Competition Handbook 2024-2025

This handbook provides information regarding what you need to know about the competition season. Please reference the RRDC Handbook located on the website to find answers to all your general questions.

*** Dates & Information are subject to change. Please continue to reference back to the handbook, social media, and email for the most accurate information. ***

Table of Contents

Page 2: Mission, Values, Behavior Policy and Expectation

Page 3: Competition Behavioral Expectation Policy- ***Must be printed, signed & returned to studio (printed copies available at the studio)***

Page 4: Monthly Dance Tuition

Pages 5: Competition Monthly Class, Solo, Duet & Trio Tuition Amounts

Pages 6: Guest Artist Schedules

Page 7: 2024 Competitions

Page 8: Competition Billing, General information, Rehearsal & Costumes

Page 9: Competition Bag Checklist

Mission, Values, Behavior Policy and Expectations

Here at The Rhythm Room Dance Center, we believe it is vitally important to the well-being of your children to provide a structured environment. This means structure IN the dance/tumbling classroom as well as OUT in the waiting area. We encourage kindness to others, respect to the teachers & staff, honesty and integrity as well as how the dancer(s)/tumbler(s) interact with their parents and other adults while at the studio. We know we cannot control how the children act when they leave our facility, but we have built a foundation for our dance studio upon respectfulness of others and if your child is being disrespectful, we will address this issue. If the student does not change the addressed behavior after meeting with Ms. Sue, a parent/guardian will be contacted to assist with the behavior. Students who do not follow these rules may be asked to resign from our program.

We also encourage good attendance in class so that your students do not fall behind others in their abilities. If your child will be absent for the day, please feel free to let us know via the parent portal **Contact Us** sections or leave us a phone, email or Facebook message letting us know. We understand a variety of reasons can come up in which your child may have to miss class but by letting us know, we can continue to hold their place in class (some classes have a waiting list). Otherwise, if your student is absent multiple times in a row, and you cannot be contacted, we may assume they have discontinued class and open their spot up to another on the waiting list. If your student does have to miss one of their classes, feel free to have them visit another class of the age group nearest to them that they are interested in. Ballet technique classes are open year-round for dropping in to make up a missed class for ages kindergarten and above.

Our lobby this season is planning to be open but we do ask that you only use it if you truly need a place to wait. With so many students in the studio at one time and multiple classes going at a variety of times, we really need the lobby space to accommodate our students. You are welcome to sit in the lobby if needed to wait for your child/ren but we do ask if your child/ren is comfortable having you leave we ask that you run errands, wait in your car or enjoy the beautiful downtown area alleyways, murals, and arts while it is nice out. We also ask that since we have redone our studio, there is no eating or drinking on the couches. There is also a NEW EAT UP BARRE (spelled like the ballet barre!) for all open drinks and eating!

If you do stay in the lobby, our viewing window will remain open to allow us to monitor anyone coming into the studio during class time. We are happy to have you look in the window now and then to observe class but do ask that you do not stand in front of the viewing window the whole class as it is a distraction to the students.

Competition Behavioral Expectation Policy

Each dancer, along with the parent/guardian and a studio representative, is required to sign this expectation contract. This is an incentive to help our dancers make good decisions in their personal lives as well as know what is expected from them as a member of the studio's dance team. Team members are expected to be good role models in the studio and in the community, and by signing this form, are committing to their teammates, the studio and their families, that they will conduct themselves in a positive manner and that they will make decisions that will allow their continued success in this program. RRDC, as always, demands respect to the instructors here, support of fellow teammates and makes it our goal to create well-rounded dancers who show kindness and support to each other. **AT HOME PRACTICE IS MANDATORY!!**

It is also mandatory that all students attend classes regularly unless an injury, illness or family emergency is in occurrence. **Students are NOW allowed ONE missed class per semester (Sept-Dec) and (Jan-May).** After this, a doctor's excuse must be provided to be readmitted to class. We had too many "I have a headache, I have a stomach ache, I "overslept" last year and I cannot create a winning team with minor excuses constantly. This also teaches them that as adults you can't just do that with your future job. All dancers in competition are required to attend a technique AND subjected class per week in order to maintain their active status on team. Failure to attend classes regularly may result in dismissal from the team, which may forfeit all registration/choreography fees for the season. An excused absence will only be accepted from a parent and are listed as follows: doctor appointment, severe cold with fever, flu, funeral, or any contagious illness. Vacations must be scheduled in advance with the studio. We will continue to do our best to work around school activities provided we are notified in advance. Attendance is also required at competitions. Furthermore, RRDC is committed to academics and wants our parents to know that education comes first! Good attendance in school and treating teachers with respect are mandatory as we want well-educated dancers on our team!

NEW POLICY ADDITION: If students decide to participate in illegal activity, and are found to be guilty of said activity, students will immediately forfeit participating in the next following competition (forfeiting all entry fees as well) and the student's parents will incur a $150 Choreography Reset Fee for Ms. Sue to reblock all dances for the next competition. There will be NO exceptions to this policy. A second occurrence will be an immediate dismissal from the program.

Please sign the contract below, acknowledging your understanding of our new policies for behavior and the consequences that will incur. We look forward to a great season and have hopes the students make amazing choices and treat each other with love and respect! RRDC

Dancer _____

Parent/Guardian_____

Studio Representative _____

Monthly Dance Tuition

Monthly Tuition

Once you are registered for class(es) you will be required to pay monthly tuition for your student's lessons. Tuition will be billed via an emailed invoice on the 1st of the month each month, beginning September 1st, with the last occurring May 1st. Please reference page 4 for a list of tuition fees.

Payments

There are a variety of ways you are able to take care of your monthly tuition payment online. These ways include: ACH (payment from your checking account), debit/credit card payment or an automatic recurring payment that is set-up using either of the methods listed above. Due to our new accounting system, automatic payments (ACH, Debit Cards, Credit Cards) will be pulled the 1st, 15th and/or 30th of each month. You may choose which of these dates you would like your payment to pull.

When setting up ACH or automatic recurring payments, please fill out the form located on the website under the FAQ section or on the Parent Portal under shared files, we are required to obtain your permission before setting up that payment feature.

Each payment is due no later than the 30th of each month. **The only altering payment date is in May, when all accounts must be cleared by May 23rd, 2025.**

If payment is not received by the 30th of the month, a late charge of $20 or 10% of your current balance, whichever is higher, will be incurred.

A $30 Service Charge will be applied on all NSF returned check payments.

Students may also be deleted from our program if fees are 60 days or more delinquent and will forfeit their yearly registration fee.

Competition Monthly Tuition

A one-time $45 yearly registration cost applies to all students.

Cost is waived per student if yearly tuition amount is paid in full per student at time of registration.

Should you pay in full and decide to leave during the season, your payment will be refunded less the $45 registration fee cost.

Competition Class Tuition

Dancers in competition are **REQUIRED** to take 1 technique class and 1 elective class per week in addition to their rountine(s). Elective classes consist of an additional strength or flexibility class, Tumbling Classes (additional $10/month) and any Recreational Class offered.

Solo/Duets/Trios are not included as a routine or elective class.

Level Ruby 1 routine + 1 ballet technique class + 1 elective class - $135/mo.

Level Bronze 2 routines + 1 ballet technique class + 1 elective class - $165/mo.

Level Silver 3 routines + 1 ballet technique class + 1 elective class - $195/mo.

Level Gold 4 routines + 1 ballet technique class + 1 elective class - $225/mo.

Level Diamond 5 routines + 1 ballet technique class + 1 elective class - $255/mo.

Level Platinum Unlimited routines and classes offered by the studio (excludes guest artist workshops and choreography) - $290/mo.

Ruby-Diamond Levels may add an additional 45 min. technical or recreational class/es for an extra $40/mo.

Competition Solo Tuition by Ms. Sue: - Choreo. Aug.- Lessons Sept.

One time cost of $600 is due in two parts ($300 is due August 1st and $300 is due September 1st) This cost includes choreography with Ms. Sue which are videoed and sent to you, music editing & copy of music. Solo lessons will take place September – May in a 30 min lesson within our regularly weekly schedule and will be billed at individual teacher cost listed below:

Ms. Sue- $25-30 min. lesson / Ms. Sarah, Ms. Katie or Ms. Gretah: $18 - 30 minute lesson

Competition Duet/Trio Tuition by Ms. Sue: - Choreo. Aug.- Lessons Sept.

One time cost for DUETS of $375 per dancer is due in two parts ($187.50 is due August 1st and $187.50 is due September 1st). One time cost for TRIOS of $300 per dancer is due in two parts ($150.00 is due August 1st and $150.00 is due September 1st). This cost includes choreography with Ms. Sue which are videoed and sent to you, music editing & copy of music. Lessons will take place September – May in a 30 min lesson within our regularly weekly schedule and will be billed at individual teacher cost listed below:

Duet Lessons: Ms. Sue- $20 / Ms. Sarah, Ms. Katie or Ms. Ashlyn $16 per dancer / 30 minutes
Trio Lessons: Ms. Sue- $18 / Ms. Sarah, Ms. Katie or Ms. Ashlyn $14 per dancer / 30 minutes

Competition Solos/Duet/Trios done by Ms. Joslyn or Guest Artists will have regularly scheduled lessons as well provided at the same lesson cost listed above.

Please reference Guest Artist info for Guest Artist Choreography & Workshop Fees

Mark Your Calendars! Our 2025 Artists . . .

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

MOLLY MOON

Tap Instructor & Choreographer from Columbus, Ohio!

Molly is an award winning choreographer and we are so beyond blessed to have her visit our studio for workshops for all our dancers as well as choreography for a select few! Ms. Sue has judged Molly's dancers/choreography for years and we are excited to bring her style to our tap, especially in a NATIONALS year! We do not have a schedule yet for Molly but please mark your calendars as tentative for Minis/Petites and Juniors being Saturday and Teens and Seniors being Sunday! Schedule TBD once we get further along with choreography/routine planning. YouTube Molly Moon and watch her dancers in action! **These classes are required for all team dancers!**

GRACE HILARIDES

Hip Hop Instructor & Choreographer from NYC

Grace is excited to be joining the RRDC family once again for workshops & choreography! Grace will again be our lead hip hop choreographer and we will be brainstorming to bring out the BEST for our trip to nationals in summer 2025! If anyone is interested in a Grace duet or trio, please let us know. As with our Molly Moon Intensive, the schedule is TBD. Once we have fully decided on routines for the season, a schedule will be put together and emailed to you all. Please set aside Saturday for Minis/Petites & Juniors and Teens and Seniors for Sunday. If anyone will be doing a duet or trio, please clear the entire weekend as we will need to fit those around the other workshop and choreography classes. **These classes are required for all team dancers.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

JOHNETTE RUTTLEDGE

Lyrical/Contemporary Instructor & Choreographer from Summit Dance Shoppe - Minneapolis

Johnette is a national award winning teacher/choreographer and you have seen her work on stage with HJ Dance from NE at Mark of Excellence as well as lots of other places. Johnette has judged with Ms. Sue for years and has just recently opened up space which allows her to come to our studio! She still works with Summit Dance Shoppe on a part time basis (if you google or youtube them you will see how incredible they are!) and we are so incredibly blessed that she has agreed to come to our studio! Classes will run Friday-Sunday. **These classes are required for all team dancers.**

ALEXIS BLACK

Musical Theater/Jazz & Ballet Technique/Turns from Orlando, Florida

Another judging friend of Ms. Sue, Alexis is the owner of Empire Dance Studio and judged by Ms. Sue when she danced in her prime growing up with Focus Performing Arts! Alexis is so inspiring and we are so happy to bring her and the other new artists into our studio! Our selection of guest artists this year will definitely raise our game for nationals! Classes will run Friday-Sunday. **These classes are required for all team dancers.**

Every workshop per age range (MINI/INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED) must be attended by all competition students

Some studios make their team attend various workshops but we bring them to you!

2025 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS!

Tribute – January 24th - 26th : Optional for Solos/Duets/Trios ONLY

Location: Adler Theater, 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, IA 52801
Lodging: Hotel Blackhawk
ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID BY: November 15th, 2024
Solo: $150
Duet & Trio: $75 each dancer
No media fee is required- pictures can be taken per studio representative
Program books are free of charge online. You MUST print them at home.

Precision Arts Challenge - February 28th-March 2nd: All Competition Routines

Location: Holiday Inn Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Lodging: Host Hotel-TBD but can stay at any hotel or drive day of according to schedule
ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID BY: December 15, 2024
Group: $58
Solo: $129
Duet/Trio: $75 each dancer
*No media fee is required – FREE digital photos & videos of all routines

Mark of Excellence – March 27th-30th : ALL Competition Routines

Location: Embassy Suites, 101 E Locust St., Des Moines, IA
Lodging: Stay Home :) or Embassy Suites or place of your choosing
ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID BY: February 15, , 2025
Group: $69
Solo: $149
Duet/Trio: $79 each dancer
No media fee is required- pictures and videos will be professionally taken and available for purchase through them only

Nexstar - April 25th-27th: All Competition Routines

Location: Coralville, Iowa Xtreme Arena
Lodging: Not yet listed
ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID BY: January 15, 2025
Group: $62
Solo: $150
Duet/Trio: $85 each dancer
***Media fee of $49.99 must be paid and includes all photos and videos from regionals and nationals.**

NEXSTAR NATIONALS! JULY 18TH-22ND, 2025 MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA!
FURTHER INFO TBA
ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID BY: March 15, 2025
Group: $78
Solo: $180
Duet/Trio: $95 per dancer

Monthly Billing

Invoices will be sent out via email to be paid. The following monthly timeline will apply:

1st of each month- Invoice for monthly dance tuition (this will only apply if you do not have an automatic payment set-up)

Throughout the month- Invoices will be sent out throughout the month on deadlines stated throughout the handbook and when misc. items are due. We will try and consolidate them into a single invoice as much as possible to avoid multiple emailed invoices.

Competition Dress Rehearsal

Solos/Duet/Trios Only:

Sunday, January 11th, 2025 - TENTATIVE
The Rhythm Room Dance Center
3:30pm-???
Schedule of dances for rehearsal will be distributed the week of January 6th
Please make sure you have ALL costume pieces with you, and you are in FULL competition attire. It is vital to making sure everything will operate when it comes time to hit the stage!

Groups Only:

Sunday, February 9th, 2025 - TENTATIVE
Location: TBD
3:30pm-???
Schedule of dances for rehearsal will be distributed the week of February 3rd
Please make sure you have ALL costume pieces with you, and you are in FULL competition attire. It is vital to making sure everything will operate when it comes time to hit the stage!

Competition Costumes - - IMPORTANT INFO ON THIS - - MAY AFFECTS GROUP LINEUPS

Please note that most costume fees will be due on **October 15th**. Information regarding competition costumes will be sent to you upon ordering. Competition costumes including misc. items usually incur an average cost of $80-$120 per costume as competition costumes have more rhinestones & accessories to elevate the costume on stage. We were able to purchase some costumes last year for as little as $40 and some were closer to $200 so above is a range. Ms. Sue has purchased a large number of solo, duet/trio and group costumes from a studio in Arkansas so that we would have some of our costuming out of the way. Costumes have become increasingly difficult to get in time so we have looked at alternative avenues to procure them in a timely manner. Some costumes only came in certain sizes so your dancer may or may not be asked to participate in a particular group number this year based on costume size availability. **PLEASE BE AWARE OF THIS.**

What you need to know about attending a competition

You are required to be at a competition at least 2 hours prior to when you are scheduled to dance. Competition schedules will be posted the week of the competition and will be emailed out and posted at the studio for your viewing. It is vital to make sure that you have all parts of your costume before leaving home for competition, as it is a requirement to have all pieces of your costume to perform on stage. It is also required that all fingernail/toenail polish and jewelry (piercings) are removed, and all tattoos are covered.

Competition Bag Checklist

Here are some recommended items to have in your dancers bag this competition season!

MAKE UP

- € Foundation & Application Tools
- € Eye shadow (taupe / light brown)
- € Blush (med. plum)
- € Waterproof mascara (black)
- € Eyeliner (black)
- € False eyelashes & glue (if needed)
- € Lipstick (color on costume sheet)
- € Make-up brushes
- € Tweezers
- € Q-tips & cotton balls
- € Make-up remover
- € Fingernail polish remover
- € Mirror
- € Baby wipes / wet ones

COSTUME CARE

- € Double-sided tape for body
- € Extra pair of tights
- € Lint brush
- € Small Sewing Kit
- € Safety Pins (variety of sizes)
- € Extra Shoelaces for Taps
- € Static Guard
- € Super Glue
- € Hot Glue Gun
- € Mini Steamer (if costume wrinkles easily)
- € Scissors
- € Screwdriver for tap screws
- € Body Glue (if needed)

FIRST AID

- € Pain reliever
- € Antacid
- € Cold medicine
- € Cough drops
- € Wet ones
- € Band-aids
- € Neosporin
- € Icy Hot
- € Wrap (ankle, knee, wrist)
- € Instant Cold Packs (Ice pack)

HAIR PRODUCTS

- € Hairspray
- € Bobby pins
- € Comb / Brush
- € Curling iron / Flat iron
- € Bun maker (if needed)
- € Fake Hair (if needed)
- € Clear rubber bands / pony holders

MISCELLANEOUS

- € RRDC attire to wear on stage
- € Nail clippers / nail file
- € Clear deodorant
- € Perfume
- € Pen / Sharpie / Highlighter
- € Notepad
- € Blanket / Pillow
- € Hand towel
- € Kleenex
- € Tide to Go Stick
- € Chapstick
- € Feminine hygiene products
- € Extra underwear, socks & clothes for changing after dance

FOOD AND DRINK

(Many venues do not allow outside food & drink. If you take it in, conceal it in another bag or leave cooler in the car)

- € Bottled Water
- € Granola & Power Bars
- € Fresh Fruit / Veggies
- € Cheese Sticks
- € Trail Mix
- € Gatorade
- € Crackers
- € Any snacks or drinks that WON'T make a mess onto costumes.
- € NO GUM ALLOWED!!!!!!