

MLSD Competition Team Overview 2014-2015

About Our Competition Program

We have 3 curriculums in our competition program. All dancers and acrobats must attend our Competition Team Auditions each year to be considered for placement in a curriculum. Placement on a team is only for one dance year, so that each year, dancers are driven to work hard and earn their spot at next year's auditions. The competition team is not just for dancers who "like" to dance. This is for dancers who are serious about dancing and willing to put in extra time in and out of the studio. The team is highly selective, and some students will unfortunately be cut at auditions. If a dancer is cut it doesn't mean they are not a good dancer...we are simply looking for the best balance of talent, dedication, motivation, attitude and potential to make the strongest team possible!

Those who don't make the team are strongly encouraged to sign up for our Recreational program in order to best prepare for next year's auditions! We are proud of our Rec program and taking our classes are the best way to prepare for our competition team. They are not your average Rec classes. Our teachers work hard to ensure they are just as challenging and receive just as much attention as our competition classes!

Novice Competition Team: Must attend the following classes each week: Ballet, Strength and Stretch, Technique and Rehearsal. Solos, duets, and trios by invitation only. Optional conventions and workshops on weekends for extra training throughout the year. Will attend 1 regional competition (MANDATORY)

Advanced Competition Team: Must attend the following classes each week: Ballet, Strength and Stretch, Technique and Rehearsal. Acrobats and Production routines are optional and will practice once a week as well. Solos, duets, and trios by invitation only. Optional conventions and workshops on weekends for extra training throughout the year. Will attend 1-2 regional competitions and POSSIBLY 1 national competition (ANY SELECTED COMPETITIONS ARE MANDATORY...must be willing to commit to nationals if selected)

*Those only on the acro team must either participate in 1 ballet class and 1 strength and stretch class, or 2 strength and stretch classes.

Protégé/Elite Competition Team: Must attend the following classes each week: Ballet, Strength and Stretch, Technique and Rehearsal. Acrobats and Production routines are optional and will practice once a week as well. Solos, duets, and trios by invitation only, but will receive at least 1 solo or one duet/trio. Conventions and workshops on weekends for extra training throughout the year (Must attend at least 1 convention each year). Will attend 2-3 regional competitions and POSSIBLY 1-2 national competitions (ANY COMPETITIONS SELECTED ARE MANDATORY...must be willing to commit to nationals if selected)

***New teams may be created if there is a group of dancers that mesh well, but don't fit into one of the teams defined above. Also, if we don't have dancers at the skill level desired for a particular team, then we may not have all the teams listed above each year. We are dedicated to creating teams that will both benefit the dancers and best represent our studio.**

Please note: Based on auditions, everyone will be placed on either a Novice Team or an Advanced Team. ***After boot camp,*** based on their audition and boot camp performances, members of the advanced team will be hand-picked to join the Protégé or Elite Teams.

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Classroom Ground Rules & Expectations

This is to ensure that all students have a productive class. Some of these rules may sound strict, but they are all in the best interest of the students and the team. Being a member of the team means that you are held to a higher standard than recreational classes. This year if you accept a spot on the competition team, it has to be a priority.

- All students need to bring a hand towel and water bottle to class. This will limit the students going in and out of the room during class (they should only leave for emergencies), but ensure they stay hydrated and comfortable. The hand towel will also be used for exercises in strength and stretch class.
- All students need purchase a notebook for dance. They will take notes, write down corrections and things they need to work on for practice at home. This is a common practice at dance schools and it really helps the students retain information in class, so they aren't overloaded with information. The notebook is to be brought into the classroom for each class (don't forget a pen!)
- If a student misses more than 2 lessons without giving 24 hours' notice to Miss Laura, they will be put on probation and will be at risk of being removed from the Competition Team. And if a student misses too many lessons PERIOD, they will also be at risk of being removed from the Competition Team, unless a prior arrangement/agreement has been worked out with Miss Laura. **THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED THIS YEAR.**
- If a student is late to class, they will sit out and take notes, which will be turned in to the instructor at the end of class.
 - If they are in the building, but slow reporting to class when called back, they will have to do push-ups.
- If a student is not in the proper attire (including shoes), they will be given 1 warning. After that, if they come to class in the wrong attire, they will borrow from the "studio reserves." They will not be allowed to take in the wrong attire.
- If a student is disruptive/not paying attention in class, they will be asked to leave the room so their classmates are not disrupted/held back by them.
- In ballet class, at the end of an exercise, students will not move from your finished position until further instruction is given from the teacher. Absolutely no talking during exercises or across the floor unless it is to ask the teacher a question (not a classmate). If a student violates this rule, they will be asked to step out of class.

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Tentative Schedule of Events

*Most dates are TBD. And the Fall dates are overall pretty general, because of Miss Laura's pregnancy and depends when the baby arrives ☺ I'm giving you as many dates and time frames as I can so that if you are aware of any major conflicts (ie: wedding, prom, 1st communion, graduation, etc) and you can let me know ASAP. I will do my best to schedule around conflicts, but they must be noted on your audition form. The final list of competitions will be released when the teams are announced, based on the conflicts on the audition forms & my research.

Fall Dates to Note

August 4-7	Boot Camp (MANDATORY)
August 18	Regular Competition Classes Begin
August/September	Headshots & Team Pictures
Aug/Sep/Oct	Choreography on weekends
October/November	Big/Lil Reveal

Convention Options (MANDATORY for Protégé/Elites, Optional for others)

October 31-Nov 2	24seven Convection (Chicago)
November 1-2	Nuvo Convention (Indianapolis)
November 22-23	The Pulse & Camp Pulse Convention (Chicago)
December 12-14	Jump Convention (St. Louis)
January 16-18	Jump Convention (Chicago)
February 20-22	NRG Convention (Chicago)
March 13-15	Nuvo Convention (Chicago)

Possible Regionals (MANDATORY)

Any weekend between March 1 and May 31

Recital (MANDATORY)

June 5-7 MLSD Recital (Five Points)

Possible Nationals (MANDATORY if team goes)

Any week/weekend between June 22 and July 26

Location options will be discussed at the parent meeting, but could be as far as Texas, Florida or the East Coast. Most nationals last 5-6 days.