



Dear Prospective Dancin' Angel,

St. Ambrose is pleased to continue the dance team for girls and boys in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade as well as a Mini and Petite dance team for girls and boys in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade. Enclosed in this packet, you will find the information needed to audition for St Ambrose School's Dance Team. These forms must be filled out prior to auditioning. Please read through the packet carefully and be aware of all the expectations and policies before trying out. It is important that all members and parents know what type of commitment the team must have to be a part of it.

Dance Team Mission Statement

The purpose of the Dance Team is to showcase dance talent within the school and to promote school spirit. Girls and boys will perform at various school events. Depending on the schedule, there might be some performances around the community as well. Members are expected to promote a positive and safe environment where leadership and work ethics are enhanced by every dance member. This is a great opportunity for girls and boys who love to dance.

Expectations of the Dancer

All dance members are representing the school, the church, as well as the team; therefore, the dancers are expected to present themselves appropriately at all times. Being a part of this dance team will take time, effort and commitment and most importantly hard work. Each member will be expected to do their best to promote school spirit and represent themselves in a professional manner. Each member is required to:

1. Maintain academic eligibility
2. Practice an average once a week unless it's a Performance week then maybe more. Exact calendars for practices and performances will be posted regularly.
3. Perform at all required events because re-staging is very difficult.
4. Perform at and/or support other sporting events, Pep Rallies, Community Service appearances, etc.
5. Come dressed appropriately and with a positive attitude
6. Accept financial obligation required of all members in order to participate. Financial obligations include: Dance Team Fee of \$55, due once the Dancer makes the team. Make checks payable to Beyond Dance, plus other monies for *warm-up jacket, *performance top, dance shoes, as well as choreography costs (\$25) throughout the year that are needed for the team. Failure to adhere to any of these guidelines may result in dismissal from the team. **If you are already on the team, you will not need to purchase new outfit for uniform.* For exact costs of uniform, please see uniform form.

Dance Experience is highly encouraged

Dance experience is highly encouraged and is very important to the success of the team. The dance team is a technically trained team in which all dancers should have had previous ballet and jazz training. It is strongly

recommended for all candidates auditioning to have had some formal training as this will help them gain a position on the team.

Technical Elements required for tryouts and a place on the team

Each dancer auditioning will be required to demonstrate and be able to perform various styles of jazz, hip hop and even some jazz/modern combinations.

- Basic knowledge of musicality and performance skills
- Leaps
- Pirouettes
- Pique Combinations
- Basic rhythm and musicality moves
- A short tryout combination to a jazz song taught at the clinic

Attendance:

St. Ambrose expects students to be in school at least a half a day on the day of a performance or practice. This rule applies to clinics and tryouts as well. If you cannot attend the clinic you may not tryout, unless you have cleared it through the coaching staff.

Attendance at practices is MANDATORY and crucial to the success of the team. Unexcused absences will result in sitting out of a performance. I realize that the dancers will be involved in other activities but due to our limited amount of practices where choreography will be learned, it is imperative that students attend practices and if they miss it is up to them to get caught up on their own (or get together with another team member). The main practice day will be Thursdays at Elite Dance Academy from 3:00-4:15 at Elite Dance Academy located at 1241 Industrial Pkwy. N.

Calendars:

There will be monthly calendars so parents will know what months will have practices and what performances are coming up. First performance will be Johnny Appleseed in September and other performances to follow in October, November and December. The dance team will not meet in January, February, March and beginning of April and will resume in late April to prepare for the St. Ambrose fest and June performances as well as school assemblies and functions. This schedule is subject to change based on opportunities that might come up during the year. There will be possible school appearances and shows based on when the dancers are ready and what is offered to the team. Please use this as a tentative schedule so you can plan accordingly.

Transportation:

You must arrange for your own transportation to and from the clinics, practices and tryouts. You must be out of the building no later than 10 minutes after the end time due to their not being a chaperone on site.

Injuries:

If at any time you feel injured or ill, report it to Mrs. Grabowski immediately. Absences and all correspondence should be reported to stambrosedanceteam@gmail.com. Please do not call the school or the coach's cell phone.

Tryout Dates and Informational Meeting Dates:

See St. Ambrose facebook, instagram and school emails for yearly tryout dates and specific information.

Attire for the audition and practices

Girls: black capris or black shorts and your dance team spirit shirt or your red gym shirt. Hair should be pulled back in a ponytail. Shoes can be tan or black jazz shoes (if you don't have jazz shoes, you do NOT need to

purchase them for the tryout; just wear tennis shoes). Boys: black sweats or black shorts, gym shirt and tennis shoes. Please bring a water bottle. No jewelry or gum chewing is permitted. Remember, you are representing the school so come with a positive attitude and ready to dance.

How do I find out if I made the Team

The new team members will be notified through e-mail approximately a week after the clinics are done. Please look for a welcome e-mail with times of the first practice and times to be sized for your uniform.

All communication will be done through email. Please get in the habit of checking emails for any changes, updates and important information, especially on a practice day as changes do happen. Using email seems to be the most prompt way for getting out information. There will also be a team face book where you will see pictures and an additional place where information will be posted.

Please make sure you bring all forms completed/signed to tryouts. You will NOT be permitted to audition without signatures on the forms.