



Steppers Dance Team

2026-27 Handbook

Steppers Dance Team

Comprehensive Guide for Team Dancers

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Eligibility

Audition Eligibility

- *Dancers who are invited OR*
- *Dancers that are at least 8 years old, entering 3rd grade in the fall*
- *Dancers enrolled in ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical at LeRoux for the 2026-27 season**
- *Dancers with an excellent attendance history*
- *Dancers who want to perform **more***

*See class enrollment requirements provided below with rules and regulations.

Rules of eligibility are established to create an equal opportunity for all dancers, as well as to promote the commitment required for successful team membership. Exceptions are extremely rare; when appropriate, exceptions are made at the sole discretion of the studio owner.

Rules & Regulations

Dancers must

- enroll in technique classes
 - Dancers age 7
 - Mini level combo for first year members
 - Mini level ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical for returning members
 - Mini level hip hop optional
 - Dancers age 8-11 at the time of the audition
 - Jr level ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical required
 - Jr level hip hop optional
 - Jr level dancers can add Mini level or younger Jr level classes without permission
 - Open level classes within your age range, recommended
 - Dancers age 10 -13 at the time of the audition
 - Elite level ballet, tap, jazz **and** lyrical are required
 - Elite hip hop is recommended
 - Elite level dancers can add Jr level classes without permission, recommended
 - Open level classes within your age range, recommended
 - Dancers age 14 or older must enroll in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical or contemporary and will discuss options during their interview with the studio owner.
- attend the audition to be considered for the team
- follow all rules, regulations and code of conduct established for membership
- be a good member, show support and encouragement to teammates and classmates
- maintain excellent attendance for all classes
 - excellent means: *perfect, superior, exceptional, of the highest standard*
 - less than excellent can make you **ineligible for future auditions**

2026 Rules & Regulations *(continued)*

Dancers must

- perform in **all studio productions** *(this includes community and studio performances, and parades)*
- attend all competitions assigned for your dances through June 2027
- attend all conventions as required for your team level
 - Jr, Elite and 13+ dancers may consider optional fall conventions
 - Jr, Elite and 13+ dancers must attend January convention (Excel in Motion)
 - January convention is recommended for all team dancers (Excel in Motion)
 - Spring In-House convention required for all team dancers
- maintain a journal of special awards and achievements for measuring personal growth
- attend team photoshoot
- provide sizing for required team gear
- purchase required makeup, false eyelashes and earrings
- enroll year-round and attend summer intensives/dance camps
- attend **all** team rehearsals throughout the competition season
 - most are scheduled on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday afternoons
 - rehearsal enrollment is automatic with successful audition
 - competition dances rehearse regularly
 - weekly or twice a month
 - determined by readiness of the group or individual
 - three rehearsal absences will **make you ineligible for re-audition**
 - absence from any performance will **make you ineligible for re-audition**
 - absentee problems can result in dismissal from the team, or from a dance
 - re-works can be removed from our repertoire due to attendance infractions by any team member
 - more than one absence from any choreography session makes a dancer ineligible for participation, without refund
 - there are no excused absences

These rules and regulations are established to create an equal opportunity for all dancers, to promote and build a team atmosphere, and foster personal growth and understanding of commitment, both to one's self and to others. We believe that these characteristics are essential for success and that they will assist your dancer throughout their lifetime, regardless of career path.

Team Financial Policies

All tuition, studio performance and costume fees must be paid in full prior to payments being applied to fees associated with team membership

- **10% late fee** will be applied to all team fees if not paid on the due date
- \$15 fee will be applied when autopay is declined for any reason

Team Financial Policies *(continued)*

- Additional financial responsibilities for members rest solely on the member and his/her guardian
- Expenses include, but are not limited to:
 - audition, membership, choreography, rehearsal, costumes, shoes
 - summer intensive, team gear, headshots and bio
 - conventions, community performances, parades, annual showcase and competitions
- Financial policies of LeRoux School of Dance apply to membership expenses
- Competition Fees are non-refundable
- Payment of the audition fee is due with your application and is non refundable
- Suspended or dismissed dancers are not eligible for refund of any team fees

Fundraising opportunities can be considered to offset competition expenses when team families organize and host a fundraising event. Suggestions for consideration should be submitted to the team coordinator at team@lerouxdance.com.

Monthly Team Payment: **\$120.00** *due on 10th of the month June - May* (no sibling discount)

This payment covers the following expenses

- membership
- audition fee
- Choreography for one group dance (class, rehearsals and costume)
- two local parades
- annual benefit showcase
- in-house convention
- team gear
- headshot and bio for the website
- one rework dance *
- annual banquet (up to 3 tickets)
- 3 social events

*A re-work is a recital dance that will be recreated with team dancers for competition. There is no credit when dancers do not have a re-work in their schedule.

This budget information does not include tuition and fees paid for studio performance experiences. These additional expenses are associated with team participation.

- Most dancers choose the team experience in order to have **more** performing opportunities, including the desire to experience dance competitions and conventions.
- Hotel stays are not required. If your family wants to stay in a hotel for competitions or conventions, you should consider those expenses in your budget.
- Travel expenses are provided only when the studio owner is coordinating an event that requires travel and chaperones.
 - These types of events could include national competitions, parades outside of our local community, and destination performances (cruise, theme park, etc) and are optional for team dancers.
 - Most of these travel opportunities are reserved for dancers in 8th grade and above.

Additional Expenses (*most amounts are **estimated***)

- **Audition Fee:** \$60.00 *due with application* (no sibling discount / non-refundable)
- **Rework Rehearsal Fee for 2-3 Dances:** Estimated to be \$135.00/year/dance
 - One rework is covered by your month team fees
 - Second and/or third rework, if applicable will be billed at \$15.00/month/rehearsal
- **Dance Conventions:** \$210-\$375 per dancer (no sibling discount/ non-refundable)
Price varies depending on the length of the event. Doesn't *generally* include a pass or wristband for parent observation.
- **Summer Dance Intensives: Member Pricing: \$279 - \$449** (see Summer Schedule)
 - Team dancers age 7 - 9 are required to enroll in our Mini Intensive
 - Team dancers age 10 -12 are required to enroll, and have the choice to do Mini or full day Intensives
 - Team dancers age 12 - 18 are required to enroll in the full day Intensive

Invitationals (*Duo/Trio or Group Dance*): *By invitation only as a result of the audition process*

This is an additional dance where a member is **invited** for the purpose of competition

- New choreography, any style
 - Small Group, Large Group, Duo or Trio
- Requires fees and attendance for choreography and rehearsals, and a new costume
 - All fees are provided at the time of the invitation
 - Duet rehearsal fees: *estimated at \$1,900*
 - Trio rehearsal fees: *estimated at \$1,700*
 - Group rehearsal fees: *estimated at \$1,200*
 - Additional Costume and Competition fees will apply.
 - *Duo/Trio estimated at \$565.00 (4 comps - provided with invitation)*
 - *Group estimated at \$440.00 (4 comps - provided with invitation)*
- Choreography is often learned in the summer (July-September)
 - All choreography will be taught at the availability of the choreographer
 - Dancers must provide vacation schedule upon acceptance of invitation
 - 2 absences during choreography will result in removal from dance without refund
- Rehearsals are regularly throughout the competition season, in 6 week sessions
- How to get invited
 - For one invitational you must meet minimum technique class enrollment
 - For additional invitationals, additional ballet and jazz classes are required
 - Maximize your weekly technique training schedule to increase your invitations
 - For solo invitation you must be on the team for at least 3 years
- Meeting enrollment criteria does not guarantee an invitation, we also consider
 - Number of years on the team and recommendation from the judges
 - Ability to pick up and retain choreography at the audition
 - Similar strengths among the auditioning dancers
 - Current age and dancer's level
- Class enrollment changes after July 1 can impact eligibility without refund.

Additional Expenses *(continued)*

Invitational Solo: *By invitation only*

This is an additional dance where a member is **invited** for the purpose of competition

- To be considered, interest must be indicated on annual audition application
 - dancers must be age 12
 - dancers must have 3 years of membership for consideration
- 2 ballet and 2 jazz classes are required for consideration
- Enrollment in all genres and additional classes for age group is preferred
- New choreography, any style
- Requires fees and attendance for choreography, rehearsals, and a new costume
 - All fees are provided at the time of the invitation
 - Rehearsal fees: *Estimated at \$2,324.99*
 - estimates provide 8 weeks of choreography and 30 weeks of rehearsal
 - the studio calendar of events can impact the number of rehearsal weeks
 - charges will not exceed the number of rehearsal weeks provided
 - All choreography is taught at the availability of the choreographer
- Costume and Competition fees apply; estimated at \$940.00 *(min 4 comps - provided with invitation)*
- Novice soloists can expect to attend 2 competitions, determined by readiness
- Separate contract is required and will provide competition dates

Experiences & Opportunities

Team Siblings

Each dancer is paired with another! Siblings are assigned with age and years on the team in mind. This experience is intended to build a cooperative environment and foster friendship for new team families as they navigate this new experience. The 'oldest' sibling and their parents can provide support, information and a unique point of view to new member families. The dancers benefit from the sibling experience during events/activities, rehearsals and competition award ceremonies. Although it is not a requirement, small 'gifts' are often exchanged during events as a show of encouragement or congratulations between siblings.

Volunteer Opportunities

Prop Committee - help transport props to weekly rehearsals and competitions

Showcase Committee - help with selecting a local charity, and the planning of our annual event

Fundraising Committee - Create, organize, coordinate and submit details to the team coordinator (some ideas to consider: bingo / pools for sporting events)

(See application for full listing of opportunities)

Experiences & Opportunities (*continued*)

Other Opportunities may include a pool party, fall social, holiday party, and spring social ~ adults only socials are welcome, too!

Makeup and Hair Class

Prior to the team headshot photo session, senior team dancers will host a class for new team members. This class will provide best practices for applying makeup and creating professional hair.

Competition Dress Rehearsal

Each December, in preparation for the upcoming competitive season, the team hosts an in-studio dress rehearsal. The date of this event will be confirmed in September to ensure that each team member has the required gear, makeup and accessories, shoes, and tights, understands the hair requirements and is ready for the upcoming season. Parents are invited to attend and photograph!

Annual Benefit Showcase

An opportunity for family and friends to view invitational competition dances from the current season without travel and competition weekend schedules. This performance will:

- Contain **only** dances that compete in the current season
- Contain **only** dances that never performed in an annual recital
- Provide a program detailing achievements for each performance with an opportunity to purchase ads and messages for your dancer
- Offer unlimited, free tickets
- Benefit a preselected, local non-profit organization
 - raffle basket donations
 - sponsorships
 - Kiss the Cast messages
 - 50/50
- Provide a red carpet student experience for each team member
- Require all parents to volunteer

The Band App

We have created a group exclusively for team families in the Band App. Please download the app today and join! We will share photos, videos, and information about all things TEAM in this group. **The calendar** in this group will provide details on **rehearsals, private lessons, team breaks, make-up weeks, performances, social events, etc.** We also encourage families to use the app when they are looking for information or have any questions about events.

Join Here: <https://band.us/n/aca8bdC9f9O8M>

A chat (not a group) for each invitational will be created at the start of the 2026-27 season. These chats may include videos of rehearsal, costume photos and details about required shoes, accessories, etc., and will be essential for easy, clear communication, about one specific dance. The rehearsal schedule for all private lessons, rehearsals, makeup classes, breaks, etc will all be in the Steppers Parents band group.

Expectations

Dancers are expected to:

- be on time with hair appropriately secured for each class/rehearsal (*consult your dress code requirements for clothing and hair*)
- not chew gum or have any food in our classrooms or studio lobby
- leave their cell phone or texting devices in the **designed area** while in rehearsals
 - parents should not expect a response messages while dancers are class/rehearsal
- **always** dress in appropriate dress code, including required leotard, tights, and all dance shoes of appropriate color (*violations could prevent class/rehearsal participation*)
 - Leotards must provide proper support (*stretched out leotards should be replaced*)
 - Dancers without proper attire and shoes will be dismissed from class/rehearsal (after 2 consecutive infractions)
- **always** dress in team gear at competition/performance/event when representing the team, not only for awards but for the duration of the event
- **always** wear team approved makeup beginning with December dress rehearsal
- **always** wear hair in a low bun with a center part for competition/performance/event unless otherwise instructed, in writing during costume distribution (NOT FOR RECITALS)
- **always** have required tights and **shoes for class and performances** that are in very good condition (*clean and without holes*)
- **display a positive attitude** (*be humble, be proud, be kind and encouraging, and be able to share the success of others appropriately*)
- accept and apply corrections or directives for improvement (*willingness to learn*)
- set and achieve measurable, appropriate personal goals (*self-motivation*)
- maintain excellent attendance in all weekly technique classes, rehearsals and events throughout the season (*failure will result in suspension or dismissal from the team without refund*)
 - Dancers that miss two of any class or rehearsal will receive an email reminder
 - Dancers that miss three of any class / rehearsal will be required to attend a parent meeting with the studio owner
 - Dancers that miss five of any class / rehearsal will be dismissed from the team

Team Families are expected to:

- avoid text messaging their child while dancers are in class/rehearsal
- abide and follow the Code of Conduct
- provide all **required** dress code items
 - monitor dress code requirements, and the condition of items worn for all classes and rehearsals
 - over stretched leotards prevent dancers from proper execution of technique and cause distraction
 - **deliver missing items to the studio** when your dancer is not prepared
- provide all **required** shoes
 - dancers can be excused from class when failure to have the required shoes is recurring
- provide all **required** makeup items, false eyelashes and earrings
 - monitor make up application for all performances
- monitor attendance of all classes and rehearsals

Team Families are expected to: *(continued)*

- Volunteer and Support the annual Team Showcase
- Be supportive of the dance team, its members' parents and personnel at all times.
 - **Gossip or negative and unsupportive communication or action** of any kind undermines the success of our dancers, and therefore will not be tolerated.
 - Speaking negatively to your dancer or other team families about the opportunities provided by LeRoux and its staff is considered unsupportive gossip
 - Sharing information about any other local studios, their pricing, their class schedules, etc with families on this team is considered unsupportive
 - Enrollment in any non-LeRoux dance opportunity requires written approval in advance, from the studio owner.
 - Be mindful of these rules when utilizing social media
- Be loyal and honest
 - Avoid behavior that is detrimental to the team
 - Avoid behavior that presents a conflict of interest for team members and their families
- Apply the **10/10/10 Rule** when difficult situations arise
 - Will this conflict **matter in 10 days**? If not, you can resolve this situation without the assistance of studio personnel
 - Will this conflict **matter in 10 months? 10 years**? If yes to either, [schedule a call](#) with a studio representative to discuss resolutions
- Be respectful and supportive of the decisions made at the discretion of the team coordinator and studio owner.
 - Selection of dancers to compete re-works
 - Removal of dances from our repertoire
 - Selection of dancers for invitationals, duo/trio and solo competition choreography
 - Class level recommendations and competition performance level selection
- Dancers are never excused from class, rehearsal, choreography, performance or competition - including awards
 - Team members, parents, guardians cannot expect team personnel to consider their personal schedule requests.
 - Religious Education Ceremony conflicts for team members will only be considered when provided on the audition application.
 - if a dancer misses any event or rehearsal, it is not excused
 - in years when there is no audition, conflicts must be shared by July 1
- be aware of your dancer's average score and personal goals
- respect competitive level selection, and discuss concerns **before** the season begins
- remit payments on their due dates
- maintain all costumes and accessories for your dancer
 - costumes should be stored in garment bags
 - **press or steam costumes** for all performances/events/competitions
 - replace lost pieces at your own expense
 - purchase a garment rack (or similar tool) to organize costumes
- Need to discuss any concerns?
 - [Schedule a call](#) with a studio representative, providing 24 hours for preparation
 - Provide possible solutions for consideration, or the desired outcome **prior to the call**
 - Written approval is required, following a conversation with the studio owner, for any exception to the guidelines and rules set forth in this handbook.

Code of Conduct

Members of the Steppers Dance Team and their families must conduct themselves in a respectful manner. This means, as a member of the team or parent of a team member, you must conduct yourself like responsible, polite humans in accordance with the following:

- **Follow all instructions/directives** from the staff; this includes choreographers, teachers, parent volunteers (chaperones) and office personnel.
- **Maintain a sportsman-like attitude** toward dancers, families and coaches you encounter, either at events or performances.
- **Arrive** for all functions on time, *performance ready* as instructed
- **Personal appearance** must be clean, neat and professional when representing the team. Must have clean neat hair, be shower fresh, and dressed in team gear.
- Dancers and parents (*family members*) **will not communicate directly** with any employee or contracted choreographer **via text, cell phone, social media** or vice versa.
 - Direct communication can **blur the professional boundaries** that are required in teacher/student relationships
 - Direct communication is a **violation of contract and policy** for LeRoux employees
 - Direct communication could **result in disciplinary action**, including dismissal of your dancer and the instructor.
 - Direct communication with the wrong personnel could **result in misinformation**
- **Parents may communicate directly** with the team coordinator utilizing the team parent group that has been established **using the Band app** for quick and easy notifications.
- The team coordinator is also available via email at: team@lerouxdance.com
- **Dancers and parents** (*family members*) **will not communicate directly** with any competition, convention or performance director at any time for any reason.
- **Dating Partners** that plan to attend competition in support of a dancer must remain with the dancer's family at all times. Under no circumstances will they be permitted to 'hang out' in an area where only dancers are socializing. Public displays of affection are never appropriate.

Competition Opportunities for Student Choreography Contest Entries

Team dancers that enter the spring Student Choreography contest may request to take their entry to competitions that offer a Student Choreography option. Dancers must present their entry for team staff during the audition or rework process. Those selected will be required to schedule at least one session (6 lessons) with a team coach in preparation for competition and must meet all enrollment requirements for the type of entry (solo/duet/trio/group). NOTE: Permission to enter a dance into the student choreography category will not be given to any dancer whose appropriate competitive level will be impacted by this decision.

Non-Rehearsal Dates and Weekends

For the 2026-27 season, we will select weekend dates that will be blocked from booking team rehearsals or choreography. Please use these dates to plan family outings so that your dancer does not miss rehearsal. These dates will be provided annually by July 1st. The studio is always closed for three weeks between the recital and the beginning of the new season.

Calendar of Payment Due Dates

The 10th of EVERY month beginning June 10

Monthly Team Installment

June 20	Invitational Choreography Fees Session dates July 6 - September 4 (no lessons August 23-27)
July 20	Invitational Costume Deposit (\$79/costume)
August 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates September 8 - October 24 (no lessons Sept. 12, 21 and October 10)
September 20	Invitational Costume Balances (estimated at \$59/costume) Fall Convention Fees due (<i>optional for all</i>) Turn It Up
October 20	Winter Convention & Performance / Invitational & Rework Rehearsal Fees Session dates October 25 - December 5 (no lessons December 5) Excel in Motion / DMAD Benefit / West Chester Alumni
November 20	Winter Competition & Performance Fees Phila Youth Dance Reverb
January 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates January 2 - February 20 (no lessons February 12-15) Breakout
February 20	April Competition Fees Starpower
March 20	Early May Competition / Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates February 21 - May 1
April 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates: May 2 - 8 and May 21 - 27 ONLY

Approved Calendar of Events *(these are **team specific events**, not all events for the studio)*

June 2026

- Team Interviews ~ June 11 and June 13 (link for scheduling will be shared upon receipt of application)
- Team Audition ~ June 13
- Team Rework ~ June 13
- Team Break 1 ~ June 14 to July 5
- Invitational Announcements ~ June 25-26

July 2026

- Team Session 1 begins on July 6 - September 1 *(invitational choreography only)*

August 2026

- Pool Party ~ August 8 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Nutcracker Audition: Sunday, August 9 at 10:30am
- Team Hair & Make-Up Class ~ August 15 at 9:00am (how to apply team make up and create a bun)
- Team Photo Shoot ~ Tuesday, August 25 at 5:00pm *(details will be in the band group)*
- Team Break 2 ~ August 23 - 27
- Team Parent Meeting ~ Saturday, August 29 - 10:00am

September 2026

- Team Session 2 ~ September 8 - October 24 *(no lessons 9/12 after 12:30, no lessons 9/21)*
- Halloween Parade Rehearsals ~ September 26 *(5:30-7:00pm)*

October 2026

- No Team Rehearsals ~ Saturday, October 10
- Turn it Up Convention ~ October 18
- Halloween Parade ~ anticipated date is October 26

November 2026

- Team Session 3 ~ October 25 - December 5
- Holiday Parade Rehearsals ~ TBD

December 2026

- Limerick Tree Lighting - December 4
- Hillcrest Holiday Parade & Community Performance ~ December 5
- Team Holiday Celebration ~ TBD *(details will be in the band group)*
- Invitational Make Up "Week" ~ December 6 - 18 *(must be scheduled with the office)*
- Team Break 4 ~ December 20 - January 1

January 2027

- Team Session 4 ~ January 2 - February 20
- Team Dress Rehearsal ~ January 2 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Winter Performances - January 9 & 23
- Excel in Motion ~ January 29 - 31 *in Lancaster, PA*

February 2027

- Team Parent Meeting - Date and Time TBA *(details will be in the band group)*
- **Steppers Annual Showcase** - tentative date: Friday, February 19 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Team Session 5 ~ February 21 - May 1
- No Team Rehearsals ~ February 27

March 2027

- Reverb ~ March 5 - 7* *in Boyertown, PA*
- Phila Youth DanceFest - March 19 - 21 *at Drexel University*

April 2027

- Team In-House Convention ~ April 10 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Breakout ~ April 16 -18 *in Voorhees, NJ*

May 2027

- Lehigh Valley Youth Dance Fest ~ May 14 - 16 *at Muhlenberg*
- Final Day for Team Rehearsals, Saturday Classes, and Invitationals
- Starpower Competition ~ May 28 - 30* *in Lancaster, PA*

June 2027

- Team Banquet
- Team Audition, Interviews and Rework Day

*Petite Steppers Included

Performance and Competition Appearance

Hair and Cosmetic Requirements

Dancers will wear their hair in a center parted, low bun complete with a hair net. This is the requirement for all team dancers, at all performance opportunities including competition. When a choreographer requests an alternate hairstyle for an individual dance, the team coordinator will make the final decision based on the lineup/schedule for each event.

This is the required make up for the **Mini Stepper Dance Team**

Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay Day to Night	CoverGirl Instant Cheekbones	Revlon Colorstay	Ardell	Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay
(appropriate shade will vary for dancers)	505 Decadent	230 Refined Rose	201 (crayon) Black	105 Black	655 Rose	005 Infinite Raspberry

Top & Bottom

This is the required make up for the Jr, Elite and 13+ **Stepper Dance Team**

Foundation	Eyeshadow	Blush	Eyeliners	Eyelashes	Lip Liner	Lipstick
Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay	Cover Girl Instant Cheekbones	Revlon Colorstay	Ardell	Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay
(appropriate shade will vary for dancers)	530 Seductive	220 Purely Plum	201 (crayon) Black	105 Black	675 Red	280 Stay Current

Top & Bottom

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION Before applying any makeup, be sure the face is clean. Use a moisturizer to begin. The skin wants to soak up anything it can, so feed it moisturizer so it doesn't soak up the foundation.

Foundation: Should be one shade darker than YOUR skin tone. YOUR Skin tone is the color of your NECK - NOT YOUR HAND!! Spread all over the face and part of the neck to blend in (after you apply moisturizer). Eyelids and lips, too.

Eye Shadow: The lightest color should be applied to the top lid generously. Then blow off the excess. The medium color should be applied between the crease and the eyebrow generously and then blow away excess. This widens the eyes. The darkest color should be applied to the crease, thin but dark.

Eyeliners: EVERYONE MUST wear eyeliner on top and bottom. If you prefer the liquid route, buy Revlon Colorstay Liquid Eye Pen (001). For those of you who prefer pencil be sure to keep it thin and close to (above/below) the lashes. DO NOT extend the line beyond the lashes.

Blush: Apply the medium color on the cheek from the cheekbone toward the top of the ear (TOWARD, NOT INCLUDING). Apply the darkest color beneath the first color to give a shadowy texture. Apply the lightest color above the first color, under the eyes, moving toward the nose.

Lipstick/Lip Liner: Lip liner is applied to the outer ridge of the lips. ALL THE WAY AROUND. This keeps the lipstick from bleeding into the skin outside of the lips. You will need 2 coats of lipstick. Do them fast, colorstay dries quickly and gets tacky. The shine should be applied JUST BEFORE the performance. You may apply the shine multiple times.

Stepper's Competition Checklist

Costumes:

- ☐ #1 _____
- ☐ #2 _____
- ☐ #3 _____
- ☐ #4 _____
- ☐ #5 _____

Shoes:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Tights:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Optional Extras:

- ☐ Nude Bodysuit with clear straps
- ☐ Suntan / Black / Pink / White Tights
- ☐ Back Up Tights
- ☐ Adhesive Body Bra (For A/B cup)
- ☐ Ultra-Lift Seamless Bustier (For C+ cup) or strapless support sewn into costumes

Props:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Hair Accessories

- ☐ Ponytail Holders
- ☐ Hairspray & Gel
- ☐ Hairnets
- ☐ Bobbie Pins/Hair Pins
- ☐ Brush & Comb
- ☐ Flat/Curling Iron
- ☐ Headpiece(s)
- ☐ _____

Make-up

- ☐ Foundation/Powder
- ☐ Blush
- ☐ Eye shadow
- ☐ Mascara & Eyeliner
- ☐ Lipstick/liner
- ☐ Eyelashes
- ☐ Glue & Toothpicks
- ☐ Makeup Remover
- ☐ Tissues
- ☐ Makeup Sponges
- ☐ Q-Tips & Cotton Balls
- ☐ Vaseline

Extras:

- ☐ Team Warm Up/Tank/Shorts
- ☐ Water & Snack
- ☐ Screw driver (taps)
- ☐ iPod/Phone & earbuds
- ☐ Nail Polish (Clear)
- ☐ Polish Remover
- ☐ Lint Brush
- ☐ Safety Pins
- ☐ Flip Flops or Slippers
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Clear Gel Deodorant
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ Nail Clippers & File
- ☐ Tide to Go Pen
- ☐ Team Garment Bag
- ☐ Wardrobe & Shoe Rack
- ☐ Double Sided Fabric Tape
- ☐ Earrings
- ☐ Costume Jewelry
- ☐ Steamer

Team Spirit:

- ☐ Stuffed Animal w/ Award Ribbons
- ☐ Posters to support Big/Little Sister
- ☐ Blanket & Pillow
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Book or Magazine
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Pen/Highlighter
- ☐ Travel Size Games
- ☐ Autograph Book
- ☐ Spirit Stick
- ☐ Portable Chair

Miscellaneous Information

Competition Dances that Perform in the Recital

When there is a **full team dance**, it will perform in all of the studio's June recitals and the Steppers Showcase.

Soloists, Duo/Trios or Invitational Groups who achieve the following are eligible for selection to perform in June: *(guidelines for selection and participation are subject to change)*

- **Novice Level Competitor:**
 - 1st Place Overall Award at any competition
- **Intermediate Level Competitor:**
 - 1st Place Overall Award at any competition
- **Advanced Level Competitor:**
 - Top 5 Overall Award at any competition
- **High School Senior** solo, provided they have competed a solo during all 4 high school years

Availability is limited. When the number of eligible dances exceeds availability, the following guidelines will apply to determine the **next level of eligibility**. These steps will be followed until all available spots are filled.

- **All Levels of Competition**
 - All High School Seniors will be selected first
 - All High School Seniors will have the option to refuse a solo performance in lieu of a duo/trio or group dance in which they participate.
 - Recipient of a Highest Score Award from any competition (ie: Highest Scoring Duet/Trio, Solo or Group) for the performance of a competition dance that rehearsed with a coach all season.
- **Sr Age Competitor:**
 - Top 3 Overall Award at any competition
 - Highest Score of all LeRoux Advanced Level Competition Entries
- **Jr Age Competitor:**
 - 1st Place Overall Award at any competition
 - Highest Score of all LeRoux Intermediate Level Competition Entries
- **Petite Age Competitor:**
 - 1st Place Overall Award at any competition
 - Highest Score of all LeRoux Novice Level Competition Entries

Out of State Performance Travel

The next out of state opportunity is expected to be in the spring or fall of 2028

- Out of State travel is for dancers over age 14 only
 - Studio owner will organize
 - carpool, air travel and transfers
 - room assignments and schedule
 - Studio owner will select chaperones as needed
 - Background and Clearance Forms Required
 - Volunteers will be responsible for not more than 3 dancers

Competition Scoring

Each competition has their own unique scoring rubric. They can be very confusing, and most families find that understanding comes after one full season of competition, sometimes two when a dancer's first year has limited opportunities. We recommend obtaining an event program for specifics, and keep in mind that they can also be confusing.

The following is a guideline for placement of all competitors. These guidelines have been established utilizing more than 10 years of competitive experience.

Good Competitor Expectation: 267-278.9 points out of a possible 300

This is an average score of 89.0 - 92.9 from each judge. This is an appropriate goal for any dancer on our team. A soloist must achieve an average of 92.9 or higher from all judges, and achieve at least one first place overall award before moving to the next competition level. All dances that score at this level are considered debut, novice or beginner in skill level.

Great Competitor Expectation: 279-287.9 points out of a possible 300

This is an average score of 93.0 - 95.9* from each judge. A soloist must achieve an average of 95.9 or higher from all judges, and place in the top 3 consistently before they are considered for the next competition level. A dancer's skill set in the genre of their solo will also impact their ability to advance. All dances that score at this level consistently are considered intermediate level. **This is the expectation for any dancer that aspires to compete at the advanced level.*

Elite Competitor Goal: 288-300 points out of a possible 300

This is an average score of 96-100 from each judge. You may compete your entire life and achieve this result just once. This score is reserved for the very best of competitors, on their very best days.

Competition Performance Levels

Performance levels provide the opportunity to compete against other dancers with similar experience and training. Experience includes hours of dance training each week and years of competition experience. Although the level guidelines are similar for each event, they are not identical. Your dancer will be entered according to the guidelines provided by the event. It is never appropriate to question the team coordinator regarding your dancer's competition level once the season has started. Keeping a journal of your dancer's scores from each event will provide the knowledge you need to trust and support the placement of your dancer each season. Questions about placement can be discussed with the team coordinator or studio owner each June, at the time of invitational announcements.

Prizes, Awards & Invitations from Competitions/Conventions

Immediately following an event (within 15 days), dancers who receive special awards or invitations must submit, in writing, to team@lerouxdance.com their interest in utilizing the prize. The team coordinator will consult the studio owner for approval before confirming and registering a student for any event that is not on our annual event calendar. Once approved, all necessary details will be shared with the award winner. In some instances, students may be permitted to enjoy their award in the absence of a LeRoux representative. Bring your questions and concerns regarding these unique opportunities to the studio owner. Not all opportunities will be approved; each will be handled on an individual basis.

FAQs

Sample of Competition Age Divisions

Age divisions are generally based on the performer's age as of January 1 in the year that the event will take place. If we attend a competition in November, keep in mind that placement may be according to your dancer's age in January of the upcoming year.

Some competitions keep things easy with age divisions like this:

Mini	8 years and younger
Junior	9-12 years
Teen	13-15 years
Senior	16-19 years

Others have more divisions for scheduling, and less for overall awards, like this:

4 & Under	Petite	9-11 years	Junior	17-19 years	Senior
5-6 years	Petite	12-14 yrs	Teen		
7-8 years	Petite	15-16 yrs	Senior		

Again, we understand that this can be very confusing, and most families find that understanding comes after one full season of competition, sometimes two when a dancer's first year has limited opportunities. We recommend obtaining an event program for specifics, and remember that your team sibling family may be able to provide better explanations than the program.

What are the minimum technique classes required for team placement?

Dancers age 7 or younger at the time of the audition

- Mini Combo or Mini ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical

Dancers age 8-9 at the time of the audition

- Jr level ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical

Dancers over age 10 should consult the studio owner prior to the audition.

NOTE: Repetition of curriculum technique increases the strength of a dancer. Each dancer should have a **schedule of technique classes that provide reinforcement of skills, as well as new challenges** that will inspire growth.

What is an Invitational Costume?

Any costume purchased for a new dance. New dances are choreographed between July and December in your team classes.

What is an Optional Convention?

New or young team dancers may consider attending optional conventions. These are dance classes offered by industry professionals in one or two day events. Conventions are a great opportunity to expose your dancer to unknown instructors and dance styles. Conventions will

also be a key indicator of your child's natural ability to both learn and perform choreography quickly. These events can also increase your dancer's stamina.

How will additional classes benefit my dancer?

The greatest success is achieved by those who **commit to excellence in basic technique**. In every sport, this is where muscle memory is created. Those who perfect their basic skills make their talent look easy. For dancers, ballet classes are the foundation for skill building. Experts recommend that **all growing athletes** study a **variety** of techniques. Just like running, swimming and basketball require unique skill development, so do ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical. Providing a variety of dance growth opportunities is proven to help protect growing athletes from burnout and injury.

All dancers can enroll in classes they have already taken. Repetition is the best way of building skills. Dancers who enroll in more than one class a week of the same genre, can be recommended for classes above their current level. When these recommendations occur, dancers **may select** a recommended class **in addition to** their required technique classes, **not in place of** their required technique class.

Enrollment in all classes can assist dancers with **choreography retention, stamina and overall conditioning** of their body. All of these skills are **essential** for competitive success.

We realize the sacrifice your family will make in order to provide an opportunity for success. We have a great team of professionals dedicated to the success of your child, and we strive to exceed your expectations!

What additional technique classes are available?

Ballet Classes / Pointe

- Serious competitors will take 3 ballet technique classes/week or more
- Dancers who seek to improve
 - Posture
 - Balance
 - Control
 - Feet/Ankle Strength
 - Flexibility
 - Articulation of the Feet
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- Dancers who join the team at or after age 10

Jazz Classes

- Dancers who are challenged in the following areas
 - Posture
 - Feet/Ankle strength
 - Flexibility (splits/leaps)
 - Balance (turns)
 - Memory (choreography retention)
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Lyrical (jazz, acro, ballet) / **Contemporary** (ballet, modern)

Contemporary is an advanced level of Lyrical, like Pointe is an advanced level of Ballet

- All ballet/jazz dancers seeking to improve their technique
 - Articulation of the Feet
 - Transitions
 - Upper Body Control (por de bra)
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- Dancers who join the team at or after age 10
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Modern

- All lyrical/contemporary dancers seeking to improve their technique
 - Emotional expression
 - Gravity and grounding vs lightness of ballet
 - Contact and Release
 - Fall and Recovery
 - Floor work (patterns and sequences on the ground)
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- Dancers who join the team at or after age 10
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Musical Theater *(when available)*

- All dancers seeking to improve their performance skills
 - Connection to song/choreography
 - Facial Expressions
 - Improvisation Skills
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- Dancers who join the team at or after age 10
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Tap Classes

- Dancers who are challenged in the following areas
 - Musicality
 - Feet/Ankle strength
 - Rhythm
 - Memory (choreography retention)
- Any dancer considering solo tap competition
- Dancers who join the team with limited tap experience, especially if over age 10
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Hip Hop

- Dancers who wish to improve the following skills
 - Isolations Skills
 - Control
 - Upper body strength
 - Leg Strength
- Any dancer considering solo competition
- All dancers seeking additional performance opportunities

Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) / Progressing Contemporary Technique (PCT)

- This is a non-performance class, for all levels
- All dancers seeking to improve their technique
 - Posture
 - Upper Body Control
 - Flexibility
 - Leg Strength
 - Balance
 - Articulation of the Feet
 - Feet/Ankle strength

Conditioning / Turns & Leaps

- This is a non-performance class, for all levels
- Conditioning will enhance flexibility, strength and stamina
- Turns & Leaps requires enrollment in several technique classes to ensure dancers are knowledgeable of material being presented for mastery

