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August 3, 2023

Re: Dance Company 2023-24 Dance Year

Dear Dancer:

You are receiving this letter because you are eligible and have expressed interest in being a part of the Dance In Bloom Dance Company. This program is for students ages 6+ who wish to expand their dance education and to gain additional performing experience. Being a part of the dance company also allows students to build their dance community. We plan to attend shows (TPAC and/or Nashville Ballet performances for instance) as a group, and also to provide upper-level students with the opportunity to learn from special guest instructors in various dance disciplines. Dancers must have at least two years of recent dance experience.

Company students will be expected to attend additional rehearsal dates (scheduled above and beyond the normal class times) as required throughout the year in order to better prepare for performances. Notices regarding these practices will be sent via email. The following is a list of performances and activities we have attended in the past (outside of our own hosted Winter Showcase and Spring Recital):

- Harpeth Valley Elementary Spring Fling
- Westmeade Elementary Dragon Fest (Fall Festival)
- Light the Nations (Street Festival) – Already scheduled for Oct 21st!
- Nursing Home performances
- Local College Basketball Game Halftime
- Bellevue Picnic
- Senior Send-Off (Upper-Level Dancers)

Students are expected to participate in all performances and **MUST** give written notice (email is fine) within one week of a notification of a performance they will not be able to participate in. **Instructors design choreography to fit for specific numbers of students and last-minute changes prove to be difficult for all involved.**

To ensure a neat and tidy appearance in the classroom and to allow teachers to properly evaluate body alignment, students will have to adhere to a dress code. These will be enforced beginning the first class in September, which gives plenty of time for each student to acquire the things they need for class. After one instance, failure to arrive with the proper dance attire will result in students being asked to sit out of class. We want our dancers to look like dancers! Students can be fitted for their Company dancewear requirements and shoes at any time, but it is up to each participant to ensure that all items are on-hand well before any scheduled performance. They will also be given special “out of uniform” days in which they all may wear a DIB t-shirt and any bottoms of their choosing for class.

Company students are required to take at least three (3) technique classes each term. Ballet is required, and the other two may be chosen from the following: tap, jazz, hip-hop, and modern/contemporary. Outside of this, students may choose any other classes to complement their dance schedule. Lower-level students may choose to take a combo class to satisfy this requirement.

Outside of classes, students will take a “Company” class. This class will meet the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Daisy and Tulip Levels (grades kindergarten through 5th) will meet from 9:00-10:00am, and Lily and Rose Levels (grades 6th through high school) will meet from 10:00-11:30am). Our first meeting will be Saturday, August 26th. **Dancers are expected to attend each of these rehearsals and may only miss three (3) sessions during the course of the year with prior approval.**

With regard to Winter Showcase, dancers in class levels 3 and 4 will be eligible to audition for specific character roles in each show. This year’s auditions will take place beginning at 1:00pm on August 26th. Cost is \$10. Dancers will be required to sign a commitment contract.

Our Dance Company Summer Intensive is strongly recommended for students wishing to be a part of the company each year. Dates for the upcoming summer are July 22-27, 2023. Registration will be available online mid-March. Upper-level dancers will attend from 9:00-3:00, and lower-level students will attend from 9:00-12:00. Students get the opportunity to learn different styles of dance from a variety of instructors on faculty at Dance In Bloom as well as from the dance community at large. *We are slowly moving toward making the intensive be a requirement for company dancers so that the momentum built through the course of the year isn't lost.*

I would like to thank you for considering being a part of the dance company. We are all looking forward to an exciting year. We also hope that many of you parents will choose to volunteer their time and unique skills for help with props, coordination of performances, costume creation, fundraising, etc. The dance company is always more fun with everyone excited to be involved. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Here's to a great year!

Sincerely,

Destiny B. Smith
Studio Director