



Thank you for your interest in our competitive dance company at Studio 83 Dance Academy. This nationally award winning program is about to begin its 15<sup>th</sup> successful season! As a group, we have been recognized at both regional and national competitions for our technique, costumes and overall positive attitude. Our dancers have brought home many trophies and special awards; however, most importantly, our company has become a family and we look forward to welcoming you! In this packet, you will find general information, the core values of our company and answers to many frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions, or would like to sign up for auditions, please contact Aly Stanczak at 847.850.2105 or [aly@bgparks.org](mailto:aly@bgparks.org).

### What is the dance company all about?

The Studio 83 Dance company gives dancers the opportunity to work toward excellence and improve on their dance technique while learning important teamwork skills and having fun! The individuals on our company become more than just teammates... they become like family! We believe in the following values that make our team strong:

#### *Communication*

We believe in keeping parents involved and informed. Our Company Director, Miss Aly, keeps everyone up to date through handouts as well as e-mails and texts.

#### *Professionalism*

We have a fantastic set of instructors who stay up to date with their training and technique to ensure their students are receiving the highest quality of dance instruction possible.

One of our instructors will be present at competition ready to assist both parents and students. We warm up and rehearse each routine (when possible) before competition time and are present backstage before and after each routine whenever possible. In case of a last-minute problem, it's nice to know that your teacher(s) will be there to help find a solution.

#### *Technique and Versatility*

Our focus is on proper technique. The long term goal is to create a better dancer, not to win a trophy! We are equally strong in many areas of dance including tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical and ballet. Dancers are EXPECTED to attend all of their technique classes.

#### *Conservatism*

Modesty is important to us. Routines, music and choreography are always age-appropriate.

#### *Teamwork*

**Attendance at classes is a must. Any dancer who has more than 3 absences a semester may be removed from a routine.**

### *Fun*

We constantly remind our company that competing should be a fun and positive learning experience. We aren't concerned with how many trophies a student can bring home, but rather that they enjoyed themselves and are proud of their achievements. Coincidentally, when students have fun, it takes the stress away so they can perform much better! Laughter, fun, team parties, etc. are all encouraged!

### *Winning vs. Excellence*

Win; verb, To get possession of by effort or fortune

Excellent; adjective, The quality of being very good of its kind

Competition is a big part of life. At school we compete for grades; later in life we compete for jobs. We compete in sports. We even compete for the affection of others. Competition can be useful; it is a way of getting information about how well we are doing and what is possible. It can challenge us to try harder and to learn from our own experience and the experiences of others.

A common parent concern regarding having their child join competition teams is the fear that the focus will be only on "winning." This can quickly get out of control and take the fun out of competing, especially if the competitor falls short of winning the top prize. We all know of people who place an emphasis on winning awards, recognitions, and trophies. We do not. While we are thrilled to win, our emphasis is on being the best we can be at our craft, which we find to be an enriching, life long motivator. Excellence far outweighs an award. The most reliable reward for our work is the feeling of accomplishment that comes from completing a task. We encourage our dancers to focus on the inner satisfaction of competing.

Studio 83 Dance Company prefers to focus on excellence rather than winning. There is never such a thing as a perfect performance, as in life there are often flaws. Even professional dancers make mistakes sometimes. We counsel dancers to expect this and instead of focusing on the negative, focus on the things they did well.

When our children know that working, learning and teamwork are more important to us than winning, they are likely to be ready to learn more and worry less. As they discover the satisfactions of overcoming difficulties and enjoying progress, they are likely to become productive adults.

### *Pride*

We are proud of our studio! We support and care for each other and are striving for excellence together!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What is a Dance Competition?*

At a dance competition, students put their skills to the test by performing dance routines on a stage in front of a panel of judges. The judges then calculate scores usually based on technique, performance and costume. The dancers are then able to come back to the studio and listen to the judges' critiques and use them as a learning tool to improve on their technique. Again, the focus for us during competition is having fun and gaining the tools to become better dancers in the long run.

### *Why do competition company instead of recreational classes?*

Some students want a little more challenge. In competition companies, students are working towards a common goal. Also, attendance is more important and, at times, mandatory. Since everyone is present in class nearly every week, there is faster progress. The sense of belonging to a team is also very important. We do lots of team bonding inside and outside the studio.

### *How can I get more information?*

Please email [aly@bgparks.org](mailto:aly@bgparks.org) if you have additional questions.

### *How does a student get accepted onto the team or company?*

First, register for the auditions. Registration can be done online at [bgpark.org](http://bgpark.org). There is a fee of \$35 to participate in the audition workshops and auditions. If accepted, you will be notified via e-mail by June 12.

## **MINI COMPANY - ages 5-8**

Our mini company is for our youngest dancers new to competition. The mini company will compete in a total of 2 routines, their mini company jazz and tap routines.

The basic requirements are:

- Mini company rehearsal/technique class (1.25 hour twice per week)
- Returning mini company members need to take 1 summer dance class OR 1 master class workshop.

*Extra technique classes are not required but are always an option for those wishing to further their training.*

## **PRIMARY COMPANY - ages 7-18**

All company members will perform in a minimum of 1 routine. Certain dancers may perform in multiple styles. Dancers may not be grouped with the same dancers for each style. Please note most company rehearsals will take place on Friday evenings and Saturday morning/afternoons; although, some might be scheduled during the week

The basic requirements are:

- company rehearsals
- 1 additional technique class in each style you are competing
- 1 ballet technique class (depending on placement some dancers may need to take two classes per week)
- 1 summer dance class OR 1 summer master class workshop.

*Extra technique classes are not required but are always an option for those wishing to further their training.*

## INTERMEDIATE COMPANY - ages 7-18

The intermediate company is for dancers ready to add more into their training. Intermediate Company dancers may also compete in certain primary or advanced company routines. Dancers may be placed as an understudy to a particular routine. This means they will learn the choreography, receive a costume but are not quite ready to compete in that style yet. Please note most company rehearsals will take place on Friday evenings and Saturday morning/afternoons; although, some might be scheduled during the week

The basic requirements for company are:

- 2 ballet technique classes per week
- 1 additional technique class in each style you are competing (except hip hop)
- Company rehearsals
- Dance convention
- At least 1 summer class AND at least 2 of the master class workshops.

*Extra technique classes are not required but always recommended for those wishing to further their training.*

## ADVANCED COMPANY - ages 8-18

The advanced company is for select dancers ready to train and compete at a higher level. These dancers are ready to put dance as their number one priority and their attendance at all of their classes and performances reflect this. Advanced Company members will compete in 2 - 4 competition routines. Advanced Company dancers may also compete in certain intermediate company routines. Please note most company rehearsals will take place on Friday evenings and Saturday morning/afternoons; although, some might be scheduled during the week

The basic requirements for advanced company are:

- 2 ballet technique classes
- 1 advanced company ballet class
- 1 additional technique class in each style you are competing (except hip hop)
- Company rehearsals
- Additional class of choice
- Dance convention
- At least 2 summer dance classes AND at least 3 of the master class workshops.

*Extra technique classes are not required but always recommended for those wishing to further their training.*

## Other Things to Consider

### *Solos, duets/trios and small groups*

In addition to the assigned company routines, some dancers may be placed into a solo, duet/trio or small group routine. These routines may pull dancers from different levels. These specialty numbers are for dancers who are ready to make an additional commitment and who possess the technical requirements needed for the choreography of each particular piece. **The routines will require additional rehearsals which may be as early as 4 pm during the week. Please note by indicating you would like to be considered for a solo, duet/trio or small group means you are committed to starting a rehearsal in that time frame.** The competition fees and costume fees are also higher for solos and duets/trios. You will be able to indicate on your audition form how many of these additional dances you would be willing to commit to. Writing it on your form does not guarantee your dancer will be placed into a solo, duet/trio or small group. **Please note during competitions, solos, duets/trios may compete as early as 8 am on a Friday. By indicating you would like to be considered for a solo or duet/trio you are committing to your dancer being able to compete during that time frame.**

### *Competitions - Mandatory*

The company will compete in 3 - 4 regional competitions all within an hour and a half driving distance of Buffalo Grove. Each competition is scheduled over a weekend. You need to set aside the whole weekend. A detailed schedule is sent out 1 week prior to the competition. All dancers are required to stay for their routines and are encouraged to stay for the awards ceremony.

### *Performances*

We will be offering performing opportunities throughout the year at local nursing homes, the mall, etc. These are great ways to get out there and dance and share our love for dance with the community.

### *Social*

We will also offer optional social activities throughout the year. Some events are required while others are optional.

## COSTS

### *Tuition*

The fees listed are *estimates* for the ENITRE dance year. Tuition DOES NOT INCLUDE costumes for competition and this year DOES NOT INCLUDE costumes for recital. All dancers must go on an auto payment plan, which will break your payments monthly throughout the year. **All fees are subject to change.**

TECHNIQUE CLASSES *\*Please note these reflect a 10% discount that all company members receive on their technique classes. All technique classes are based on a 30 week dance year. Prices may be adjusted based on how many classes there are per session.*

45 minute classes	\$270
60 minute classes	\$300

REHEARSALS *Please note this is based on 15 total rehearsal hours for solos/duet/trios and company rehearsals. The mini company is based on a 30 week dance year. Costs may be adjusted if there isn't a class due to competition.*

30 minute privates (solos)	\$750	
30 minute semi-privates	\$400	* Duets/Trios
Company rehearsals	\$330	* 15 total rehearsal hours
Mini company	\$700	*technique and choreo combined

### *One Time yearly registration fee - \$75 per dancer*

This offsets different costs throughout the year.

### *Competition/Recital Costumes- \$65 - 75 per costume*

Once costumes are chosen, you will receive a bill for your dancer's costumes.

### *Company Uniform - Jacket- \$80 - \$90, Tank top - \$25, Competition jewelry - \$20*

All company dancers are required to purchase a company warm-up jacket to be worn at all competitions. The shorts and tank top will be work to different events throughout the year. Competition jewelry will include rhinestone earrings and a rhinestone choker.

### *Competition Fees - \$45 - \$50 per group routine per competition*

How many routines your dancer is in will determine your competition fees for the year. Solos and duet/trios have higher competition fees. Duet/trios run around \$75-\$85 per competition and solos run between \$125-\$145 per competition.

### *Convention - approximately \$250 per dancer*

A dance convention is a 2 day intensive of dance classes taught by master teachers. This is a requirement for intermediate and advanced company members. Mini and primary company members can also attend, it is not required.

### *Dance shoes - cost varies by style. In general, ballet shoes are between \$20 - \$30, jazz shoes are between \$35 - \$45 and tap shoes are between \$40 - \$75.*

Dancers will need to have shoes for each team they are competing on and ballet shoes for ballet class.