

Company FAQ's:

- **How much time commitment is involved?**

Depending on your dancer's age and level placement, it differs. For all Company members, we require a Company Technique class weekly, a few other classes weekly, a Company rehearsal monthly, a few extra performances throughout the year, competitions, and one convention per year. We also have events like Company bonding and social outings.

- For dancers ages 6-8 and usually placed in our Company In Training, you can expect a 1 hour technique class, 1 hour of ballet, and 1 hour of jazz weekly. CIT will compete once per year with one dance, attend one convention, and perform at our annual Company Revue (showcase).
- For dancers ages 8-11 and usually placed in our Mini Company, you can expect a 2 hour technique class, 2 hours of ballet, and either a 1 hour jazz or 1 hour contemporary class weekly. Minis compete at 2 competitions with 2 dances, attend one convention, and perform at our annual Company Revue.
- For dancers ages 11-13 and usually placed in our Junior Company, you can expect a 2 hour technique class, 2 hours of ballet, a 1 hour jazz class, a 1 hour contemporary class, and one other elective class weekly. Juniors compete at 3 competitions with 3 dances, attend one convention, and perform at our annual Company Revue.
- For dancers ages 13-15 and usually placed in our Teen Company, you can expect a 2 hour technique class, 2 hours of ballet, a 1 hour jazz class, a 1 hour contemporary class, and one other elective class weekly. Teens compete at 3 competitions with 4 dances, attend one convention, and perform at our annual Company Revue.
- For dancers ages 15-18 and usually placed in our Senior Company, you can expect a 2 hour technique class, 2 hours of ballet, a 1 hour jazz class, a 1 hour contemporary class, and one other elective class weekly. Seniors compete at 3 competitions with at least 4 dances, attend one convention, and perform at our annual Company Revue.

- **How much does it cost?**

- For tuition, you can expect around \$60 per class per month, with additional discounts after the second class.
- Company members receive a 10% discount on top of other multi class (5% each additionally after 2 classes) and multi student (second student with highest tuition additional 5% off), and paid in full discounts (10% pay in full for annual tuition).
- Company dancers will have a personalized jacket at \$100, parents can order these too!
- For costumes you can expect: an average of \$60 per costume.
- For competitions you can expect: an average entry fee of \$50 per dance (\$100 per solo), per competition.

- For convention you can expect: \$250 in tuition, lodging costs for 2 nights at a hotel (usually split with another family).
- For additional dance choreography and rehearsal you can expect: \$150 for choreography and 6 hours of rehearsal time per dance. Additional dances include any solos, duos, trios, extra group numbers, and petitioned dances (dances your student asks for in addition to anything already casted).

- **What are elective classes?**

Any classes not “required” for company dancers.

- Tap
- Pointe
- Acrobatics
- Hip Hop
- Lyrical
- Musical Theatre
- Modern
- Jazz Funk

- **Are there any fundraising opportunities?**

- Plenty! We try to have one fundraising opportunity per month. These are not mandatory, but any money raised goes directly toward your account. This can be applied toward costumes, entry fees, conventions, choreography costs, team and parent jackets, regular tuition, dance shoes and dance wear, essentially any fee you would see on your account.

- **How often do you compete?**

- CIT competes one dance one time, Minis compete 2 dances twice, Juniors compete 3 dances 3 times, Teens compete 4 dances 3 times, and Seniors compete at least 4 dances 3 times.

- **What else do they do besides compete?**

Other performance opportunities include:

- Homer Fest Parade
- Lockport Oktoberfest
- Chicago Wolves Game
- Annual Company Revue (showcase)
- Social outings and bonding events

- **Will my child have enough time for homework and other sports?**

Absolutely! Many dancers in Company are members of their school’s dance teams, are involved in extracurricular clubs, assist in little one’s classes, and excel in their school work. Being involved in Company demands that children learn the value and skill of time management quickly. School will always be our first priority, but dancers learn quickly that in order to be successful and focused in dance class, things like homework and projects get done first.

- **What are the other benefits besides better technique?**

- Mentoring relationships between other students and teachers
- Time management
- Work ethic/discipline

- Friendships that last a lifetime
- Exciting and fun opportunities and experiences
- A support system
- Leadership skills
- Exploring new styles of dance and learning from new teachers
- Goal setting and achievement
- Confidence

- **Do we have to take summer lessons?**

Company dancers' training begins in the summer months before the school year begins. Our season runs from the end of June to the following recital. Summer is the time for intensive training and even learning choreography for competitions.

- **Does my dancer have to audition every year if they make it after the first time?**

Yes, every dancer auditions yearly. Just because a dancer is asked to join Company one year does not guarantee their spot the next. Things like behavior and attitude, attendance, work ethic, progress, and sportsmanship all take into account if a dancer will be asked to be in Company again.

- **What happens if my dancer does not make it?**

Don't be discouraged. Oftentimes, this is a blessing. Talk to your teachers about what the dancer should be working on to get in, take a class in a new style, and use it as an opportunity to improve skills. ALWAYS audition next year!! *(It took Miss Lauren 3 years of auditioning to make it into Company the first time. Try, try again!)*

- **What if I'm not satisfied with my dancer's placement?**

- Your dancer's placements for class levels and Company levels are at the discretion of the teachers. We've been doing this for a long time, are educated in how important technical progress is, and most importantly what will be SAFE for your dancer to be doing.
- After auditions, your dancer will receive her scorecards with a rubric of how we score and what each level of Company requires as minimums. A sample rubric follows the end of this document.
- Just because her friends may be a level above her, or someone younger may be a level above her, does not entitle her to that level. Strength, coordination, and maturity level all come into play when leveling a dancer.
- Above all, dancers should be challenged to the point of attainable growth, but not to the point of potential injury or disappointment.
- Teachers will give you a **concrete** list of things your dancer can work on to move up to the next level, and have very specific marks to hit for certain levels.
- It is NEVER a personal decision as to why your dancer is at a specific level. It is ALWAYS an objective decision based on attainable measurements to be met.

- **Is this like "Dance Moms"?!**

Nope. We have a zero-tolerance policy for drama, and have a mediation process for any disputes or honor contract violations. Parents and students must sign the honor contract before the season begins.

Sample Rubric:

Scale 1-5, 1 = unsatisfactory, 3 = needs improvement, 5 = mastered

(0 = attempted unsuccessfully)

Personal appearance: professional dancewear (tights, leotard, shorts if desired, correct shoes), hair neat, no jewelry, smiles on!

CIT Benchmarks

- Posture
- Articulate Feet
- Balance
- Tendu
- Chasse
- Use of Plie/Releve
- Jazz Walk
- Battements
- Chaîne Turns
- ½ pirouettes
- Jete/Split Leap
- Pas De Bourre
- Fan Kick

Mini Benchmarks

- Flexibility/Placement
- Extensions
- Applying Corrections
- Use of Turnout
- Use of Core
- Use of Plie/Releve
- Control
- Port De Bras
- Isolations
- Single Pirouette
- 6 Step Preparation
- Preparation for Turns in Second
- Jete/Split Leap
- Center Leap
- Capezio
- Floor Leap

Junior Benchmarks

- Utilize Technique in Choreography
- Development of artistry/storytelling
- Double Pirouette
- 4 Turns in Second

- Tilt
- Reversing Progressions
- Timing
- Rhythm/Musicality
- Switch Leap
- Barrel Jump
- Butterfly
- Floorwork
- Accuracy
- Fluidity/Sharpness/Quality of Movement

Teen Benchmarks

- Triple Pirouette
- 8 Turns in Second
- Switch Arabesque, etc.
- Explosive Jumps
- Centered Turns
- Head Tail Connection
- Balanced Strength and Flexibility
- Willingness to Attempt
- Detail Oriented Performance
- Precision
- Fluid Transitions
- Blending Techniques
- Attention to Detail
- Versatility Across Styles

Senior Benchmarks

- High Precision, High Accuracy
- Emotional Connection
- Explosive Jumps in Sequence
- Centered Turns in Any Variation
- Sustained Movement
- Use of Breath
- Stage Presence
- Movement beyond technique
- Dancing with Intention
- Role Model and Leader