



Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep Dance Team Tryouts

(For girls attending school in the Oak Hills Local School District grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the 2023-2024 school year)

Tryout Dates

Wednesday, April 26th (C.O. Harrison) 5:45-8:00pm ***Mandatory Parent Meeting at 5:45-6:00***

Thursday, April 27th (C.O. Harrison) 6:00-8:00pm

Sunday April, 30th (Oak Hills High School) 12:30-3:30pm ***Times on Sunday subject to change depending on how many dancers try out. All parents will be notified if pickup or dropoff times are adjusted.***

****Please print a hard copy of your dancers EMA to bring to tryouts****

If selected, girls will be notified via <https://www.oakettes.com/tryouts> of their placement on a team. Teams will be posted on Sunday, April 30th at 7:00 PM.

Mandatory Parent Meeting (TBD)

All 2023-2024 Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep dancers and at least one parent are expected to attend the parent meeting. The meeting will be held at the Media Center at Oak Hills High School.

Dear Parent(s):

We are very excited that you and your child have expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep Competition Dance Team. Please understand the dedication and time commitment on the part of team members, parents, and coaches to make this team a success. All Youth and Youth Prep team members must be entering 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade during the 2023-2024 season. Please see the website listed above for all Oak Hills Dance Teams

tryout information. All members must be attending one of the public schools within the Oak Hills Local School District during the 2023-2024 school year.

Each member is expected to put forth her best effort both on and off the floor, including practices, performances, and team activities. We want your child to have the best time possible, however it is important that we keep focused on the fact that this is a **competition team**. The only way to be successful is for all the members and their parents to be committed to the team.

The Youth and Youth Prep teams will have a few activities year-round but the competition season (mid-December- early March) will be the most time consuming. Both the dancer and their parents spend a great deal of time in this activity. This is also a physically demanding sport that requires each member to be in excellent health as well as possess good physical stamina.

Judging/Evaluation

Membership with the Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep teams give each individual an opportunity to gain self-confidence, meet new friends, and learn leadership skills. To be selected as a member, each candidate must perform a dance routine before a panel of judges, all of whom are experienced in the field of dance. Each child trying out for a position on the team has an equal opportunity to be selected. Should a child be chosen as a member of the team, this does not guarantee a permanent position on the team the following year. The child must audition before the judges to be selected to the team each year.

Each candidate will be judged on the following criteria during the technical part of the tryout: Technique, Flexibility, Showmanship, and Memory.

Points will be given in each category and the combined total of the judges’ scores will be the final score. A candidate may be asked to perform the routine again if a judge feels the need to see the child again.

All decisions made by the judging panel are **final** and no scores will be shared for any reason.

We are sorry that we cannot select everyone who auditions but appreciate each person's ambition to try. Those who are not selected are encouraged to try again next year.

Difference between the Youth and Youth Prep Teams:

<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Prep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grades 3rd-6th -2 routines (Jazz and Pom) -5-7 competitions -Practice 2 times/ week -Required summer Ballet class 	<p style="text-align: center;">Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grades 3rd-6th -3 routines (Jazz, pom, and hip hop) -5-7 competitions -Practice 2-3 times/ week -Required choreo weekends -Required summer ballet class
<p style="text-align: center;">Evaluated Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Single turn -Jazz walks -Toe touch -Jazz trick of choice 	<p style="text-align: center;">Evaluated Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Double turn -Jazz walks -Toe touch -Head spring -Jazz and hip hop trick of choice

6th Grade Dancers

All dancers entering the 6th grade have the opportunity to try out for the Oak Hills Juniors Dance Team. If your dancer would like to be considered for the JUNIOR team, *they must attend all Junior tryout dates*. If the judges' scores reveal that they do not qualify for the Junior team, they will be considered for the Youth & Youth Prep Team using their scores from tryouts. All results will be posted to <https://www.oakettes.com/tryouts> on Sunday, April 30th at 7:00 pm. If your dancer attends Youth & Youth Prep Tryouts, they will only be considered for the Youth and Youth Prep Team.

Commitment of Time

Both the Youth and the Youth Prep Team will practice June-March. During the summer the team will practice one night a week, from 6:00-9:00. There will be a dance camp over the summer that all dancers must attend. Final dates for this will be sent out to the team after tryouts. Dancers will also be expected to attend a weekly ballet class throughout the summer. Dancers are excused from practice for summer vacations and camps given they provide written notice 4 weeks in advance. During the school year both teams will practice two nights a week, from 6:00-9:00pm. Dancers are *expected to be at each practice* but can be excused for school events that require participation for a grade.

Excused Absences

Each dancer is excused absences throughout the dance season. These absences include illness with a doctor's note, death in the family, and pre-discussed academic absences. Coaches must be notified of any absence for school related events (ie school plays, concerts, conferences). Failure to notify coaches in a timely manner will count as an unexcused absence for the dancer.

Unexcused Absences

Each dancer is permitted 3 unexcused absences for the season. These absences include missed practice for illness without providing a doctor's note, birthday parties, family parties, and excessive tardies).

Team Fees:

These fees pay for all costumes, competition fees, music, accessories, makeup, shoes, tights, etc

Youth Team:

\$200-Non-refundable deposit due at the parent meeting on May 10th

\$175/month for 8 months (June-January)

Youth Prep Team:

\$200-Non-refundable deposit due at the parent meeting on May 10th

\$141/month for 8 months (June-January)

Fundraising

Fundraising is offered for parents to help offset the team fees and for the additional items required. Past fundraisers include: Car washes, Buddy Card sales, Kroger, etc. We have had parents raise enough to pay off almost all of their fees by participating in the fundraisers. Fundraisers are coordinated by team member parents. We will need parent volunteers to coordinate fundraisers in order for money to be raised to offset dancer fees. Additionally, we will hold team fundraisers throughout the year. There will be one fundraiser that funds go toward the team, such as a raffle basket or auction. Parents will be required to donate to this fundraiser.

Competitions

The Youth/Prep Team will compete in 5-7 competitions each year.. Team members are *required* to attend each competition. Competitions run between December- March. Most competitions are located in Cincinnati with 1-2 competitions being in Dayton, Northern Kentucky and/or Indiana.

Practices

-Dancers are required to be present for the practice before a competition. If dancers are not present at the Wednesday practice prior to competition it is at the coaches discretion to not allow them to compete at the next competition. If a dancer misses due to illness a doctor's note must be provided in order for the dancer to be eligible to perform.

Attendance

-Attendance is mandatory at all competitions as well as the award ceremony at the end of the day. Dancers are permitted to leave once they have been dismissed from their coaches.

Ballet/Technique Classes

In addition to summer practices, team members will be REQUIRED to attend an additional technique/ballet class one day a week. Once this is established the team will provide more information! Ballet/technique classes from August-December are not mandatory, but **highly recommended**.

Complete the following upon arrival to tryouts:

1. Permission Form-completed and signed (current picture **must** be attached)
2. Emergency Medical Authorization-completed and signed
3. Team Guidelines-signed
4. optional- provide an email where music can be sent

Clinics

- Wear clothes they are able to dance in
- Bring water bottle, gym shoes or dance shoes, and **all forms** (see above)

Sunday April 30th

- Any solid color tank top or cami
- Form fitting black pants or black shorts
- Dance shoes or gym shoes ***dancers cannot tryout in socks
- Hair pulled back and out of face
- No jewelry
- No gum

Note: No dance/cheer previous spiritwear

2023-2024 OAK HILLS YOUTH AND YOUTH PREP DANCE TEAM

SEASON GUIDELINES

NOTE: All Oak Hills Dance team members are required to abide by the policies of the Oak Hills Board of Education even though the team is a community team and not school funded or associated.

The dance teams in the Oak Hills School District are recognized within the community as organizations with very high standards and integrity. With the cooperation of all of its members the Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep teams will continue its long tradition of excellence.

A. RESPECT

Every Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep team member is expected to respect her fellow team members and coaches. Friendly criticism and helpful hints should be politely given and thankfully received. Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep is a TEAM EFFORT! Each one of us must always try to work together in order to have a successful team.

B. ATTENDANCE

A schedule of all performances and practices is published in advance. Each Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep team member is expected to be at **everything** unless **excused by a coach**.

Note: Our goal is to always have every member participate in every event. However, that is not always possible.

1. You must be on time to practice. You are considered late any time you arrive after attendance is taken at the scheduled practice time.
2. A member who is absent from school for the entire day must notify the coach to let her know she will not be at practice.
3. Summer practices are an essential part of the season's preparation. It is required that 75% of the practices are attended. Vacations must be announced at least two weeks in advance.
4. Should you miss any practice prior to a team performance or competition for any reason it will be the sole decision of the coaches if you will perform at the competition. The decision will be based on the nature of the absence **and** whether or not changes in the routine will hinder team performance.
5. In the case of an injury during the season, the team member is expected to attend practice, watch, and try to learn as much as possible. For prolonged injuries or illnesses a doctor's excuse will be required to excuse you from practice and again to re-admit you to practice. Each team member is responsible for her own health. Ex: If a knee brace needs to be worn, make sure it is worn at all times to prevent further injury.
6. Regular doctor and dentist appointments, vacation during regular school days, and social events are **not** excuses for missing Youth and Youth Prep team activities. Also, during competition season we normally practice during three/four day weekends. (ie: President's Day, Martin Luther King Day)
7. Coaches **reserve the right** to excuse any team member from a practice or performance should they feel the circumstances warrant it. The following will be considered:
 - a. Death in the family
 - b. Illness (see above)
 - c. Injury (see above)
 - d. Wedding (immediate family or if in the wedding party - you must give 4 weeks notice in writing).
 - e. Even though we encourage team members to participate in other school activities, we expect members to arrange their schedules so these activities do

not interfere with team activities. The only exception is if a team member is required to attend a function because it ***is a requirement of all members of an academic class (not a club).***

- f. Other extraordinary circumstances will be considered. Example: religious conflict, appointments with specialists, academic award ceremonies, etc. Each circumstance will be looked at individually. Coaches will attempt to be fair in all decision making.

Should you miss a practice, you are solely responsible for finding someone to teach you all material missed. You must be caught up by the next practice. Choreographers may not be available for make-up sessions.

C. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. The Coaches make any and all decisions pertaining to disciplinary action for any and all infractions of team rules.
 - a. The Youth and Youth Prep teams will operate under a code of common courtesy, decency, and respect.
 - b. The Youth and Youth Prep teams are expected to follow all directions given to them by their coaches.
 - c. Appropriate behavior, language and dress are always expected, both within the team and outside.
 - d. Keeping all team commitments is required. This includes practices, performances and scheduled appearances.
2. Disciplinary action will be modified to fit the offense. No two situations are identical. The coaches will make every attempt to be fair in all matters. Actions may include, but not be limited to: a mild reprimand, running, writing an essay, not performing for one or more events, and/or dismissal from the team.
 - a. The Oak Hills Youth Dance Board may be included in decisions depending on the severity of the issue at hand
3. All school rules and Board of Education policies will be enforced even though the team is not a school team or funded by the school district.

D. SOCIAL MEDIA:

1. Social media outlets belonging to dancers with inappropriate material found by third parties or coaches affects the perception of the student, the program and Oak Hills. 2. If a dancer's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate, they will be subject to disciplinary action. A good rule of thumb: if it's questionable and you wouldn't want your family or coach to see your post, do not post it.
3. The Oak Hills Youth Dance Board shall have the authority to monitor and enforce this Social Media Policy. The Oak Hills Youth Dance Board shall have the authority to remove any inappropriate or offensive comments from official Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance sites and to block any individual or organization from posting on any official Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance social media platform if they determine, in their sole discretion, that such removal or block is in the best interests of the Oak Hills Youth Dance Organization.
4. The failure of any Oak Hills Youth/Prep dancer or parent to adhere to this Social Media Policy shall be considered a violation of the Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance Season Guidelines, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of such individual's involvement in the Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance Team.

E. INJURIES:

1. All injuries must be reported to a coach immediately, whether they happen during team

events or elsewhere. Coaches are First Aid and CPR certified and have basic first aid supplies that can be provided if needed.

2. A dancer must see a physician or trainer if an injury will put them out of practice or performance for more than one event. The dancer must provide a note of clearance when they are ready to be readmitted to physical activity.
3. The state of Ohio now has a law forbidding any athlete that exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion from returning to play for 24 hours. After 24 hours the athlete needs to be evaluated by a M.D. or D.O. or other Healthcare Professional (Athletic Trainer) approved by OHHS to be cleared for participation. At that time, if it is found that you/your daughter has a concussion, there is a protocol that must be followed to return to dance. The protocol is at minimum 4 days long, and can only start once the dancer is symptom free. If you or your daughter feel she has suffered a brain injury, please contact your team's coach immediately.
4. The coaches reserve the right to request a doctor's clearance for participation if they feel as though a dancer is causing harm to the individual through a recurring injury.
5. The Oak Hills Youth and Youth Prep coaches will conduct practice with the safety of each dancer as their priority. As dance is a demanding sport, injuries may occur while at practice or competitions. If an injury were to occur, the parent will be contacted and the injury will be assessed on a case by case basis.

F. FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

1. Any dancer who chooses to no longer participate, OR the terms of these guidelines result in their dismissal from the program, will be responsible for any monies that has been spent on their behalf up until that point. Including, but not limited to, any costumes ordered but not received and any competition entry fees already paid but not yet participated in, etc. *The Youth and Youth Prep Dance Teams will not issue a refund.*
2. All fees must be paid in full by January 1st. All dancers with an outstanding balance will be held from performing until their dues are paid in full.

G. COMMUNICATION

1. We expect full communication from the parents and/or the dancers if they need to miss a practice, have an issue, or need something from the coaches.
2. Any issues that a dancer or parent feels need to be addressed should first be brought to the attention of the team's coaches. After this communication, if a next step needs to be addressed, a parent can request communication from a Parent Representative and we will all work together to come to a solution. If the situation has not been resolved after these conversations, a meeting will be held with the parent and dancer, the coaches, and representatives from the Oak Hills Youth Dance Board. The failure of any Oak Hills Youth/Prep dancer or parent to adhere to this Communication Policy shall be considered a violation of the Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance Season Guidelines, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of such individual's involvement in the Oak Hills Youth/Prep Dance Team.
3. All other communication regarding any of the teams with parents will be done via email or the Remind app. Should a parent's email address or cell phone number change throughout the course of the year, it is their responsibility to provide us with updated contact information.

Our Team Guidelines attempt to cover any issues that may occur. If something outside of these guidelines should occur, it will be handled on an individual basis with the insight of Oak Hills Youth Dance Board

I have read the Youth and Youth Prep Dance Team Guidelines for the 2023-2024 season, understand them, and agree to abide by them if chosen to the team.

Signature Youth or Youth Prep Dancer Date

Signature of Parent Date

Permission to Tryout

2023-2024 Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep Dance Team

Dancers must return this and all forms that need to be signed by a parent the first night of tryouts. Please make sure all of the information is legible.

Dancer's Name _____

Dancer's Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mother's Name _____ **Father's Name** _____

Address _____ Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Work Phone _____

e-mail address _____ **e-mail address** _____

My child wishes to participate in the Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep tryouts. I, along with my child, have read and understand the attached information pertaining to the tryout process, our obligations to the squad, and team rules.

I understand:

- The scores of the judges are final and no scores will be released. Please do not contact the coaches or judges.
- My child, if chosen, will attend all required practices and events and will abide by Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep team rules.
- There is a financial obligation to fulfill. The Youth/Youth Prep Team will not refund already paid fees.
- **There may be a competition the week of Christmas Break and Spring Break and I agree to attend those practices.**
- Dancers who participate in Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep team, as in all athletic activities, are exposed to the risk of injury. Safety will be a prime concern.
- I understand there is a **\$200 non-refundable deposit** due at the Parent Meeting on May 22nd. • If my daughter is selected for the Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep team there is a MANDATORY Parent Meeting in May (TBD) in the Media Center at Oak Hills High School. **Each Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep**

team member and at least one parent are expected to attend.

- By signing this I confirm I have read the 2023-2024 Dear Parent Letter and the Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep Team Guidelines, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

My child has permission to tryout for the 2023-2024 Oak Hills Youth/Youth Prep Dance teams.

Parent Signature Date

What school will you attend next year? _____

Grade next year: (Check one) _____ **3rd** _____ **4th** _____ **5th** _____ **6th**

Dancer Signature Date

Please select one of the following:

_____ My child is trying out for the Youth Dance team. If she does not make the Youth team she would like the opportunity to be a part of the Youth Prep Dance team.

_____ My Child is trying out for the Youth Prep Dance team only.

***Please attach a current picture of your daughter below.

