



June 12, 2022

Dear Academy of Dance Parents and Dancers,

At our recital in May I said that we would have a big announcement in June and the time has arrived. After much reflection to keep the Academy of Dance meeting the needs and requests from its customers, I am excited to announce that we are adding a competition team to the list of classes we offer! We have amazing dancers at the Academy but one area that I feel we are lacking is stage presence. The best way to improve in this area is to perform more. Now I know that many parents would not appreciate additional costs for costumes and performance opportunities, so a competitive team is the start to overcome this obstacle.

I want to reassure all parents, dancers, and family members that the Academy of Dance will not alter its conservative standard. We will not have dancers in costumes that exposes midriffs and are not flattering on all dancers. The dancers will not be asked to do moves that would be considered inappropriate. The dancers will also be held to a high standard when interacting with dancers from other competitive teams. I encourage the dancers to always use the Golden Rule when interacting with dancers from other studios. I also intend to not attend competitions where other local studios will be competing.

This is not a venture I know I could do successfully on my own. At our recital I introduced Cassy Newman. She has quite the resume of dance experience. Here are a few of her accolades:

Cassy has been dancing since the age of three. Involved in dance at a young age motivated her to pursue her dreams in in all genres of dance. Tap, ballet, pointe, jazz, modern, lyrical, salsa, as well as competitive cheer and dance. Cassy also has been involved in the fitness industry as an instructor for the past fifteen years.

Cassy's experience ranges from managing a fitness club to holding multiple certifications in Zumba, Barre, TRX, and Les Mills programming. Prior to moving to area ten years ago, Cassy was the Academy Director for the North Dakota Ballet Company & Academy in Grand Forks, ND. Cassy is a 2008 graduate with honors, from the University of Montana- Missoula with a B.F.A. in Dance with an emphasis in Studio Teaching.

Cassy's personal philosophy is to provide our community with quality instruction in a variety of forms. While providing tools necessary to obtain the students ultimate goals and to instill self-expression, strength, provide a friendly atmosphere, and most of all to have FUN!

Cassy is looking forward to growing as an instructor, working with your student, and expanding her approaches to teaching classes at The Academy of Dance.

Our competitive team will be an additional class to the other classes we offer at the studio. Here are some qualifications for dancers to participate in our competition team:

- 1) Dancers must be 10 years of age or older by September 1st, 2022
- 2) They must take the age and skill appropriate for the dance(s) that they plan to perform in competition. We are considering competing in lyrical, jazz, tap and novelty.
- 3) Dancers must attend the two Competition boot camps in September and October as well as the weekly class offered. Dancers will learn techniques, skills, and trick as well as choreography at these boot camps and classes. Dances will also be polished during these classes. Attendance is necessary for the success of the team.

We are holding auditions on July 21 with Registration at 5:15pm (one parent must attend) Audition from 5:30-7:30 pm, and August 3 with Registration at 6:15pm Audition from 6:30-8pm. This audition is open to dancers in the Dickinson area that are willing to meet our competitive team requirements. We are hoping to have two large group teams at minimum. Pre- Registration for auditions can be completed at this link :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtbk3LvuwLUosxZkMapjKkmiuHetcZwWUEMJmraYH79iHP6g/viewform?usp=sf_link

All dancers are asked to attend the audition dressed in dance attire and ballet, jazz, contemporary and/or tap shoes. Parents will receive more information about our competition team prior to auditions by completing this form. A parent is asked to register each dancer to give consent to the Teams requirements.

We are so excited about this announcement and hope that you are as well! As always, please let me know if you have any questions about the Competition Team or other classes at the Academy of Dance. We look forward to seeing you in August for registration!

Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Cote