

Dance Institute Performance Academy Parent Meeting 2026-2027

Welcome to Dance Institute Performance Academy

General Info

- Dance Institute (Academy) tuition is an annual tuition broken into 12 equal payments.
- All DIPA members must be enrolled for 12 months/year for team commitment.
- Special opportunities: Master Classes for DIPA \$15-\$50 (min 3 per year required)
- Due to the enormous commitment required of a DIPA team member, outside activities are not allowed for DIPA schedules and commitment.

Class Requirements

Based on your Company placement, you will receive the exact schedule they are required to take.

- Petite Co Fall/Spring/Summer Classes
 - 3 DIPA Ballet Classes
 - 1 DIPA Jazz class
 - 1 Tap class
 - 1 DIPA Lyrical
 - 1 hip hop class
 - 1 ballroom class
- Mini Co Fall/Spring/Summer Classes

Note: Those with PE waivers must register and attend 12 hours of class and appx 3 hours of rehearsal.

- 3 DIPA ballet classes
- 1 DIPA Jazz Class
- 1 DIPA Lyrical class
- 1 Tap Class
- 1 Ballroom class
- 1 Hip Hop class

- Junior & Teen Fall/Spring/Summer Classes

Note: Those with PE waivers must register and attend 12 hours of class and appx 3 hours of rehearsal.

- 4 DIPA ballet classes
- 1 DIPA Jazz class
- 1 DIPA contemporary class
- 1 tap class
- 1 hip hop class
- 1 ballroom
- Turns and progressions

Ballet Company (Mini, Junior, Teen, Senior) Fall/Spring/Summer Classes-must be part of DIPA to be considered for Ballet Co. - possible extra ballet class on Fridays

Company Fees

(Company fees will start Aug 1st)

- This fee pays for the director's time, admin fees and rehearsals.
- Company Fees are automatically drafted from your account by **the 5th of the month**. (August thru Nationals or Spring Show)
- All company will pay a base price of \$50 (for two dances). An extra \$10 will be added per each additional dance.
 - the company fee will have a maximum fee of \$100.

Choreography Fees due upon completion of choreography/routine

- Choreography fees include the cost for ALL required choreography as well as the expenses incurred for choreographers' travel fees, lodging and meals.
- This is an estimated range for ALL required dances

(THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY OPTIONAL DANCES)

- **Petite Co** - \$125- \$200 per dance
- **Mini Co** - \$250-\$400 (2 required dances)
- **Junior & Teens**- \$500-\$1500 (4 required dances)
- **Ballet Company** - \$200-\$400 (1-2 required dances)
- Additional optional dances may be offered but are NOT REQUIRED NOR GUARANTEED. There will be no repercussions for choosing not to participate in an optional dance, which may include solos, duets, trios, or small groups.

Competitions and Conventions

- **Petite** will attend 4 local competition/conventions
 - **Mini** will attend min of 4 required competitions/conventions
- this DOES NOT include any additional competitions/conventions that are deemed optional*
- **Junior & Teen** will attend min of 6 required competitions/conventions
- this DOES NOT include any additional competitions/conventions that are deemed optional*
- **Regional Competitions** (without conventions) (appx \$70-80 per dance entry)
 - **Dance Conventions** (with competitions)
 - appx \$285-300/convention, entry fees appx \$70-80 per person ((misc. additional expenses: Hotel (2- 3 nights), travel, and food.))
 - **Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP)**
 - Ballet Companies will attend YAGP and UBC.
 - **Nationals**
 - This is a Non- Nationals Year. We do Nationals every other year.

**Optional Competitions - dancers are not allowed to miss Thursday classes UNLESS competing before 2pm on that Friday.

Rehearsals

- There WILL be weekend rehearsals!
 - Mini & Junior will most likely rehearse Fridays, and Junior & Teen will most likely rehearse Saturdays., and potentially Friday. This does not include small group/solo/duet/trios or ballet company. Those rehearsals will be in addition to the required dances/rehearsals.
- **We cannot work around individual schedule requests** (we do try to accommodate our seniors). Attendance will be taken, and excessive absences could result in losing performance privileges and removal of solos (if applicable).
- Soloists will need to rehearse a required 30 minutes per week. These practices can be scheduled during any available times, or weekends (per the director's discretion)
- Any conflicts need to be given in writing in advance and emailed to all Directors.
- Private lessons, of any kind, canceled in **less than 24 hours** will be charged for the session. Please contact the instructors directly to let them know of your cancellations.
- Private lessons are \$75 per hour and billed bi-weekly.

Intensives

- Summer Intensives are required for all DIPA members.
 - **SUMMER 2026**
 - **Current DIPA 25-26**
 - Co 1- - Mini Directors Cut - required
 - Co 2-6 BOTH weeks of Director's Cut required
 - **NEW DIPA 26-27 (Mini - Teen)**
 - 2026 Director's Cut June 8th -19th- one week highly suggested
 - The Works July 27th - Aug 7th - BOTH weeks required
 - 2027 Director's Cut - TBA - one week is required
 - **NEW DIPA 26-27 (Petite)**
 - Mini Works required July 20th - 24th - required

2026 - Mini DC - June 1-4

2026- Mini Works - July 20th - 24th

2026 - DC - June 8th - 19th

2026 - TW - July 27th - Aug 7th

2027 - Mini DC - June 7-10

2027 - DC - June 14-25

DIPA Attire

- Dress Code - We have high expectations of the company members and expect dancers to follow the dress code in completion.
 - For company members, hair should be pulled back for every class (even hip hop). Buns should be worn for ballet. Minimally hair should be in a clean ponytail for all other classes. Jewelry is not allowed.
 - proper shoes are required for all classes, including but not limited to: pointe shoes, tap shoes, jazz shoes, ballroom, shoes, tennis shoes, etc.

***DIPA Ballet Attire will be sent out separately with the Fall Registration information.*

**** Rehearsals should be black attire, with ballet bun**

- DIPA gear- (required for all members) **due June 8th**
 - team warm-ups, \$185.00
 - Backpacks \$115
 - Vest \$100
 - Company pictures will be a "style" your own, and team reps can help with that

Big/Little Program

- All DIPA team members will be included in the big/little program
- Big/Littles are there to support each other and to cheer each other on through the year by providing kind notes and/or snacks personalized to each buddy's liking, scheduled throughout the year.
- How are Big/Littles determined: Dancers are separated into 2 age categories (younger & older) then the selection is completely random.
- The reveal is made into a fun bonding game with all DIPA members @ the Company Swim Party
 - We will have a lock in on August 15th for our first bonding event. (Details to come later)

Additional Fees and information

****All team members are required to have a credit card on file. We will post all deadlines of when payments are due and charge them accordingly. A \$10 charge for each credit card decline.

Dancers may not attend competitions/conventions with an outstanding balance on your account!

Retainer fee ○ Upon the signing of DI 2026-2027 contract, your retainer will be charged to your account. **June 8th**

- Petite Co will be charged \$400
- Mini Co will be charged \$500
- Junior & Teen will be charged \$750.
- This retainer will be applied to your final balance at the end of the season. If for any reason you are unable to complete the **yearlong** commitment, this retainer will be forfeited. The retainer is not refundable.

Tuition fees

due on the 1st of each month

- This will be based on how many classes your dancer is taking per week
 - All DIPA members are required to follow the cancellation process according to DI Ballet Academy policies. Dropping any non-req classes needs to be done by the 15th of the month. Email mekenna@danceinstitute.com for drop forms.

***Please refer to the DI Academy tuition scale for pricing.

Competition/Convention Entry Fees

- We will be charging your card on file approximately **90 days prior** to competition/convention according to our DIPA Calendar.
- There is \$20 admin fee added to all entry fees to cover administrative fees. The admin fee for cancellation of optional competitions/conventions will not be refunded.

Social Fee - due in 3 payments- Total \$75 (only charged if the event occurs)

- Swim Party (\$25)
- Lock - in (this is a sign-up)
- Christmas party (this is a sign-up)
 - End of the Year Banquet will be \$50 per DIPA dancer
 - Parents will be \$40/ticket
 - Non- DIPA siblings will be \$25

Costume Fees

- Upon **determination** of costumes, a deposit will be invoiced and billed for each dance
- Upon **completion** of costume the balance will be charged to the card on file
 - The **estimated** range for costumes is \$125-\$250 plus misc. charges per dance
 - Miscellaneous charges such as crystals, earrings, feathers appliques, and alterations will be charged to the cc on file once received.

***We will measure team members starting in June 2026

Costumes are the property of Dance Institute Performance Academy until all performances and commitments are complete. Ballet Company classical pieces are rentals and will be returned at the end of the season.

Destiny Rising Program at DI

Every year, the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation (NYCDAF) celebrates the awarding of millions in college scholarships with a fundraising performance at The Joyce Theater in NYC. It is an evening of dance artistry featuring outstanding NYCDA alumni, the choreography of NYCDA faculty, and special guest performances from prominent professional dance companies... all benefiting the NYCDAF College Scholarship Program. This past 2025-2026 season, DIPA Company 6 members had the incredible privilege of performing a group dance at the 2026 Destiny Rising event. With the help and support of our DIPA families and community, DI's goal is for each DIPA member to have this experience when they reach Company 6. Below is some helpful information for what to expect as a member of DIPA:

Structure of Destiny Rising Program at DI:

1. Every DIPA family will contribute a donation amount (TBD based on number of DIPA members). This is the minimum studio donation requirement set forth by NYCDAF to be considered for participation. The amount will then be divided evenly amongst all DIPA families.
 - a. The donation amount will be configured once the NYCDAF entry fee and the final DIPA member count is known. This past season, it was roughly \$294 per family. The amount will be automatically charged to your DI account.
2. DIPA Company 6 members (and additional DIPA members if they are part of the group dance performing at Destiny Rising) have the option to participate in fundraising opportunities to help the cost of travel and show tickets. More information will be provided by the Destiny Rising Committee (DRC).
 - a. Some examples of past fundraising events include:
 - i. Online Silent Auction
 - ii. Restaurant Night
 - iii. Costume Sale Volunteering
 - iv. Kendra Scott Event
 - b. Estimate costs (before fundraising) per DIPA Company 6 and potential non-Co 6 participants for travel and show tickets (based on family of 2):
 - i. Flight: \$375 - \$600 (cost for 2 people)
 - ii. 3 or 4 Hotel Nights: \$700 - \$1200
 - iii. Preferred Show Ticket: \$75 (for 1 parent because dancer does not need a ticket)
 - iv. **Total: \$1150 - \$1875 (plus additional costs of transportation, meals, entertainment, and additional family members joining)**
3. The date of the event is released by NYCDAF in the months prior so at this time, we will not have that information. Historically, it has been held either in January or March.

Dance Institute Performance Academy Agreement 2025-2026

Please initial each item AND sign below.

- ___ I understand that the commitment to DIPA runs from August 2026 through Spring Show 2027 (the "Contract Term").
- ___ I understand that all team costumes purchased during the Contract Term belong to DIPA until my year-long commitment has been completed and my account has been paid in full.
- ___ I will return all rented costumes to DIPA at the end of the Contract Term, or earlier if requested.
- ___ I understand that if I am unable or unwilling to complete my commitment (whether for the year or for a particular competition or convention) for any reason (including injury, illness, moving), I am responsible for all current and future entry fees and costume fees associated with my team placement, which may include entry and costume fees for the dancer that must replace me. If no dancer will replace me and DIPA is able to receive a refund for my fees, I am still responsible for any other fees that DIPA may incur, including for reblocking any dances.
- ___ I understand that my retainer will be applied to my final bill at the end of the 2026-2027 season, that the retainer will be forfeited if I do not complete this agreement, and that the retainer will not be refunded for any reason.
- ___ I understand that I am required to have a valid credit card on file for team charges. This card must be in good standing. \$10 will be charged if the card is declined.
- ___ I understand Team charges will be charged on the scheduled date. Private lessons will be billed/charged bi-weekly.
- ___ I understand that Dance Institute is not able to finance balances. Accounts with past-due balances will be charged additional fees. Entry fees must be paid in full prior to the competition date. Dancers may not compete if they have an unpaid balance.
- ___ I understand that excessive absences from classes or rehearsals could result in optional routines, solos, and duo/trios being pulled from competitions and/or conventions, and/or not being able to participate in outside training experiences, all at DIPA's Director's discretion. All makeup classes need to be in the same genre as the class that was missed. For purposes of this agreement, the terms "DIPA's Director" or "Director" refer to Linda Holland.
- ___ I understand that if I take part in an assistant program for a convention, I will not allow it to interrupt my commitments to DIPA. I will communicate my schedule in advance to DIPA's Director.
- ___ Upon signing this agreement, I agree that DIPA is my priority throughout the Contract Term.
- ___ I understand that there will be no excused absences for rehearsals immediately preceding competitions or conventions and that attendance is required the weekend and week prior to the competition to be able to participate in the competition/convention.
- ___ I understand that DIPA is an elite pre-professional competition team and that required group numbers are prioritized over optional solos, duos/trios.
- ___ I understand that the Director and the faculty of DIPA/Dance Institute will conduct all communications between DIPA and guest choreographers. It is expressly prohibited for parents to make arrangements with choreographers outside of those made by the Director.
- ___ I understand that it is privilege to be a DIPA member and agree to act in a professional and respectful manner while representing DIPA/Dance Institute in and outside of the studio. I understand that my behavior is a direct reflection of my team, and any unethical, disrespectful, or unprofessional behavior can result in optional solos, duo/trios being pulled, replacement in groups, or dismissal from team. Dance Institute and DIPA do not tolerate any discrimination, harassment, bullying, or any other unlawful conduct, and engagement in the foregoing is grounds for dismissal from the team and any Dance Institute class.

- ____ I understand that academics are extremely important, and I agree to maintain a B average and be in good standing within my current grade level. I will provide a record of transcripts to show the above, if needed, and understand that if I am unable to maintain my grades or keep up with my academic workload it could result in my replacement or dismissal from team at the Director's discretion.
- ____ I have received a **draft** of the DIPA calendar and will abide by the calendar. I understand that the final DIPA calendar will be distributed as soon as all dates are discussed and finalized, and, unless I promptly notify the Director of any conflicts with any new/changed dates listed on the final calendar, I will abide by the final calendar. The final calendar will be considered part of this agreement.
- ____ Subject to the prior paragraph, I agree to attend all required classes, workshops, conventions, competitions, and intensives according to the final schedule and understand that being unable to fulfill this agreement could result in a replacement or dismissal from my team. This action is solely at the Director's discretion.
- ____ I understand that we are not allowed to miss Thursday classes for optional competitions UNLESS competing before 2pm on that Friday.
- ____ I understand that forgetting a costume, or essential costume components, will result in the following:
 - The dancer will be blocked out of that specific routine.
 - A penalty of \$50 will be charged per missing costume piece.
 - The dancer's solo will be withdrawn from the subsequent competition, if applicable.
 - Eligibility for future solo opportunities will be jeopardized.
- ____ I understand that outside activities such as Drill Team and Cheerleading (or anything that would cause absences or conflict with DIPA's training schedule or performance schedule) are **not allowed**. I have been informed that dancers planning to audition for Drill Team or Cheerleading during the 2026-2027 season should not audition for DIPA 2026-2027 and understand that doing so will lead to my dismissal from the team.
- ____ I understand that auditions for the 27-28 year are mandatory, and my account must be in good standing.
- ____ In the event legal proceedings are initiated to resolve any dispute hereunder, the prevailing party shall recover its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses.
- ____ I have read and agree to the terms of this agreement. In addition, I acknowledge that I have received, and agree to comply with, the DIPA parent meeting notes distributed in the parent packet for 26-27, including the Code of Conduct, and with Dance Institute's registration guidelines.
- ____ I understand that failure to comply with this agreement, the parent meetings notes and/or the Code of Conduct is grounds for dismissal from the DIPA team.

Dancer's Name

Today's Date: _____

Dancer's Signature

Parent Name

Parent Signature

