



Arlington Mezza, Junior, Senior, and Elite Performance Company Guidelines 2022/2023

Purpose:

The purpose of the Performance Companies is to promote teamwork and dedication to the art of dance, to provide additional opportunities for our students to perform, and to further our students' technique, artistry, and athleticism as dancers. Although we plan to work hard and always do our best, it is not about winning at competitions. All participants and parents of participants are asked to keep in the spirit of teamwork and encouragement, rather than the spirit of competition, in all that we do.

Performances and Competitions:

The Mezza, Junior, Senior, and Elite Companies will compete in three regional competitions and have at least one special community exhibition in addition to the annual recital. The performance schedule will be set before rehearsals begin in September. **Participation in all scheduled competitions and community events is mandatory.** Anything added to the schedule after the start of rehearsals will *not* be mandatory. The only excused absences for mandatory events will be a death in the family or severe injury or illness. Additional workshops, optional competitions and performances, and various DMA scholarship auditions will also be made available.

All Company members are required to attend in-person, for all classes, rehearsals, and events in the 2022-2023 school year, unless scheduled by the studio to be virtual.

Company Eligibility and Requirements:

Mezza Company competes in the styles of ballet, jazz, and tap and is open to any students in a mixture of level 2 and level 3 classes (ballet/tap/jazz), and who are between the ages of 11 and 13 on Oct 1st. Mezza Company members must be enrolled in level 2 or level 3 ballet, tap, and jazz technique classes.

Junior Company competes in the styles of ballet, jazz, and lyrical and is open to all level 3 students ages 15 and under who are enrolled in level 3 ballet, jazz, and lyrical technique classes. Level 3 students who will turn 16 on or before July 1st 2023 will not be eligible for performance companies.

Senior Company competes in the styles of ballet, jazz, and lyrical and is open to all level 4 students who are enrolled in level 4 ballet, jazz, and lyrical technique classes.

Elite Company competes in the styles of ballet, jazz, and lyrical and is open to all level 5/6 students who are enrolled in level 5/6 ballet, jazz, and lyrical technique classes.

Petite/Mezza Lyrical Company is an optional additional company open to Petite and Mezza Core company members who are enrolled in a level 2 or a level 3 lyrical technique class.

Musical Theater Production is an optional additional company open to all Mini, Petite, Mezza, Junior, Senior, and Elite Core Company members. We would love to have as many dancers as possible join this group to make it a true 'Production!' This is also a great opportunity for you to be a part of something really big and exciting as well for "Bigs" and "Littles" to bond and dance together on stage! 😊

PURPLE FUSION Hip Hop Crew is open to all students who are enrolled in a ballet and/or jazz technique class and a level 3+ Hip Hop class. You do NOT have to be enrolled in core companies in order to participate in CREWS.

TAPPED OUT! Tap Crew is open to all students who are enrolled in a ballet and/or a jazz technique class and a level 3+ Tap class. You do NOT have to be enrolled in core companies in order to participate in CREWS.

Competitive Solos, Duets, and Trios are available at normal private lesson rates plus competition entrance fees. Please see below for details about tuition and scheduling. All students participating in a competitive solos/duet/trio must also be registered for one of the core companies or Crews.

Audition-Based Competitive Duets, Trios, and Small Groups are open to all company students in a Core Company and at least one additional company group or Crew (Production, Petite/Mezza Lyrical Co, Hip Hop Crew, or Tap Crew). The number of groups, styles, and the make-up of each group will be determined by the number of students who choose to audition, the individual strengths and abilities of those who audition, and the vision of the choreographers. Any who audition must agree to accept whatever placements the choreographers make - you will have the option to specify how many placements you are able to accept. If you are interested in audition-based opportunities, see the extra page at the end of the Company Guidelines.

Class and Rehearsal Attendance Requirements:

Regular attendance in weekly technique classes as well as at company rehearsals will be an important part of building a company of dancers who work well together both onstage and off and an important part of helping each dancer reach his or her highest potential and goals. As such, the following attendance requirements will be in effect:

- Company members may not miss more than 4 of any particular technique class (7 for Ballet 5/6) in a school year or more than 2 of any particular technique class in a row. If you make-up in the closest level within two weeks of the missed class, the absence will not count toward your maximum.
- Company members may not miss more than 3 rehearsals per company between September and December, and no more than 3 rehearsals per company between January and May. One additional miss MAY be excused in either or both semesters at the director's discretion ONLY in the case of severe illness, injury or family emergency.
- Any company member missing 2 rehearsals in a row or using an additional excused absence within a semester may, at the director's discretion, be required to attend and pay for a 30 min. private lesson to make-up the missed material.
- If a student misses a rehearsal for any reason, they are expected to watch the rehearsal video prior to the next rehearsal and get any missed material. This, however, does NOT constitute as a make-up or mean that it is okay to miss more than 3 rehearsals.
- Any company member missing more than the allowed absences in the September to December semester will automatically be removed from the affected company or companies for the remainder of the school year regardless of situation or reason. This is not meant to be punitive but it is impossible to properly rehearse and prepare dances when company members are not in regular attendance. It is in no one's best interest to have students stressed about their own or their teammates' attendance and preparedness. If a student is unable to fulfill the attendance requirements within the first semester, that simply means that company was not a good fit for their schedule or commitment level this school year.
- Any company member missing more than the allowed absences in January to May may be removed from the affected company or companies at any time at the director's discretion and/or may be allowed to continue on a probationary status if it is determined to be in the best interest of the company as a whole. Students allowed to continue on a probationary status may be required to attend and pay for a 30 min. private lesson to make-up missed material and will be asked to write a letter explaining the reason for their unexcused absences to their director and fellow company members.
- You may log in to your parent portal to see your attendance records at any time. It is your responsibility to make sure your attendance records are kept up to date by scheduling any make-ups through the desk

and keeping in good communication with your directors. Any discrepancies/concerns should be addressed within two weeks of the missed class/discrepancy or as soon as possible.

- Coming more than 5 minutes late to rehearsal or more than 10 minutes late to a class (also leaving more than 5 minutes early from rehearsal or 10 minutes early from class) will be counted as ½ attendance credit. Coming to observe while injured or sick will count as ½ attendance credit. All company members are expected to come ready to work full out at every rehearsal and technique class. If you/your student have an ongoing illness or injury that may prevent you from consistently working full out in class and rehearsals, please speak to the teacher/director as soon as possible and we will work with you as best we can.

Tech Hours Requirement:

- All Mezza, Junior, Senior, and Elite company members must attend a combined total of at least 15 hours of Friday Night Tech Classes and/or Stretch & Strengthening Classes over the course of the year, but are encouraged to attend as many as possible! ☺ Company Tech Classes will be held most Fridays from 8:00-9:00pm and will include a variety of topics such as Nutrition, Dance History, Audition Technique, Choreography, various styles of dance, Injury Prevention, etc. Stretch & Strengthening Classes will be held Mondays from 7:15pm-8:00pm and will include cross-training exercises to help our dancers build strength, stamina, and flexibility to aid in their overall technique. Students are encouraged to attend a mixture of Stretch & Strengthening and Friday Night Tech classes to achieve the 15+ total hours, but any combination will be accepted.
- One **FULL** weekend DMA workshop or other approved workshop/convention is required of all company members, meaning you must attend **ALL** offered classes for your age group of **ALL styles**, regardless of what style(s) you compete in. Options will include:
 - Sept. DMA – Date and Location TBD
 - Nov. DMA – Date and Location TBD
 - Jan. DMA – Date and location TBD
 - Other Non-DMA Workshops – also TDB
- We reserve the right to pull students from dances at any time if requirements are not met and/or to disallow participation in companies the following year if requirements are not met.

Rehearsals:

Mezza Company Core – Thursdays 5:15-6:45pm (Ballet, Jazz, and Tap)

Jr Company Core – Thursdays 5:45-6:45pm (Jazz & Lyrical) / Tuesdays 6:45-7:15pm (Ballet)

Sr Company Core – Thursday 5:45-6:45pm (Jazz & Lyrical) / Tuesdays 7:15-7:45pm (Ballet)

Elite Company Core – Monday 8:00-9:00pm (Jazz & Lyrical) / Tuesdays 6:15-6:45pm (Ballet)

Petite/Mezza Lyrical Company – Sundays 1:00-2:00pm*

PURPLE FUSION Hip Hop Crew – Thursdays 8:00-8:30pm

Tapped Out! Tap Crew – Tuesdays 8:45-9:15pm

Musical Theater Production – Sundays 12:00-1:00pm*

**Approx. 2/month to be scheduled in conjunction with Sunday privates. See company calendar for exact dates.*

As much as possible, rehearsals have been scheduled such that they occur immediately after a corresponding technique class or other rehearsal. Any students who are not in a technique class or other rehearsal

immediately preceding their company rehearsal must arrive 10 minutes early to rehearsals to stretch and warm-up on their own. This warm-up time is important to avoid injury and to be ready to work full out in our limited rehearsal time.

Costs & Equipment:

The participation fee for the 2022-2023 school year is \$1920 (\$192/installment) for the core companies, \$490 (\$49/installment) for any additional company/crew, and \$920 (\$92/installment) if you are doing a Crew ONLY. This participation fee covers:

- All rehearsal time
- Unlimited Friday night Company Tech Classes!
- Unlimited Stretch & Strengthening Classes!
- Kick-off Event
- Holiday Social
- End of Year Party
- Company t-shirt
- Costumes, including all accessories & tights. Students will be responsible for providing their own shoes which may or may not be the same as those used in your technique class.
- All competition entrance fees and studio expenses
- One full weekend DMA workshop fee - does not include hotel. If you choose to attend one of the approved non-DMA workshop or conventions to fulfill this requirement, the included DMA fee will be applied toward the cost, but you will be responsible for the difference.

You may pay in full at the time of registration, split into 10 equal payments corresponding to regular tuition installment payments, or pay a deposit equal to one installment payment at the time of registration then pay the balance before the October installment is due. In addition, first time company members or those who need a new warm-up for any reason must purchase a company warm-up, pricing at end of document, due at the time of registration. Fundraising opportunities may be available to help off-set these costs – ask Miss Suzie for details.

Withdrawal: Performance Companies and Crews are a full school year commitment to your team. If you must withdraw prior to Dec. 31, the standard 2 week notice applies. If withdrawing after Dec. 31 all company fees are still owed through the end of the year. This is not meant to be punitive, but to cover actual costs incurred based on the planned number of students in each company and as such, is owed regardless of the reason for withdrawal.

Competitive Private Lessons:

All competitive private lessons (solos, duos, trios, custom small groups) are charged the usual private lesson rates (\$44 per half hour solo, \$30 per person per half hour duo, \$25 per person per half hour 3+) but will be charged for 12 total rehearsal hours spread over the school year and billed in 10 equal installments to coincide with regular tuition installments. This will vastly cut down on the amount of time and energy it takes both you and us to keep up with private lesson billing and all parties will know from the beginning of the year how many hours of rehearsal they are getting. Each dancer's private lesson will be tailored to their level, needs, and preferences – i.e. some students may work on two solos over the course of the 12 rehearsal hours, some will focus on just one, some will do a combination of choreography and personal training/other technique work.

*Please note that doing two solos is generally reserved for students in level 4 or above with multiple years of competition experience.

*Please note that only graduating seniors are guaranteed to be allowed to perform their solos in recital.

For students doing 30min. once per week privates, this works out to 24 lessons over the course of the school year, allowing ample wiggle room for cancelations due to teacher absence, student absence, etc.

For students doing Sunday lessons, exact schedule will be worked out with your teacher but the goal is to do 1-2 hours in September (short month), 2 hours in October, 2 hours in November, 1-2 hours in December (short month), 2 hours in January, 1 hour in February, 1 hour in March, 1 hour in April, 1 hour in May (if needed to get to 12).

In order to complete your company registration, all company members must sign the virtual Company Contract using the link below:

<https://app.jackrabbitclass.com/regevent.aspx?xlD=5348225&orgid=535010&internal=1>

Welcome to the team!!! 😊

If you have any additional questions, please directly contact our Performance Company Administrator, Miss Suzie at misssuzie@perfectpointe.com

(If you are interested in audition-based opportunities, see next page)

Audition-Based Competitive Duos, Trios, and Small Groups

Audition-based duos, trios, and small groups are open to all students registered for a Core Company and at least one additional company or crew. The number of groups, styles of dance, and the make-up of each group will be determined based on the number of students who choose to audition, the strengths and abilities of those who audition, and the vision of the choreographers. All dancers attending the audition must agree to accept whatever placements they are given. You will have the opportunity to specify how many placements you would like.

Rehearsals, payments, and auditions:

- Audition based duo/trios/groups will attend all 3 main competitions (even if Mini/Petite) and may attend an additional 4th competition at the choreographer's discretion.
- Audition-based duos and trios will be charged normal duo/trio private lesson rates and entry fees will be charged a la carte per competition. Mini/Petite audition-based duos/trios will have 8 total rehearsal hours, Jr/Sr/Elite will have 6.
- Audition-based small groups will have 8 total rehearsal hours and will be charged the same as other Jr/Sr/Elite company group add-ons (Jr/Sr/Elite pricing because you will attend 3 comps)
- Rehearsal schedule TBD (may be over the course of several months, or in two long sessions)
- Payments can be spread out over the remainder of the school year, or paid in full upfront.
- Rehearsals may be scheduled on school holidays, during studio breaks, or on Sundays. You will have the opportunity to list potential conflicts on your audition form.
- Auditions will be held in October. Date and time TBD. There is a \$25 fee for the audition class.