
IMAGINE DANCE TEAM POLICIES AND HANDBOOK



2022-2023

Introduction

Downers Grove Park District strives to offer high quality & developmentally appropriate dance classes to teach techniques in a safe, creative, and athletically stimulating environment. Dance classes within the program will work with your child's individual talents and help them grow artistically and physically. Imagine Dance Team focuses on strengthening the foundations of a dancer's technique and confidence, while also providing opportunities for personal growth, leadership and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment. It is our hope that dancers will not only create a strong foundation for dance, but also create lasting friendships & memories!

When considering joining Imagine Dance Team, please consider the following before making the commitment:

Rehearsals and Performances

- Each group will meet once per week to rehearse; rehearsals will be 45-60 minutes long. A schedule will be sent once placement decisions have been made.
- Team members are expected to attend all rehearsals for each group they commit to. It is important for all members of a dance to present, to allow the group to grow and develop into a unified and cohesive performance piece. Your child should not be missing dance for other sport rehearsals, play rehearsals, etc. Make sure the schedule works for you and your family before committing to the season.
- Excessive absence from rehearsals or performances could be grounds for dismissal without refund.

Class Commitments

- Members must take a Jazz I or Jazz II class during both the Fall and Winter-Spring sessions. Members are also strongly encouraged to take a ballet class during both sessions.

Expectations for Class & Rehearsal

A positive attitude and self-discipline are important aspects in training. Cooperation with the instructor and abidance of rules is necessary for a positive and safe dance experience. As dance team members, other students look up to you – be sure to set a good example and represent the team well!

- Arrive on time to rehearsal with a positive attitude and ready to work
- Have proper attire & shoes for rehearsal – jazz shoes, leotard & tights, leggings and t-shirt, etc.
- Have proper attire & shoes for other classes – ballet shoes for ballet, etc.
- Pay attention during warm ups. Warming up & stretching properly will help avoid injury
- Be aware of your surroundings and respect the space of your other teammates
- Pay attention to demonstrations, instructions and feedback
- Report any injuries to your instructor immediately
- Do not leave the dance room without permission:
 - Once you arrive, you are not to leave the dance room until rehearsal has ended
 - If you need to leave early, you must notify your instructor for permission
- Have respect for your instructor, teammates, and the facility:
 - Respect your instructor and any teaching assistants; do not argue or talk back

- Respect your teammates. Verbal or physical fighting, profanity, disrespectful language, attitude or body language is not acceptable
- Respect your teammate's belongings. Do not touch or use anyone's personal belongings without permission
- Remember to take all of your belongings at the end of rehearsal

The Downers Grove Park District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of him/herself or others. A positive approach will be used regarding correcting behavior, involving and notifying parents when necessary. If an unsuitable behavior occurs, staff will use age-appropriate rules and consequences specific to each situation. Staff will be forced to evaluate the enrollment of any member whose behavior is continually inappropriate. Poor sportsmanship or failure to abide by the code of conduct may result in removal from the team.

Expectations for Performances/Events

- Arrive on time
- Check in with your instructor upon arrival and before departing
- Stay in the appropriate area whether it is a classroom, dressing room, or staging area. If you have to leave your assigned area, notify your instructor before doing so
- Stay with the instructor and team for the duration of the performance/event
- Dress appropriately; when not in costume, wear your Imagine Dance Team jacket or top
- Bring a water bottle. Healthy snacks are encouraged for longer days!
- Behave appropriately:
 - Maintain a positive attitude and perform to the best of your ability
 - Cheer for your teammates
 - Show respect for other teams and instructors at all times
 - Be a respectful audience member
 - Keep all your belongings in the designated team area during and after the performance. Help clean up if needed

Expectations for Parents

It is equally important for parents to set an example for good sportsmanship and respect.

- Bring your dancer on time every week, and plan for them to stay the entire length of rehearsal
- Please come up to dance room either when dropping off or when picking up your dancer from rehearsal, so that the instructor can share information or other notes with you
- Communication will also be sent through email. Please check your email regularly, and respond to emails **to confirm it was received**. Emails will come from the program supervisor, Anna Fontanetta, afontanetta@dgparks.org. Please consider adding this email to your address book to help prevent emails from being filtered as spam!
- Dance staff are not to provide parents with personal emails or phone numbers, and parents are to refrain from soliciting this information from staff
- Team events will be hosted only through the Park District. Outside or personal events are not regulated by the Park District; it is up to you as parents to encourage your children to be welcoming and inclusive

- Parents are always welcome to wait outside in the hallway during classes and rehearsals. Parents will be welcomed into the dance room during designated Parent Observation days
- Abide by the instructor's routines and methods. Do not modify routines with your dancer
- Good sportsmanship and respect must be displayed at all time to teammates, instructors, other parents, judges, and opposing teams

TENTATIVE Fees and Costs

Fees for rehearsals can be broken out into multiple payments. Fees for costumes and team warm-ups will be paid up-front at the time of registration. Class fees are due seasonally at time of registration.

Rehearsals:

\$500 - paid in full for entire season of September-May

OR

\$62.50 - split into 8 monthly payments

Costumes: \$65 per costume

Team warm-ups (jacket and t-shirt or tank top): \$65

Classes:

Fall: approximately \$143-\$178

Winter-Spring: approximately \$263-315

Please note: rehearsal & class fees are dependent on length of class and number of weeks, and may change depending on actual class schedules. Winter-Spring class fees include Spring Recital costumes and fees.

2022-2023 Performances

Due to COVID-19, many events are still uncertain/unscheduled at this time. We hope to be able to schedule additional performance opportunities throughout the year, but possible performance opportunities could include:

- Downers Grove Park District's winter holiday event (TBD): December 2022
- DGPD's Basketball League Halftime: one Saturday morning, February or March 2022
- Dancing for Dancers: April 2023
- Spring Recital: May or June 2023