

DRESS CODE – for all PDT dancers and will be enforced.

Class	Bodysuit	Tights	Shoes	Hair
Ballet/ Pointe	Black bodysuit with no bra visible	Ballet pink convertible (Balera)	Pink leather or canvas (Junior Stars & Emeralds) Sansha Ballet pink canvas ** (Topaz & up)	Bun
Jazz/ Lyrical	bodysuit & may wear dance shorts	Suntan/pink Convertible (Balera)	Black Jazz shoes (Junior Stars & Emeralds) Black/Caramel Capezio Freeform shoe ** (Topaz & up)	Bun
Tap	bodysuit & may wear dance shorts	Suntan/pink Convertible (Balera)	Black patent leather (Junior Stars) Black tap oxfords Leo's Giordano** (Emeralds & up)	Bun
Hip Hop	Baggy Top (no hoodies)	Baggy Sweats (no jeans)	White indoor runners with non-marking soles	Teacher's discretion
Musical Theatre	Fitted Black Top	Black jazz pants	Black jazz shoes	Ponytail
Irish	bodysuit & may wear dance shorts	Black (Balera)	Irish Ghillies & black Tap Oxfords	Ponytail
Highland	Black bodysuit & black dance shorts	White Knee Socks	Scottish Ghillies	Ponytail
Boys - Ballet	Black fitted T-shirt/tank	Black tights or black fitted shorts	Black ballet slippers	
Boys – all other classes	Black t-shirt or tank	Black jazz pants or black fitted shorts	Same as the girls	

**Brand named items are available for purchase through the studio to ensure all dancers have the same brand/style/colour for competitions.

RISING STAR ACADEMY OF ARTS

DANCE

PERFORMANCE DANCE TEAM HANDBOOK

Phone: 669-2369

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Web: www.risingstardance.ca

The purpose of this handbook is to answer any questions you may have regarding expectations of a Performance Dance Team member and parent. Please keep this handy during the year for referral. You will only receive one copy however; it may be accessed on our website if necessary.

WHAT IS A PERFORMANCE DANCE TEAM?

Performance Dance Teams are open by audition for ages 6 & up. Dancers can be part of a team that does Tap, Jazz & Ballet or they can chose to specialize on one of our Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Irish or Highland Teams. Some dancers chose to be on more than one team, but still must audition for each.

WHY JOIN A PERFORMANCE DANCE TEAM?

- Uniform standard of levels
- Offers additional opportunities for performances
- Creates life long bonds between dancers working together
- Teaches students to work together as a team
- Creates knowledge of commitment, dedication and discipline

ARE YOU READY FOR PDT?

Dancers thinking about auditioning for PDT should note the suggested requirements for each team.

Junior Stars

Pivot turns
Chasse
Skips
Marches
Gallops
Hitchie koo
Ball change

Emeralds

Kicks at 90 degrees
Single pirouettes
Running pas de bouree
Working on splits
Single tuck jump
Drag cross

Topazes

Inverted chasse
Double tuck jump
Double pirouettes
Right/left splits
Double chaine rock
Kicks above 90

Rubies

Triple pirouettes
Axel jumps
Jete
Center splits
Step Hop arabesque
Kicks at eye level

Sapphires

Classical pirouettes
Grand Allegro turns
Fouette Turns
All 3 splits
Attitudes at 90 degrees

Diamonds

Pirouette combos
Fouette double turns
Kicks above head
Advanced movements

Irish

2 splits
Kicks @ shoulder
Butterflies/Bicycles
Complex runs
Reels/Rallies
Drums/Clicks
Single/Slip Jig
Rally Hop backs

Hip Hop/Musical Theatre

Personal dance style
Confident personality
Ability to count rhythm
Free-style/adaptability
High endurance
Comfortable with
Risk taking moves
Carry tune while moving

Highland

Sheds/Brushes
Toe & Heels
Rocks/Shuffles
Pas de bas
Open pas de bas
Shake, Shake down
Reel/Strathspey
Hornpipe/Jig moves

2011 – 2012 PDT SCHEDULES

JUNIOR STARS

Tap – Saturday 11:00 -11:45 am
Ballet – Saturday 11:45 – 12:30 pm
Jazz – Saturday 1:30 – 2:30 pm

EMERALDS

Jazz – Saturday 11:30 – 12:30 pm
Tap – Saturday 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Ballet – Saturday 2:30 – 3:30 pm

TOPAZES

Ballet – Monday 4:45 – 5:45 pm and Wednesday 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Leaps & Bounds – Monday 5:45 – 6:45 pm
Jazz –Thursday 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Tap – Thursday 6:30 – 7:30 pm

RUBIES

Ballet – Monday 7:45 – 9:00 pm and Wednesday 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Leaps & Bounds – Monday 6:45 – 7:45 pm
Jazz – Thursday 5:15 – 6:30 pm
Tap – Thursday 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Pointe – Monday 9:00 – 9:30 pm (by invitation only)

SAPPHIRES/DIAMONDS

Ballet – Monday 7:45 – 9:00 pm and Wednesday 4:30 - 5:45 pm
Leaps & Bounds – Monday 6:45 – 7:45 pm
Jazz – Thursday 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Tap – Thursday 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Pointe – Monday 9:00 – 9:30 pm (by invitation only)

HIP HOP TEAMS

Junior – Tuesday 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Intermediate – Tuesday 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Senior – Thursday 8:30 – 9:30 pm

MUSICAL THEATRE TEAMS

Junior – Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Drama/Production – Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Senior – Tuesday 8:30 – 9:30 pm

HIGHLAND TEAM

Saturday 3:45 – 4:45 pm

IRISH TEAM

Monday – 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Junior Stars/Emeralds are encouraged to take Leaps & Bounds and Technique Ballet, but they are not required classes at these levels.

Dancers wishing to take additional classes are encouraged to do so.

PDT PHILOSOPHIES:

- Our goal at Rising Star Academy of Arts is to aim for the GOLD, but please remember it is about more than that. It is about motivating our young people to be the best they can.
- We are committed to Dance as an art form and important to the art is respect.
- We do not believe that skimpy costumes, inappropriate choreography or music show this respect.
- We know that it is frustrating to see those kinds of routines winning awards but our focus has always been and will continue to be solid technique, age appropriate music and costuming, and respect for your children, respect for dance and respect for our mutual values.

PDT BENEFITS

- Unlimited classes no charge after the 5th class.
- 2 free spring revue tickets
- Fundraising opportunities available to offset competition fees
- Team only classes as set in your schedule.
- Free recital DVD per family

MANDATORY PDT CLASSES:

Junior Stars	Emeralds	Topazes	Rubies	Sapphires/ Diamonds
1 - Tap	1 - Tap	1 - Tap	1 - Tap *	1-Tap*
1 - Jazz	1 - Jazz	2 - Jazz**	2 - Jazz**	2 - Jazz**
1 - Ballet	1 - Ballet	2 - Ballet	2 - Ballet	2 - Ballet
			1 - Pointe***	1 - Pointe***

*Tap option can be exercised at this level and replaced with another class.

** Second Jazz classes will be Leaps & Bounds

*** Pointe is by invitation only.

Team Level is determined by audition. Technique ballet class and Leaps & Bounds Class levels are determined through evaluation by our Staff and Director.

Hip Hop	Musical Theatre	Irish	Highland
1 – Hip Hop	1 – Musical Theatre	1 - Irish	1 – Highland
1 – Jazz* or Hip Hop*	1 – Drama	1 – Ballet*	1 – Ballet*

*Additional class can be a recital class or a technique class.

SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE:

- Dancers are encouraged to attend Summer Dance Intensive in August. This intensive gets the dancers back in shape for the fall and kick starts the dance season.

LOCAL PERFORMANCES:

- Local community performances help to encourage our dancers to gain confidence and poise on stage. They also encourage our dancers to give back to the community.

INJURY/ILLNESS/MEDICAL POLICY:

- If a student is injured or ill they are still requested to attend class to learn choreography and work on spacing.
- Every effort will be made to replace an injured dancer if possible. However if this is not an option, re-blocking may require additional rehearsals.
- If a team member is injured and cannot participate for the balance of the dance season, a doctor’s note is required.
- Entry fees cannot be refunded if already paid by the studio.
- Tuition will be credited towards the next dance year.

COSTUMES FOR EXTRA PIECES:

- We try to use existing studio costumes or costumes that dancers already have.
- Costumes being rented from the studio or other students will be charged a \$30.00 rental fee, with \$20.00 being refunded once the costume has been returned. Costumes must be returned in excellent condition with all accessories in order to be refunded.

DANCE WEAR PURCHASES:

- Parents wishing to purchase dance wear or shoes from our dance wear suppliers are asked to fill out an order form at the front desk
- Extra performance tights are available for purchase at the studio.
- Costumes for additional pieces as well as dance shoes required for classes may be purchased through Rising Star.
- Orders will be consolidated to achieve the best shipping/duty rates.

TUITION & PAYMENT POLICIES:

- You may pre-pay towards your account (any amount/any time)
- Tuition is due on the 1st of the month and will not be refunded for withdrawals within the month.
- Withdrawal is accepted only after a withdrawal form is filled out at the studio and there are no refunds after October 31st.
- A fee of \$10.50 (includes GST) will be charged for each and all late payments.
- Payment policies per the signed registration form are effective for PDT member as well as recreational students.

Class per week	Monthly 2011-12	3 Payments
1 class/week	N/A	\$ 167.25
2 classes/week	N/A	\$ 294.33
3 classes/week	\$ 147.18	\$ 441.54
4 classes/week	\$ 196.23	\$ 588.69
5 classes/week	\$ 245.28	\$ 735.84

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES –

SOLOS, DUOS, TRIOS, EXTRA GROUPS & PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

- It is an honor and privilege to be selected for a solo, duo, trio or extra group.
- Solo – approach a coach of your choice before PDT Info Session in November. (Solo spots are limited)
- Auditions for duos, trios and extra group pieces will be held in September/October.
- Students must have 2 or more year’s experience in the chosen discipline.
- Students must be 8 years or older to audition
- If you wish to be considered for extra pieces in Highland, Irish, Ballet, Jazz or Lyrical Jazz you must be taking 1 or more Ballet classes.
- Hip Hop or Tap must be taking one or more classes in that discipline or other dance classes.

CHOREOGRAPHY:

- Choreography belongs to the teacher/coach. Please ask their permission before you use it at a non-studio event such as school talent shows, etc.

Choreography Costs for 2011-2012

Solo – \$200.00 - \$350.00 (depending on coach)
 Duo - \$100.00 per person
 Trio - \$95.00 per person
 Group - \$60.00 per person
 Production Number - \$35.00 per person

- The above choreography costs include 6 hours of instruction time.
- After the 6 hours, your choreography is done and it is your responsibility to practice at home.
- Additional rehearsals can be requested by parents or coaches if needed and there will be an additional charge of \$10.00 per ½ hour time slot.

In Class Small Groups - \$25.00 per person
 In Class Large Groups - \$30.00 per person

GST and administration fee will be added to all invoices.

Entry fees for festival/competitions will be billed separately from choreography fees.

Estimated Festival/Competition Fees for 2011 – 2012

- Solo - \$25.00 - \$75.00
- Duo/Trio – \$20.00 - \$40.00 per dancer
- Group – \$20.00 - \$35.00 per dancer
- Production - \$20.00 - \$30.00 per dancer

These fees are determined by the competition/festival organizers, not by Rising Star Academy of Arts.

Payment Dates

- Choreography Fees/Festival Entry Fees – January 15th
- Competition #1 – February 15th
- Competition #2 – March 15th

PDT INFORMATION MEETING:

- This is a mandatory meeting for all team members and parents and will be held in November. This meeting will provide information needed for competitions and performances throughout the dance year.

COMPETITIONS AND FESTIVAL:

- Expect to compete at approximately 3 - 5 competitions per year. One may be an out of town competition.
- Dancers must be at the competition dressed and ready to go on stage one to one and half hours before your scheduled time. The competition time schedule can run early. Dances will not be held for any late arrivals and they will not refund your paid competition fees.
- The exact days/times of each dance in the competition will not be known until 7 – 10 days before the competition. That is when Rising Star receives the information. At that time you will receive details.
- All PDT dancers are encouraged to stay at the competition for the awards ceremony to encourage team unity

TROPHIES:

- Trophies awarded to groups/trios/duos will be displayed at the studio and become property of Rising Star Academy of Arts. Solo trophies are kept by the dancer or can be put on display at the studio.
- Sometimes trophies are on sale at the competitions so each dancer can purchase one if they wish.

LOCKERS/CHANGE ROOM PRIVILEGES:

- Full time dancers (taking more than 5 classes) are given the privilege of a locker to keep their things in.
- Lockers are also available for rental for the year - \$20.00 + GST.
- Combinations or extra keys must be submitted to the front desk.
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK** in the change room.
- Lockers must be cleaned out and locks removed before the first day of Festival in May.
- Any abuse of change room/locker privileges will result in having them taken away.

EXPECTATION OF PARENTS:

Performance Dance Team Parents are asked to:

- Contact the studio whenever your dancer will be absent. If you know in advance, please email us as we cannot keep track of all dancers without your help.
- Please try to get your dancer to class on time.
- Communication is very important; please come talk to us if you have any questions or concerns.
- Check your emails daily for any updated information about classes, rehearsals and competitions.
- Attend all PDT meetings (3-4 per year including PDT Information Meeting in November)
- **Practice is expected** and will result in accelerating the learning process and make the next class more productive. Encourage your dancer to practice at home.
- Encourage your dancer to get enough sleep and eat healthy.
- Please do not coach from the sidelines. All corrections and comments should be left to the coaches.
- Speak in a positive manner about Rising Star Academy of Arts, other students, the coaches and staff in front of your children. Negative comments by parents have undesirable effects in class.
- Volunteer as needed to ensure that events run smoothly. If you fulfill your volunteer obligation your money will be refunded. If you chose not to volunteer that money will be forfeited.

PERFORMANCE DANCE TEAM FEES:

- Annual Fee = \$25.00 per dancer (in lieu of family registration amount)
- Annual Volunteer Deposit = \$100.00 per dancer (refundable)

COSTUME DEPOSITS:

- October 14th - \$75.00/team deposit # 1
- October 14th - \$50.00 per recital only class
- November 14th - \$150.00 team deposit #2(if taking tap/jazz/ballet)
- February TBA – final balances due

WARM UP SUITS:

- All PDT members are required to purchase a team warm up suit which is to be worn at all competitions and festivals to cover up costumes. Priced from \$100.00 to \$150.00
- Last year's warm up suit may be worn if in good condition and fit.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE:

- No videotaping or photography at Festival or Competitions
- Turn off all cell phones. They may be confiscated if they go off during a performance.
- Enter and exit the theatre quietly in between performances.
- No yelling or screaming as this can distract the adjudicators. Save it for the competitions where it is encouraged.

SPRING REVUE SHOW:

- This show lets our PDT dancers perform in a theatre setting, in front of an audience and work out any nerves prior to competitions/festival.
- Teachers/Coaches have the opportunity to ensure there are no issues with spacing, costumes etc.
- **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY** allowed at this or any performance as this is very dangerous to the dancers.
- Videotaping is allowed at Spring Revue, but **NOT** at any other performance due to privacy laws and copyright of choreography.

We Want to Do A Production Number!!!

We would like to enter a production number into Festival and other competitions for the 2011-2012 dance year.

We need a minimum of 26 dancers to make up a production number and would love to have all PDT members be a part of this.

In order to accommodate the large numbers of performers in this piece we would have to schedule rehearsals on Sundays.

If you are interested in this, please sign up at the front desk.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

- If you have any questions that are not answered in this handbook, please come see the front desk.
- Please bring any concerns to our attention promptly. We cannot fix a situation if we are unaware of the issues.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENT:

Performance Dance Team (PDT) members are asked to:

- Commit to the team for approximately 1 year and perform at all scheduled competitions and shows.
- Attend all mandatory PDT Information meetings.
- Attend all mandatory classes for your age/skill level.
- Check your email daily for any updated information about classes, rehearsals, and competition or shows.
- Follow the studio dress code and use proper etiquette to set an example for other students.
- **Practice is expected** and will result in accelerating the learning process and make the next class more productive.
- Have a positive attitude whenever in the studio or attending other studio functions.
- Act professionally and show good sportsmanship in the studio and at all competitions and shows.
- Show mutual respect towards all other dancers, teachers, parents and office staff while at the studio and at any studio function. Failure to be respectful will result in a warning with a parent/teacher conference.
- Have fun and always try your best. This is how you will improve!

ATTENDANCE:

- PDT classes/rehearsals are mandatory, with the exception of five excused absences per year. Whenever possible, dates and times will be posted well in advance so please schedule personal events around these dates and times.
- Good attendance ensures that choreography doesn't have to be re-taught due to student absences.
- Students are expected to learn missed choreography before the next class.
- Failure to follow the attendance policy may result in removal from the team.

WARNINGS:

- All PDT dancers and parents will receive one warning before being asked to leave the team.
- PDT dancers must be present at all rehearsals the week prior to a competition. If the dancer misses rehearsal, they will not be permitted to compete and entry fees will not be refunded.
- PDT dancers are expected to remain drug, alcohol and tobacco free while representing Rising Star Academy of Arts.
- **NO CELL PHONES** in class; they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the night.