



CPC INFORMATION PACKET 2011-2012

Red Bridge Shopping Center, 11141 Locust Street, Kansas City, MO 64131
(816) 941-2278 www.ThePulsePAC.com

The information contained in this CPC Information Packet is a condensed version of the CPC Handbook which will be reviewed and discussed in detail at the Parent/Student Meetings on August 14, 2011.

The CPC is a program designed for those students with a strong interest in dance and performance! Students attend weekly classes, perform throughout the year, and attend regional competitions and conventions. Participation is based on a year-long commitment from September through August. The group is divided by age and ability level. Students dance in group routines, and have the option of participating in other groups, duo, trios, solos, and production numbers. Auditions are held each August at the studio for teachers to see placement and technique levels. We look for students with a passion for dance, a great attitude, a strong work ethic, potential, a desire to continue learning and growing, an understanding of the importance of good attendance, and a love of performing and entertaining!

Students have a set weekly schedule of required technique classes like Jazz, Ballet, Leaps & Turns, as well as their Saturday rehearsals for their routines. Many students also take additional classes like Lyrical, Pointe, Tap, Modern, and Hip Hop. These are not required, but highly encouraged. The dancers and their families devote a significant amount of time to their team by performing, fundraising, traveling, and other fun studio events! Participation is a significant addition to any family's time and budget, and the schedule and fees should be thoughtfully reviewed. A one-year commitment is required from September through August, including summer classes, Nationals (if it is a Nationals year), and performances.

Each student is in the production number with the option of also electing to be considered for additional small and large group routines. Students also have the option of being considered for solos, duos, or trios, and this is a terrific way to grab the spotlight and grow in confidence and stage presence!

Here are several websites of dance competitions to give you an idea of schedules, rules, entries, and dance competitions in general: www.starpoweralent.com, www.spotlightevents.com, www.starquestdance.com, www.showstopperonline.com.

Competitions & Conventions

This year we are attending three required regional competitions, one Nationals competition, and one required convention. The dates of the events and the due dates for fees are listed on the CPC Calendar. Conventions have a wide variety of styles and instructors and the exposure for the students is incredibly beneficial to their growth as dancers. We pick competitions that are positive, artistic, and enjoyable for everyone involved. Rates for the competition will be dependent upon the number of entries that each dancer is participating in. Competition fees average: \$75 per solo, \$82 per duo/trio, \$28 per dancer for small/large groups and production numbers. Convention fees average \$175-225 for a 2-day convention. Other competitions will be optional throughout the year for students to take solos, duos or trios to on their own but must be approved.

Additional Rehearsals, Performances, and Events

Each year we have a set calendar of events that includes such annual performances like our Competition Kickoff Showcase, Starlight, Theatre in the Park, holiday performances, etc. Additionally, throughout the year we receive invitations to perform at various functions and events. We like to accept as many as possible that fit within our artistic philosophy and that will be positive experiences for the students. All competition students are required to participate in these performances, and the rehearsals called to prepare for them. Extra rehearsals will be added throughout the year to prep for upcoming performances. We do our best to give as much notice as possible but sometimes they are presented without much notice and will sometimes fall on weekends. There may be tickets or \$10 performance fees involved with these performances. Performance fees in general go to help cover costs associated with mounting these performances: extra rehearsals with the staff, the planning and administration of the event, the onsite facilitation and supervision at the actual event, etc. As a business we are not in a position to be able to provide these services for free and we charge these fees to help cover the costs that we incur to provide these opportunities for our students.

Recital

Our recitals are an original production with a storyline as opposed to a showcase of various dances. In order to do this type of show we cast various leads and featured roles. Roles in the show are chosen by the staff of The Pulse. The decisions are based on many factors and are not up for debate or discussion. Recital costumes are in addition to competition costumes – Participation for CPC students in their ballet and jazz classes is required but other (Tap, Hip Hop, etc.) are optional. Your dancer's role in the show will dictate costuming and will require an additional costume, and these are done on a rental basis and are returned to The Pulse after recital. Recital costume deposits are the same as they are for the recreational students and are noted on the recreational calendar.



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Dress Code

Students must be in the proper attire and shoes or they will not be allowed to take class – No exceptions. This goes hand in hand with developing responsibility and a strong work ethic. An attire breakdown is available on our website at all times. Students need to be aware of their schedule for the night and prepare their dance bag with ALL of their dance shoes, extra pair of tights, leotards, supplies for hair like bobby pins and hair spray, etc. For the Rehearsal periods, students must wear a black leotard and black trunks or black jazz pants, black or tan tights only – no additional clothing is allowed.

Jackets & Apparel

Each student is required to purchase a CPC jacket. The jacket also has a matching pair of pants (not required). The jacket will be worn to any event that we attend. All apparel is ordered through our online apparel shop at www.design4sports.com/pulse.

Costumes

The Pulse produces quality, age-appropriate, and professional costumes that come from a variety of places including local seamstresses, costume catalogues, and off the rack at retail locations. Costume prices fluctuate depending on detailing, etc. A \$50 deposit is due in September for each CPC costume. Information is sent later in the year regarding the balances due for the costumes, as well as shoes and accessories needed for each routine. Costume prices won't include all pieces like shoes, rhinestones, hair pieces, and most costumes will have misc. details to be tacked, sewn, need rhinestones added to them, etc. and this is the responsibility of the parents.

Tuition

Each student is welcome to take as many classes per month as they would like but their competition class schedule is required to be involved in the program. All students enrolled in more than 5 hours per week are on "Unlimited" status, and they are able to take any additional classes in their level or below at no extra charge. This gives them the opportunity to take classes like Tap, Modern, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Cardio Strength & Stretch, Dance Team Prep, and Pointe. This is highly encouraged, as it helps to further their education at no additional charge.

SAMPLE TUITION #1

\$200	Base tuition, Unlimited status
\$ 60	4 groups rehearsal periods x \$15 each
<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>Taking extra classes like Tap, Lyrical, Pointe, etc.</u>
\$260	Monthly tuition

SAMPLE TUITION #2

\$150	Base tuition, 4 hours
\$ 60	4 groups rehearsal periods x \$15 each
<u>\$ 35</u>	<u>Taking 1 extra hour weekly in Tap</u>
\$245	Monthly tuition

Solos, Duos/Trios, and Group Routines

Solos/duo/trios are a great way for a dancer to grow in confidence and stage presence. Not having the comfort zone of a large group on stage will really help them progress as a confident performer. Choreography and rehearsal time for these routines are done on a private instruction basis. Payment is due in full on the date of the first lesson and made payable to the choreographer, not the studio.

\$250	SOLO	Includes choreography, music selection & editing, 4 hours of private instruction. After 4 hours, the rate is \$30 for ½ hour.
\$300	DUOS/TRIOS	Cost is split between the students, includes everything shown above.
\$15	GROUP ROUTINES	Monthly fee for weekly rehearsal period per student for each group they are in.

- All solos, duos/trios must be approved by the faculty and interested students must attend the separate audition.
- Every effort should be made if the schedule allows to regularly attend the style of dance which they are competing. For example if you're doing a Lyrical solo, you should be taking Lyrical class regularly.
- Solo/duo/trio payments are non-refundable, as you are paying for a custom-tailored dance routine that is being created specifically for the individual. Even if the routine has not yet been *taught*, it has been *created*. Also, it should be understood that you are hiring a professional instructor with years of training and skill to choreograph this routine. Please respect the instructor's judgment and artistry when it comes to the selection of music, the style of routine, and the style of costume, and understand they will always create a piece to best highlight the student's overall style and skill.
- The expectation is that students are rehearsing these numbers on their own time. Students must be responsible for memorizing the choreography on their own and retaining it from one rehearsal to the next. Parents are encouraged to videotape the rehearsal session to assist with the learning process outside the studio.
- Scheduling for solo/duos/trios is done on an individual sign-up basis with each choreographer.



Attendance

Attendance is the single most important factor that determines the success of the CPC. We try as much as possible to work with schedules, however parents should help explain the commitment students have made to the CPC, and that due to the nature of a performing & competitive troupe, excellent attendance at all competition related activities and performances is a necessity. Poor attendance will affect their participation in competitions, performances, and routines. If you are unable to make a required class, you must individually let Brandon know by phone or email in advance of the conflict. It is extremely important that students be in class the week before any competition or performance. Sometimes these fall after a holiday or break, so please keep your CPC calendar handy. All classes that are missed must be made up within one month. Enrollment in Summer Session is mandatory for CPC members. This is separate from the Sept-May enrollment, and is part of the current 1 year commitment to belong to the CPC. This is a condensed schedule and the required hours are less than the regular year. We understand that families take summer vacations, and students can miss portions of summer, and make up their classes as they do in the fall/spring session. All performances and competitions are mandatory including holiday and summer performances. Community performances are a very large part of the CPC and are just as important to us as the competitions. These performances are mandatory. Please understand that when just one student misses it can render certain routines unusable and when we are trying to put together a 20-minute set at a performance with costume changes and other variables this has a huge effect on the schedule and routines for the entire performance. From time to time, additional mandatory rehearsals are called during the year to prep for upcoming performances and competitions.

Attendance Point System for the CPC

The Point System is designed to ensure excellent attendance and for all students to be progressing and strengthening together. Our system allows students to make up missed classes, and therefore erase most points they have accumulated. If a missed class is made up within one month, that particular point goes away. Students make up classes by taking a class of the same style in their level or the level below. **There are no make-ups for missing the Rehearsal Periods - these are permanent points. Dancers can miss one rehearsal day in September-December and one rehearsal day in January-May before beginning to accrue permanent points.** We follow the steps listed below to enforce attendance, rather than tracking students down throughout the week each time a class is missed or sending numerous e-mails home. This allows our staff to concentrate on what we do best: providing a great dance education to your child! The wonderful thing about our system is that points can be erased and classes made up! We aren't interested at all in dismissing anyone from the group, but students must be in class. We treat every student fairly and we don't like to be put in the position of appearing to give special circumstances to certain students. Each student must pull their own weight as part of the team, and teammates want everyone in class, too. By creating this point system, it allows students to show their commitment by making up any missed classes.

1 Point	Missing Saturday rehearsal periods (Dancers can miss one rehearsal day in September-December and one rehearsal day in January-May before getting a permanent point).
1 Point	Not making up a missed required class within one month
½ Point	Being late to a required class by 10 minutes or more
½ Point	Not showing up / Not letting the studio know in advance that a student is missing a required class. Required classes are Jazz, Ballet, Leaps & Turns, and Rehearsals – not additional classes like Tap, Pointe, Lyrical, Modern, or Hip Hop.
5 Points	STEP 1 - Discussion with the student, letting them know about the next steps if attendance doesn't improve.
10 Points	STEP 2 - Discussion with student & a parent, no longer eligible for featured role in recital, documentation of discussion, discussion regarding next steps.
15 Points	STEP 3 - Sit-down meeting with student and parent, removal from one or more routines and/or recital featured role, written documentation of discussion, discussion regarding next and final step.
20 Points	STEP 4 - Dismissal from the program. Any costume fees or competition fees paid are non-refundable. Students are still eligible to audition for the following year.

Additional Notes

- Competitions should be approached with the idea that they are an educational opportunity for students and a fun activity that families can experience together. Students learn team-building skills and self confidence that will help them in their future.
- It is important that competitions, conventions, performances, and studio activities be approached with a positive attitude, and that parents be proud of their child's involvement and development.
- Competition results are very subjective opinions of certain judges and your child's growth should not be gauged by these results.
- **The Pulse is a drama-free zone!** We expect parents and students and staff to be supportive, respectful, positive, and courteous to each other at all times! Gossip and negativity are 100% not tolerated.
- The staff of The Pulse is passionate about what we do, and we are grateful to be able to have the opportunity to work with your children! We take our job as role models and teachers very seriously and we make every effort to make the best decisions on a daily basis to help your child reach their full potential.
- If CPC students wish to take additional master classes or outside instruction you must get approval from Curtis. We want to make sure our dancers are only studying with qualified instructors for qualified education.