



2017-2018 COMPETITION TEAM AUDITION PACKET

Dear Dance Families,

We are thrilled to announce team information regarding the 2017-2018 Competitive Dance Year! Simi Dance Center has been a leader in dance education for over 54 years. Each year that we experience, the talent within our SDC Family continues to grow and grow. As our dance family expands, and as the dance world evolves, it is important that our competition training program follows suit. We teachers have worked together year after year to customize a program we feel is the best a dance studio can offer kids. You are the CEO of your child. You want to surround your children with the best of what life can offer. We at SDC put together our BEST possible team of dance educators we know and trust to help not only train your children, but to inspire a fire inside them to be the GREATEST version of themselves. After all, a competition team is not just about the rhinestones and trophies that no one will dust down the road. A competition team is about an investment in your child's future. The opportunities, the experiences and the tools your child will gain from being a part of our team will serve your child for years to come. And better yet, the knowledge they gain within our program can never be taken from them. We at SDC take great responsibility in making sure your investment for your dancer is truly one of the best. And we will make sure to share why! In this packet you will find all you need to know about auditioning for the 2017-2018 Elite Competition Team including; the people training your dancers, the class requirements, attendance, financial & code of conduct policies, the event participation requirements, and most importantly what being on the team includes and why it can benefit your dancer. We CAN NOT wait to see who joins our SDC Family next season....and better yet, we can't wait to see what those incredible artists accomplish! Break a leg dancers!

All Our Love,

Brigid, Ryan and the SDC Faculty

COMMON Q & A's

- **WHO CAN AUDITION-** We have an open audition policy for our competition team. Our first priority is to our students who have remained loyal to us. We love watching them grow up in our studio. But we do understand that sometimes other dancers are looking for a change. We also love the opportunity to grow as a business. Most importantly, we take pride in knowing that our competition team is and always has been full of welcoming, sweet young dancers and families.

- **WHY MUST I AUDITION?** There are a couple reasons why we enjoy the audition process. And whether your dancer is a first timer or a 10 year team member, auditioning is a must!
 - First off, it gives any dancer **a fair chance** to show us what they can do in a fresh setting. No one knows the choreography. No one knows the routines. No one has been cleaned or has had private lessons to make themselves look better. No one knows what we will be asking of the dancers. The information is given equally and the performance we get back is placed solely on the dancer's shoulders. It is within them to show us what they have to offer. We place dancers in audition levels based on age. If a dancer excels in their age level and deserves to dance with other dancers we sometimes allow them to stay and "show" us what they can do next to more advanced or older dancers.
 - We also enjoy the process of **being able to place dancers in new groups that we wouldn't normally put together.** Sometimes dancers surprise us with what they can achieve. In an audition, dancers are given this opportunity. Sometimes it is great for less advanced dancers to see how quickly advanced dancers pick up information. We inspire our students to be motivated when they see talent.
 - **Auditions are how professional dancers are casted for work.** Not all dancers on our competitive team will be professional, and we understand that. However, for the dancers who might consider dance professionally, what better way to practice auditioning than experiencing it within their home studio?
 - Auditions also add a sprinkle of adrenaline and butterflies to the moment. Sometimes dancers really step it up under a more intense setting. Being on the competition team can be trying, unpredictable and a little intense. **It is great for us to see how dancers work under pressure.**
 - Even though our "idea" of a team is loosely placed together before auditions. **We teachers at SDC really do wait until audition DAY to officially place all dancers on the team.** Sometimes their performance that day is what gets them a spot on that specific team or solo.

- **WHY CHOOSE THE SDC COMPETITION TEAM?** -Well several reasons from faculty, to opportunities and the knowledge that our faculty brings to the table.
 - **The most interconnected versatile Faculty in Southern California** -It truly starts with the people who train your dancers! From networking to knowledge our staff is beyond humble but star studded. Most competitive studios specialize in one style of dance, our studio offers the best in all. This way no matter what direction your dancer excels in, we have the connections to someone to train them or the connection to a master teacher to make sure they continue to pursue their potential. If you get a moment, make sure to see what you didn't know about each of our competitive faculty.
 - **Parent Training Program** - SDC is proud to announce that we will be among the first studios to incorporate Raising Successful into our program. All competition parents will have access to this online webinar with Master Teacher Liz Imperio. She will go over topics discussing the many aspects of raising a young dancer and what you can expect, how to focus your energy and your expectations to get the most out of your investment. From communication to injury prevention to dealing with drama to dancer anxiety to planning and executing a successful season, Liz talks about it all. Her stories are heartfelt and genuine with so much experience. We encourage all of our families to take advantage of this time with Liz. Even if your dancer isn't looking to pursue dance as a career, Liz talks about all the ways that training as a young dancer can translate into professional setting. Not just dance. And Liz even welcomes regular questions from all of you! Make the best of your year by using this program and make sure to take advantage of this awesome opportunity. *Also helpful hint, if you are among the few whose child REALLY loves dance, Liz is one of the best people in the industry to get to know! She even offers mentoring programs and motivational training sessions for aspiring professional dancers. I also believe you get discounts for being a part of our program!
 - **Injury Prevention Classes** - There is so much that goes behind building a dancer. It truly takes YEARS to mold. The concept of movement starts mentally but must be executed physically. You can't even begin to imagine how many years it takes to properly execute a plie' by being able to identify, fire, engage and stretching the correct muscles. At SDC with the caliber that our students are asked to execute, it is our responsibility to not only educate our dancers on their bodies and how to use them, but how to keep them healthy for the rest of the years in their lives. We have been so lucky to bring on Katie Cutri to our staff. Not only is she a accomplished professional dancer/educator, her husband is a certified Physical Therapist who works with several professional dancers. Both her Nicholas and Katie after years of experiencing the same cause for injuries over and over, created a new method of physical therapy/cross training that helps dancers. Katie is sharing this method with our dancers. Once our dancers are mature enough, we will add this class to their schedule. For their safety this is a class that you want

to make sure your dancer NEVER misses out on! In addition, one of our ballet teachers Meki Blackwell also helps us assess each of our older dancers. She will inform each of them possible areas of weakness, give them exercises to work on strengthening that targeted muscle so they can prevent potential injuries. We are lucky to have some knowledgeable eyes on our dancers!

- **Life Lessons.** This program teaches children so much more than dance. Your dancer will learn what it is like to be committed and to follow through. They will learn about time management. Working towards big goals and acknowledging the milestones along the way. They will learn productive team work, what job in life doesn't require the interaction of another human being? They will probably even learn how to deal with uncomfortable conflict. Not all personalities align. They will learn how to pick up choreography quickly, how to take constructive criticism, apply it and improve themselves. They will learn how to maintain a healthy, busy, active lifestyle. They will learn how to care for their bodies and muscles. They will learn how to feel defeated, without being broken down. One can't win at every dance competition. And they will learn how to pick themselves back up to try again. They will learn networking, respect for their teachers, themselves, their teammates as well as other parents. They will learn responsibility, remembering their choreography, costumes, stretching, practicing, being on time and being present in class. They will learn poise, professionalism, public speaking and pushing themselves beyond what they imagine they can accomplish. They will exercise work ethic, passion and creativity. These tools, although learned within a dance studio, translate into life quite nicely. All of the dancers that have graduated within our program possess leadership qualities that set them above the rest in society. Who wouldn't want that for their child?
- **Future Career in Dance.** If your dancer does truly love dance as much as us, make sure to let us know. Down the road if a career in dance is something your child is interested in, we might have the connections to get them started. Be it auditioning, teaching, convention, college & dance, Broadway, casting and more. Let us know. The more we know your goals with your dancer each year, the more we can help guide them down a more tailored path. The dance family is pretty tight knit!
- **Master Teacher Choreography Opportunities** - Among our many friends in the dance industry, we strive to bring in the best to work with our kids. Sometimes the opportunities are a learning experience that we just feel would be a great way to open your dancer's mind. And should your dancer decide to become professional some day, they get to add some of these A-List names to their resume.
 - Kevin Maher is the most recent Madonna Tour Choreographer, Kevin has worked with EVERYONE in Hollywood. He is currently being sought after in Asia by many more celebrities. Kevin's style is a saucy, jazz funk that always looks great on camera. If your dancer decides to go pro, knowing Kevin face to face or having shown him their work ethic is super valuable.

- Kent Boyd known for being on SYTYCD and on the Disney Teen Beach Movie as Rascal, Kent Boyd is just now starting to blossom into the world of casting and choreography. Kent is a part of Entity Dance Company with Marissa Ossato, he is signed with Disney to write a new TV Show and is on tour with Hollywood Vibe with Ryan Lohoff. Kent is full of story and life. He has a passion for acting and is using his dance career to branch into more of the industry. With Musical Theatre Television making it's come back, Kent is the up and coming choreographer to work with. Kent shares his methods on how to convey a genuine emotion with his dancers and his stories are always well thought out. Kent is also a huge fan of SDC and enjoys meeting our dancers. On the up and coming, but Kent's future looks mighty bright.
- Angelica Stiskin is phenomenal in all ways. Angelica is from and resides in New York City. Angelica's lineage of training goes back to all styles of dance (Yes tap) assisting Mia Michael as a teenager for year and training at professional ballet/modern companies as well as Loyola Marymount in NYC. Angelica is one of the professional contemporary educators at Joffrey in NYC. Angelica travels the US, Italy and South America on behalf of Joffrey. Angelica's resume doesn't even compare to the creativity she has within her bones. Angelica is a brilliant artist and even better teacher. We love bringing her in to work with and challenge our dancers! If your dancer ever goes to NYC, Angelica is the person to know and network with. NYC is her stomping grounds! Another fun fact about Angelica is that her significant other Angelo is a Universal Swing on Broadway for Aladdin. At any moment he can perform one of 22 different set lists, costume changes, entrances, exits, lines and songs. Another great connection into the Broadway world!
- Paul Otterbein is one the most amazing hip hop master teachers we have brought in. Paul specializes in working with KIDS! His students are die hard competitive Hip Hoppers and have represented the top 3 of the country in Canada several times over! His students have traveled to Italy, Germany, France and more. Paul is trained in several old school technical forms of hip hop including whacking, voguing, popping, locking and even new style. His energy is out of this world.
- Mark Meisner is a studio favorite. Brigid has always loved Mark's work as a student and loves sharing his passion with the dancers at SDC. Mark is originally from Orange County. He has danced with so many celebrities and has been professional dancer for over 20 years. Mark worked as an assistant to Mia Michaels to choreograph the Celine Dion show in Vegas. Mark has been on faculty as a master teacher for years and is currently on faculty for the dance convention NUVO. Mark has an infectious energy to help dancers remember why they LOVE dance so much. Mark works with all the famous technical phenomena dancers including Sophia Lucia, Tate McCrae, Kennedy Kallas, Sage Rosen, Christina Riccuci, Jessica Richens, Quinn Starner and more. Better yet, Mark LOVES working with SDC dancers and goes out of his way to set routines on our dancers every year. We are so grateful for his time and passion and look forward to having him at WERK our studio intensive every year.

I WANT TO AUDITION! WHAT IS NEXT?

Be sure to sign up at the front desk and pay in full for your audition fee. When signing up, clarify any and all styles of dance you will be auditioning for. The more people who sign up Prior to auditions, the more accurately we can create the Fall Schedule.

- **WHAT DOES IT COST TO AUDITION?**

PRICING AND LEVELS AND TIMES

**Age is as of the day your dancer is auditioning. Dancers must audition in their age bracket unless given permission by Brigid.*

Super Stars - Ages 4 - 6..... 3 Classes/2 Days..... \$80.00

(2 Hours of class & emailed assessments)

No Comp Experience Required. Dancers should be focused and able to follow direction. Dancers must be age 4 on or prior to the audition.

Wednesday, July 26th 9AM-10AM - Jazz with Miss Brigid

Thursday, July 27th 9AM-10AM - Tap & Hip Hop with Miss Jensen
175

Minis - Ages 7-9..... 5 Classes/5 Days.....\$150

(5 Hours of class and emailed assessments)

At least 1 year of Comp Experience recommended. Dancers should be focused and able to follow direction. Dancers should understand how to execute a right and left side pirouette. 200

10:30AM - 11:30AM

Wednesday 26th- Lyrical with Miss Brigid

Thursday 27th - Ballet with Miss Dani

Friday 28th- Tap with Miss Jensen

Saturday 29th- Jazz with Miss Brigid

Sunday 30th - Hip Hop with Miss Lindsey

Juniors - Ages 10-12..... 5 Classes/5 Days..... \$200

(7.5 Hours of class & emailed Assessments)

At least 1-2 years of Comp Experience recommended. Dancers should be focused and able to follow direction. Dancers will be required to show all 3 splits. Dancers should be able to execute a right and left side double pirouette.

1:00PM - 2:30PM

Wednesday 26th- Lyrical with Miss Brigid

Thursday 27th - Ballet with Miss Dani

Friday 28th- Tap with Miss Jensen

Saturday 29th- Jazz with Miss Brigid

Sunday 30th - Hip Hop with Miss Lindsey

Teens & Seniors - Ages 13 & UP..... 5 Classes/5 Days..... \$225

(10 Hours of class & emailed Assessments)

At least 2-3 years of Comp Experience recommended. Dancers should be focused and able to follow direction. Dancers will be required to show all 3 splits. Dancers should be able to execute right and left side double pirouettes. Dancers hoping to get on Jazz, Lyrical and Ballet teams MUST audition in all styles of dance. Dancers do not have to perform or compete in all styles, but will be required to train in all of them.

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Wednesday 26th- Lyrical with Miss Brigid

Thursday 27th - Ballet with Miss Dani

Friday 28th- Tap with Miss Jensen

Saturday 29th- Jazz with Miss Brigid

Sunday 30th - Hip Hop with Miss Lindsey

Specialty Style (Hip Hop or Tap Only).....\$40.00 per style

Family Discount: If a family has 2 or more dancers auditioning, they will pay in full of the first dancer and may receive 50% off of each additional family member.

Early Bird Discount: If a family signs up and pays before recital, they will receive the early bird discount!

Rules for each style:

Jazz: Dancers must audition in all styles of dance in order to make the jazz team. Dancers do not need to compete in all styles of dance but will be required to train in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz.

Musical Theatre: Dancers must audition in all styles of dance in order to make the Musical Theatre team. Dancers do not need to compete in all styles of dance but will be required to train in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz. This audition will take place on Jazz day.

Tap: Dancers are only asked to audition in tap, but must audition in other styles if they wish to be assessed or placed in other styles for technique classes.

Hip Hop: Dancers are only asked to audition in hip hop, but must audition in other styles if they wish to be assessed or placed in other styles for technique classes.

Contemporary: Dancers must audition in all styles of dance in order to make the Contemporary team. Dancers do not need to compete in all styles of dance but will be required to train in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz. This audition will take place on Lyrical day.

Ballet: Dancers must audition in all styles of dance in order to make the Ballet team. Dancers do not need to compete in all styles of dance but will be required to train in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz.

Lyrical: Dancers must audition in all styles of dance in order to make the lyrical team. Dancers do not need to compete in all styles of dance but will be required to train in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz.

Jazz Funk: Dancers are only asked to audition in hip hop, but must audition in other styles if they wish to be assessed or placed in other styles for technique classes.

Family Discount- For families with two or more dancers auditioning. The dancers auditioning with the least amount of styles may receive 50% off of their addition fee.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN?

- **REQUEST SHEETS** - Prior to auditions, dancers/parents will need to fill out a "Request Sheet." This sheet will guide us with placement during the audition process. This way we can provide optimal placement for your dancer based on your interests. It is very important that you fill out as much information as possible. Some schedules, or placement will be based on your answers. For example: If you can only have a solo duet or trio on weekends, some teachers may not be able to commit to that schedule. **NEW THIS YEAR- Please provide any future planned events that might conflict with the competition schedule ON your request sheet.**
- **HOW DO I AUDITION FOR A SOLO AT SDC?** Dancer's at Simi Dance Center must audition for solos. They must audition in the group style that they hope to

get a solo. Dancers are not automatically given one. Should a dancer “make” a solo, they will only be allowed one solo no matter what style. Dancers must perform in the competition TEAM group in order to perform a solo in that style. For example, a dancer must be in a lyrical routine in order to have a lyrical solo. It is our belief that rehearsing for multiple solos spreads the dancer’s attention too thin. Every routine deserves 110% focus. The only exception to this rule is if a dancer makes Teen or Senior Company. Teen or Senior Company members may be allowed 2 solos as long as they are not the same genre (ex. Tap & Jazz). Additionally, dancers will be allowed to “request” certain choreographers for their solos. Based on style choice, technical level, and choreographer availability, SDC may assign your 2nd or 3rd choice choreographers. SDC might even place you with a different choreographer that we feel might be a great fit for your dancer or available during your requested time slots. Please keep in mind, a Solo is a privilege. Not all dancers are ready for a solo and solo placement is not based on talent alone. Dancers must prove that their work ethic, mentality, and performance is ready for such a commitment before SDC will allow a solo to be choreographed. Dancer accounts must be kept current and paid. Previous years financial standing will take a part in this placement. Solos, Duos, and Trios will be the first privileges and routines taken away if an account is past due. *New this year- Attendance will also be taken into account. Dancers solos can/will be removed from a competition line up should that dancer be in breach of our new attendance policy.

- **HOW DO I AUDITION FOR DUOS & TRIOS AT SDC?** - Dancers must audition in the style they hope to perform in. Should a dancer make a duet or trio, they must be in the Competition Team ROUTINE in order to perform in a duet or trio in the same genre. Dancer’s are allowed to have multiple duos and/or trios depending on audition placement. However, multiple routines must be different in style. The same rules that apply for Solo choreographer selection also applies for duo/trios.
- **CAN I AUDITION FOR A SPECIFIC STYLE?** Yes, dancers may chose to audition in only tap, or only hip hop and just show up on those specific days. However if a dancer would like to audition for Jazz or Musical Theatre, they must audition in ballet as well. If a dancer would like to audition for only lyrical or contemporary, they must audition in ballet and lyrical. If a dancer would like to audition for a jazz or lyrical team, they must audition in ALL styles of dance. Dancers do not have to compete in all styles of dance but they must at least train in all styles all year. And should a dancer be selected to be on one of our convention teams, they must be proficient enough to take all convention classes.

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT THE TEAM?

- **Class Time & Choreography-** Most choreography will be included within our tuition and rehearsed regularly during the week. This year for dancers ages 9 & Up, there will be several routines (Not all) that will be set outside of class time. We will choose a day during the summer or weekend to set these dances all in one swoop. All dancers must be able to attend. There will be an additional choreography fee to set these pieces. Some of the teachers will be outside choreographers and this fee will cover their services. These dances will be clearly marked. For those pieces set outside of class time, those class rehearsals will only be 1/2 hour per week.
- **Class Requirements** - Please see the competition requirement sheet.
- **Studio Dates** - Although INDIVIDUAL scheduling will not be available until after auditions, events, competitions, conventions, performance dates, and class requirements will be announced prior to auditions. The Event Schedule will be available on the first day of auditions. Dancers must be able to attend all mandatory events in order to be on the team.
- **Required Events** - This year our competition team will attend 4 competitions. Our Teen and Senior Teams will attend Hollywood Vibe National Finals. We will hold one intensive called "WERK" that we hold at SDC. In addition, all jazz, lyrical and contemporary dancers ages 7 & Up will be required to attend Hollywood Vibe Dance Convention for classes only.
- **Attendance Policy-** New this year, dancers will only be allowed 6 unexcused absences per year. EMAIL OR PHONE CALL is required for EVERY SINGLE ABSENCE. Please direct all information to simidancecenter@att.net. Dancers MUST make up missed technique classes regardless of absences. Please discuss with teacher or with Brigid an appropriate make up alternative. Injured dancers MUST WATCH ALL CLASSES INCLUDING TECHNIQUE CLASSES and take notes. Notes are due at the end of each class. Absences over the amount allotted will result in removal from Solos, duets, trios, private lessons and/or groups depending on circumstance.
 - **Excused absences include -**
 - Pre-planned Family vacations that are not within the families control like Family reunions, Annual family vacations, Big milestone Anniversary trips. These vacations must be communicated at auditions. If a wedding or special vacation arises after auditions, communication asap is greatly appreciated.
 - School Award Ceremonies like honors society or graduation. Back to School night and/or School Orientation. Notification is still required.
 - Family emergencies like unexpected hospital visits, funerals, death in the family and or the birth of an immediate family member.

- Being home violently ill with a fever or excessive contagious cough. DOCTOR'S NOTE IS REQUIRED AFTER 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF ILLNESS. Dancers who have missed 6 blocks of time 3 + days in a row due to sickness will be required to have a parent meeting with Brigid to discuss a new attendance policy for this dancer.
- Doctor/MRI visit IF dancer is injured and the parent is trying to get their dancer seen asap. DOCTOR'S NOTE IS REQUIRED AFTER 4 DAYS OF CONTINUED INJURY. This precaution is put in place to insure that dancers who experience an injury or inflammation are being proactive about the healing process of their dancer's injury. The more communication between SDC and families, the better. SDC encourages dancers to seek out professionals who work with dancers or athletes.
- PROM or FORMAL - Notification is required asap to work with scheduling as best as possible.
- Specialty Concerts in regards to being a student- School Band Concerts, Dance Team Showcases or Performances for classes that affects grades.
- Religious Events- First Communion, Confirmation, First Confession, Baptism of an immediate family member, Or Confirmation required event.
- Outdoor school/Washington DC School Trips- Notification required.
- Hair Lice, Hives, Chicken Pox.
- Migraines - Not to be confused with headaches. We require a note from the dr that your dancer regularly has migraines if this persists more than 3 times a year.
- **Unexcused absence -**
- Birthday Parties, Family dinners, quick planned vacations that could be planned around the studio schedule.
- Disneyland or theme park trips
- School dance team rehearsal, rehearsals for other extracurricular activities, cheer practice. Being on the competition team, means that SDC is number one.
- Studying for tests or finals. School and grades are VERY important to SDC. When a dancer signs up to a part of the competition team, they have to acknowledge that managing their time to keep up their grades is PART of the commitment. Dancers regularly do not train Friday - Sunday some only train 3 days a week, please encourage them to plan

their weeks accordingly. This includes learning to possibly sacrifice some of their social events to make sure their grades and team do not suffer. On comp/convention weekends, dancers are encouraged to use their downtime to study. For example, if your dancer is only scheduled to compete on Sunday, make sure your dancer is studying on Friday & Saturday. We understand that some convention schedules are near impossible to work around. Which is why we spread out our events. We just ask that you do your best to consider previous absences (including illnesses or school events) when making a decision to stay home to rest. If your dancer happens to struggle with school and grades, please communicate your concern via email ASAP. This way Brigid can work with the parent to tailor a plan. Sometimes pulling your dancer from technique classes is not the best plan of action. Brigid might have a solution that is less of an impact on the team. She will work individually with each parent as each circumstance is unique.

- Injuries- Dancers should be at SDC even if injured. Dancers will be required to write down notes for the class and submit at the end. In addition, dancers should consider par-taking in “training” classes with adjusted exercises before returning to “routine classes.” Solos, Duets & trios should be the first lessons to be placed on hold.
- Colds, little aches and pains or I don’t feel well.
- Broken toes
- Being tired after competition or convention.
- **Optional Events** - We will be attending Velocity with some of our Teen and Senior Competition teams. All dancers on the team are invited but not required to attend this event. Teams competing will be required to attend.
- **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**-This year if your dancer is in a routine that has a prop, you will be required to have at least 1 person help participate in the loading, unloading, and placing of props onstage for each event. If you decide to drive the prop truck, you can gain credit towards your account. In addition, there will also be other jobs for the team that we will need volunteers. We are asking that each member of the team dedicate their time to help with at least one job for the year. These jobs could be anything from setting up our holiday party, to helping lead team bonding days.
- **WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO BE ON THE TEAM?** Please see our estimated expense sheet. New this Year All Competitive Families will be required to be on Autopay this year.
- **NEW THIS YEAR!** We like for our program to focus on the training not just the competitive aspect of dance. For some of our dancers who really enjoy attending conventions, we have decided to take several groups to both Hollywood Vibe and

Velocity. We love allowing our dancers the opportunity to train all weekend, win scholarships, network with master teachers and get feedback from these teachers by being onstage. For HollywoodVibe we will still hold an audition for solos duets and trios to make it in the line up. But if a dancer is up to par, they should easily make it onto the line up. For Velocity, depending on their new rules, we will have to discuss what solos duets and trios can attend. These dances will be clarified after auditions who will attend the extra events

HOW AUDITION WEEK WORKS

THE SCHEDULE

- ALL DANCERS wishing to compete on the SDC team next year must attend the audition camp in it's entirety. **ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN. Tardiness and/or Absences during audition week will reflect on your placement.**
- Dancers will need to attend their suggested time slot for auditions. Some dancers might be asked to stay for the following more advanced session of auditions. **Dancers should audition in their age at the time of the audition unless specified by Brigid.** *Groups will be placed based on age as of January 1st.*
- Your judges at the auditions will be the same teachers you've been working with throughout the year. So don't stress! This will be a serious experience but fun also. If your dancer is auditioning for a master teacher, we will be sending footage of those dancers for selections.
- After auditions, teachers will deliberate and decide placement for the competitive year. Emails notifying parents and students of their placement will be sent out a few days following auditions. Dancers will be given thorough feedback regarding their class placement as well as our reasoning why they did or did not make a routine they auditioned for. We take the time to fill these out as best as we can. Please do not email, text or call teachers to ask why a child did or did not make a routine. We will ask you to refer to your feedback sheet.
- Once auditions have commenced and placement has been decided, parents and dancers will be assigned their individual class schedules for the year as well as summer.
- ***NEW* There will be a mandatory Parent/Teacher meeting of 30 mins per dancer & parent following audition week with the NEW SDC Competition team members only.** Returning members do not need to meet with SDC Staff. This meeting will be for discussing placement, your dancers personal schedule for the upcoming year as well as your financial agreement. All other schedules & financial packets for previous SDC Competition dancers will be set up via email. Please be sure to reply to our emails in a timely manor whether or not you decide

to accept your invitation. Please be sure to sign up for a time slot prior to auditions!

HOW WILL WE SIGN UP AFTER AUDITIONS?

- Results for the teams will be posted on the Simi Dance Center website within days after auditions. You will be able to see who made each team by number.
- Results, class placement for fall/summer and feedback sheets will also be emailed individually. Feedback sheets are filled out by SDC staff. These sheets give each dancer a full evaluation regarding their auditions (For past SDC students we also consider their performance during the year prior). We take the time to express any strengths within your dancer as well as places we would like see improvement or growth for the following year. Again please refer to these sheets to understand your dancers placement. We need you to trust that our decisions are the best decision of your child in their dance career at this time in their life.
- If you have danced with SDC before, we will send you an email with a link to a survey. This link /survey will need to be filled out asap. This link will give you an opportunity to plan out your year and chose what you would like to include in your monthly packet. We will use the information sent on the link and create a Fall Schedule, A Summer Schedule and we will be able to set up your financial packet. Our financial packets take all fees regarding your year at SDC as a competitive student including tuition, competition fees, costumes and we divide it among ten months for 10 easy payments instead of several inconsistent ones. Once your financial packet and schedules have been made, you will have the chance to look it over and make one revision. SDC will enroll your dancer for you and you will be emailed a copy for your records.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED DURING CLASSES AND AT AUDITIONS

- **Attire** - Dress for the style of the class. Proper Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, and Tap attire is required.
- **Classroom Etiquette** - We are looking for smart, quick, attentive learners who do not give up when presented with a challenge. Some of the best dancers can be poor students. We want performers that are amazing dancers AND students!
- **Team Work** - We may be at auditions but we are still family! Team mate encouragement, support, and friendship is a MUST!

- **Social Network** - Do not post negative feed back about placement or opinions on any social network. Example: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, snapchat etc. In other words, "Don't air your dirty laundry for the rest of the world to see it!" **Any negative feedback will be reason enough for removal from the competition team.**
- **Cell Phones, Food, Beverages** - Absolutely no cell phones, food, sodas, or lattes are allowed in the dance rooms. Bottled water, Gatorade, or similar products are the only exceptions.
- **Proper Fuel** - Don't start everyday off with a pop tart and coke! Make sure to fuel the dancer's body with with proper fuel for the audition week.
- **No Guarantees** - Just because a dancer was in a routine or company the prior year, does not mean they will automatically be placed the same way this time. A dancers attitude, attendance, work ethic & account history play a big role in team placement.
- **Contacting Teachers** - It is HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE to text, call, email, or message any of our faculty/teachers at home about a dancer's placement on team once it has been set. By doing so, not only does it share your disappointment in your child's performance, it could cause hurt feelings among fellow dancers and parents. Please put your 150% trust in us with your dancer's placement and journey at the studio. We have been doing this a REALLY LONG TIME. We take so many aspects into consideration to create the BEST dancer possible. Mama bear mode, gossip, studio/teacher trash talking and rude emails/text messages are not welcome and will be cause for immediate removal from the team. THE LAST THING WE WANT IS TO BREAK YOUR CHILD'S HEART. Please take a deep breath and remember that what you think your dancer deserves is also only that, your personal perception of what they deserve based on being their parent not their dance teacher. This is a dance team. Be careful not let your "idea" of placement diminish the amount of hard work, love and time your child HAS put into their craft. We are so proud of each and every one of them. Your child could be truly ecstatic about what they are about to embark upon. And if they are disappointed, it is up to us as adults to help our children understand that sometimes life takes us down alternate paths. That doesn't always mean it will be negative.
- **Comparing** - Do not compare yourself or your children to other dancers. No two dancers excel at the same pace. Placement is based on the dancers individual growth and needs as well as the teams overall needs. Please do not discuss your child's placement or any other dancer's placement with any other parent. We really do put an incredible amount of thought, heart and consideration into all of our decisions. The best way to have successful year is for you to put your full trust in us. Remember we have the same goal, for your dancer to be successful.
- **Perspective** - Auditions are where we as a studio will utilize what your dancer has to offer with in our pool of dancers. This is a studio and a team of about 100

dancers. We teachers watch, work with and observe your dancers all year. We know exactly what is best for your dancer at this time. No matter what studio you attend, there will be a different pool of talent that your child will have to work within. The only difference is that for most of you, we have awareness of your child's performance throughout the years. SO their placement isn't even solely based on 1 hour of class, it could be based on a compilation of their yearly performances. It also isn't about the WIN right now, it is about building the complete dancer which takes anywhere from 5-15 years of training. We have seen dancers rise and fall. Some kids thrive on being pushed, some kids thrive on being the leader, some kids crumble under pressure and all in different areas of their lives. We do consider all of this when placing your child on a team. We want to find a place where your dancer will soar in confidence. Because that confidence will aid in a successful growth/dance year. One other thing that we have on our side is that our program is a unified team effort. We teachers all talk and work together to make the best decisions for each individual dancer. We have to consider that your dancer might behave differently for other teachers, and so each of our recommendations or concerns are all considered in our placement. And if our word isn't enough consolidation enough, Liz Imperio's program will help guide you through so much more perspective. She will help you learn to enjoy the journey that your dancer is on. Because their journey is not predictable by any means. The less expectations we place on our dancers, the more they might discover and accomplish on their own.

- **A Positive Attitude** - Dance is a place to release, learn, and have fun. Leave your worries, problems, and negative attitudes at the door before you walk in. This includes parents. Hopefully while you're children are in class, their problems will just fade away. Our goal is to continue with an educated, positive year ahead! Our children learn by example. If you as a parent find yourself in a toxic place, take a closer look at what is bothering you. Have a calm progressive conversation with the source about the issue and make a change or change the way you see it. Negativity, gossip and complaining are no longer welcome within our studio walls! Really! We are starting the new year with a studio Smudge to clear the air and start fresh! And we welcome you to join us! Life is too short to not enjoy.