

# Cathy Kurth Dance Academy

PO Box 12524 Lake Charles, LA 70612 (337)855-3525 [www.ckda.com](http://www.ckda.com)

*"Lessons That Last A Lifetime"*

## ***RHYTHM PIRATE COMPETITION DANCE TEAM*** ***2024-2025 Auditions April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup>***

To All Dancers and Parents of Dancers wishing to audition for Rhythm Pirate Competition Dance Teams:

**Auditions are divided by grade – this means the grade that your child will be going to for the 24-25 school year.**

**Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>** 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Graders 9:00-10:30AM 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders 11:00AM-12:30PM  
1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Graders **TEAM A** 1:00-2:30PM

**Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders 3:00-4:30PM 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders 5:00-6:30PM  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders **Tap Team** 5:00-6:00PM 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders **Tap Team** 6:30-7:30PM  
6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders **Hip Hop Team** 7:30PM

***\*\*Please bring your completed information sheet, audition fee and signed company contract with you\*\****

To audition dancers must be at least entering the first grade this fall (2024). Dancers going to 1<sup>st</sup> grade may **only audition for Team A**. **2<sup>nd</sup> Graders may be considered for Team A or for a more advanced Team depending on skill level.**

Dancer must bring **signed contract** and **completed information sheet**, including conflict dates to the audition. No dancer will be allowed to audition without this paperwork in hand BEFORE the audition begins.

Dancer must bring **\$15 cash** (correct change only) to the audition.

It is imperative that you read **all information** concerning team commitment ***before allowing your child to audition.*** It is a lot of information, but it is all important, and will help you make an informed and intelligent decision concerning your child and competitive dancing. Team Dancers are expected to complete the year once they have been given a spot in a routine. **Please do not allow your child to try out for team if he/she is not committed to dance.** Team is very physically challenging and demanding. Team requires a LOT of time, money and WORK! Please consider carefully.

Please arrive about 15 minutes early so we can draw numbers and get everyone checked in. Dancers will warm up, learn choreography and begin the actual audition process. If your dancers is one of the earlier drawn numbers, she may be done in as little as 30 - 45 minutes. Dancers may call you when they are finished. ***You are welcome to turn in information sheets and audition fees to Ms Dee Dee during office hours ahead of time to help expedite the "check-in" process.***

### **Requested attire:**

**Girls:** Wear black leotard or black bra top with black leggings or booty shorts, jazz shoes, paws or bare feet.

**Boys:** Black jazz pants / leggings and fitted black shirt, jazz shoes, paws or bare feet.

Have hair pulled into a bun or neatly secured out of your face. You may wear make-up if you wish, but it is not necessary. **\*\*10 pts will be deducted from score if dancer shows up in t-shirts and shorts.**

Dance team requires additional costumes, shoes, and travel to competitions during the upcoming year. **We will attend 3 to 4 competitions involving overnight stays in hotels, and 2 local events.** Should your child be selected, you will receive complete information, costs and dates of competitions. There is a \$125 Company Fee charged at the beginning of the 2024-25 dance season. (Company Fee is \$50 for a second child for those of you with more than one on team.)

***If your child can't attend classes regularly, he/she doesn't need to commit to company dance.***

Thank you for allowing your child the opportunity to go through the audition process. It is truly a learning experience. If your child isn't selected this year, remind your dancer to keep working hard and to try again next year! You will be notified by email no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. Break a Leg! Ms Cathy

## CKDA Rhythm Pirate Competition Dance Team Audition

Dancers will be expected to properly execute the required elements, **ALL 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up MUST have both splits flat**, learn, and perform choreography as well as improv for the judges. Progressions across the floor will also be part of the audition process. Any dancer selected to dance teams must enroll in jazz, ballet, technique, Acro or Hip Hop or Contemporary AND team classes for the 2024-25 dance season and is expected to participate **for the full dance year**. (June 16, 2024 – through recital 2025) This includes our **summer classes**. **Teacher evaluations will also be considered when placing dancers on team. Dancer's attendance and attitude will be considered as well.**

How many dancers audition and the ages of those dancers auditioning, determine how the teams will be appointed. Some years we have only one team and some years, five, some as many as ten. We won't know until auditions are complete what we will have.

**Required elements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade team dancer:** Must be able to sit comfortably in both splits. Dancer must have strong single pirouette on both the right and the left. Must be able to execute properly chasse', pivots, chaine' turns, jete' and battement all to the right and the left.

**Required elements for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade team dancer:** **Must be able to sit comfortably in both splits.** Dancer must have strong double pirouette to the right and show at least the potential to perform double pirouettes to the left. Dancer must be familiar with basic skills such as pivots, chasse', pas de bouree', chaine' turns and various leaps. Dancer must be able to attend weekend rehearsals as called.

**To be considered for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade team dancer:** **Must be able to sit comfortably in both splits,** be able to execute single pique' turns, single and double chaine' turns to the right and left as well as double pirouettes, right and left. Dancer must be able to perform second jumps to the right and left side, and have strong understanding of the basic jazz dance principles including basic terminology and musicality. Dancer must be able to attend weekend rehearsals as called.

**To be considered for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade team dancer:** **Must be able to sit comfortably in both splits,** have triple pirouette to the right and a double pirouette to the left, have axels, switch leaps, second jumps, attitude turns, double pique' turns, jete', battement and layouts to both sides, have good solid mastery of fouette' turns to the right and turns a la seconde' to the right as well. Dancer must be able to attend weekend rehearsals as called.

\*Splits are most important since flexibility is very important for dancers in properly executing arabesques, battements (kicks) and jetes (leaps). Dancers must maintain their splits during the entire year. Splits will be evaluated monthly. Any dancer who loses her ability to sit in both splits will be put on probation for one month. If dancer isn't able to put both splits down after that month, she will be taken out of team routines.

The dancers are scored according to their skill level, technique, confidence, stage presence, flexibility, ability to move fluidly and their understanding of music. Remember that there are many things that go into determining selection of dancers for teams. Age, height, maturity, ability, experience and attitude are all important factors when making the decisions as to whether your child is ready; and if so, where the child will be placed.

You will receive an email notifying you of the outcome of the audition process. Please note that it will be **AFTER RECITAL** before you hear anything. If you haven't received your notification **by June 15<sup>th</sup>**, please email us at [lexickda@gmail.com](mailto:lexickda@gmail.com)

If your child does not make team, please encourage her/him to continue working hard and take the classes that are necessary to achieve the required skills with confidence and mastery.

**TEAM SUMMER REQUIREMENT (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Graders):** All dancers chosen for team who are going to 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are **required to attend** our new three week intensive specifically geared for our team dancers in this age group. **This class is open ONLY to our team dancers.** If you have vacation planned where you are unable to attend these sessions (you may miss a couple here and there) then you should wait until another year to do team dancing. These classes will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the weeks of July 9-11, 23-25 and Aug 6-8. See Summer Schedule for Details)

ALL TEAM DANCERS from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are also required to enroll in the 6 week summer session and BOTH of the Ballet Intensives. This is **in addition** to the 3, three-day-intensives. We are really pushing this age level and believe that this intensive summer work will bring them to the next level.

**TEAM SUMMER REQUIREMENT (7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Over):** Over the summer, team dancers must enroll in **either** the weekly Jazz/Ballet/Technique class **or** at least 3 of our 4-day intensives, one of which **must** be the ballet intensive. We encourage our team dancers to take as many summer classes as they can afford and are in town to attend. It will only benefit them! **You must let us know in advance that you cannot attend specific dates for pre-planned events which would include summer pre-planned vacations.** *Dates that we are alerted to ahead of time will not count toward your allowable absences over the summer.*

**MASTER CLASSES** – Team students are required to attend *all classes offered by a master/guest artist at our studio.* *Dancers will be “auto-billed” for master classes unless acceptable excuse is given in advance.*

**\*\* All parents must sign Company Contract in order for dancer to audition!! No Exceptions\*\***

### **SOLOS for 2024-2025:**

#### **Solos for Dancers Age 7 to 11:**

This year only those dancers scoring in the top of their age level will be allowed to compete with a solo. Dancers wishing to perform a solo but that are not quite ready yet, may certainly seek private lessons to help hone their skills and their understanding of movement quality, musicality and all the other things that go into making our dancers feel successful as a soloist. When we send out acceptance letters to our team dancers, we will denote in the email whether your dancer has scored high enough to compete a solo. If your dancer scores high enough but doesn't want to do a solo this year – that is totally fine. They are by no means **REQUIRED** to do a solo.

#### **SOLOS for Dancers age 12 and over:**

Any dancer age 12 (at the beginning of competition season 2024-25) and above may compete their solo at competitions should they choose to. Remember soloists are required to meet with their teacher at least once a week once their routine has been learned. It is pointless to compete a solo that the dancer learns and then only rehearses once a month or only runs through a couple of times a month. For them to be successful and feel confidence and secure in their solo routines they **MUST** be meeting with their teacher and rehearsing (not just running through) their routine. Dancers that are not meeting with their teacher weekly will not be registered for competitions.

# Cathy Kurth Rhythm Pirate Competition Dance Teams

## Additional Audition Information

**We will no longer be offering Understudy spots outside of a group.** We will select understudies within each group to understudy specific parts within that routine. This will minimize conflicts with class scheduling, multiple costumes, and reworking routines for recital.

### **Choreography Dates for Team:**

We will send out choreo dates BEFORE auditions. Dancers MUST be available for choreo dates or they cannot be considered for those routines. \*Please note that any school days listed – dancers would meet AFTER school – any Sundays listed would meet after church on Sunday mornings.

**Times are not set yet** – keep **entire day open**. Choreo Dates are dates the dancers will learn their routines for the entire 2024-2025 season. Please denote on your “Information Sheet” your availability. \*\*Please note that if you cannot attend during these dates, you cannot be considered for **those specific routines**. It may not mean that you can’t do any of the team routines, it would only mean that you couldn’t participate in the ones where you could not be there to learn choreography.

**If you KNOW that you are unavailable for one or more of these dates, please denote this conflict on your information sheet so we do not consider your dancer for those routines.** We will always work with you when we can.

**MASTER CLASSES** – Team students are required to attend *all classes offered by a master/guest artist at our studio. Dancers will be “auto-billed” for master classes unless acceptable excuse is given in advance.*

Please understand that team dancing is a huge time commitment as well as a financial one. We work during the summer and quite often over weekends in the fall and spring. Dancers are expected to attend **all extra classes** – scheduled and called. We will attend 3 to 4 convention/competitions per year - nearly all require staying 2 nights in a hotel. We will attend 2 local “competition only” events as well. Dancers that are chosen must enroll in jazz, ballet, technique, Acro or Hip Hop or Contemporary AND team classes for the 2024-25 dance year. Absences from all classes are counted in the total number of allowable absences. **Team is a YEAR LONG commitment.**

\*\*\*Dancers committing to team and then choosing to quit **AFTER** choreography has been set (except in the case of injury or extenuating circumstances out of one’s control) will be **required to pay a \$250 “RE-choreography” fee** due to the reworking of the routine that will be required by the choreographer. This fee is **per routine**.

It is my desire that every dancer that auditions, is selected and learns routines for the season, stays with it and finishes what he/she started. We much prefer that to having to charge a fee to rework routines that we have already set and polished. **PLEASE** – do not commit to team if you are not serious about the time, work and energy that is required.

Finally, we do work with dancers that have been selected to school dance lines or cheerleading squads as much as we can. **The only thing we cannot allow is absences from team classes the week of a competition.** If we know well enough in advance of a conflict, we will do what we can to make it work, but we can do nothing if we are told last minute. We may require additional weekend rehearsals if we see too many absences in accommodating these dancers. We ask for your cooperation in that.

Ms Cathy & CKDA Team Teachers

**\*\* All parents must sign Company Contract in order for child to audition!! No Exceptions\*\***

## **COMPANY CONTRACT**

Dear Parent: You must sign this form in order for your child to audition. No child may audition without this consent form.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that should my child be accepted to Cathy Kurth Dance Academy Rhythm

Please print parent's name

Pirate Competition Dance Team, he/she will be expected to enroll in, and attend all required classes. My child will not miss required classes unless it is ABSOLUTELY necessary. I will keep my child's tuition current and will pay all competition fees on time. My child will wear the appropriate attire to all classes and I will speak to my child about the importance of a good attitude and respect for teachers and other students. I will support the teachers at CKDA in their endeavor to achieve excellence in my child and the company.

I understand that my child may be removed from routines or parts of a routine, if child is absent when routine, or specific parts of a routine, are learned. I understand that should my child miss or sit out too often, my child may be taken out of the routine or dismissed from the company. I understand that my child is expected, as a company member, to attend conventions if they are part of a competition, and must **attend all classes during that convention, as well as any and ALL required summer classes and**

**master classes.** I fully accept all terms of this contract with Cathy Kurth Dance Academy and am entering into this contract understanding that it is ultimately my responsibility to see that my child adheres to and follows all guidelines set forth in this contract and expanded upon in other literature forthcoming concerning company expectations. I understand that dance team is a YEAR LONG commitment and I give my word that I will not put my child's teammates in jeopardy by quitting before the year is complete.

I fully understand that dancers committing to team and then choosing to quit AFTER choreography has been set (except in the case of injury or extenuating circumstances out of one's control) will be required to pay a \$250 "RE-choreography" fee to offset the cost of reworking the routine incurred by the teacher/choreographer.

I fully understand that if my studio account is not current, my dancer may not be entered in any solo competition through the studio until the account is brought up to date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CKDA Staff Init.

Thank you for affording your child the opportunity to go through an audition process. Whether chosen or not, it is definitely a learning experience! Ms Cathy & Staff

**\*\* All parents must sign Company Contract in order for child to audition!! No Exceptions\*\***

**INFORMATION SHEET**  
**CATHY KURTH DANCE ACADEMY 2025 RHYTHM PIRATE DANCE TEAMS**

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Dancer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Audition Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (going to next year): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Child **Current Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please print email address clearly as it will be used to contact you.**

We will fill in "**audition number**" as numbers are drawn at the beginning of the audition.

\*\*Please be certain that **all info is printed neatly** as this is the info we will use to contact you. Remember, you will not hear anything before June 15<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't heard by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, please email us. THANK YOU!

The maximum number of routines allowed for each dancer this year will be 5, including duo/trio. SOLOS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL. Consider for each routine there is an additional cost for tuition, costumes, shoes, rehearsal time, and entry fees at each event. Consider all of this carefully, then circle the number of routines you will allow your child to participate in, should he/she be selected for more than one routine.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

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**I would like for my child to be considered for a duo or trio: Yes                      No**

**My child is available for dates listed below:**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
We will give these dates	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
As soon as we have them.	Yes	No
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>

**Please list any and all conflict dates that you are aware of at this time:** (vacations/weddings/etc)

**\*\*Please complete and turn in this information sheet with signed contract and \$15 Audition Fee.**

**\*\* All parents must sign Company Contract in order for child to audition!! No Exceptions\*\***