teachers at the competition site; instead, I will speak with the teachers at an agreed upon time and place. I agree that, if I fail to abide by the above rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action.

Please print, sign and return this page by October 1st.

Policy Acceptance Form

Participating in the Fusion Dance Competition Team requires a solid commitment to all the policies listed in the Competition Team Handbook. If you accept all obligations associated with the Fusion Dance Competition Team, please sign the form below.

Note: Please do not sign this contract if you are unsure that you can fulfill the commitments and obligations outlined in this handbook. No one should feel pressured to participate in this program.

This form must be printed, signed and returned to Fusion Dance by October 1st.

I (dancer) _____, have read the 2025-26 Competition Team Handbook and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Dancer's Signature: _____

Date: _____

I (parent/guardian) _____, have read the 2025-26 Competition Team Handbook and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____