



KDC COMP TEAM HANDBOOK

This handbook contains everything you need to know about the Kelley's Dance Craze competitive team, including rates, dates, and more!



Welcome to Kelley's Dance Craze, where we believe in the transformative power of dance. Our mission is to nurture every dancer's unique talent and passion while fostering a supportive and inspiring environment. Whether you're here to refine your technique, express yourself through movement, or simply enjoy the joy of dance, our studio is dedicated to helping you reach your fullest potential.

Our Competitive Team is designed for dancers who are ready to take their skills to the next level and experience the thrill of competition. We are committed to providing top-notch training, exceptional performance opportunities, and a sense of camaraderie that makes our team feel like family. We understand that being part of a competitive team is a significant commitment, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

This handbook is your guide to navigating the exciting journey ahead. Inside, you'll find all the information you need about our studio's policies, schedules, dress codes, fees, and much more. Our goal is to ensure you have all the resources necessary to make your experience with us seamless and enjoyable.

Welcome to the team!

Kelley Paronish

Studio Communication

Preferred Communication Channels

The best and quickest way to reach us is via email to kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com. Secondly, please download the FACEBOOK app and [join our FACEBOOK TEAM](#) page! FACEBOOK is the most effective way to stay informed and receive the latest updates.

All of our communication channels are as follows:

- **Studio Email:** kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com
- **Call:** (248) 313-0326
- **Studio Website:** <https://kelleysdancecraze.com/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/KelleysDanceCraze>
- **Facebook Team Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/261192304529375>
- **Instagram:** @kelleysdancecraze
- **TikTok:** @kelleysdancecraze
- **Miss Kelley (Director/Comp Team Teacher):** kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com
- **Miss Gabi (Co-Assistant Director/Comp Team Teacher):** gabiyoung24@yahoo.com
- **Miss Bri (Co-Assistant Director/Comp Team Teacher):** briannaschmidt2000@gmail.com
- **Miss Chrissy (Comp Team Teacher):** miss.chrissy4477@gmail.com
- **Miss Kylie (Comp Team Teacher):** kylievinitski@gmail.com

Studio Communication

All important studio information will be sent via email. Please ensure you are regularly checking your inbox and spam folders to stay updated. We also send monthly newsletters via email to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, important dates, and studio news, and all of this information can also be found 24/7 on our studio website.

Competitions & Facebook Team Page Use

During competitions, we rely exclusively on our Facebook Team Page for communication; this ensures that all teachers, dancers, and parents are on the same page and can assist each other quickly. Please be sure you have the team page set up to receive all notifications so you don't miss anything!

Please Note: At competitions, our teachers are fully focused on supporting our dancers; this includes warming them up, assisting with costume changes when needed, coordinating with competition staff, sending dancers backstage, rehearsing numbers, and much more. Because of this, we ask that all communication during competitions goes through our Facebook Team Page.

Using our Facebook Team Page helps us ensure that any questions are seen by the whole team, and everyone can pitch in to help out fellow dancers and parents. We'll provide all the information you need in advance, and the Facebook Team Page will be our main way to stay connected and organized as a team during the busy competition days!

Mission, Values, and Company Policies



For Dancers: At Kelley's Dance Craze, we believe that respect, positivity, and professionalism are fundamental to our success. As a dancer, you are expected to embody these values at all times. Treat your teammates, staff, and competitors with kindness and respect, and approach every class, rehearsal, and performance with dedication and a positive attitude. Come prepared with the proper attire and materials, and be punctual and ready to participate fully. We are a drama-free studio, and we do not tolerate gossip, negativity, or speaking ill of others. Our focus is on building a supportive, inclusive environment where everyone can thrive and grow as artists.

For Parents: Parents play a crucial role in supporting our dancers and contributing to a positive studio environment. We expect parents to communicate respectfully with staff and other parents and to address any issues directly and constructively. Your involvement in your dancer's journey is vital, and we ask that you ensure they adhere to the attendance policy and participate fully in team activities. **Parents are also expected to model good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit, supporting all team members and contributing to a drama-free atmosphere. Lift up and support all our artists, teach your child the value of perseverance and work ethic, and encourage a team-oriented mindset.**

For Staff: Our KDC Staff is dedicated to creating a nurturing and professional environment for all dancers. We lead by example, maintaining high standards of professionalism in all interactions and providing constructive feedback to support each dancer's growth. Staff members are expected to be punctual, prepared, and fully engaged in all classes and rehearsals. We value open communication and are here to address any concerns promptly and effectively. **Our commitment is to the well-being and development of our dancers, and we strive to maintain a focused, drama-free studio environment at all times.**

Commitment to Regular Attendance: Regular attendance is essential for the success of our competitive team. Dancers are expected to attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, and performances. Consistent participation is key to team cohesion and individual progress. While we understand that occasional absences may occur, frequent absences will hinder a dancer's ability to perform effectively and grow as a dancer, which may impact their eligibility for performances and competitions. We ask that all absences be communicated to the staff in advance (at least 24 hours) to allow for proper planning and adjustments. **Please note that dancers are only allowed 8 absences (total) per season.** Any dancer who misses more than 8 times risks losing their spot and being let go from the KDC Competition Team.

Procedure for Reporting Absences: If a dancer is unable to attend a class, please notify the staff via phone call (248-313-0326) and/or email at kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com as soon as possible. For planned absences, advance notice is required. In the case of illness or emergencies, please inform us immediately. A doctor's note will be required for prolonged absences of 3 or more days due to illness to ensure that the dancer is safe to return to training. Your dancer plays an integral role in our competitive team, and their attendance affects their entire team.

Make-Up Classes or Rehearsals: To ensure continuity in training, dancers are encouraged to attend all make-up classes for any missed classes due to snow days. This helps dancers stay on track with the team's progress and ensures they do not fall behind in their training. If your dancer misses a make-up day, they may be required to take a private lesson, depending on how many make-up dates they've missed. All dancers are required to attend mandatory Rehearsals. Your dancer's progress and their impact on the team are our top priorities.

Performance and Competition Attendance: Attendance at all scheduled performances and competitions is mandatory. We rely on every dancer's participation to represent Kelley's Dance Craze with excellence and pride. Moreover, our dancers work incredibly hard to put their best foot forward at performances and competitions, and just one dancer's absence hurts the entire team. Absences from these events will be taken seriously and may result in removal of the dancer's placement on our competition team.

Company Policies



Convention Attendance: Full participation in all convention classes is mandatory for dancers, regardless of their usual styles or personal preferences. These events are vital for exposing dancers to diverse techniques, enhancing their versatility, and providing opportunities to learn from industry leaders. Dancers are expected to attend every class with a positive and open-minded attitude, demonstrating commitment and resilience even when faced with unfamiliar styles or physical fatigue. Conventions are also a time for team bonding and mutual support, and we encourage all dancers to uplift and help each other throughout the event. Parents should ensure their dancers are prepared and supported, promoting a healthy balance of nutrition, hydration, and rest before the weekend begins. *Convention will be required every other year, and is optional on National's years.

Mandatory Team Meeting: Team meetings are an integral part of our communication and planning process. This season, our required team meeting is on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00pm at the studio. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for the competition team dancer and one parent (due to lack of room in the studio). This meeting will provide important updates, we will discuss the season ahead, and offer a platform for questions and feedback. Team meetings should be approached with a respectful and cooperative attitude. Any additional meeting dates and times will be communicated in advance. These meetings are a crucial aspect of our team's success, and we appreciate your commitment to making them productive and constructive.

Full Season Commitment: The competitive season runs from September 9th to, to June 24th, encompassing all scheduled classes, rehearsals, performances, and competitions. By joining the Kelley's Dance Craze competitive team, dancers and parents commit to full participation throughout the entire season. This commitment is essential for maintaining team cohesion and ensuring the success of our collective efforts. If any issues or conflicts arise that may impact a dancer's schedule, we ask that you communicate with the staff immediately so we can address them appropriately. This commitment is essential for maintaining team cohesion and ensuring the success of our collective efforts.

Teamwork and Cooperation: The success of our team depends on the cooperation and teamwork of all members, including dancers, parents, and staff. We expect everyone to work together harmoniously, supporting each other and contributing to the team's goals. A positive and cooperative spirit is essential for creating a productive and enjoyable environment; therefore, open and respectful communication is the cornerstone of our team's success. We expect all members to maintain clear and respectful communication channels, addressing any concerns promptly and constructively. **If conflicts or issues arise, we ask that you please email us at kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com with your concern(s). We have very limited time for meetings with parents throughout the season, so the subject matter/concern must be stated in your email. Meetings will only be held for serious issues, and will be scheduled during a time that the owner has availability.**

Commitment to Excellence: We strive for excellence in all aspects of our participation, from training and rehearsals to performances and competitions. We expect all team members to uphold the values and standards of Kelley's Dance Craze, striving to achieve their best in every endeavor. Our commitment to excellence sets us apart and ensures that we continue to grow as a team and as individuals!

Adherence to Guidelines: By joining the Kelley's Dance Craze competitive team, all members must adhere to the guidelines and policies outlined in our handbook's policies. These expectations are designed to ensure a positive and productive experience for everyone involved. By following these guidelines, we can maintain a supportive and drama-free environment where everyone can thrive! *Please note that first year competitive dancers will be placed on probation for their first season, to guarantee they are following all of our studio policies and competition team rules.

Schedule Details & Requirements



Scheduling: Our class schedule is crafted with each dancer's growth and development in mind. We have made every effort to try and accommodate various schedules while ensuring efficiency by scheduling each level's classes back-to-back whenever we can; this eliminates unnecessary breaks, making the most of our dancers' time. Class hours are aligned with Walled Lake school schedules, ending at times appropriate for each age group, taking into account their developmental needs, time to eat dinner, and keep up on their homework responsibilities.

Classes Offered: Our class schedule is designed to provide a balanced curriculum that ensures our students receive a comprehensive dance education. Our schedule is structured to include the required classes: Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Technique, Conditioning, and Stretch. To help our students continue to grow in their dance education, we also offer: Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Lyrical, Contemporary, Acro, and Pointe. This balanced approach ensures that our students develop into well-rounded dancers, equipped with the skills and versatility necessary for success in both competitive and professional dance environments.

Training Focus: Our primary focus is on providing exceptional training for all dancers. We believe that well-trained dancers form the foundation of a successful rehearsal and performance experience. Therefore, our class schedule prioritizes training classes over rehearsal time to ensure that our dancers develop the necessary skills and technique to excel in their art.

Team Rehearsals: We will be holding 4 required Rehearsals throughout the season. The first two (January and February) focus fully on being sure our dances are stage-ready for competition. The last two (May and June) focus on our team finale for the Recital, as they learn their parts separately during their Technique classes. These rehearsals bring everyone and everything together so we can have a successful show. *Dancers need to be dressed in Rehearsal attire (solid black) for every Rehearsal. All team rehearsals take place at Kelley's Dance Craze.

Solos/Duets/Trios: Solos/Duets/Trios will have a 30-minute, pre-scheduled weekly time slot, scheduled at our private lesson rate. We will coordinate with parents to finalize these slots before the season starts. *If a dancer has to miss their Solo/Duet/Trio, it is up to the teacher's discretion if it needs to be made up. Solos/Duets/Trios are offered by invitation only.

Team/Class Levels & Requirements



Team Choreography Levels: Our team choreography levels are determined by a dancer's ability/technique/skills in each individual style, and they are as follows (highest to lowest):

- Elite Stars
- All Stars
- Super Stars
- Shining Stars
- Shooting Stars
- Igniting Stars
- Rising Stars
- Sparkling Stars
- Starlings
- Little Stars

Technique/Conditioning/Stretch/Acro Levels: These class levels are determined by a dancer's ability/technique/skills in each class, as well as their behavior in class, and they are as follows (highest to lowest):

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3

Select Large Group Levels: In order to teach our dancers how to work together in a larger group setting with multiple ages, we have created large group jazz class opportunities for all dancers in the Sparkling- Elite Stars levels. *All dancers must have both their right and left split to qualify. These class levels are determined by a dancer's ability/technique/skills/maturity of movement in each class, as well as their behavior in class, and they are as follows (highest to lowest):

- Select Large Group Jazz 1
- Select Large Group Jazz 2

Pointe Levels: We have a 3 step process In order to learn and grow through Pointe. The dancer will begin in Pre-Pointe where they will learn beginning barre exercises and how to properly stretch their feet to prepare them for dancing on pointe. In Pointe 1, they will continue working on properly stretching their feet, as well as continuing with more difficulty in their barre technique, with the goal of earning their pointe shoes at some point throughout the season. Once Miss Kylie has determined that a dancer is comfortable in Pointe, and ready to perform in their pointe shoes on stage, they will be moved to Pointe 2, where they will perform a Recital dance. *All dancers must be invited by Miss Kylie, and be age 10 or older to qualify, and dancers may not skip levels at any time throughout this process. Dancers may move up to another level or remain in a particular level the following year, based on their ability/growth in this style. These class levels are determined by a dancer's ability/technique/skills in their Ballet classes (or previous pointe classes), and they are as follows (highest to lowest):

- Pointe 2 (Recital)
- Pointe 1 (Technique)
- Pre-Pointe (Technique)

REQUIRED DRESS CODE

COMP TEAM BALLET CLASSES



Required Tights:

CAPEZIO Ultra Soft Self Knit Waistband Back Seam Transition Tights in Ballet Pink or Caramel. Purchase price through the studio is \$17.00 for all sizes (see the front desk if you are interested). You can also purchase these at any dancewear store (online or in person).



Required Shoes:

CAPEZIO "Hanami" in pink canvas, split sole. You can purchase these at any dancewear store (online or in person).



Leotard:

Your child may wear any type/color of leotard to their ballet class (short sleeve, long sleeve, tank style, halter style). You can purchase these at any dancewear store (online or in person).



Optional Ballet Skirt:

Short Pull-On Ballet Skirt (any color). You can purchase these at any dancewear store (online or in person).



For Boys:

Please wear a white shirt, black joggers, and black ballet shoes.



Ballet Hair:

Hair must be secured in a slick ballet bun style with gel/hairspray to ensure zero flyaways. If your dancer has ballet, please ensure they wear their hair in a slick bun the entire day. Common and recommended ballet bun hairstyles are low buns, high buns, front twists into a bun, or a cinnamon roll ballet bun.

ALL OTHER CLASSES



Required Shoes:

Please see our studio dress code by going to: <https://kelleydancecraze.com/dress-code%2Fshoes> for the required shoes for each style/genre/level, as they can change from season to season. *In the case of Jazz classes, your teacher will let you know if they will need tan or black jazz shoes, once the costume has been selected. *Always start the season with tan.



Required Attire:

Form-fitting dancewear (in any color) is required for all other classes. This includes dance sets, sports bras, briefs, leggings, shorts, or a leotard. No baggy pants or t-shirts are allowed. *Tights are optional for all classes, besides Ballet.



Hair:

Hair must be in a slick ponytail, braid, or bun. Having hair in the face can be a huge distraction to a dancer-please make sure it is slick and off the face at all times, so we can maintain a professional atmosphere for our comp team within the studio.

THE DRESS CODE IS REQUIRED

If your student is not in the appropriate attire as stated in our studio's dress code, you will be sent home with a note for the parents to sign the first time. If it happens a second time, they will not be allowed to participate in class. *Please note how important the required dress code is to our studio and your child's performance.

Tuition & Fees



Tuition Fees: We offer two payment options for class tuition: monthly installments (spread over ten months, September through June) or a full season payment. All fees are currently in your accounts, with the exception of Solos/Duets/Trios, Convention Fees (optional this season), and Competition Fees.

Class Tuition	
Level	Monthly Pricing
Little Stars	\$125
Starlings	\$150
Sparkling Stars	\$175
Rising Stars	\$200
Igniting Stars	\$200
Shooting Stars	\$200
Shining Stars	\$200
Super Stars	\$200
All Stars	\$200
Elite Stars	\$200

Convention Fees: \$185 per Dancer

While we will be attending Convention every season, it is only required on non-nationals years. During Nationals years, it will be optional, but is always highly suggested. This year, we will be attending the Groove Dance Convention on Sunday, October 25th.

Annual Registration Fee: \$40

The non-refundable registration fee is charged at the time of registration and covers studio administration costs for the family throughout the entire season.

Competition Team Commitment Fee: \$145/Individual or \$190/Family (2 or more dancers on the team)

This non-refundable fee helps to offset the cost of teacher compensation at rehearsals and regional competitions throughout the season.

Nationals Staff Support Fee: \$90 per Family

This non-refundable fee was implemented to help our KDC Staff be able to attend Nationals with their competition team dancers every other season. This fee can be in lieu of Convention fees on Nationals years, or in addition to Convention.

Team Jacket Fee: \$140 per Dancer

Every KDC Competition Team dancer is required to have a custom company jacket to wear at competitions and local events. These jackets will be ordered in September, and will arrive before the holidays.

Competition Team Makeup Kit: \$80 per Dancer

KDC has required makeup, earrings, and rhinestone clips for all of our competition team dancers. These will all come in a special makeup kit for your dancer in January.

Competition Team Costumes: \$100-\$170 per Dancer

Recital Costumes: \$100 per Dancer

*All Costumes include tights, accessories, and a garment bag.

Competition Registration Fee: \$5 per Competition/per Dancer

This fee covers the cost of competition administration for registering all of our dancers in each dance/level/genre/group for each competition throughout the season.

Guest Choreography Fees: In some cases, we may choose to hire on a guest choreographer for a specific group. This is the case this year for our Super/All Stars Hip Hop team. Guest choreographers rates may differ. The final cost will be determined and communicated once it has been split up amongst all members of that team.

Tuition & Fees



Solo/Duet/Trio Fees		Solo/Duet/Trio Billing
Class Type	Cost per Dancer	Payment Due Dates
Solos	\$35/wk	September Solo fees due October 1 st , October Solo fees due November 1 st , November Solo fees due December 1 st , December Solo fees due January 1 st , January Solo fees due February 1 st , February Solo fees due March 1 st , March Solo fees due April 1 st , April Solo fees due May 1 st , May <u>and</u> June Solo fees due June 1 st .
Duos	\$25/wk	September Duet fees due October 1 st , October Duet fees due November 1 st , November Duet fees due December 1 st , December Duet fees due January 1 st , January Duet fees due February 1 st , February Duet fees due March 1 st , March Duet fees due April 1 st , April Duet fees due May 1 st , May <u>and</u> June Duet fees due June 1 st .
Trios	\$20/wk	September Trio fees due October 1 st , October Trio fees due November 1 st , November Trio fees due December 1 st , December Trio fees due January 1 st , January Trio fees due February 1 st , February Trio fees due March 1 st , March Trio fees due April 1 st , April Trio fees due May 1 st , May <u>and</u> June Trio fees due June 1 st .

Competition Fees: Below are the entry fees for our competitions to help you budget for the upcoming season.
Note: Please remember that these fees are per dancer/per dance.

Competition Fees							Fees Due
Event	Solo	Duet	Trio	Group	Media Fee	Solo Title Fee	Date
Moxie (optional Solos, Duets/Trios only)	\$150	\$88	\$88	-	Complimentary	\$45	January 4 th
Hall of Fame	\$185	\$100	\$66.67	\$85	\$45 Ind. \$20 Sibling	N/A	January 12 th
Groove	\$182	\$97	\$97	\$78	N/A	N/A	February 23 rd
Starquest	\$190	\$105	\$105	\$90	\$35 Ind. \$25 Sibling	\$65	March 14 th
Groove Nationals	\$200	\$125	\$125	\$100	\$35 Ind. \$25 Sibling	\$115	April 20 th

Amazing Opportunities



KDC Booster Fundraisers

Our KDC Boosters offer a variety of fundraising opportunities throughout the year, designed to accommodate different interests and schedules. While parent participation in our Boosters is required, our fundraisers benefit our entire competition team.

- **Participation:** It's a great way to get involved, meet other families, and contribute to our team's success.
- **Reduced Costs:** Funds raised through these initiatives help offset the costs of competitions, costumes, workshops, and travel expenses, reducing the financial burden on individual families.
- **Team Building:** Fundraising activities promote camaraderie among dancers, parents, and instructors. Working together toward a common goal strengthens our sense of community and teamwork.
- **Skill Development:** Participating in fundraising activities teaches valuable skills such as leadership, communication, and event planning, which are beneficial both on and off the dance floor.
- **Goal Setting:** Each fundraising initiative has a specific goal, which helps us track our progress and celebrate our achievements as a team.
- **Transparency:** We are committed to transparency in our fundraising efforts. Detailed reports are provided to show how funds are allocated and used to benefit our team.

By participating in fundraising at Kelley's Dance Craze, you're not just raising funds—you're investing in our team's success and helping to create memorable experiences for our dancers. For more detailed information on upcoming opportunities and how you can get involved, look out for an email from our KDC Booster Board with all the details. Stay tuned for updates!

NHSDA Program

KDC offers an amazing National Honor Society of Dance Arts program for our High School students. It encourages them to not only do well in school (their grades are tracked the entire season), but also to do things that benefit our community. We have held bake sales which helped us to create a scholarship fund to help with dance fees for a family in need from our studio, adopted a family for Christmas and saw how much joy it brought them, held numerous food drives to help out our community, and collect numerous pet supplies which we donate to a local animal shelter. Being part of our NHSDA program is a beautiful experience for all who dedicate their time and efforts by coming together through our studio.

Amazing Opportunities



Big/Little Sister Program

We are so proud to be able to offer a big/little sister program at our studio! This gives every dancer someone to look up to and/or be there for! Once a dancer is in 7th grade, they automatically get appointed as a big sister. We change who they have every year so everyone gets to know each other, as we are all on one team!

Teacher Assistants

Once a competitive dancer is in high school, and proves they are responsible within the team, they qualify to assist classes. If a teacher is in need of help in the classroom (due to large class sizes, a teacher injury, behavioral issues within the classroom, etc.), a teacher will reach out with this opportunity. It is a great way to get hands on training with an instructor if this is what you would truly like to do in the future. A few of our past Assistants are now teachers at KDC (or elsewhere)! ***Teacher Assistants must be present in the classroom weekly, except in the case of illness.**

Understudies

In a few particular cases, we have assigned an understudy role for a specific dance. These dancers will continue to learn alongside the other dancers to get stronger in that genre, and fill in the role of any missing dancer in class throughout the season. While there is no guarantee they will perform on stage, there is always that possibility- in that case, they may have to borrow another dancer's costume or purchase one of their own, depending on their circumstances. **Being an understudy allows a child to continue to grow in a particular style without having to be held back. It is truly an honorable position to be in, and we expect full participation at all times.**

Team Physical Therapist

We are very lucky to have a Team Physical Therapist on our staff! With so much dancing, comes injuries, and our studio is very lucky to have Miss Kim. She will be here on an every other week basis (usually during Ballet or Technique classes) to look at any potential injuries. If a student is showing any signs of injury, they may not sit out of any more than three class days without a Dr's note. *If Miss Kim has any concerns, she will reach out to you directly (and she lets the teachers know as well). All dancers who are sitting out of class due to illness/injury must be taking notes and following along with the class. **An injury is not a reason to miss class.**

Team Pictures

Each season, we update our dancer's headshots and/or action shots, along with taking a few full team pictures. *This will require the purchase of a specific outfit that fits our theme. We will use these shots for each competition dancer's birthday (one of the many perks of being on the comp team), and when wishing dancers good luck at comp on a social media post. **Once you've officially made the team, KDC has the right to use any pictures of your child from this season, and season's past, even if you choose to leave the studio or are asked to leave the team.**

FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of supporting your child’s dance education. Furthermore, making a commitment to the KDC Competition Team requires the commitment and dedication of both the dancer and the parent(s).

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our instructors and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the instructors—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our studio’s educational process.

Parents and instructors may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our teachers and our students’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

UNDERSTANDING DANCE EDUCATION

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that’s comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

DO’S AND DON’TS

Some parents may compare their child’s progress or class placement to another child’s. Watch for this behavior in your children as well, and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child’s instructors, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent’s behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their instructors and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our studio’s instructors take that responsibility seriously. It’s our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child’s dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child’s teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact/email the teacher directly.

If you do request a meeting, please listen carefully to what your child’s teacher(s) have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

CLASS OR CHOREOGRAPHY PLACEMENT/HOW TO CONTACT STAFF

KDC instructors meet regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching/dance experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

The owner/director will hold an individual meeting in the weeks following Team Auditions with each competition family to discuss class and team placement with the parents and dancers. It is our policy to meet with each student and his or her parents at the same time unless otherwise specified.

We ask that parents refrain from discussing class placement issues and all other gossip with other parents or questioning the instructors between classes, in the lobby/at the studio or anytime. When contacting an instructor or staff member, please do so in person or via email. We do not give out our personal phone numbers to parents or students.

RESPECT

Respect for the studio and its instructors/choreographers is essential.

The instructors/choreographers selected to work with our Intensive Program dancers are among the finest and most experienced available. They are selected because of their professionalism and knowledge of what is technically and emotionally right for the dancers.

Guidelines for behavior:

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering KDC.
- Arrive at least 10-15 minutes before the start of your first class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are a must in every class and rehearsal.
- Choreography should never be questioned. Kelley's Dance Craze prides itself on being age appropriate in our choreography, music choice, and costume selection. Everything must be approved through Kelley Paronish.
- Please do not approach instructors/choreographers about issues in between classes (unless they are working at the front desk). Contact with instructors/choreographers must be made through their provided emails, not through social media.
- Finish every class or choreography session with a thank you to the instructor or choreographer.
- When wearing your Competition Team jacket or other KDC apparel to dance and non-dance events, be sure that the activities you are participating in, and your behavior, both reflect positively on you and the studio.

APPRECIATE THE CRITIQUE

Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much an instructor cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when an instructor or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their instructors' knowledge and experience.

For Dancers and Parents

The children and parents involved in the Intensive Dancer program participate in many outside activities, all of which reflect Kelley's Dance Craze's philosophy. Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from our studio or other studios. In addition, please do not verbally or physically abuse anyone at an event or competition.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- The studio owner/director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact Miss Kelley and she will get your answer in a timely fashion.
- Dancers should be properly dressed for all events. If you are arriving to/leaving any event in your costume, always wear a cover up.
- Parents are not allowed backstage at any competition event. Please cheer on your child/the team from the audience and congratulate them in the hallway after. Please give the dancers time to catch their breath and reflect on their performance after each of their dances. Congratulate the dancers after their dances in a courteous/non-disruptive manner. Being excited is wonderful, but please remember that there are other dances on stage.
- Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

COMPETITION COSTUMES

Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Competition Team dancers may compete in Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Lyrical, and /or Musical Theatre; The typical cost of a competition costume is \$100-\$170 each (including performance tights, if required), although they can be more/less. Some parents & students may agree to choose more expensive costumes for Solos (parent permission will be required if it goes over cost). Different tights, not included in the costume cost (such as fishnets), may be required to be purchased at an additional cost (instructors will let you know if this is the case). Competition costumes may require extra costs for rhinestoning, props, accessories, etc. The 1st half of the cost of Competition costumes will be due on October 1st; the 2nd half will be due on January 15th. If your child is any Recital classes (which includes Ballet, Pointe, Finale, etc.), those costume fees will be due in full on November 1st.

COMPETITION HAIR

Dancers may not drastically change their hair color or cut before a competition/recital. This is to keep everyone looking "uniform" for our required hairstyles, and so as not to distract judges/audience. If your child has bangs, it is highly recommended to grow them out before performances, as they will always have to be pulled back. Your teachers will inform you of specific hairstyles for each dance leading up to the event.

COSTUME COMMON SENSE

- Always have a second pair of tights available. *Miss Kelley will usually have extra available for purchase.
- Place costumes in a garment bag for travel.
- Carry hats, hairpieces, and accessories in a separate bag or container to prevent them from damage.
- Steam costumes (if necessary) before each performance.
- Place your name (or initials) in all costume tags and on the inside of all shoes.
- Inspect all costumes in their garment bags immediately following the competition to be sure that they are not wrinkled or inside out for the next event.
- Check seams, trim, headpieces, etc. for repairs that must be made prior to the next competition. *Do not wait until the last minute to let us know.
- If you need to replace any of your earrings, makeup, or rhinestone clips, please let Miss Kelley know asap. She buys these in bulk, and likely has extra. This also guarantees parents are getting the best price, as well as having the correct item.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION POLICIES

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Here's what you can do to make the most of this opportunity.

- Arrive at competitions at least two hours before the scheduled time unless otherwise advised by your teachers. For other performances, times will be announced.
- Be sure you are properly warmed up to prevent injury.
- Present yourself in a professional manner, with costumes ready, shoes cleaned, and all accessories accounted for.
- Treat competitors, instructors, and parents from other studios with respect.
- Treat the directors and staff of the competition with respect.
- Keep your area of the dressing rooms clean, and never bring food or drink where it is prohibited.
- Wear your Competition Team jacket to all competition events and during the award presentations.

COMPETITION SCHEDULING

When planning a competition weekend, be prepared for performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Once a schedule is prepared, you may find that you do not have to perform the entire weekend, but you must be prepared to do so. There are no exceptions. *This may mean that you have to pull your child out of school early if they have a Friday performance.

Approximately one week prior to the event, the competition company will supply our studio with an itinerary. Schedules will be emailed to all dancers and their parents as soon as they are received. We pride ourselves on being an organized, professional studio and we do not request changes to the dance competition schedule (except in the case of emergencies). National events typically send the schedule 2 weeks- one month ahead.

COMPETITION CRITIQUES

Studios will receive performance critiques from the judges at each competition. These critiques are the property of KDC and will be played for the dancers during their class time. Solos/Duets/Trios will hear their critiques during their weekly lesson.

*These are not shared with parents, unless it is Nationals judging, as those classes have already ended at that point.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

When presented with an award, always show professionalism by thanking the person who presents you with the award.

Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Soloists may keep their awards, Duet/Trios awards will be given to the studio unless they are given individual awards (which they would keep), and Group awards will also be given to the studio. Cash awards will be applied the following season, and only if we are attending that competition again.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Enthusiastic applause is encouraged. When in the auditorium, remain seated whenever dancers are performing onstage. Move quickly to your seat in between performances. Please do not talk through performances, and if you must do so, please keep it to a whisper.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

No dancer may compete in any competition or convention as an independent entry without the permission of the studio owner. If a dancer leaves the studio, they may not compete/perform their choreographer's work anywhere else.

ILLNESSES

Dancers will no longer be excused from absences for illness without a Dr's note. Please be sure to read up on our current studio rules under the Health/Safety section of our studio website.

CLASS VISITORS

Safety issues and legal responsibilities make it impossible for us to allow students to bring visitors into the classroom. Students should not invite siblings, other relatives, or friends to their classes, with the exception of special events such as in-studio performances. The window will be open for others to view classes during the 1st lesson of each month.

WHAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR DANCE BAG

Dancers should have all of their dance shoes, an extra pair of tights/socks, a box of bandaids, a pack of hair ties, a pack of bobby pins, deodorant (for all dancers 9 and older), and feminine products (for those old enough).

GENERAL POLICIES

- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session. Instead, leave a message at the front desk or email us and we will get back to you. If your child is late, one of our Front Desk Staff will let them in.
- Only water is allowed in the dance studios. No food, drinks (other than water), or gum.
- Cell phones may not be used during class time. If you bring your phone into the studio rooms, it must be in the 'silent' mode and placed in the cell phone box. The only time phones may be in use is when filming choreography for practice purposes.
- Please watch what you say in the lobby area, a space intended for the comfort of our students' parents and families. At no time should anyone utilize this area to commiserate or gossip with others about their dissatisfaction with the studio, its staff or choreographers, or other students and their families. Furthermore, gossiping, at any level, by parents or students will not be tolerated.
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other studios.
- All students and parents must show respect for their teachers and staff at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the studio.
- KDC Competition Team dancers are not permitted to take private lessons or receive individual instruction from any teachers/instructors outside of the current KDC Staff or outside of our facility. This can infringe upon the instruction crafted by their current teachers at KDC. Partaking in this type of activity will result in immediate dismissal from our team and studio, as it poses a conflict of interest. However, Competition Team dancers are still encouraged to take workshops, conventions, clinics, and master classes to expand their dance knowledge.

STAYING INFORMED

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all e-mails and other studio information.

Be sure to accept Miss Kelley's invite to the Team Facebook page, as that is where we share information strictly for the team, as well as photos throughout the competition season.

Newsletters and important updates are emailed to you weekly and posted on the Kelley's Dance Craze Website, Facebook, and Instagram pages. They are also posted in the studio on our KDC News Boards in the main lobby.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the front desk at (248) 313-0326.

We try to answer emails daily, except on weekends. Feel free to email general questions and Competition Team related questions to Kelley at kelleysdancecraze@gmail.com. All emails will receive a response within 24-48 business hours.

TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE KDC COMPETITION TEAM

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of our staff or students, it may be necessary for the Studio Owner/Director to remove a student from the competition team, not allow them to audition again in the future, or in extreme cases, to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before asking a dancer to leave the team or terminate enrollment. Reasons for being asked to leave the Competition Team and/or termination of enrollment include, but are not limited to the following:

- Not meeting the requirements for each team (*refer to your Competition Team Requirements packet)
- Harmful, disruptive, or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Verbal, physical, or emotional abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Bullying threatening, or harassment of other children or staff
- Theft within the studio caught on video surveillance
- Destruction of property at KDC or in performance venues
- Gossip by parents/students regarding our studio/instructors/other dancers
- Excessive absences or tardies
- Outstanding bills or balance (more than one month past due)
- Failure to be present for a performance or competition team event
- Engaging in private lessons or one on one instruction from outside instructors or other facilities
- Drug or Alcohol use by students or their parents on studio grounds or at studio events (competition, recital, etc.)
- Representing KDC or its Staff in a negative light on social media
- Inability of Kelley's Dance Craze to meet the child's needs

KDC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO ANYONE, AND CAN TERMINATE ENROLLMENT AT ANY TIME.

*If a competition team dancer is dismissed or leaves the program, an understudy/overstudy may replace him or her. The student leaving the team is **required** to turn in all competition costumes to the front desk; they will be returned to the student after the last performance of the season.

*Parents may also not withhold costumes from their dancers, as it can affect multiple dancers on the team- the same rules apply.

DANCERS WHO DROP FROM THE COMPETITION PROGRAM

If a dancer chooses to drop from a competitive class at any time after auditions have ended, or any time throughout the season, they will be immediately removed from the team and will not be allowed to audition again at KDC in the future. Please know that we are looking for committed dancers and parents to be a part of this program.

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support! We warmly welcome you to the KDC Competition Team and Intensive Dancer Program! We look forward to an exciting, and rewarding 9th season at KDC! 😊

Competition Team Contract



By signing this contract, you are committing to the Kelley's Dance Craze competition team for the 2026-2027 season. This contract signifies that you have read, understood, and agreed to adhere to all the information and policies outlined in this competition handbook. As a member of the Kelley's Dance Craze competition team, you acknowledge and agree to the following commitments for the entire competition season:

Participation and Attendance:

- You agree to attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, and competitions, as outlined in the handbook.
- You understand that regular attendance is crucial for team cohesion and individual progress.

Adherence to Policies:

- You agree to follow all guidelines, dress codes, and behavior expectations detailed in this handbook.
- You acknowledge the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and respectful conduct towards instructors, peers, and parents.

Financial Commitment:

- You agree to meet all financial obligations, including tuition, fees, and any additional costs associated with competitions and events.
- You understand that failure to meet financial commitments may impact your ability to participate in the competition team.

Team Spirit and Conduct:

- You agree to support your fellow dancers and contribute positively to the team environment.
- You understand that teamwork and a cooperative spirit are essential for the success of the team.

Commitment to Excellence:

- You agree to strive for excellence in all aspects of your participation, including training, rehearsals, and performances.
- You acknowledge that this commitment involves hard work, dedication, and a willingness to accept constructive feedback.

By signing below, both the dancer and parent/guardian confirm their commitment to the Kelley's Dance Craze competition team for the entire 2026-2027 season. This includes a dedication to the outlined expectations, policies, and financial obligations.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Dancer's Signature: _____

Dancer's Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

