

Gotta Dance

DANCE TEAM HANDBOOK

2025/2026

Congratulations! Welcome to one of our *Gotta Dance* Dance Teams! Being a team player is an important responsibility. We have prepared this special handbook to help you better understand your commitment.

Please read the following material carefully. *Gotta Dance* dancers and their parents/guardians will be held responsible for all information covered in this handbook. Both student and parent/guardian must sign and return a 2025/2026 *Gotta Dance* contract upon acceptance for the 2025/2026 Dance Team.

Gotta Dance classes are designed to develop confidence, self-expression, creativity, discipline, motivation, and teamwork in a fun, healthy, nurturing environment. We are dedicated to providing each student with opportunities to accomplish personal growth and individual goals. Our faculty strives to share their passion, education and expertise in the Performing Arts.

Gotta Dance emphasizes the development of well-rounded dancers. We offer serious dance students' opportunities with our Dance Teams providing dancers with a unique opportunity to perform at different venues throughout the year. Our Dance Teams were developed as a performance team as an alternative to traditional competitive teams.

Being a Dance Team member is for hard working students who love to dance and perform. They will be challenged with dance routines from all disciplines such as Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Lyrical, Musical Theatre and more. They will be a part of our performing groups dancing at various locations throughout the year, representing *Gotta Dance* and sharing their talent and love for dance with the community. Some performances *may* include parades, nursing homes, schools, demonstrations, outdoor summer shows, fundraiser performances, sports arenas, amusement parks, and more. ***Each Dance Team member is expected to participate in all shows*** regardless of how small or large the performance may be. All performances are important and your spot on the Dance Team is as well. If students miss rehearsals and/or performances it is very difficult to function as a team just as it would be if you were a part of any sports team. Please note that some performances have age requirements and limited spots which may require separate auditions. A good attitude, effort and commitment to your team will also play a role in which students may be selected for these performances.

All Dance Team members are required to enroll in at least one Ballet class per week in addition to their weekly scheduled Dance Team rehearsal.

Though our Dance Teams are Jazz and Lyrical based, students will not learn Jazz and Lyrical technique during Dance Team class. Dance Team class is strictly designed for choreographing and blocking performance routines. ***Enrollment in Jazz and/or Lyrical class is highly recommended***, but not required. If you miss more than your allowed 3 Ballet classes for the season you are expected to make it up by attending another class that week if you are able. Ballet is your most important class for your dance training. Please email the Office Manager, if you wish to coordinate a make-up class.

DANCE TEAM EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Attendance

Attendance is imperative for a learning continuum and affects the individual dancer as well as the entire team. Dance Team members should be prepared to make this commitment to attend all classes, rehearsals, and performances with the exception of illness, family emergencies, or observation of a religious holiday.

Some shows will be scheduled during school vacation weeks. *Gotta Dance* realizes that family trips are often planned during this time. If a trip is planned during a show date and a student cannot participate a **30-day notice is required**. If you cannot participate for any reason a **30-day notice is required** with the exception of emergency situations. ***If teams are able to perform in a show in February 2025, this performance date is MANDATORY for all competition members as it serves as our dress rehearsal before the competition season begins.**

Repeating class material due to absences keeps everyone from progressing at the rate at which they could and will result in less perfected and polished performance pieces. Dancers are also expected to come to class each week prepared to work hard and dance with high energy and enthusiasm. They should review their dance routines at home to retain the material given from the previous week.

Time Management

Gotta Dance realizes that there are many life events and commitments outside of dance. No one can commit to everything 100%. Please do not “spread yourself too thin” by committing to too many activities at once. Take the time to decide what you can comfortably work into your schedule. It may be tough to choose, but there will always be tough decisions to make throughout life. By being aware of this and making choices that are right for you will put you in a position to commit and excel in what you choose to do.

Dance Team Commitment

Gotta Dance Teams are expected to commit to their team for the entire dance season from their starting month in the fall through June. These performances usually require just one rehearsal the day before the performance. Dance Team currently takes place at a scheduled time each week. As performance dates arrive it may be expected for Dance Team members to attend extra rehearsals weeks prior to these performances. There may be some Saturday afternoon rehearsals and joining rehearsals with the other Dance Teams for certain teams participating in larger routines for certain shows. These dates will be announced well in advance. All Dancers **must** be available for mandatory rehearsals prior to a performance. (Usually, any rehearsal will take place one week prior to a performance). Throughout the year Dance Team members **may** also be expected to hold a fundraiser to benefit our teams in participating in upcoming events or activities, perform at various locations (some small events and some larger events), work as a team to support and help each other, take pride in their team and be a positive representation of their studio. Being a Dance Team member is a big commitment that is also an inspiring and invaluable experience that will allow self-growth as a dancer and as an individual. Please be sure to wear *Gotta Dance* jackets or gear to any *Gotta Dance* event. If you do not own any merchandise, an order will be arranged, or *Gotta Dance* team colors (black, teal, white) should be worn. (*Dance Team warm up suits may not be available until 2026).

“NO TOLERANCE” Policy for Inappropriate Behavior

Dancers are expected to be respectful, kind, and tolerant with teammates, instructors, and other studios. Remember that we all dance because we love it. Students should never have the attitude that they are better than someone else. There is a “NO TOLERANCE” Policy for disrespect, unkind, disruptive, or intolerant behavior. There is also a “NO TOLERANCE” policy for any drug or alcohol use whatsoever either on or off the premises. *Gotta Dance* will not tolerate the use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol or drugs. Any student who breaks any of these rules will be suspended from their *Gotta Dance* Dance Team.

Financial Obligations

Please follow class tuition prices for Dance Team classes (ex. If your dance team time slot is one hour long, your dance team fee is the same cost as a one hour class etc.). If you are enrolled in unlimited classes, your dance team tuition is covered under your unlimited tuition price. Other financial obligations may include small fees for performances. Students may also be expected to sell tickets to some larger events. Dance Team costumes will be purchased for our annual June show which will require a \$50.00 deposit in November with the balance due in February (along with their other classes).

Everyone should already own a black leotard, black jazz pants, black tap shorts, *Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible tights*, black jazz shoes *and* tan jazz shoes, and ballet slippers as stated in our fall packet under studio dress codes. Many of these items will be used throughout the year for our performances and will cut the cost of purchasing extra items throughout the year.

Proper Dance Class Attire and Personal Hygiene

Dance attire for Dance Team classes must follow the guidelines for either Ballet or Jazz Class Dress Codes. If your Dance Team rehearsal is back to back with ballet please wear your ballet attire. Be sure to follow dress codes as you are a Dance Team member showing good discipline, pride, and setting a good example for others. Hair should always be pulled back off shoulders and away from your face. No jewelry, bandanas, hats, baggy clothing, street shoes, shirts with print, or gum chewing allowed. Personal hygiene is very important. Dancers should wear clean dancewear and take appropriate measures to keep themselves clean as well.

Gotta Dance DANCE TEAM CONTRACT

2025/2026

Student Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **D.O.B.** _____

Parents Name: _____

Address: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Student's Email: (if want to receive team emails) _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Medical Conditions or Allergies: _____

Dancer's Grade: _____ **Dancer's School:** _____

Dancer has pierced ears: (please circle one) **YES** **NO**

Dancer's experience in years:

Ballet ____ **Jazz** ____ **Hip Hop** ____ **Tap** ____ **Lyrical** ____ **Other** ____

Acknowledgement and Permission:

I have read the ***Gotta Dance*** Dance Team Handbook. My child understands the contents discussed in this handbook and wishes to participate on a 2025/2026 Dance Team.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____