**Policies and Procedures for Studio 68 Company Stars (updated 5/6/19)**

**Company Stars Season**

Continuity is crucial for conditioning, flexibility, and consistent progression in dancers, so truly our season never ends. Even in the summer months (June, July, August), Company Stars Dancers are required to keep dancing. For the 2019 summer, the minimum requirement for Middle and High Schoolers is one (1) full intensive week. For Elementary Schoolers, it’s two (2) STAR Camp weeks. All Company Stars must attend 2 drop in classes per month with soloists attending 4 drop in classes per month (June, July, August).

All-Inclusive payments for the season begin in September and end in May.

**Auditions**

Placement as a Studio 68 Company Star is by audition. Age, maturity, and ability are ALL considered in placement. Typically there are between 3 and 5 groups for each subject, depending on numbers, choreography ideas, etc. Students may be moved up or down a level at the discretion of the instructors at Studio 68. Students must re-audition each year.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is counted in all regularly scheduled classes as well as extra rehearsals, which will be called as needed. There are not excused vs. unexcused absences. You may miss class for illness, other activities, trips, or just because; however, you may not exceed the allowed number of absences. Classes/rehearsals in the week preceding a performance are MANDATORY. Not attending at least one rehearsal during these weeks will result in your not being allowed to perform that weekend.

1st Semester (Sept-Dec) – 6 absences per subject – 3 per day

2nd Semester (Jan-May) – 6 absences per subject - 3 per day

\*Note: extra rehearsals count as Choreography Day

\*Note: 3 Tardies = 1 Absence. Leaving early is a tardy. Watching class (injury/illness) counts as a tardy.

\*To be counted “tardy”, you must be present for at least 50% of class. Otherwise, it’s an absence.

Absent students may not be included in sections of choreography that they miss. This is at the discretion of the choreographer.

Exceeding the attendance policy will result in the dancer not being allowed to perform with her groups.

**Behavior**

Company students are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior at all events associated with Studio 68. Consistent misbehavior will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the Company group. Negativity toward fellow dancers, Studio 68, or dance in general has no place here. We will issue one warning before offending dancers are asked to leave the program.

NEW: Company students are expected to maintain a positive self-image through all interactions, including social media. As the popularity of social media and technology continues to rise, this is becoming an increasing concern. Our rule of thumb – if you wouldn’t share it in the middle of class, don’t share it anywhere. We will remain aware, we will involve parents, and if necessary, we will ask offending dancers to leave the program.

**Dress Code**

Company dancers are expected to follow the dress code for classes. Hair should be put up neatly. Tights and leotards should be in good condition. Black leotards or Company leotards are required EXCEPT for the last class of the month, when you may wear any color. PINK TIGHTS are required for ballet class, except for the last class of the month, when you may wear any color. Company dancers are expected to wear the appropriate type of shoe for each class. Decisions regarding specific color/style of shoes for competition routines will be made in December/January.

**Special Performances**

Performance opportunities are invaluable for developing dancers, helping to grow confidence, comaraderie, skill sets, and more. Some special performances are optional, and some are mandatory, though we encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity. Every effort will be made to communicate dates and times well in advance. Special performances may include: Apple Festival, Spring Competitions, Light Up Downtown, Recital Weekend, Christmas Parade, Charity Performances, Christmas Ballet, Holiday Performances, Nursing Home Visits, etc.

**Conventions**

Continued and varied dance education is very important. Each year Studio 68 attends several conventions and occasionally hires clinicians to give our students these opportunities. We encourage all Company Stars dancers to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible,

**Competition**

We will attend 4 group competitions in 2020, beginning in February and ending in April. Competitions are MANDATORY, with very few exceptions. Schedules and arrival times will be communicated one week in advance (earlier if possible). Late arrival to the competition site could result in the dancer not being allowed to perform. Consistent disregard for arrival time will result in dismissal from the program. Dancers are expected to stay throughout awards and participate in all aspects of the competition (ie: master classes, group warm up, awards ceremonies, etc.) Requests to do otherwise will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Refusal to participate will result in dismissal from the program. If a dancer must miss a competition for an acceptable reason (i.e.: serious illness, auditions, college interviews) and the choreographer elects to use a replacement dancer, the original dancer is responsible for the entry fees, as well as any costs associated with additional rehearsals to rechoreograph. Students choosing not to perform at a competition for an unacceptable reason will forfeit their spot for the remainder of the season. Entry fees are not refundable for any reason.

**Meetings and Information**

99% of all information will be conveyed via email and BAND. Parent meetings may be scheduled periodically throughout the year. It is your responsibility to be informed.

**Payments & Expenses**

Company Stars All-Inclusive Pricing begins in September and ends in May. All expenses are divided equally among the 9 months. The goal is to simplify your payment process. Timely payment is extremely important.

A la carte items may include:

* + Auditions - $40
  + Summer Intensive Weeks / STAR Weeks
  + Company Leotard - $35-$40 (sometimes borrowable)
  + Make-up Kit - $60-$70
  + Jewelry - $60 (basic earrings/choker; anything else will come with your costume in the all-inclusive plan)
  + Conventions - $100-300 per convention (optional, does not include food, lodging, etc.)
  + Solos/Duets/Trios/Private Lessons (optional)

**Company Stars Calendar**

We publish a yearly calendar in August. We make every effort to stay with this calendar. Changes will be communicated as quickly as possible. Pay special attention to dates for competitions and summer 2020 as you are planning.

*“I understand that by auditioning for The Company Stars program, I am agreeing to abide by AND support the rules as listed above. I understand that if I do not feel I can abide by these rules, I can opt out of the audition process at any time. I understand that placement in the Company Stars is at the discretion of Studio 68 and relies on recommendations from qualified dance judges. I understand that open communication is key and that concerns should be addressed to Studio 68 owners and no one else. I understand that the instructors at Studio 68 want the BEST for my dancer and I will approach them with this in mind. Most importantly, I understand that dance is supposed to be FUN and will be more fun for everyone if I (and my family) maintain a positive, supportive attitude throughout the year.”*