

# ***MLSD Competition Team Overview 2013-2014***

## **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:** For ages 5-12. Divided into a Mini Team (5-8) and a Junior Team (8-12). 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:** For ages 9-18. Divided into a Junior Team (9-11), a Teen Team (12-14) and a Senior Team (15-18). 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 1 national competition (MANDATORY)

\*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.

**New! Protégé/Elite Competition Team:** For ages 9-14 (Protégé) and 14-18 (Elite). 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. Will perform in the advanced team regular classes for jazz, tap, lyrical, contemporary and/or acrobats as well as a production routine. Will also perform protégé/elite small group jazz and contemporary dances and solos, duets, and trios. Conventions and workshops on weekends for extra training throughout the year (Must attend at least 1 convention each year). Will attend 3-4 regional competitions and 1-2 national competitions (MANDATORY)

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

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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.
- 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 sit out and take notes, which will be turned in to the instructor at the end of class.
- 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**

\*We will NOT be attending all the regional events listed below. These are just the competitions I'm considering. If you are aware of any major conflicts (ie: wedding, prom, 1<sup>st</sup> communion, graduation, etc) please 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 5-8	Bootcamp (MANDATORY)
August 19	Regular Classes Begin
September	Headshots & Team Pictures
September	Choreography on a weekend
October	Choreography on a weekend
October	Big/Lil Reveal

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

December 7-8	The Pulse & Camp Pulse Convention (Chicago)
January 17-19	Jump Convention (Chicago)
February 22-24	NRG Convention (Chicago)
March 29-30	Tremaine Convention (Chicago/Schaumburg)

### **Possible Regionals (MANDATORY)**

March 7-9	Masquerade (Chicago/Aurora)
March 13-16	Masquerade (St. Louis)
March 14-16	Starpower (St. Louis)
April 4-6	Hall of Fame (Chicago/Schaumburg)
April 4-6	Rainbow (St. Louis)
April 11-13	Starquest Regionals (St. Louis)
April 11-13	Rainbow (Chicago)
April 25-27	Starpower (Chicago)
May 2-4	Showstopper (St. Louis)

### **Recital (MANDATORY)**

June 6-8	MLSD Recital (Five Points)
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### **Possible Nationals (MANDATORY)**

June 22-26	Hall of Fame Nationals (Sandusky, OH)
June 28-July 2	NRG Nationals (Hershey, PA)
July 6-11	Starquest Nationals (Toledo, OH)
July 6-10	Starpower Nationals (Branson, MO)