

Amazin Grace Dance Studio Competition Team



2018-2019 Handbook

**Amazin Grace Dance Studio
6103 Robinson Road Lockport NY, 14094
amazingracedance.com
(716)625-8504**

About the Amazin Grace Dance Studio Competition Teams...

The Amazin Grace Competition Team is proud to be celebrating their 8th season of competition! In these eight years, the team has gone through periods of change and growth and each year we get a little stronger! We strive to create an atmosphere that is challenging while being therapeutic, disciplined while being fun and competitive while being inspiring. Dancers will learn multiple styles of dance and varied forms of technique as well as what it takes to be part of a *team*. We value respect and team bonding in the same way that we value learning the most advanced dance technique. Competition Team dancers must be dedicated and attentive as this is a large commitment and responsibility. In this handbook you will find important details about our competition teams, including expectations, policies, pricing, class schedules, attire and more! If you have any questions regarding the competition teams please contact us! We would love to have YOU as a part of our team!

Success of 2017-2018 Competition Teams

Sparkle: Team Sparkle received High Gold for all of their competed routines at both Regional competitions we attended in 2018. At *Groove Dance Competition*, they placed 8th (Lyrical,) 3rd (Jazz,) and 2nd (Tap) overall in the age division. They received a Judges Award, “Crisp and Clean,” for their precise footwork in their Tap routine. At the *Turn it Up Dance Challenge* Sparkle placed 4th (Jazz,) 3rd (Lyrical,) and 1st (Tap) in their age division. At Nationals, Sparkle received a Platinum award for their Tap routine and tied for 1st place in their age division. We are so proud of our 2017-18 Sparkle Team!!!

Shine: At *Groove Dance Competition*, Team Shine received a Gold award for their Jazz routine and High Gold in Tap, Lyrical and Modern routines. They placed 8th overall for their Lyrical and 5th overall in Tap. At the *Turn it Up Dance Challenge*, they received High Gold for their Jazz and Lyrical routines. They were also honored with Judges Award, “Linear Ladies” for the sharp lines and original concepts in their Jazz dance. Shine received Platinum in both their Tap and Modern routines. Shine’s Tap dance was the highest scoring dance in the Tap category for the entire weekend-long competition, automatically entering them as a Industry Dance Awards nominee. They placed 3rd overall in their age division with this routine as well. Team Shine received High Gold in both their Tap and Modern routines at *Turn it Up Nationals* as well! Great job Team Shine! We are so proud of you and how much growth you made last year!!

2018-2019 Coaching Staff

Mrs. Kraft: Artistic Director and Owner of AGDS
Miss Kayla: Head Coach overseeing all competition teams
Miss Lindsay: Shine Lyrical, Acro and Jazz Coach
Miss Emily: Sparkle and Shine Tap Coach
Miss Jessica: Mini Stars Tap and Ballet Coach
Miss Kymber: Mini Stars Jazz and Lyrical Coach

Miss Jourdan, Miss Kourtney, Miss Melanie: Technique Teachers

Breakdown of Teams

See the chart below to see how many dances each team learns, competes and performs as well as how many competitions they will possibly attend.

***NEW* Mini Gems:** Our youngest dancers will compete at a Novice level. New to the competitive dance world, these dancers will learn Tap, Jazz and Ballet technique. These dancers will perform one routine (of their Coach's choosing) at one Competition.

***NEW* Mini Stars:** This team is will also compete at a Novice level. While most dancers on this team will have years of dance under their belt, this is most likely their first year competing. They will learn Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Lyrical technique and compete two routines. They will attend one to two competitions depending on how the year goes.

Sparkle: Team Sparkle is our Intermediate Team. Most dancers on Sparkle have competition experience, but we welcome new and experienced dancers to audition!! These dancers learn Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Modern and Acro technique. They compete three routines and attend two to three competitions a season.

Shine: Team Shine is our most advanced and experienced group of dancers. A minimum of two years of competition experience is required to audition for this team. They learn Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Modern and Acro technique and will compete four routines. They will also attend two to three competitions a season.

Competitive Specialty Dances:

Starting this year, coaching staff will select dancers to compete solos, duets, trios, or small group numbers. In order to be considered for these routines, dancers must be both technically strong, as well as mature as these divisions are some of the most competitive. Multiple years of experience in the performed style is required. Invitations for Specialty Routines will be sent out after auditions. Specialty Routines have separate rehearsal times that will be worked out with the choreographer. Please note that tuition for these rehearsals is not included in the tuition pricing for competition and that there will be a costume fee. All pricing information will be sent home with the invitation letter.

Breakdown of Teams Chart

Team	# of Routines learned*	# of Routines Competed	# of Costumes to be purchased	# of Competitions attending
Mini Gems (ages 5-8)	3: Tap, Jazz, Ballet	1 (style TBD by Coach)	3	1
Mini Stars (ages 9-11)	3-4: Tap, Jazz, Ballet**	2 (style TBD by Coaches)	3-4	1-2
Sparkle (ages 12-14, int.)	4: Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Combined Ballet w/Shine.	3: Tap, Jazz, Lyrical	4	2-3
Shine (ages 12+, adv.)	5: Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary/Modern, Combined Ballet w/Sparkle	4: Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary/Modern	5	2-3

*Non-competed routines perform in our end of year recital!

** The 4th routine for Mini Stars (Lyrical) will depend on the progress of the team. Mid year, the coaches will decide if they will learn this fourth routine.

Team Captains: (Sparkle and Shine Only)

Each year the coaching staff selects Captains for the Competition Teams based on their dedication, attendance, maturity, respect, experience and leadership abilities. Not always will we select the same number of Captains from year to year for each team. Captains will lead the team in warm ups, be in charge of team communication, and be the go-to for coaches when they need an extra set of hands. Being a team Captain is a great honor but an even greater responsibility. Dancers are expected to listen to and respect their team Captains just as they would their coaches and teachers.

2018 Competition Team Auditions

Audition Information:

Any new dancer who is interested in auditioning for the AGDS Competition Teams is required to attend Summer Dance Camp Session 2. In this camp, dancers will learn phrase work and combinations that will be used in their audition. This is a great way to get your feet wet, meet the coaches, and prepare yourself for auditions. While it is not required for returning Competition Team members, it is highly recommended and it will significantly impact your audition experience. Mini Gems & Mini Stars will audition Tap, Jazz and Ballet styles. Sparkle & Shine dancers will audition Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical and Modern styles. Following the technique portion of auditions, dancers will be “interviewed” where they will answer questions from the Director and coaches regarding teamwork, responsibility, respect and accountability.

Audition Tips!

- Smile! A smile shows you are having fun and that you love to dance!
- Cheer on and encourage other dancers! One of the most important parts about the competition team is working together and being a good teammates! Auditions are scary! Having someone cheering you on from the side can make the process less nerve-racking!
- Help each other! If you see a friend struggling with a movement, help them out!
- Don't be afraid to ask questions when you have them! Just make sure to raise your hand and be polite!
- Arrive early! In the dance world, if you are on time you are late!
- Perform **EVERY TIME YOU DANCE!** In an audition, every move you make is being watched and accounted for!
- Don't sit! Even when it is not your turn to dance, practice on the side and keep your body warm.
- Drink **PLENTY OF WATER!!**
- **HAVE FUN!!!!** If you are auditioning for the comp team then you must **LOVE TO DANCE...SHOW US!!!** If you are having fun, we will notice and your audition will be a breeze!

Audition Attire:

All dancers must come to auditions in clean and appropriate dancewear. Dancers are expected to wear a black leotard and black shorts with tights. Light layers may be worn for the warm up only. Proper shoes are required for each style of dance being auditioned. Hair should be in a clean and slick bun. Dancers are expected to wear their audition number for the entirety of the audition. Please make sure to bring plenty of water and light snacks to keep the dancer fueled for the whole audition. Short breaks will be given.

Other Audition Information:

- Students must participate in the entire audition to be considered for the teams. If you have conflicts with audition dates or times, please see Miss Kayla to discuss the possibility of a makeup audition.
- Auditionees are not allowed to use their cell phones or other electronics during the audition. Anyone seen using their cell phone will have points deducted from their audition score.
- Nobody will be allowed to view the auditions. This includes parents, friends, other dancers, etc.
- Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to fill out paperwork, get an audition number and begin stretching. The audition will begin promptly at the time listed.
- Sparkle & Shine auditionees will be dismissed after their interview. There will be a sign-up the day of the audition with interview times. The dancers will be allowed to use their cell phones (at this time only) or the studio phone to inform parents when they will be finished. The last dancer will be released no later than 8:30pm.
- Team Results & Team Captains will be posted no later than Wednesday August 15th at 10am. The results will be posted on the studio door as well as the Amazin Grace Facebook Page.
- **Dancers will not only be placed based on their audition and technique, but also based upon their maturity, respect, ethic and dance class etiquette. Keep in mind that we will be watching during the audition to see how the dancer handles themselves and how they interact with teachers and other dancers.**

Important Audition Dates

Summer Dance Camp Session 2:
Monday August 6-10th 5:30-7:30pm

Mini Gems & Mini Stars Audition:
Friday August 10th 5:30-7:30pm

Sparkle & Shine Choreography Blast:
Monday August 13th 3:30-4:30pm (for
those not in SDC 2 only)

Sparkle & Shine Auditions:
Monday August 13th 4:30-8:30pm

Competition Team Attire, Gear, Shoes, Etc.

*** NEW THIS YEAR: Discount Dance Dress Code Page:**

During all classes, competition **and recreational**, all competition team dancers are required to be in dress code. They must have their hair pulled back and their clothing must fit appropriately. Remember that you are representing the competition team and our studio when you are in other classes or attending workshops. We expect dancers in leotards and tights at all times and allow dancers to wear shorts, skirts, warm ups, etc. We have our very own dress code page on the Discount Dance website. This is a hand selected list of the clothing approved by the coaching staff. If there is an item you would like to wear to class that is not on the site, please have it approved by Miss Kayla before purchasing. Dancers are not required to purchase every item listed on the site, these are just listed to give you options. Any competition team leos from last year are also allowed. The link to this site will be emailed to competition team dancers after their audition.

The required dancewear includes:

- One black leotard
- One solid colored leotard (in your team color)
- One pair of black dance shorts
- Pink *convertible* ballet tights
- Tan *convertible or stirrup* tights

Team Shoes:

You can find these shoes on the Discount Dance Supply site or at Bailey's Slipper Shop. If this is your first time purchasing these types of dance shoes, we highly recommend visiting Bailey's where they can personally size you and find you the right fit! Please note that additional shoes, tights and accessories may be required for purchase. These items will be decided on once costume choices have been made by the choreographer. For returning dancers, many of the shoes are new styles this year. You may start the year in last years styles, we ask you have these new shoe styles *no later than January 1st, 2019*.

Mini Gems and Mini Stars:

Tap	Jazz	Ballet	Lyrical
Bloch "Tap Flex" tap shoes in Black.	Capezio slip on Jazz Shoes in Tan.	Any pink, canvas, split-sole ballet shoes.	*Mini Stars ONLY Capezio skin-tone "Foot Undeez"

Sparkle and Shine: (Barefoot for Acro and Modern)

Tap	Jazz	Ballet	Lyrical
Bloch "Audeo" tap shoes in Black.	Capezio slip on Jazz Shoes in Tan.	Bloch "Pro Elastic" Canvas Split-Sole Ballet Shoes in Pink	Tan half sole "Lyrical Shoes"

Team Gear:

In addition to class attire, the Competition team is required to have a Warm-Up set, which includes a jacket and pants with our studio logo and team colors. Dancers are required to wear it to competitions and events. It gives the team a unified and professional look as they are walking around venues, accepting awards and taking photos. Order forms for Team Gear will be available in October. Along with the required Warm-Ups, there will be other AGDS Comp Team gear (for dancers AND parents) available for purchase! Prices are tentative, but to give you an idea, the team paid \$120 for the Warm-Ups last year.

Team Makeup, Accessories, Hair, etc:

We offer a hair and makeup class midway through the year to teach parents and dancers the best way to do stage makeup for competitions and recital. We will notify families then of the color palette we are using as well as the specific lipstick shade and brand. At this point we will also notify families of the team's hairstyle and any additional accessories.

Attendance Policy

Being a member of the AGDS competition teams is a serious commitment and should be treated as such. We are willing to work through other important commitments such as sports, school plays, concerts, etc but it is important that dancers are at every class and rehearsal and that they are attentive and respectful during class. *There is going to be a strictly enforced no unexcused absence policy for competition classes this year.* Not attending class without notice is unacceptable. The first offense of an absence without notice will put the dancer on probation with a mandatory makeup class. The second offense removes the dancer from the team. Acceptable forms of notification for absences include: written notes handed in prior to the absence, emails sent to the studio email or Miss Kayla's email, or a phone call to the studio. Informing the captain of an absence is **not** an acceptable form of notification. You may, however, notify the captain if you are running late. Dancers with injury or illness that is not contagious are expected to observe class and take notes.

Extended absence due to illness or injury will require a doctor's note for our records. Dancers who will be missing an extended period of time due to sports, musicals, vacation, etc must schedule a meeting with Miss Kayla to review all absences and create a makeup schedule. *Makeup classes are highly recommended for **any** competition class absence.* Please see Miss Kayla to determine which class you should attend for a makeup.

Competitions, workshops and other performance opportunities are mandatory unless otherwise noted from the Coaching Staff.

Fundraising and Volunteer Work

Parents and comp team members are responsible for all fees in relation to costumes, gear, tuition, competitions, travel and other associated costs. In order to help alleviate these costs, the competition teams will hold a number of fundraisers throughout the year. We will discuss these fundraisers during our parent meetings early in the season. Any larger team fundraisers will require mandatory participation from all team members. Smaller fundraisers will be optional. Team members will have personal accounts in which their money will be kept for individual-based fundraisers. Team fundraisers will be split evenly among team members and then dispersed into individual accounts.

We LOVE to dance at Amazin Grace, but we love to support our community just as much! We will be participating in service projects with and without performance opportunities as the year goes on.

Other important information

- Travel: Most of our Regional competitions are fairly local, however some reach as far as the Syracuse area. Often, our families will stay in hotels to alleviate additional early morning driving, but it is not required. We encourage our competition teams to support each other, so these are often full weekend events.
- Nationals: When invited, we love to take the teams to Nationals. There is no guarantee that we will be invited or attend from year to year, but when we do this is often a 4-5 day event with decent travel involved. In 2018 our Sparkle and Shine Competition Teams competed in the Turn It Up Nationals held in Cape Cod, MA. We had a blast!!
- Traveling Dance Opportunities: In the past, our competition teams have traveled to Disney, Hershey Park, etc to perform and bond! We will not be traveling in the 2018-2019 season, but it is something to keep in mind for next year. Once a trip has been decided on and scheduled, we will begin the fundraising and planning process. *Years that we have trips planned, we may forfeit the opportunity to attend Nationals if we did not receive a bid.
- Studio Expectations: Competition dancers are expected to abide by all AGDS policies and expectations. Remember that often our recreational dancers look up to the competition teams. You are representing your team and your coaches when you are in all of your dance classes, including recreational ones. You must arrive on time and in dress code and you must be respectful to all staff members. Any incident involving a competition team dancer not abiding by studio policies in recreational classes will result in a write up and/or probation from the competition team.
- Additional Classes: Often, dancers audition who may have years of experience in a specific style of dance (example: ballet) yet have minimal experience in other styles (example: tap.) In these circumstances, dancers may be placed on a competition team, but will be required to take additional technique classes in order to catch up on skills they will need to execute their competition routines. If the coaching staff feels a dancer will need additional technique classes in a certain style, we will discuss it with the dancer and student. In this meeting we will discuss the day/time of the additional class, the cost and how long we feel the dancer will need to attend.

We are so excited that you are interested in the Competition Teams at Amazin Grace Dance Studio! To our returning dancers, thank you for your continued love, support and understanding for the past eight years. You are truly amazin'! To our new dancers, we can't wait to get started so we may share our passion and love of dance with you!!

A note from our studio Director, Mrs. Kraft:

*Try and fail, but never fail to try...
To know who you are takes time, a lot of maturity, and is directed through a heart of compassion. The heart must know that not all successes are to be celebrated if it means we destroy those around us to achieve our goals. Success when surrounded by love is a cherished gift and then, and only then, can it be released freely for celebration.*

2018-2019 Competition Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
4:30-5:30	Mini Stars Warm Up, Conditioning	Miss Jessica		
5:30-6:30	Mini Stars Tap	Miss Jessica	Mini Gems Ballet	Miss Kayla
6:30-8:00	Mini Stars Ballet	Miss Jessica		

Tuesday	Class	Teacher
4:30-6:00	Mini Gems Tap & Jazz	Miss Kayla

Competition Parent Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 8pm. The length of these meetings will vary month to month. Most will be 30 minutes long.

Wednesday	Class	Teacher
4:30-5:30	Sparkle Jazz Technique	Miss Kayla
5:30-6:30	Sparkle Tap Choreography	Miss Emily
6:30-7:30	Sparkle Acro Technique	Miss Melanie

Thursday	Class	Teacher
4:30-5:30	Shine Acro Technique	Miss Lindsay
5:30-6:30	Shine Jazz Choreography	Miss Lindsay
6:30-7:30	Shine Lyrical Choreography	Miss Lindsay
7:30-9:00	Shine Tap Choreography & Technique	Miss Emily

Friday	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
4:30-6:00	Mini Stars Jazz and Lyrical	Miss Kymber	Pre-Pointe/ Ballet Tech A (Sparkle and Shine)	Miss Jourdan	Pre-Pointe/ Ballet Tech B (Sparkle and Shine)	Miss Kayla
6:00-7:00	Mini Stars Acro	Miss Kourtney & Miss Kymber	Conditioning & Flexibility (not required but highly recommended for all comp dancers)			

Saturday	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
9-9:30am	Comp Combined Modern Tech	Miss Kayla		
9:30-11:00	Shine: Leaps and Turns	Miss Jourdan	Sparkle Tap Tech and Jazz Choreo	Miss Kayla
11:00-12:00	Shine Jazz Tech	Miss Jourdan	Sparkle Lyrical Choreo	Miss Kayla
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-1:30	Shine Modern Choreo	Miss Kayla	Sparkle Leaps and Turns	Miss Jourdan
1:30-2:00	Run dances and cool down			

Specialty Dances (technique and choreography classes) for duets, solos, etc are scheduled once the year begins.

This schedule is subject to change. Keep in mind, additional technique classes and rehearsals may be required as the year goes on.