



Thank you for your interest in our competitive dance company at the Buffalo Grove Studio of Dance. This nationally award winning program is about to begin its 12<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 BG Studio of 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 team Director, Miss Aly, keeps everyone up to date through handouts as well as e-mails.

#### *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.

#### *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.

Competition can also be damaging. 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.

The Buffalo Grove Studio of Dance 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.

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

First, register for the auditions. Registration can be done online at [bgparks.org](http://bgparks.org). There is a fee of \$25 to participate in the audition workshops and auditions. Dancers must attend at least one workshop and the auditions. If accepted, you will be notified via e-mail by June 18.

## **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 3 routines, their mini company jazz and tap routines and production. The basic requirements are:

- Mini company rehearsal/technique class (1 hour twice per week)  
*Extra technique classes are not required but are always an option for those wishing to further their training.*

## **PETITE, JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, PRE-TEEN COMPANY - ages 7-18**

Our company offer dancers the chance to perform at multiple venues throughout the year at places such as the mall, the zoo, local nursing home, sporting events, etc. The dancers will also have the opportunity to compete at three competitions throughout the season. All company members will perform in a minimum of 2 routines. Certain dancers may perform in multiple styles. Dancers may not be grouped with the same dancers for each style. Dancers may be placed as an understudy to a particular company routine. This means they will learn the choreography, receive a costume but are not quite ready to compete in that style yet. This year all company members will compete in a full company production routine that is mandatory. Please note most company rehearsals will take place on Saturdays; although, some might be scheduled during the week

The basic requirements are:

- 1 weekly company rehearsal in each style you are competing
- 1 additional technique class in each style you are competing
- 1 ballet technique class

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

## SENIOR COMPANY- ages 13-18

The teen/senior company offers older dancers a chance to train and compete while still allowing time for busy school schedules and homework demands. All company members will compete in a minimum of 1 routine, a jazz, tap, or lyrical. Certain dancers may compete in multiple styles.

The basic requirements are:

- 1 weekly team rehearsal/technique class
- 1 ballet or jazz technique class

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

## COMPANY ELITE- ages 8-18

The company elite is a smaller group pulled from the company for dancers ready to train and compete at a higher level. There are also more performance opportunities as well as an additional competition. Company Elite members will compete in 2 - 4 competition routines. Company elite dancers may also compete in certain company routines. Dancers may be placed as an understudy to a particular company elite routine. This means they will learn the choreography, receive a costume but are not quite ready to compete in that style yet. This year company elite will compete in a full company elite group routine that is mandatory. The company production routine will be optional. Please note most company elite rehearsals will take place on Saturdays; although, some might be scheduled during the week.

The basic requirements for company are:

- 2 ballet technique classes
- 1 additional technique class in each style you are competing
- Company elite rehearsals
- Dance convention

*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 or company elite 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.** 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 regional competitions and the company elite will have 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. This season we will be heading to a National competition out of state (within driving distance) in the summer which is highly encouraged for all dancers.

### *Performances- Mandatory*

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 competition costumes but DOES include recital costumes. There will be the option of paying in full at the beginning of the year or going 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.*

45 minute classes \$270

60 minute classes \$297

Additional classes in same style will pay \$50 less

REHEARSALS *Please note this 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) \$600

30 minute semi-privates \$390

Company rehearsals \$300

Mini company \$660

\* Duets/Trios

\* 30 minutes 1x per week

\*technique and choreo combined

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

This offsets different costs throughout the year.

*Competition Costumes- \$55-75 per costume*

Once costumes are chosen, you will receive a bill for your dancer's costumes. This year all dancers will receive 1 pair of tights total.

*Company Uniform– Jacket- \$75-\$90, Leggings - \$45, Tank top - \$35, Competition jewelry- \$20*

All company dancers are required to purchase a company warm-up jacket to be worn at all competitions. The leggings and tank top will be work to different events throughout the year. We are getting a new logo so all company members both new and returning will need to purchase a jacket, leggings and tank. Competition jewelry will include rhinestone earrings and a rhinestone choker.

*Competition Fees- \$40-\$45 per 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.

*Convention- approximately \$250 per dancer*

All company members are encouraged and all company elite members are required to attend a dance convention in the season. A dance convention is a 2 day intensive of dance classes taught by master teachers.

*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. Shoes should be purchased at Toe the Line.