

Policies and Guidelines – Aspire Dance Academy Competitive Team 2023-2024

Congratulations! Your dancer is on the Aspire Dance Academy competitive team for the 2023-2024 season. Please read through the “Code of Conduct”, sign and date, and return by September 15, 2023.

Expectations and Responsibilities of the Dancers:

Dancers need to be accountable to each other. They need to be committed to being a part of the team. This includes coming to class, being on time, dressed and ready to work hard. Dancers have to commit to learn and perfect their choreography to the best of their ability, and put in 100% effort into every technique class, rehearsal and performance. They need to respect and communicate with their teacher. This group commitment ensures everyone on the team is doing their part to build the team up and ensuring its success.

At Aspire Dance Academy, we do not hold auditions as this can cause a negative impact on dancers. Nor do we only select the most elite dancers in the studio. Instead, we are an **all-inclusive** competitive team. Our criteria is that dancers need to be dedicated and need to display a positive attitude and wiliness to learn. They need to be humble, proud, kind and encouraging. They need to be **self-motivated** and set **measurable goals** and be excited to share the success of others.

Aspire Dance Academy is a “Drama Free” zone. This means that everyone is expected at all times to be supportive, respectful and courteous to all team members and their families. The studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment and disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher or the director.

Please remember that no matter which routines your dancer is placed in, that we are all dancing for the same team, Aspire Dance Academy. Supporting and encouraging each other will be our team’s biggest success!

Parent Roles:

Parents play a vital role in the success of their dancers training. The parent's role is to do the following:

- Lift up and support your dancer. Encourage them to practice and have them show their routines often.
- Teach your dancer about work ethic and dedication. They need to focus on themselves and their own personal strengths and weaknesses. Discuss what their vision is for the dance year. Set realistic and obtainable goals. Every dancer is different and learns at their own pace.
- Teach them that there is always going to be someone better than they are at some things and that is okay. They do not need to be the best dancer out there and picked for every routine. Do not contribute to an unhealthy environment by encouraging competitiveness within the team. Remember, they are not competing against dancers within their team!
- Teach your child to be happy for others.
- Teach your child to give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling.
- Stand behind the teachers and director. Try to understand their vision and trust them to create dynamic choreography!

These policies have been put into place not only to ensure a positive experience for every dancer and their family, but also to create a nurturing environment in which all of your children, with enough effort put forth, can be successful.

Dancers need to build trust and communicate with each other. Group performances do best when the dancers in their team trust and respect each other. Learning to communicate in practice and on stage, developing connections, and building a family-like bond is an essential part of a dancer's training and performance. As dance teams spend more and more time together, their ability to communicate, read, and trust each other in practice and on stage must grow. **Gossip or negative and unsupportive communication of any kind undermines the success of the entire team and studio and it is destructive. It brings the morale of the group down and for this reason, will not be tolerated.**

Protocol for Concerns and Issues:

- Any questions or concerns need to be addressed by the director.
- Email the director and set up a time to discuss concerns.
- Do not leave issues for long periods of time. Deal with them immediately so they do not get out of control.
- Do not go off of "hearsay" or gossip. This leads to inaccurate information that is turned and twisted and leads to a toxic and unhealthy environment. It causes hurt feelings that could be avoided if they were dealt with immediately. Communication with your dancer and teacher is key!

Competition Team Code of Conduct:

All students and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectable manner at all times.

Gossiping by a student or a parent about other students, parents, or teachers is not tolerated.

Disrespecting a teacher or another student or being discourteous to a fellow student is grounds for disciplinary action that may result in probation, suspension, or being asked to leave the studio permanently.

In the event that you are asked to not return to the studio, there will be no reimbursement for any classes, collected fees for competition, choreography fees, or any other fees collected by the studio.

If your costume is paid in full but has not come in yet, we will call you when it comes in and you can come to pick up the costume or costumes.

All competition students and their parents will be expected to both read and sign the Competition Guidelines.

1. Everyone is expected to work as a team player and help in the growth of their fellow students.
2. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students or parents about other students or parents within Aspire Dance Academy.
3. While representing Aspire Dance Academy, students and parents are expected to display good sportsmanship conduct to everyone they are in contact with.
4. During competitions, whether we win or lose, we are expected to have a winning attitude.

Your dancer's progression and growth are important to us. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting, do not hesitate to ask. Please remember that no matter which routines you are placed in, we are all dancing for the same team. Supporting and encouraging each other will be our team's biggest success!

I, _____ have read and understand the policies, guidelines and code of conduct of Aspire Dance Academy. My dancer, _____

understands the policies, guidelines and code of conduct of Aspire Dance Academy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____