The Dance Academy of Siagel Productions

Intensive Program Handbook

2017-2018

Welcome

"Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations."

Dear Parents and dancers,

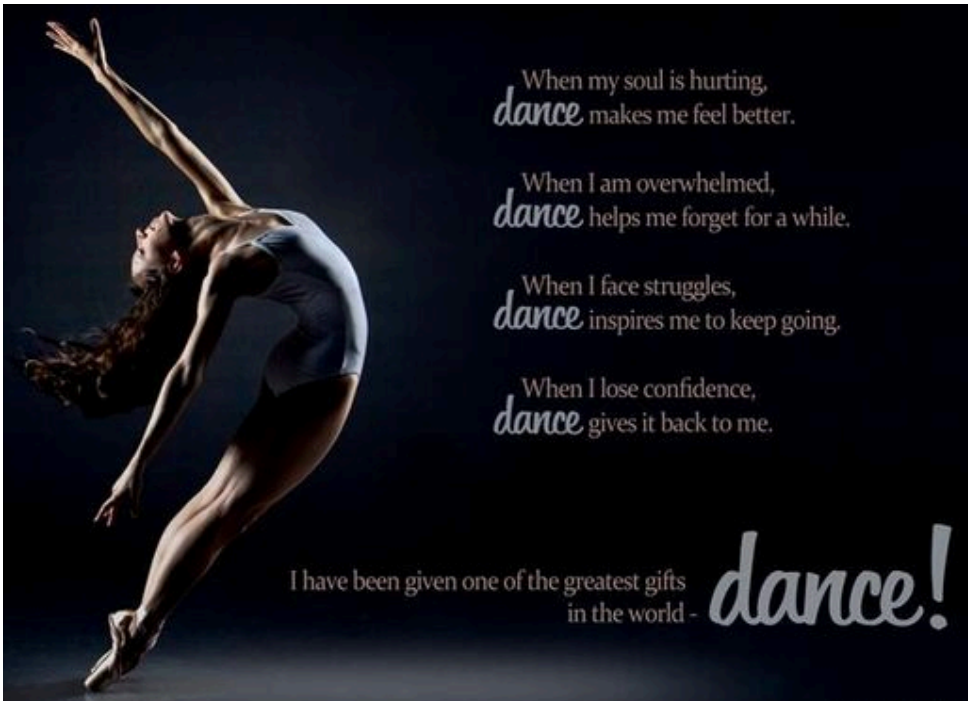
We are very proud to have your child representing TDA this year as one of our competing dancers! This program provides unique opportunities to reach a pre-professional level through exposure to top-talent dancers and choreographers, earned awards, access to a network of professional dance organizations, and resume-building leadership experiences as TDA ambassadors.

Choosing to be an intensive dancer at The Dance Academy means that your child is dedicated to advancing their level of dance, has the desire to improve, has a passion for performance and is committed to always doing their best to support, encourage, and help other members of their team. Your child is also a role model to our younger dancers. They are admired and respected as being a competitive dancer at TDA.

Excelling ay any endeavor is not easy and we are committed to nurturing each dancer's personal growth to prepare them for whatever next level of dance they choose to pursue. With your support, this experience will teach your dance valuable life skills and a work ethic that they will carry into their future.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing our passion for dance with your child and for supporting our efforts all year long. We look forward to a phenomenal spring competition season.

Steve Siagel and Erica Sperberg



2018 Mandatory Performances

Intensive dancers are required to perform in all performances listed below.

Three Competitions
Note: Dancers must reserve the ENTIRE weekend for competitions. We do not receive exact performance times or days until the week of the competition. Dancers must also plan to stay for the awards ceremony following the performance segment of the competition.

1. Starquest: March 9th-11th- Providence, RI
2. World Class: April 6-8th- Worcester MA
3. Legacy Dance Competition: May 4th-6th- Woonsocket, RI

Fundraiser Community Event
Dance for A Cause- March 25th- Newton South High School

Select Soloists ONLY- ASH January 19th-21st (Boston, MA)

Dress rehearsals and Recital @ Regis College in Weston

- Rehearsal 1: Tuesday June 5th 3:30-7:00pm
- Rehearsal 2: Wednesday June, 6th 3:30-7:00pm
- Recital: Sunday, ALL DAY June 10th

Attendance Policy

Choreography is based on formation, teamwork, and cannot be taught with an incomplete class. Unlike other sports where someone can just fill in for you, the entire class is sacrificed when one student does not attend. This is why attendance is crucial to the success of our program.

We expect that company dancers and their parents will take initiative when missing a class:

1. Communicate with Erica
2. Attend a make-up class
3. Make sure you know any choreography that you missed by meeting with a teammate or scheduling a private lesson with an instructor

Infractions of the attendance policy reflect poorly on a dancer's commitment to their team and will be taken into consideration in team selection for next year. We believe that school comes first but we ask you to manage your schedule so that homework is done during school and before class.

SICKNESS ABSENSES:

- If a child is sick, Erica needs notification prior to class time. A doctor's note will be required for sickness or injuries lasting over one week.

- If a child misses class due to being sick, they will be responsible for meeting with someone in their class OR a teacher ($35 per half hour) to learn the missed choreography. Contact Erica to arrange private catch-up lessons with instructors. IF a students does not learn the choreography they missed, they will be removed from that section of the dance and possibly more.

- If they miss a non-choreography class (Ballet or Technique) they must attend an extra technical make-up class that week. Contact Erica for make-up class options.

INJURIES:

- If your child is injured, they are expected to still attend ALL CLASSES to observe. This applies to both technique classes AND choreography classes
- As long as a child intends to perform at ANY competition or recital, they are expected to attend all classes AND performances to support their team.

PERSONAL ABSENCES:

- If you miss class for personal reasons, you must still notify Erica in advance of class!
- If you miss more than 3 classes for personal reasons, you will be removed from a dance or performance but in order to remain in the program, you still MUST attend class
- For non-choreography classes, you can make them up by attending another technical class and your absence will be cleared

DO NOT TELL ERICA ABOUT UPCOMING ABENSES OR CONFLICTS IN CLASS. THESE NOTIFICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO ERICA@SIAGEL.COM OR BY PHONE.

Office: 617-614-5438

Program Information

Competition fees are applied the month of the event.

Competition Fee Breakdown

- Group is $40-45 per dancer
- Solo is $100-$130
- Duet is $50-$60 per dancer Costumes fees are applied in December and are $100 per competition dance.

Key dates:

- Picture Week- May 14th-19th
- Dance For A Cause- March 25th
- Recital Ticket Sale – May 1st
- Competitions
    - Starquest: March 9th-11th: Providence, RI
    - World Class: April 6-8th: Worcester MA
    - Legacy Dance Competition: May 4th-6th- Woonsocket, RI
    - Select Soloists only: ASH January 19th-21st (Boston, MA)
- Dress Rehearsal- June 6th
- Recital Day- June 10th

Being on a team year after year is NOT guaranteed. Each year, TDA faculty evaluates intensive dancers for the next year's placement based on three major categories:

ATTITUDE

- A desire to learn
- Responsiveness to constructive feedback
- Kindness and compassion towards other dancers
- Respect towards teachers

SKILL

- Technical abilities comparable to other dancers in the category region-wide
- Endurance, flexibility, and strength improving year-after-year
- Ability to dance onstage with other dancers – spatial awareness, formations, stage presence

COMMITMENT

- Preparedness for classes and competitions – knowing your choreography, taking initiative to always do the right thing, always having the proper dance attire, costumes, accessories
- Ability to follow through with all mandatory commitments
- Excellent attendance at all classes and proper communication when conflicts arise
- Understanding you are part of a TEAM and your behavior/attendance/preparedness reflects on the entire team

Code of conduct

Behavior In & Out of the Class Room

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is expected of all company members as leaders and role models at The Dance Academy. Dancers are expected to treat everyone with respect in and out of the studio. Negative behavior toward an instructor or fellow classmate will be grounds for suspension from performances, class, or expulsion from the program. **Positive, inclusive, hard-working attitudes WILL be factored in to each dancer's consideration for next year's company placement.**

Any company-related event such as dinners, sleepovers, team gatherings must include ALL teammates. Exclusivity is NOT tolerated

NO CELL PHONES OR FOOD allowed in class

If granted permission by the instructor, dancers may use their phones to record dances for practicing or sharing purposes.

Taking Initiative

Intensive students are expected to arrive early ready to work hard. Please call the office if student is going to be more than 10 minutes late.

Dancers are expected to clean up after themselves in the studio, waiting area, study room, and bathroom. If they are eating meals at the studio, trash must be disposed of OUTSIDE the studio. Each dancer is in-charge of their belongings. Lost or forgotten items may be found in the Lost and Found in the waiting room next to Studio 3. All unclaimed items are donated every 3 months.

Communication:

Honest and candid communication between parents, Erica, and students is critical to the success of each dancer. Parent conferences can be scheduled at any time. If concerns or pressing issues arise please contact **Erica: 617-614-5468** or Erica@siagel.com. **If you contact Erica during CLOSED studio hours, she will respond the following business day.** Please refrain from contacting Erica on her cell phone unless for absolute emergencies.

Other resources for communication:

- TDA Intensive Student Director (to be emailed)
- Private TDA Intensive Dancer Facebook page (link to be emailed)
- TDA Carpool Facebook page (link to be emailed)