

Priscilla & Dana's School of Dance

Competition Team Information 2010-2011

We offer two levels of competition. Requirements for each level differ. Each level has a troupe name:

- **HOT SHOTS** –Pre K – 1st, regional competitions only
- **SUPERSTARS** – Age 4 and up, full competition program which includes attending nationals

Competition Auditions & Routines

Audition Preparation Classes

Priscilla and Dana's will have six nights of classes in late July/early August for dancers in preparation for the competition auditions. We encourage dancers to attend as many classes as possible to prepare for auditions. Different material needed for auditions will be reviewed during each session. Classes in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Lyrical, Modern, Leaps & Turns, Musical Theatre and Hip-Hop are offered.

Superstars Required: NO, but strongly encouraged
Hot Shots Required: NO, but strongly encouraged

Auditions

Placement Auditions are held in early August. Dancers audition for jazz, tap, and hip-hop routines during one session and ballet, lyrical and modern routines in a second session. All dancers complete a registration form which gives the teachers a specific idea of how many routines they want to be placed in and what style of dance (see details below). Results are posted and e-mailed within 48 hours following the last audition time. Students are placed based on age, grade level, ability, style, showmanship, work ethic, attendance, dedication, etc.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: YES

Large Groups

Large Groups have 10-18 dancers. Most large groups have a weekly rehearsal and tuition is paid monthly or by trimester. The one exception are the teen and senior level tap large groups which are traditionally held on Saturdays and have a one-time tuition fee of \$130 due September 15th.

- *Jazz & Tap Large Groups* -- Dancers in 8th grade and higher are automatically placed in 1-4 large groups (up to 3 jazz and 1 tap). Students placed in the highest senior level jazz groups must also compete in ballet/lyrical large groups.

Dancers in 7th grade and younger are automatically placed in 2 large groups (1 jazz and 1 tap) unless you indicate on your Audition Registration Form that you are willing to do an additional large group class.

- *Ballet & Lyrical Large Groups (SUPERSTARS ONLY)* – Dancers are placed in 1-2 large groups (up to 1 ballet and 1 lyrical).

Note: if students are auditioning for a large group in a certain discipline, but we do not have enough students of similar ages & abilities, we could turn that "large group" into a small group.

Small Groups (SUPERSTARS ONLY)

Small groups are optional and have 4-9 dancers. Small groups are offered in jazz, tap, modern, ballet, lyrical and hip-hop. You must be placed in a large group jazz, tap and lyrical of the same discipline to be placed in a small group. (You must audition for ballet/lyrical large groups to be placed in a modern small group.) Most of our small groups rehearse on the "Saturday schedule" which meets approximately twice per month (see following pages for details).

For each small group you are placed in, there is a one time non-refundable tuition fee of \$130 due September 15th. The fee includes choreography and all lessons. Due to the growing number of competition routines, only selected small groups will perform in the annual recital.

Master teachers sometimes choreograph additional small group routines for teens and seniors. To be considered, you must already be in a small group in the same discipline. For example, if a master teacher is choreographing a modern small group, you must already be in a modern small group. You cannot only do the guest choreographer's pieces. These are for the dancers that want EXTRA work and experience. The rehearsals for these groups may be during the week or on Saturdays. Master teachers normally audition for their small group during class and the results are posted immediately following. Sometimes we contract a master teacher to choreograph an existing group; we'll let you know if this applies to your dancer. The master teacher's choreography fee is split between the dancers.

Productions (Also called lines) (SUPERSTARS ONLY)

Productions have 19 or more dancers. As a studio, we do 1-2 lines per year. We HIGHLY recommend dancers audition for the productions! They are a great way to build teamwork and friendships between dancers of all ages. Productions rehearse on the "Saturday schedule" which meets approximately twice per month. There is a one time tuition fee due for each production which includes choreography and all lessons (including summer). We are pleased to offer "Senior Scholarships" for free jazz production tuition to high school seniors who are at least 17 years of age and have been a member of P&D competition teams for a minimum of one year.

- *Jazz Production*—Jazz routine open to all dancers and is highly recommended for all eligible competition students. Students must be 10 years old by 1/1/11 to be eligible for jazz production. The tuition fee is \$90 and due September 8th.
- *Mini Jazz Production* – Jazz routine open to dancers age 11 by 1/1/11 and younger. This routine will compete in the 8 and under age division. The tuition fee is \$90 and due September 8th.

Solos, Duets and Trios (SUPERSTARS ONLY)

Solos, duets and trios are completely optional. Students 7 years old or older by 1/1/11 must be in a production to qualify for a solo/duo or trio. If you are interested in a solo, duet or trio in a certain discipline, you need to audition for a small group in that same area. Example: If you want to do a tap solo, then you must audition for a tap small group. (If there is no tap small group matching your age and ability, then you may still get to do the solo if your audition scores meet the requirement) This is an across the board guideline in jazz, tap, ballet, modern and lyrical. (Musical theater solos/duos/trios would need to audition for a jazz small group). Please feel free to talk to us if you have a unique situation. As always, we reserve the right to make exceptions to any rule when it is absolutely necessary. Please list any solos, duos or trios you want to perform as well as your desired teacher on your Audition Registration Form. The cost per half hour lesson will be Solo - \$28, Duo - \$14 per child, Trios - \$10 per child. Most routines have two 30-minute lessons per month.

- *Solos* – if a dancer meets the above requirement, he/she is eligible for a solo. The top percentage of dancers in each audition group will be eligible for two.
- *Duos & Trios* – the maximum number of duos/trios combined is three per dancer. More can be approved if they average to different age divisions. Duos and Trios are not assigned by teachers; they are created by the dancers. Dancers/parents can ask others to do a duo or a trio. If you would like to do a duo or trio, but do not know of a partner, mark that you are interested on your Audition Registration Form.

Note: Requirements for dancers who are high school graduates will be up to the discretion of the staff. This includes class instruction, group dance requirements, solos/duos/trios, etc.

Costumes

Small Group, Large Group and Production Costumes

Group costumes are designed by the instructor. If a group your dancer is in is “reusing” a costume from the past, you will need to pay IN FULL for it at the costume sale. You will receive a note if this applies to you. You will receive most new costumes after the holidays. Normally you will need to do some hand sewing to finish the costume off so it is specific to your child (sew straps, tack belt, etc.) and attach rhinestones with glue. The average cost of our costumes last year was \$153. All group rhinestones must be purchased through The Dressing Room. You will be billed for group costumes stones that you do not pick up in a timely manner. We are continuing a “cap” on the group rhinestones this year. The stones on the sample costume will not exceed \$50 for small groups and \$40 for large groups/lines.

Solo/Duo/Trio Costumes

These costumes are the responsibility of the parents but first must be approved by the choreographer. Most dancers buy a costume at our sale, hire an independent seamstress or purchase from a store and “jazz it up.”

Dance Classes & Instruction

Weekly Technique Classes (September – May)

All competition dancers are required to take weekly technique classes that are separate from competition rehearsal classes. Exact requirements vary with age and level of the dancer. Technique Classes include stretching, progressions and combinations. Jazz Classes range from 60 to 90 minutes. Tap Classes range from 30 to 45 minutes. Ballet Classes range from 60 to 90 minutes. Modern Classes range from 45 to 60 minutes, and Hip Hop classes are 30 minutes. Missed classes should be made up as soon as possible. Dancers falling behind in any area will be required to take additional technique classes.

Superstars Required:	1 Class each in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Modern* and Hip-Hop*.
Hot Shots Required:	1 Class that combines Jazz, Tap & Ballet (approx. 90 minutes total)

*These classes for dancers 10 and under *may* not apply. Substitute classes may be required.

Weekly Rehearsal Classes (September – May)

Large Groups have weekly rehearsals that range from 30-45 minutes. Selected small groups also rehearse during the week, usually on an every other week basis. Attendance at each rehearsal is crucial. Dancers can miss one rehearsal per dance in September-December and one rehearsal per dance January-May. Attendance at all rehearsals the week of any show or competition is mandatory unless special arrangements have been made in advance.

Superstars Required:	YES
Hot Shots Required:	YES

Saturday Rehearsal Classes (SUPERSTARS ONLY)

Most small groups and all productions rehearse on Saturdays. Classes begin as early as 8:30 and are usually done (at the latest) by 3:00 pm. Most dancers would not be there the entire day, but for a portion of it when their numbers rehearse. It is not every Saturday. A schedule is distributed at the beginning of the year. An approximate guess of how many Saturdays per month for these classes would be: September 0-1, October through March 2-3, April 1-2, and May 1. Dancers can miss one Saturday in September-December and one Saturday January-May. Attendance at all rehearsals the Saturday before any competition is mandatory unless special arrangements have been made in advance.

Superstars Required:	YES (if you sign up for small groups and/or production)
Hot Shots Required:	NO

Summer Classes

A short 4-6 lesson session is offered starting after the recital and until Nationals. Students are required to take jazz, tap, modern and ballet technique classes. Superstar dancers also have competition rehearsals for small groups, large groups and productions. Class times start as early as 8:30 am and last throughout the day. Tuition for summer classes is due in mid-May. An exact schedule for your child will be distributed in early spring.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: NO, but strongly encouraged

Dance Conventions

Several dance conventions come to Kansas City and surrounding cities. Conventions are comprised of Professional dancers and master teachers often based out of Los Angeles or New York. The purpose of attending these conventions is to learn from teachers often with a different dance style and/or teaching method. Most teachers are extremely motivational and the kids seem to greatly benefit! Classes taught include: Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Hip-Hop, Character, Modern, Lyrical and more. The two-day convention average time frame is 7:30 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Average convention fee is \$200.

Two-Day Conventions

Superstars Number Required: 1 (TBA)
Hot Shots Number Required: NONE

In-Studio Master Classes

The studio brings in 3-5 master teachers per year for private instruction. Usually the teachers come for the weekend, but each student would be assigned to a class that would last 1-2 hours within the weekend. Classes could be Friday evening, anytime Saturday or anytime Sunday. Past master teachers include Shannon Mather, Brooke Pierotti, Ray Leeper, Chris Jacobsen, Tina D'Amato, Tina Caspary, Dee Caspary, Cory Finn, Nick Bowman and more! Average class fee per master teacher is \$40.

Superstars Required: ALL (3-5)
Hot Shots Required: NONE

Outside Master Classes & Instruction

If competition students wish to take additional master classes or outside instruction, please get approval from Dana. We want to make sure our dancers are only studying with qualified instructors for quality education.

Dance Competitions & Performances

Solo/Duo/Trio Showcase

The P&D Solo/Duo/Trio Showcase is a performance held usually on a Sunday. This is an optional performance for all solos/duos/trios, but very beneficial for the dancers. The purpose of the showcase is for the performers to have a little experience with each routine before competing and to feel comfortable in costumes. Dancers rehearse on the stage before the performance. Teachers critique routines/choreography/costumes and make suggestions and comments. Comment sheets are distributed to the dancers the week following the performance. There is a per routine participation fee of approximately \$30. No tickets are distributed; everyone is welcome. The show is normally held at Liberty Performing Arts Center in Liberty, Missouri.

Superstars Required: NO
Hot Shots Required: NO

Group Showcase

The P&D Group Showcase is a performance put on by P&D parent volunteers. The show is held in January or February, usually on a Sunday. This is the first time all group competition numbers are performed on stage. The purpose of the showcase is for the performers to have a little experience with each routine before competing and to feel comfortable in costumes. Teachers critique routines/choreography/costumes and make suggestions and comments. There is a per family participation fee of \$40 and includes 4 tickets and a T-shirt. Families with more than one child can purchase extra T-Shirts. The fee should be made to "P&D Entertainment" and is due December 8th. Additional tickets, if available, are approximately \$5 each. The performance is normally held at Liberty Performing Arts Center in Liberty, Missouri. When the date is announced, please reserve the entire day for the rehearsals and performance.

Superstars Required: YES

Hot Shots Required: YES

Regional Competitions

Many different companies host regional dance competitions. Usually competitions begin Friday evening and continue all day Saturday and Sunday. Traditionally, we require attendance at three regional competitions: You would perform all group numbers and solos/duos/trios if desired. Sometimes we also compete a few selected group routines at the required convention. In September, we will determine exactly which regional competitions we will attend in 2011. We may attend regional competitions in Kansas City or St. Louis.

Superstars Required: 3-4 regional competitions plus convention competition (if applicable)
Hot Shots Required: 3 regional competitions

For dancers that compete in solos, duos, trios, other regional competitions are optional. You are welcome to attend as many as fits into your schedule. We ask you to enter these competitions "on your own" meaning you will complete the entry form and mail directly to the competition.

Priscilla & Dana's School of Dance's Recital

All large group and production routines perform at the annual recital. Selected small groups will also perform. Dancers are required to attend the dress rehearsal which starts at approximately 9:30 am, and the show which begins at around 6:30 pm. NO solos, duos or trios perform in the recital.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: YES

National Competition

As a studio, we attend one national competition. At the parent meeting, each family gets one vote and the majority wins. Past destinations include Kansas City, Orlando, Dallas, Las Vegas, Daytona Beach, Ocean City, Branson. The national competition is usually 5-6 days long. Dancers in solos/duos/trios usually have to attend for the entire duration. Dancers in groups can sometimes go 1-2 days later.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: NO

Other Happenings & Events

A requirement for all dancers:

Dance is your #1 priority activity (over sports, dance teams, etc.)

Parent Meeting

Each dancer must have at least one parent attend the annual Parent Meeting in early September. The meeting is usually held on a Sunday evening and lasts around 2 hours. The Handbooks and Dance Calendars are distributed. Each family votes one time for their national's destination choice.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: YES

P&D Adidas Tracksuit

Each dancer must have at P&D Adidas Tracksuit to wear to awards.

Superstars Required: YES
Hot Shots Required: YES

Costume Sale

As a fundraiser, Priscilla & Dana's host an annual costume sale. Last year we had shoppers from 5 different states! If you want to participate, you sign up and pay a participation fee of approximately \$25. You bring costumes, dancewear, dance shoes and any dance accessories you want to sell. The prices for P&D Group

Costumes are set in advance and labels are distributed. Other items you price yourself. This is a great place to get costumes for your solo, duo and trios and well as practice shoes, leotards, etc. You get all profits from items you sell. The sale is Friday, September 24th and Saturday, September 25th.

Superstars Required: NO
Hot Shots Required: NO

Payments

The studio accepts checks, cash and money orders. Please be sure to frequently check your calendar for payment due dates. All payments made for tuition, recital, costumes, competitions, etc are non-refundable. Tuition can be paid monthly or by trimester (3 months at a time) and is due in full by the 10th of the month. In addition, we offer a yearly payment plan which is 5% off the trimester price. This is only offered until September 10. A bookkeeping fee of \$5.00 a day will be added to late payments. This is strictly enforced and adds up quickly! All accounts must be kept current in order to remain in competition.

Father-Daughter Recital Dance

Dancers age 6 and over are invited to participate in the Father-Daughter dance routine.

Superstars Required: NO
Hot Shots Required: NO

Picture Day

A professional photographer takes all group photos (and individuals if you desire) in May. All group photos are compiled into a composite that will hang in the studio.

Superstars Required: Attendance is mandatory but purchasing photos in optional.
Hot Shots Required: Attendance is mandatory but purchasing photos in optional.

Big & Little Sisters & Brothers

Dancers of different ages are paired up to being big and little sisters (or brothers). Sisters leave small gifts, candy and cards of encouragement for each other throughout the summer session.

Superstars Required: NO
Hot Shots Required: N/A (for nationals dancers only)