

2020-2021

NHS Competitive Dance Team

Introduction

We would like to welcome and thank all the dancers interested in trying out for the teams. Enclosed you will find a schedule of the clinic, tryout, and guidelines regarding team member requirements and responsibilities. Read through this information with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and sign the required registration forms, as found on the team website (www.nhscompetitivedanceteam.com), and bring to the clinic/audition. The dance season runs tentatively from August through February.

In the following guidelines, we have laid out the objective and criteria for being a member on the Competitive Dance Team. This program will give many trained dancers an opportunity at school to excel and unite in something they love to do, while at the same time continue their dance education.

The objective is to be an elite competitive team and represent Northville High School proudly at competitions against other high school teams. Our purpose is promoting school spirit through performances at competitions, other athletic events, and activities. In addition, the group will strive to develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility. Through involvement with the team, a dancer will be exposed to opportunities and experiences that will prepare them for dance beyond high school, in either a college dance program or dance team. Many college scholarships are available to students through the college dance programs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with Sarah Benish, Katy Pop & Maggie Reinhardt (northvilledanceteam@yahoo.com). We want to wish everyone the best of luck. All forms must be turned in at the time of the tryout clinic in order to participate.

Sarah Benish
NHS Varsity Dance Team Coach

Maggie Reinhardt
NHS Varsity Dance Team Assistant Coach

Katy Pop
NHS JV Dance Team Coach

Try-out requirements, Clinic/Audition, & Posting Information:

Read through the information with your parent(s)/guardian(s), sign the required forms (see website www.nhscompetitivedanceteam.com for forms to print off), and turn in at the clinic/audition.

The try-out dance routine will consist of a jazz/contemporary combo and a hip hop combo. There will also be a separate lengthy turn combo. There will be progression segments and individual skills to compare the dancers on standard movements. We will also be asking short interview questions.

Skill set for audition:

- Triple/Quad pirouette
- Jete, side, center, switch, and turning leaps
- Splits (right, left, center – at least 2 of 3)
- A la secondes (series of at least 16 turns for Varsity, 8 turns for JV)
- Headspring
- Head Spin (Varsity only)
- Kip up
- Right and Left Cartwheel
- Other basic dance moves, executed technically correct

Try-out clinics are on Tuesday, April 27th and Wednesday, April 28th from 3:30-5:00 in the NHS Flex room at the high school. This is HIGHLY recommended, the dancers will be learning combinations that will be used at the audition. There will be no refresher on audition day.

Try-out audition is on Thursday, April 30th from 3:30pm until complete, in the NHS Flex room.

On the day of the try-out, please arrive ready and warm-up & stretch. Tryouts will start at 3:30 p.m., with the sign-in beginning at 3:00 p.m. Participants are to wear a dance top and shorts, or leotard with shorts. Clothing should not be affiliated with the dancer's studio. Previous team members are not to wear any Dance Team t-shirts, warm-ups, or spirit wear to the try-outs. The dancers should wear jazz shoes or turners for the audition, but no socks, bare feet, or gym shoes. Hair should be up, so it is out of the face.

Posting: You will receive an email by Monday, May 3rd as to your placement on the team. All dancers will receive an email whether they make the team or not. Be sure to include the correct email on your form, and make sure it is clearly written.

Expectations and Tentative Schedule:

Tentative schedule is as follows:

Varsity :

Tuesday 2:45-5:00 pm

Friday 2:45-5:00 pm (6:00pm starting November)

Sunday Once a month for 3 hours

1 hour a week workout (dancers choice as to time and place)

JV:

Tuesday 2:45-4:45 pm

Friday 2:45-5:00 pm (6:00pm starting November)

1 hour a week workout (dancers choice as to time and place)

This is a very small **mandatory** time commitment, so please realize you need to work out any conflicts you may have with your home dance studio or other after school commitments beforehand. **There will be minimal additional hours before competitions or performance events.** Dedication and a positive attitude is the key component to making this an elite level team. The coach must excuse all absences, in advance. Practices have been held at NHS, Gayle's Dancephase, Performer's Edge Dance Company and Piazza Dance Company.

Parent support is another key element in the success of our team. A Booster Club is in place to support the team for important requirements, such as competition fees and costuming, and we must have 100% participation in fundraising.

There will be a list of rules in the Dance Team By-laws that each member must sign. If they choose to not follow the rules, it is at the coach's discretion to pull any member from the team or individual routine.

Academic Expectations - All participants must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA at all times to remain an active part of the team. Please see the NHS Extra/CO-Curricular Student Activity Code of Conduct for further details.

The NHS Competitive Varsity Dance Team is a letter-earning sport. All Varsity dancers will receive a Varsity letter when all requirements have been met.

To develop the dancers in technique and precision, technique and conditioning classes will be incorporated. Continuing education is very important, and this will enable the members to grow as dancers and a team. Dancers chosen to be on the teams will be required to take a minimum of 3 hours a week of dance class at the studio of their choice, for the 2020/2021 dance season. The coach will be contacting all studios/teachers to confirm that each dancer is enrolled in and attending these classes.

This is a self-funded program. A summary of the approximate expenses are listed below, and an initial fee of \$600 will be due by May 8th, 2020 for the dancers selected to be part of either the Varsity or JV teams. Please hand-deliver this check written to “Northville High School” in a sealed envelope (NO CASH) with a memo stating “Competitive Dance Team”. This check should be delivered to the dance team mailbox in the NHS Athletic Office by May 8th, along with the signed Commitment Letter by both the dancer and the parent. This Dance Team participation fee does not cover other athletics at the high school should your student decide to play another high school sport.

Approx. expenses:

COST	DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSE	DUE DATE
\$600	Initial Participation Fee Includes: Coaching Fees, Uniform, Competition Fees	May 8, 2020
\$450 - \$500	UDA Summer Camp Fee (Hotel + UDA Camp Instruction)	June 8, 2020
\$100 - \$125	Round Trip Bus Transportation (NHS to Camp, Camp to NHS)	June 8, 2020
\$125 - \$250	Spirit Wear (price varies for returning vs. new members) Includes: team t-shirts and tanks for camp/season (all) and team jacket and backpack (new members)	June 8, 2020
\$375 - \$475	Summer Intensive Fee / Choreography	August 1, 2020
\$300	Total Costume Fee (Jazz + Hip Hop)	August 1, 2020
\$100 - \$150	Homecoming / Banquet / Memory Book / Letters / Medals / Other	September 10, 2020
\$1000	Nationals Includes: UDA package competition fees, hotel, ESPN entry, Disney Park Hopper, and transportation from hotel to ESPN/Disney Parks Note: Flight arrangements/cost and meals are not included	\$100 Deposit Due: October 1, 2020 Balance Due: November 1, 2020

The total estimated cost per dancer ranges from \$3050 - \$3400 as described above. There will be opportunities to offset a portion of these expenses through Fundraising. Fundraising is highly recommended as it benefits the individual and the team from a financial standpoint as well as team bonding. In the past, dancers have been able to offset several hundred dollars based on their level of fundraising efforts.

Tentative competitions/events and approximate dates:

- Get to Know the Team Practices -
Tuesday May 19th 3:30-4:45 Varsity & JV
Tuesday May 26th 3:30-4:45 Varsity Only
Tuesday June 2nd 3:30-4:45 Varsity Only
- **Last week of June-** Cedar Point team bonding trip
- Summer UDA Camp at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason OH
(**July 13-16**) Required for all.
- Varsity & JV- Mandatory team technique day- **August 13th
9:00am-12:00pm**
- Summer Intensive (**Aug 29-Sept 6**) - The dance intensive is **mandatory** for all dancers, as they will be learning all their competition dances. Note: some of this time will be used for team pictures and team bonding activities.
- Fall Homecoming Pep Rally and Parade (**Oct 2nd**)
- UDA Great Lakes Dance Championship (**Tentative Nov 14**)
- UDA Sterling Heights Competition (**Tentative Dec 5**)
- UDA Southern Michigan Competition (**Tentative Jan ?**)
- University of Michigan Friends and Family Send off (**Jan ?**)
- Dance Showcase and Banquet (**Feb?**)
- UDA Dance Nationals Orlando Florida (**Jan 27- Feb 1**)

Competitions will be decided upon once the coach receives a schedule from each member of the team of their studio commitments, which should be turned in by September 13th. We will perform at the homecoming pep rally/parade and a small number of basketball games. We hold an end-of-the-year showcase displaying our team's routines and talents. Other events may arise throughout the year, and will be discussed with the team for performance opportunity.