One Team – One Dream

We're already looking ahead to the **2025–2026 Dance Season** with excitement! As our competition team continues to grow, we're evolving alongside it to ensure every dancer has the opportunity to thrive.

Being part of a competition team requires **commitment**, **discipline**, and a willingness to fully embrace *dance life* (all things we have witnessed with our dancers this season). Dancers are expected to take technique classes seriously, apply corrections quickly, and bring energy and presence to every rehearsal. New original pieces will be set, and dancers will be challenged to connect with their audience and elevate their **performance quality** across multiple styles.

A New Structure for a Stronger Team

Auditioning and joining a competition team is a major commitment—not just to yourself, but to your teammates and educators. We are proud of the professionalism and dedication our dancers display both in and out of the studio.

For the upcoming season, we will be **placing dancers in routines based on skill level**, **performance quality, versatility, and group chemistry**. We are moving away from the "Petite, Junior, Senior Company" format and transitioning to a more unified **Team** approach.

This change will:

- Encourage more collaboration between dancers
- Give dancers the opportunity to explore new styles and connections
- Allow for more polished, competitive routines by avoiding the overload of learning and cleaning multiple dances in a single hour each week

While this new structure represents a shift, it's designed to **give dancers and families more flexibility** in choosing the level of commitment that works best—both in terms of **schedule** and **financial investment**.

Class/Technique Requirements (2025-2026 Season)

All competition team dancers ages 10yrs & up (excluding Tap Company) are required to enroll in:

- One Ballet Technique Class
- One Jazz or Modern/Lyrical Technique Class
- VDC Ignite (Our new leaps & turns class specifically for VDC Dancers)

All competition team dancers ages 9yrs & under (excluding Mini Stars) are required to enroll in:

- One Ballet Technique Class
- A Jazz or Modern/Lyrical Technique Class is **strongly** recommended

These classes are required for the full 2025–2026 season to maintain technical growth and consistency across routines.

Mini Stars (Ages 5–7)

- Invitation only (no audition required)
- Attend one 45-minute class per week
- Participate in two competitions during the season
- Strongly encouraged to take at least one summer class

Tap Company (Ages 11–17)

- Invitation only
- Will attend all four competitions
- Required to take:
 - One weekly 45-minute tap class (2025-2026 Season)
 - One weekly 1-hour company rehearsal (2025-2026 Season)
 - Must take at least one tap class over the summer

Competitions

For the 2025–2026 Season, the Valley Dance Company will attend four required competitions.

We will also offer several optional competitions for dancers performing solos, duets, and trios who are interested in additional performance opportunities.

All competition dates will be posted on our website after the current competition season ends, and once we receive finalized schedules from the competition companies.

Production Number

All dancers ages 7yrs & up selected for the competition team will participate in our **full team Production Number**.

- 1-hour weekly rehearsal (Saturdays 1:15-2:15pm)
 - Not all dancers will be needed for every rehearsal
- No additional rehearsal fees
- \$95 costume fee
- Competition entry fees will still apply

The Production Number is a highlight of our season and a great opportunity for dancers of all ages and levels to perform together as one unified team.

Routine Commitment Options

Each dancer will fill out the **2025–2026 Audition Form**, which includes a *wish list* of the number and types of routines they're able to commit to. Please remember: this is only a *wish list*, and does **not guarantee** placement in that exact number or style of routines.

Dancers selected for the team are **guaranteed placement in at least one small or large group routine**, in addition to the **full team Production Number**. Dancers can only be placed in a **maximum of 4 group routines**.

Please Note:

To be considered for a **duet or trio**, dancers must first be cast in **at least one small or large group routine**. Additionally, dancers are required to take a **technique class in the style of any solo/duet/trio they are cast in**. (For example, if placed in a modern or lyrical solo/duet/trio, the dancer must be enrolled in a **modern or lyrical technique class** during the 2025–2026 dance season.)

Group Routine Rehearsals

- September through January: Weekly 1-hour rehearsals
- February through Competition Season: Weekly 45-minute rehearsals (following the Winter Showcase)

Rehearsal Fee Structure (per dancer):

- **1 routine** \$50/month
- 2 routines \$85/month
- 3 routines \$115/month
- 4 routines \$140/month

This flat-rate structure includes all group routine rehearsals from **September through the end of the season**.

Duet/Trio Routines

- 45-minute weekly rehearsal
- Rehearsal Fee: \$450 for the full season (\$50/month) per routine you are cast in
- \$95 costume fee per dancer
- Competition entry fees: approx. \$55–\$120 per dancer, per competition

Solo Routines

- **Six 1-hour summer rehearsals** to learn and set choreography (billed at private lesson rates of \$65/hour)
- September through Winter Showcase: Soloists will attend bi-weekly 45-minute private rehearsals, billed at \$50 per lesson

(private lesson rate).

- January through May (Competition Season): Soloists will participate in a weekly 30-minute group rehearsal, shared with up to 3 soloists per session, billed at a flat rate of \$50/month.
- One-time Solo Choreography Fee: \$150
- \$95 costume fee
- Competition entry fees: approx. \$55–\$120 per dancer, per competition

Final entry fees will be confirmed in the fall, once group numbers are finalized and exact pricing is received from competition companies.

Summer Requirements

To ensure all dancers are prepared and confident heading into the season, the following **summer participation** is required:

- Take at least one technique class over the summer
- Attend a minimum of 3 Strength & Flexibility drop-in classes
- Participate in the Summer Dance Intensive

The **Summer Dance Intensive is MANDATORY** for all company dancers (*excluding Mini Stars and Tap Company*). This year, the Intensive will be **exclusively for Competition Team dancers** and will focus on learning and setting choreography for the upcoming season—including our full team Production Number.

t Click <u>HERE</u> for our **Summer Class Schedule**.

We know change can be hard—*trust me, I hate change too!*—but we believe this updated format will allow for more **artistic expression, focus, and flexibility**. Most importantly, it will help our dancers grow in confidence, skill, and joy as they continue their journey through the competition world.

Please use the link below to fill out the **2025–2026 Audition Form** and begin shaping your dancer's path for the upcoming season!

https://form.jotform.com/250928116447056