

SYNERGY DANCE SMALL GROUPS

GOAL

To give the dancer additional performance experience on a **national level** as well as learning dedication, discipline and teamwork.

REQUIREMENTS

While participation is voluntary, commitment to the team is essential so that the dancer may get the most out of the experience. We ask that you consider this before auditioning for this team.

1. **SYNERGY DANCE SMALL GROUPS** will meet at least for 3 hours per week. Additional practices may be held and will be at the discretion of the instructor(s). We will do our best to give you ample notice of any additional rehearsals.
2. All students who audition for the competition team must be current on their account.
3. The audition will consist of ballet barré, turns, jumps and leaps across the floor, and a jazz and tap combination. There will be a 2nd audition for this team held in early January. Students who are selected during the January audition will be placed in new numbers with the existing team, but will not be placed in numbers that were set during the fall. For the audition dancers are to wear black, form-fitting clothing with their hair pulled back away from their face. Please arrive early and be warmed up so that the audition may begin in a timely manner. A dancer must have the minimum skill set (with correct technique) in order to audition:
 - a. Triple pirouettes to the right and left
 - b. Turns in 2nd/fouetté turns to the right
 - c. Split, side, back, front leaps right and left
 - d. Chaine jeté right and left
 - e. Example of excellent flexibility while doing splits, leg holds penché, etc.
 - f. Must have proper advanced ballet technique and proper body alignment
 - g. Exceptional stage presence and performance quality
 - h. Must be dedicated, driven, and open to learn and accept constructive criticism
 - i. Must be a team player
 - j. Must be able to adapt to all styles of dance-ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, musical theatre, hip hop, etc.
4. Dancers are required to take a minimum of 1 ballet class, 1 jazz class, 1 tap class, and 1 additional class (of the dancer's choice) IN ADDITION to team rehearsal. Regular attendance in these classes is required. Please keep in mind that **SYNERGY SMALL GROUP** members will be REQUIRED to take the following technique classes in order to be eligible: Ballet, Pointe, jazz,

tap, hip hop, and contemporary as well as any solo/duet/trio technique class if they so desire.

5. The number of competition routines will depend on the drive and commitment of the team. If everyone is present, prepared, knows their material, and is taking correction, we can move on more quickly to new pieces. The minimum number of pieces for regionals will be ; one contemporary, one hip hop, one jazz, and one lyrical. After these 4 pieces are set and clean, we will discuss the option and desire for further pieces in addition to costume costs and rehearsal times. *The minimum number of new pieces for nationals will be 2.* These numbers relate to the group as a whole as solos, duos, and trios are not included in the total routine count.
6. Should the opportunity arise, we may have an outside choreographer come in and set a piece. Team members are responsible for the choreographer's fees and travel costs. Rehearsals would occur outside of regularly scheduled classes and rehearsals during the week. These rehearsals would be mandatory or the dancer will not be in the piece, but will still be responsible for his/her portion of the cost.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. **SMALL GROUP** is a ONE YEAR commitment. If a dancer chooses to leave the company at any point of the 2013-2014 for other reasons then listed under #7, there will be a penalty of \$200 cover the cost of instructor salary to restage performance pieces.
2. **SMALL GROUP MEMBERS** members are required to attend all team class times as well as their corresponding technique class. They are expected to come dressed and on time.
3. Dancers will be allowed to make up technique classes during another similar class (please see Kari or website for class times and for approval); however, all classes must be made up within that same month. Competition rehearsals WILL NOT be made up and dancers must learn the material from another dancer in that class to allow for maximum use of time with the entire team present.
4. Small Group members will be allowed to miss **2 pre-approved rehearsals**. Exceptions to this would be student/family illness, family death and pre-approved school function. If a dancer misses more than 2 rehearsals, he/she will be removed from the routine with no refund of fees. If a dancer misses more than 4 rehearsals, he/she will be asked to leave the team with no refund of fees. A penalty of \$300 will be incurred to cover the cost of instructor salary to re-stage performance pieces. We can only help your dancer grow if he/she is attending classes. A dancer's development depends on his/her commitment. We are committed to helping dancers meet their goals. We ask that everyone do their part.
5. **SMALL GROUP** members and their families agree to maintain a positive attitude and set a good example for other students by being respectful in class, arriving on time, and being prepared and open-minded. Appropriate body language/demeanor and discussions, verbally or posted online, will be appropriate, positive and becoming of a dancer in this studio. Inappropriate

conduct will NOT be tolerated and will result in removal from the class with **NO REFUND**. Any dancer failing to comply with these rules will receive one warning from the instructor and a conference with said dancer's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) before being dismissed from the group

6. If a dancer becomes ill, is unable to attend a competition, or decides not to continue with the company, he/she is required to pay for the costume. If another dancer decides to take his/her place, they may sell their costume to them for no more than 75% of the original cost. Please keep in mind that these dancers work together as a unit and if one dancer is missing, it affects not only the staging of the routine, but group morale as well. It takes a great deal of time and effort to restage a routine, please be respectful of the time and effort of the dancers and instructors in order to make up for absences.
7. If a dancer is injured and no longer able to participate with the **SMALL GROUP**, the remainder of the team balance for the year will be voided. Competition fees and costume fees already paid for and prior class fees will not be refunded.
8. Recital is mandatory for small group participants. Dancers are expected to perform in recital with their technique class and the company. This is done so that we may maintain the same number of students in the technique class and showcase the accomplishments made during the year. Not all company numbers may appear in recital as allowing adequate time for costume changes and the length of the show will come into consideration.

Small Group members will agree to compete with at 3 local/regional events and nationals will be up for discussion once the team has been selected. We will gauge interest in nationals (which company and location and desire to attend) in a parent/dancer meeting held in the fall.

CONDUCT

As a member of the Dance Team you represent yourself, your family, and the entire Synergy Dance Academy dance community. We applaud you for conducting yourself in a mature and responsible manner!

- The dancer agrees to maintain academic grades that are acceptable to their parent's standards. As per parental discretion, a dancer will be granted a one-month leave of absence, if necessary, with no penalty to put scholastic obligations in order. The dancer will be fully responsible to make-up any work/choreography when continuing with the program.
- The dancer agrees to have proper hygiene and cleanliness at all times, and to abide by the dress code when required.
- The dancer agrees to refrain from illegal and non-prescription drugs, steroids, or any other substance used to increase physical development, as well as consumption of alcohol, and use of tobacco.
- The dancer agrees to keep their belongings organized and clean and to leave all areas in the same condition or better than they found it at classes, rehearsals, and performances.

- Any student or parent posting any comments on social media or demonstrating any behaviors that Synergy Dance Academy deems hurtful or negative will be asked to have a conference with the student and parent to address any and all issues that may arise.

FEES

1. The cost to participate on any of the SMALL GROUP TEAMS will vary depending on how many dances he/she participates. Families must agree to pay all competition entry fees on time and on the 1st of the month in which the competition is scheduled.
2. In addition to class fees, the dancer/family agrees to pay for extra costumes (this does not include recital costumes for technique classes), travel fees, and entry fees.

MASTER CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Company Members are required to attend all master classes/workshops within the academic year. Master classes and workshops often incur additional fees for which the team members are responsible. Team Members are also expected to attend all team/family bonding events.

SOLO/DUET/TRIO POLICY

1. **SOLOS:** If the dancer wishes to acquire choreography from an outside choreographer for their solo piece, he/she must ask permission of all parties ahead of time, have all music and costuming approved, is responsible for the outside choreographer's fees. **DUETS/TRIOS:** Outside choreographers are allowed, but the rules for soloists apply to these dancers as well.

CONVENTION POLICY

Dancers attending conventions, master classes and workshops outside of Synergy is encouraged, however, if a dancer would like to take classes at other area studios, we ask that all parties be notified prior to taking classes and that everyone involved be in agreement that this is acceptable. Some studios do not allow their students to take classes elsewhere as the differences in teaching; style and technique can be confusing for a young dancer. We also ask the commitment to Synergy Dance Company be your top priority. If an outside event conflicts with SDC rehearsals, performances, and/or competitions, we expect you to be in present with your team. Please consider this before making a commitment to SDC. Members of the Synergy Dance Company are not allowed to cross-compete with other studios.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. There will be a "Parent Liaison"/"Team Parent/s" who will help organize various activities within the team. For example, coordinating rhinestoning of costumes, meal-planning for dancers at conventions and competitions, organizing parent events/activities during conventions/competitions, organizing team bonding events outside of rehearsal time, passing along information about costumes and meeting places while the team is traveling via email or

other mode of communication, etc.

2. Dancers are required to wear Synergy Dance Company Warm Ups/Sweats at competitions and events.
3. A lot of thought has gone into placement, choreography, music selection and costuming for each piece. Please do not question the instructors on these matters. Thank you in advance.

SYNERGY SMALL GROUP FAQ

Q: What will it REALLY cost?

A: Team Class Fee: Will Vary per dancer

Costumes: Approximately \$75 each X 7 = \$450

Competition Fees: Approximately per dance \$40 X 7 = \$280

Convention fees: \$300-500 per convention X 3 = \$900-1500

Travel Expenses: Varies per family

Master Classes: 4 a year at \$25 = \$100

Approximate Total: \$2500-3500

The joy of seeing SYNERGY DANCE TEAM bring home Platinum's: Priceless

Please keep in mind that **SMALL GROUP** members will be **REQUIRED** to take the following technique classes in order to be eligible: Ballet, Pointe, jazz, tap, hip hop, and lyrical as well as any solo/duet/trio technique class if they so desire.

Q: Will there be any additional team class fees if extra practices are needed?

A: Yes, but not to exceed \$200 per dancer

Q: What competitions are we attending ?

A: We have not decided on the competitions/conventions we will be attending yet.

Q: Are we required to attend a competition that will require air fare?

A: No. This will be optional and will be a team decision.

Q: Will outside choreographers be used for any dances?

A: Yes. This will be explored throughout the year based on interest from the team.