



Thrive: The Essence of Dance LLC
401 Monroe Turnpike/ 292 Elm ST
Monroe CT, 06468

Persephonie@thrivedancect.com / office@thrivedancect.com
(203)-731-4290

Company Handbook 2020-2021

Persephonie's dancers have been successful in the competitive arena since she first began choreographing in 2011. Since then, her pieces have received numerous choreography and high point awards. Thrive's talented company members have been recipients of various first place awards including overall highest score of the competition, scholarships, and invitations to nationals from regional and local competitions including a perfect score for one of their routines in 2019. In their second year, Thrive was awarded the ADCC Studio of Excellence Award by Turn It Up Dance Challenge. Thrive's company members have continued to exemplify excellence in their art and were awarded this prestigious title again in 2018.

Intensive Company

Thrive's intensive dance company consists of well-rounded and serious dancers who make dance their priority. Intensive level dancers may be placed in a recreational level piece at Persephonie's discretion.

Requirements include:

- 1.) 4.25 hours of ballet, one stretch/leaps class, and any genre in which you compete.
- 2.) Commitment to 3 mandatory local dance competitions and 2 conventions OR nationals
- 3.) Commitment to a minimum of 2 summer ballet classes, 1 stretch class, and 1 class of choice, OR the equivalent.
- 4.) Participation in at least 3 master classes offered throughout the year.

Recreational Company

We realize that some dancers want to participate in dance competitions just for fun. The recreational dance company allows dancers to compete at a casual and low-demand level.

Requirements include:

- 1.) Two ballet classes and any genre in which you compete.
- 2.) Commitment to 3 mandatory dance local competitions and 2 master classes offered throughout the year.
- 3.) One ballet class and one class of choice in our summer program or the equivalent.

Petite 6-8 Company

Our competition dancers under the age of 8 get an early advantage to the performance experience and technical excellence acquired from participating in our company, with reasonable expectations for their age. Requirements include:

- 1.) 2 ballet classes and one stretch/leaps class (more are encouraged).
- 2.) Commitment to 3 mandatory local dance competitions (convention encouraged).
- 3.) One ballet class and stretch/leaps in our summer program or the equivalent.



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Mini 3-6 Company

The mini company is for our youngest stars in training that are looking to prep for a competitive dance experience. Members of this team range from ages 3-6 years old and do not need any experience! They get to experience all fun that the competition world has to offer while also being introduced to dedication and hard work at a young age. The time and financial commitment to join the mini team is kept to a minimum. Requirements include:

- 1.) One ballet class (more are encouraged).
- 2.) Commitment to 3 local dance competitions (within an hour or less driving distance).
- 3.) No summer requirements but one creative movement or ballet class is recommended.

Choreography Rates (Persephonie's)

Solo Choreography: \$550
Duo/Trio Choreography and Rehearsals: \$250 per person
Group Choreography: \$150 per person

**Prices include choreography ONLY. Any extra privates or rehearsals beyond the standard choreography package will be priced at \$60 per hour.*

**Pieces choreographed by guest teachers will vary in price depending on their rate. Their rates DO NOT include private lessons after choreography is finished. Extra privates for outside choreographers are \$75 per hour.*

Choreography Policy

A 50% non-refundable deposit will be required on the first day of choreography for each routine. The remaining balance must be paid by the time the dance is finished. Accounts with unpaid deposits by the first day of choreography or balances after choreography is complete will incur an additional \$25 fee. Guest choreographers require payment in full at time of choreography.

Costumes

There is \$95 charge for MOST catalog costumes, due by September 15th. Any extra accessories that are not included with the costume will cost extra (gloves, hats, arm bands, skirts, etc.). Custom-made solo/duo/trio/group costumes and separates will vary in price, please inquire for details.

Competition Entry Fees

Entry fees vary for different competitions, but on average they charge about \$95 for solos, \$55 for duo/trios, and \$45 for group entries. All competition entry fees will be posted on your DSP account and are due by **December 1st**. Any payments after this date will not qualify for early bird discounts and will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Competition Fees will not be added in monthly payment plans. **All mandatory competition fees must be paid in full prior to registering for any optional competition.** ***Please note: Competitions do not



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offer cash refunds in the case of an emergency, but they do offer credits that can be used for the following year***

Convention Entry Fees

Our intensive company will participate in two conventions per year (or one convention and nationals). Conventions expose the kids to well-known dance educators in the industry and provide an extra competitive edge due to the level of talent at conventions. Along with the competition entry fees, there is an additional convention fee that on average costs \$300 give or take. **ALL CLASSES, CEREMONIES, and EVENTS ARE MANDATORY FOR THE DURATION OF THE WEEKEND.**

Fundraisers

At the discretion of the director, company members have the option of participating in fundraising events in an effort to reduce the costs associated with competing at a high-caliber level (i.e. entry fees, outside choreographer fees, etc.). Funds generated from these sales will be proportionally allocated to each participating member.

Placements:

Each instructor at Thrive wants your dancer (s) in the group(s) where we believe they will achieve the most success. We want to place them in the classes and dances where they will learn and grow the most. Placements are determined by a number of factors including the pre-audition form that was filled out. We always have the dancer's best interest in mind, so please trust us with placements. While I will be happy to discuss placements with you, please note that placements are final.

Mid-Season Dropping

All company members will be required to sign the bottom of this handbook (**contract becomes binding immediately**), agreeing to complete the entire competitive dance season. A student dropping out mid-season is detrimental to the team, as it may change each dance's category, division, and level, and each dance would need to be re-choreographed. If a student chooses to leave the team, you are still responsible for all fees. **Not applicable to mini company**

Competition Fee Security Deposit: All company dancers are required a \$300 deposit by the first day of summer classes. The dancer will not be registered for any competitions and choreography will not be started until deposit is received. This deposit (\$150 remaining after annual company fee) will be put towards the last mandatory competition (or more if applicable). If a dancer decides to drop company mid-season the \$300 deposit will be forfeited AND, the dancer will still be responsible for all outstanding choreography, lessons, costumes, or other amounts owed. **Not applicable to mini company**

Company Fee

Each team member is responsible for an annual company fee of \$150 to cover incidental expenses such as administrative costs of the team and group rehearsals after choreography is complete. **This fee is included in the company security deposit.**



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Reblocking Fee: A reblocking fee will apply to any dances that are reused from recital or previous years. This fee covers extra time, rehearsals to alter formations, and new/changed choreography. If a dancer was previously in the piece, the fee is \$30. For new additions to the piece, the fee is \$90. This is due by the first rehearsal.

Performing: Competition pieces will be featured in the company showcase which will be held in early January before the first competition. With the exception of production and graduating seniors, they will not perform in the recital unless a 1st place overall or title award is earned.

Optional Competitions: You may choose to enter solos, duos, and trios, at any extra competition of your choosing. When committing to optionals, you are also committing to the possibility of performing group pieces at that optional as well. The group's interest will always come before individual solo interests.

Critiques & Scores:

Critiques and scores for solos, duo, and trios will only be sent to the individuals who email Taylor (office@thrivedancect.com) . These are usually available by the Thursday following the conclusion of the event. Group critiques will not be emailed and will be reviewed in the group's next rehearsal. We ask that the dancers please bring a notebook and a pen to write down the critiques received if parents are interested in listening to them as well.

Outside Choreographers

Any outside choreographers must be arranged & contracted through Thrive and are subject to a studio rental fee. If you are interested in contracting an outside choreographer, please let us know and we will arrange this. Please do not contact any choreographer personally.

Financial Transactions

All financial transactions must go through Thrive. All studio rentals and private lessons are subject to a studio rental fee that will be arranged via employee/employer communication.

Company Captains

Team captains will be elected for the following tasks:

- A.) Communicating necessary info from Taylor and I (that will also be communicated with the parents).
- B.) Leading a full warm up with dancers (teens, jrs, petites) who are dressed and ready an hour before performance time (on time arrival is crucial for this).
- C.) Leading full run through of dances prior to performing.
- D.) Ensuring dancers are backstage ready to go FIVE numbers before performing.
- E.) Arranging team bonding activities.

In order to apply for a team captain position, please have dancers submit a paragraph about what would make them a good candidate, and how they plan on organizing their position for it to run efficiently. Two or three dancers will be chosen and they will be responsible for allocating the work among themselves and across all the ages and levels of competition. Please note that whoever applies for this position must be willing to come



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in early, stay later, or on days they may not be there in order to fulfill the commitment. Applications are due September 1st.

Global Emergencies

In the event of a global pandemic or emergency, dancers are expected to honor their competition requirements via Zoom and online sources provided.

Company Policies

- ❖ You must always demonstrate positivity, respect, and support to each other, outside dance studios, judges, and other dancers when participating in any dance competition, convention, event, or when wearing Thrive apparel.
- ❖ All company members must arrive 2 hours before competition performance time (or an hour before if dressed and ready to dance) and stay through the applicable awards ceremony. Students arriving late for their call time, or those who leave early or miss awards ceremonies without approval, will be penalized at Persephonie's discretion
- ❖ Persephonie may dismiss any student, at any time, throughout the competitive season, and is not required to provide a reason for dismissal. Though we never expect to dismiss a student, the team must be the priority, and occasionally, for the betterment of the team, a student dismissal is necessary. In the instance of dismissal, all fees are forfeited, and no refunds will be provided.
- ❖ All company members are required to participate in the studio production.
- ❖ Intensive company members must participate in at least one large group to be eligible to participate in a small group, duet, trio, and/or solo. Recreational company members must participate in at least one group (if available), to be eligible for a solo, duet, or trio. There is no I in team :)
- ❖ Always clap for EVERY dance that is announced at awards whether it is from Thrive or from any other outside studio.
- ❖ Always thank the judge or announcer with a smile when they present your award- whether you like the award or not!!
- ❖ Consistent attendance in all classes is extremely important. You must make up your classes if you have more than 6 absences.
- ❖ Attendance is mandatory in rehearsals the weekend before competition as well as classes/rehearsals the week of competition. Please do not knowingly plan important events the weekend before a competition.
- ❖ Anyone who has not made up classes by the first competition, or has an unexcused absence the week of a competition, will not be allowed to perform. This is important for a successful competition weekend as well as practice in teamwork and commitment.
- ❖ Everyone is expected to make it to all rehearsals and classes. If you are sick or injured, you must still attend and watch unless you are contagious.
- ❖ Parents and dancers are **not** allowed to change/modify costumes or accessories on their own. This is disrespectful to the choreographer's vision. Persephonie has final say on all costumes and accessories.
- ❖ Most importantly- have fun and be yourself!!!



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Parental Decorum and Standards:

- ❖ Competitive dance requires a positive atmosphere from all involved. Cooperation between parents is expected at all times. Please show respect for our teaching staff, our dance parents, and all of our dancers, as well as, our competitors.
- ❖ A positive and enthusiastic outlook extends to your child. Negative comments and feedback can be harmful to the progress and education of our students, and will not be tolerated.
- ❖ For the benefit of their children, parents must always maintain a positive attitude during classes and competitions.
- ❖ Parents are NEVER to directly contact a competition, teacher, or choreographer. All communication will happen directly with Persephonie & Taylor
- ❖ If you can't say anything nice, please do not say anything at all. We do not build up our own children by tearing down someone else's child.
- ❖ Congratulate every dancer as they come off stage - those in our studio, and our competitors. It takes a lot of courage to perform, and the students know whether they performed their best or not. A smile, and simply saying, "Good job!," can make a huge difference in someone's day.
- ❖ If you have an issue with the studio, a teacher, competition, student, dance, costume, etc., please speak directly with Persephonie to determine the appropriate way to handle the situation. Do not let it escalate, or cause a scene, by not properly addressing the issue.
- ❖ It is not acceptable to talk about others in or out of the studio. We have eyes and ears everywhere, and this type of behavior always finds its way back to us.
- ❖ No bullying will be tolerated. Instances of bullying, if reported or witnessed, will have consequences.
- ❖ Please do not offer any dance or performance corrections for your child or anyone else's child. Suggestions or comments should be given to Persephonie or Taylor, not the dancers.
- ❖ Clean up after yourselves, and teach your dancers the same. The worst way to show respect is by leaving piles of trash for someone else to pick up. Disorganization is also an easy way to ruin costumes, and lose or damage shoes, hair pieces, or jewelry.
- ❖ Social networking (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter, etc.) is a personal choice, but is not an appropriate place to spew negativity. It is NEVER acceptable to post negative comments about the studio, students, competitors, or competitions, on any social network.
- ❖ Photography and videography is strictly prohibited inside the auditorium at all conventions and competitions. Occasionally, it is allowed during award ceremonies, and is almost always allowed outside of the auditorium.
- ❖ Please check with Persephonie or Taylor before each event if you have questions. If a parent is caught taking photos or videos while a child is on stage, regardless of whether the child is one of our students or not, the entire studio could be disqualified from the competition, and all titles, trophies, awards, and entry fees would be forfeited to the competition.



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- ❖ All choreography is the intellectual property of Thrive. We do not want our choreography stolen. In order to ensure this does not happen, choreography videos should not be shared or posted on social media. We will let you know when it is appropriate to share photos and videos.
- ❖ No photos or videos of costumes, music selection, or choreography, should be shared prior to the first competition of the season, in order to keep the element of surprise.
- ❖ All parents must attend ALL mandatory meetings and dress rehearsals. If you are unable to attend, need to leave early, or arrive late, please send an individual to represent your family. There are no exceptions to this rule, as dates are provided well in advance.
- ❖ Be a **TEAM** player - this means supporting all children on the team, not just the ones you like.

Company Handbook 2020-2021 Agreement

I acknowledge that I have read and understood all information in both the General Thrive Student Handbook as well as the Company Handbook and I agree to all terms and conditions.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name/Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 1 Printed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 1 Signed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 2 Printed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 2 Signed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 3 Printed Name/Date: _____

Dancer 3 Signed Name/Date: _____