



To: Parents and students interested in the 2009– 2010 Dance Works Competition Company

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for your interest in the Competition Company for the 2009 – 2010 season. Membership on the Company requires a tremendous amount of time, hard work, dedication, and most of all teamwork. This letter is intended to answer many of your questions and give you an idea of how much dedication is expected. Please carefully consider all the required factors before making your decision to audition for the Company. Dancers auditioning for competition team placement are strongly encouraged to attend our summer intensive/competition prep classes July 20-30. Please contact us for more summer registration information. Only those students enrolled in summer classes will be allowed studio time for private classes in the weeks leading up to auditions. Private instruction is based on studio and instructor availability. Additional fees do apply.

Auditions will be held Saturday, August 22nd and Sunday, August 23rd .

(Please Note: Audition end times are approximate)

	<u>Saturday, Aug. 22nd</u>	<u>Sunday, Aug. 23rd</u>
Rubies (Ages 7-9)	9:00 AM– 10:30 AM	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Emeralds (Ages 10– 11)	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Sapphires (Ages 12-14)	9:00 AM—10:30 AM	4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
Diamonds (Ages 15 – up)	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

***Recreational-Team Auditions: SATURDAY, August 22nd ONLY 1:30 PM—3:30 PM (This is for both the Wednesday and Thursday Rec-Teams), and Jr. Rec team 3:30 PM—5:30 PM). For more information about Rec-Teams, please see separate handout.**

On Saturday, dancers will learn the combinations, and Sunday, they will audition for the judges. Dancers do not have to come with a prepared routine. However, at the end of each audition, each dancer will have the opportunity to show the judges 2 8-counts (16 counts) across the floor by themselves. This is their chance to show the judges their strongest point. It may be a tumbling pass (matts will be available, only show us a pass that you are fully capable of performing without a spot or assistant), a favorite leap or turn, or a combination of anything. You will not be penalized if you do not tumble.

*You may audition for other groups, but **you must also try out for your true age division**. Please audition in the age category in which you fall as of **January of 2010**. If your age and birthday fall fairly close to the cut off between groups, you may try out for both. If you try out in both and make both groups, you may choose which one you prefer to join. Results will be posted on the website, www.danceworksinc.com by Monday, August 24 by 2:00 PM.

Competition Parents Meeting: Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 PM. This is for all those who make the team. This is to answer questions and to discuss the upcoming season. Parents will be given a contract to take home for review with their child. Contracts must be signed by both the parent and student before the first practice session for their group. Contracts are further discussed in this letter.

What to wear for auditions: Dancers must wear dance clothing such as leotards, tights, unitards, dance pants, etc.. Street clothes such as baggy shorts and T-shirts are a definite NO. Dancers should have legs covered with tights, dance pants, etc.. No bare legs allowed. Basic leotards and tights are best. Proper dance shoes are a must. Dancers will need jazz or ballet shoes for the audition, depending on their preference. The auditions will be primarily jazz and ballet. Hair should be completely pulled back from the face. Boys should also have correct shoes, and it is preferable that you wear jazz pants and a non-baggy shirt.

Please arrive a few minutes earlier than your audition time. When you arrive, the dancers will be signed in and receive a number in which they will wear throughout the audition. If the age group preceding your audition runs over, please wait quietly out in the lobby and begin to stretch and warm up. We ask that when auditions are in progress, par-

* During the auditions, dancers will be evaluated on technique, attitude, and most of all stage presence. For the younger dancers, attention span and behavior are mostly evaluated. The audition will include a quick warm up, general technique exercises, and a short lyrical and/or jazz combination which will be performed in small groups. Since time is short, please warm up as much as possible beforehand.

* Please stress to your child the importance of a good attitude and a positive outlook. Stage presence is the most important factor on competition placement. I cannot stress this enough. **They must have smiles and personality.**

* Parents please be aware of the obligations involved with the competition teams. Furthermore, please be sure that you and your child are willing to graciously accept the results of the audition. Please understand that I cannot and will not discuss the results or performance of other children with you.

- **Practice Times for the 2009-20010 Season: (Schedule is subject to slight change and will be finalized after auditions, pending times when students get out of school, etc. If changed, it will only be slightly by approx. 15 minutes here and there.)**

Rubies

Mondays	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	(leaps and turns class)
	5:00 PM – 6:15 PM	(choreography)
Thursday	to be announced	
Saturdays	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	(choreography)
	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	(Ballet technique)

Emeralds

Mondays	3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	(choreography)
	5:00 PM – 6:15 PM	(leaps and turns class)
*Wednesdays	to be announced	
Saturdays	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	(Ballet Technique)
	10:00 AM—11:30 AM	(Choreography)

Sapphires

Mondays	6:15PM – 7:30PM	(choreography)
	7:30 PM – 8:45 PM	(leaps and turns class)
*Wednesdays	to be announced	
Saturdays	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	(Choreography)
	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	(Ballet Technique)

Diamonds

Mondays	6:15 PM – 7:30 PM	(leaps and turns class)
	7:30 PM – 9:00 PM	(choreography)
*Wednesdays	8:00 PM—9:15 PM	(leaps and turns class)
Saturdays	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	(Ballet Technique)
	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	(Choreography)

* If this is a church night and absolutely cannot be attended, please see Brenda for other technique options. We can work with you on this.

All regular classes begin the week of September 8th. No classes on Monday, September 7th, Labor Day. Please note: we have tentatively scheduled JonPaul Christensen and David Rosales to come in from California and work with the new teams the weekend of August 30th. More information to come as we finalize these plans.

Optional Classes: The before listed classes are your mandatory practices. Optional classes include tap, hip hop, pointe, pre-pointe.

Extra practices will often be scheduled with prior notice. All practice times are mandatory. If you know in advance of a day that you can absolutely not attend, please let me know in advance. .

Contracts: In order to ensure that each company member is aware and fully committed to fulfilling their obligations, it is necessary that each member and parents sign a promissory contract. This contract will include a specific attendance, costume, payment, and behavioral policy. Please understand the necessity for such a compliance if we hope to have a successful competition season.

Financial Obligations: before auditioning please carefully consider the financial responsibilities involved. Besides your \$125 tuition for a **10 month season**, there are additional fees such as costumes (can run over \$150 per costumes at times), competition fees (\$40 per dance each competition, approximately 6 competitions), jackets (for new members, approx. \$95), travel expenses (for out of town competitions or conventions), and much more. **If you still have an outstanding balance from last year, this must be cleared before auditions.**

 **NOTE!**

Solos and Duo/Trios or Small Group*: Again this year we will allow competition members to do duo/trios if interested. You will be paired with other dancers based on instructor's recommendations. It is not based on friendships and who wants to be with who, etc. **As for solos this year, you must inform us at auditions if you are interested in doing solos. Solos will be determined at audition based on your performance. There will be a separate category for judging to determine solos. Seniors are allowed solos without further audition. You must make an average score of 90 points (based on all judges) to be allowed to do a solo. Remember there are many additional costs with solos/duo/trios.** *This season we may be doing small group numbers in addition to our possible large group regular teams. Placement on these groups will be made by Dance Works instructors and Mrs. Brenda only. This is not through placement by parent and friendship requests.

*** HIGH-SCORE SCHOLARSHIPS:**

****The highest scoring dancer in each of the competition groups will receive FREE TUITION FOR THE 2009-2010 SEASON!***

The second highest-score winner for the Diamonds will be our 2009-2010 Tremaine Studio Dancer of the Year. Free tuition to one Tremaine Convention, a Tremaine T-shirt, a Tremaine dance bag, and a certificate from the convention as Studio Dancer of the Year.

Emeralds, Rubies and Sapphires second-high score recipient will receive free tuition to one convention that we attend this year.

***Stipulations to the scholarship:** Scholarships are only good for the individual dancer at the competition tuition rate of \$125 a month for the basic 10 month season. Recipient must pay the difference if taking additional classes other than the required competition classes. This does not include siblings or the family rate. The regular season for non-competition members is 9 months. If siblings are involved in the family rate, normal tuition rates apply for that additional student. The scholarship is only good as long as the student is actively participating in the competition teams and upholding their obligations as stated in the contracts. Please understand, much more will be expected of these individuals. The scholarship does not include any other fees besides competition tuition. All costume, competition, convention fees, etc. are still the responsibility of the dancer. If a dancer auditions in two groups and receives a scholarship for one and makes the other as well, they will only receive the scholarship if they choose membership in the group in which they won the scholarship. Otherwise, the scholarship will go to the next highest score.

Thanks again for your interest in the Dance Works Competition Company. Good luck to everyone. If competition does not work out for your child, remember that there are other classes to enjoy, and you may always try again next year. I am looking forward to seeing your child at auditions with big smiles and a positive attitude.

***Sincerely,
Brenda Brunelle***