

Vernon Dance Team Audition and Information Packet 2024-2025

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Mission Statement

The Vernon Dance Team is a competitive team that consists of unified, hard-working, skilled dancers who build spirit and support programs by performing across various performance platforms both inside and outside the city of Montclair. We are ambassadors of our school and city whenever we dance, so we abide by our school's rules and act in such a way that when people watch us, they see that Vernon Middle School is a quality school.

Performances

Performances are the main focus of this dance team. Performance dates are communicated to students far in advance and are posted for all students (via email to families and sent home with signed papers.) Possible performances may include: School assemblies, lunchtime performances, half-time performances, parades, back to school night, the annual dance show, high school dance shows, community/city events, Knott's Berry Farm, Disneyland etc. Attendance at all performances is a requirement to be on the dance team.

After School Practices During the School Year

We will have after school practices next year. Practices will be **Monday's & Thursday's from 2:30- 4:00 PM**. These will be a requirement. A dance team member must put thought and planning into balancing his/her time and setting his/her priorities. Dance team members are expected to be at all team activities (whether it's a performance or team-building activity). If multiple absences for various reasons occur, a dancer may be pulled out of a dance routine due to not being ready. Conflicts such as family activities, birthdays, and various appointments are not considered excused absences when regarding team practices.

Summer practices

Students are expected to attend any summer practices as they allow for preparation before the school year begins and a time to bond as a new team. Summer practices will be July 29, 30, & 31 from 9am- 12pm in the dance room. **The Dance Team Outfit will be purchased and passed out during summer practices. Purchases of costumes will be**

made upon making the team (information will be sent out this to those who make the team.

Financial Information

Fundraising:

1. Fundraising is offered as a solution to minimizing fees parents pay for things like camp and uniforms.
2. General fundraisers will go toward team activities, costumes/uniforms, travel, music, equipment, entry fees, and supplies.
3. Fundraisers are organized and run by the VAPA Booster Club.
4. All team members must participate, and each parent is expected to help out with the dance showcase.

Individual Expenses: Donations/Selling Items/ Fundraisers.

- **Donation asked for each dancer is \$200 per school year (\$100 per semester):**
 - Helps cover costs associated with the performance season including but not limited to all concert costumes, performances, Knotts' Berry Farm & Disneyland Performances
- **Selling Items for Fundraiser & Dine Out Nights:**
Handles Ice Cream Sales, Krispy Kreme Sales, Flower Gram Sales, Adopt-A-Panther Donations, Dance Show Sales, Chipotle Dine Out Nights, Panda Express Dine Out Nights, Yoghurt land Dine Out Nights, Raising Canes Dine Out Nights, Blaze Pizza Dine Out Nights etc.
- **Items to be purchased for each dancer as "Team Outfit." These are separate from donation money and are to be kept by dancers:** personalized uniform items including pom/jazz dress, jersey, shirts, jackets, tan leotard, tan tights, black jazz shorts, tan jazz shoes, and dance bow. **(Dance Team Outfit & Dance Team Jersey's will need to be purchased during the summer practice so that students so that students will have them close to the start of the school year.)**
 - All other uniforms/costumes will be considered borrowed rentals and must be returned to the Vernon dance closet to be used for future program needs (poms, props, and all other costumes and accessories). Dancers will be asked to pay for or mend any damaged costumes that they are borrowing. Any items that are lost must be replaced at the expense of the dancer responsible.
- **Various other personal expenses** may include ticket fees to dance show or outside event games, dance show DVD etc.
 - Other Team expenses we will fundraise for (including, but not limited to):

- Supplies (posters, decorative shirts, snacks to sell, flowers to sell, etc.)
- Team gifts, banquet fees, bus fees, amusement park tickets etc.

Costume/Uniform Guidelines

Costumes and uniforms are selected by the dance director. Team members must have a neat, modest appearance during all performances. In order to participate in a performance, you must:

1. Bring and wear all costumes/uniform parts and accessories.
2. Keep costumes/uniforms clean and looking nice.
3. Bring all costume items to each performance.
4. Replace any lost or damaged items.
5. Under your costumes/uniforms, wear appropriate undergarments. No bra straps showing.
6. Cover any body piercings or tattoos completely during performances.
7. Do not wear any jewelry or clothing items other than those used for a costume.
8. Do not have long fingernails.
9. Do not trade costumes with any team member.

Captains (if we have captains on the team TBD)

Depending on the make-up of the team, 1-2 captains will be chosen during the beginning of the school year. If a student leader abuses his/her position and no longer meets the expectations and standards, he/she may be removed from their position by the director.

Student Leader Duties:

1. Set a good example for team members in all that you do.
2. Attend all rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, and events.
3. Meet with the director outside of rehearsal time to set team goals, discuss future events, and keep updated on team information.
4. Assist team members who need extra help.
5. Communicate openly, fairly, and calmly with all team members and all adults in time.
6. Assist the director in making some decisions about the team.
7. Help organize and run events.
8. Run warm-ups and routines at times.

Student Leader Qualities:

1. Available and Dedicated. 110% effort given at all times. Dance team is a priority.
2. Strong academically: 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA
3. Trusted by adults. Carries out duties faithfully and cheerfully, even if you disagree with the adult's decision.
4. Does not intimidate or disrespect other team-members.

5. Fair. Shows no favoritism or bias for or against any team member.
6. Good listener. Follow the rules and all directions.

Dance Team Expectations

- 1. Do not be absent (unless sick)**
 - An absence is defined as missing more than half of any scheduled event, including practices, performances, fundraisers, and other team events.
 - Long term illnesses and injuries will be handled on a case-by-case basis with a doctor's note and following a doctor's recommendations.
- 2. Do not be tardy**
 - Tardiness is defined as not being dressed and ready to dance or do the task at hand when a practice, performance, fundraiser, or other team event is scheduled to begin. Arrive 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time so that you are ready to begin at the scheduled time.
- 3. Be respectful AND drama amongst the team will not be tolerated.**
 - Defiance, disrespect, or non-compliance to all adults in charge is unacceptable. Respect must also be shown to all team members.
- 4. The designated clothes and shoes must be worn at all times**
 - Practice clothing must be appropriate and tasteful. Be prepared to bring jazz shoes and tennis shoes to every practice.
 - All parts of a costume will be decided upon by the director or choreographer and must be worn during performances. Hair style for performances will be assigned as well. All dancers must wear team attire to school on performance days
- 5. Be responsible for your personal property**
 - Do not leave personal items behind when you leave practice or a performance. Your team clothing items are not easily replaceable as they must be special ordered.
- 6. No disruptive talking or messing around**
 - Do not talk when instructions are being given to you or any other dancer. Corrections made are, oftentimes, applicable to the entire team.
- 7. Do not use tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or act inappropriately.**
 - Any illegal or inappropriate activity done at any time will not be tolerated. This includes smoking tobacco, consuming alcohol, taking drugs, promoting pornography, or acting in a foul and derogatory manner in person or on social media.
- 8. Do not be suspended from school and keep your grades up**
 - Do not be suspended from school and keep your grades up

****Any and all consequences will be up to the discretion of the dance director. Consequences range from loss of daily points, to sitting out of a performance, to termination from the team.**

Try-Out Information

Eligibility to try-out for the team:

1. Be a current or entering Vernon Middle School student.
2. Complete and turn in all paperwork day of audition.
 - Application & Signed Contract (pg. 7, 8, & 9)
3. Receive one of the top 25 scores for the audition.

Number of Team Members: Approximately 25 students

Location: **Vernon Middle School Gym**

Dates: **April 2 & 3** (Orientation & Learn Dance) Both dates must be attended

Time: **Tues. April 2nd 3:30-5:30pm & Wed. April 3rd: 3:30-5:30pm**

Scoring: Based on knowledge of choreography, musicality, technique, full out/execution, facial expressions/confidence, and overall performance. About 25 students will be accepted onto the team depending on where a large score gap occurs.

Confidentiality: Final scores and rankings are confidential and will not be made public to anyone other than administration. Individual students may be given their own individual scores but may not see the scores of other students.

Try-out clothing: Please come dressed in clothing you can dance in that is form-fitting. Bring jazz shoes or socks to wear. No stomach skin, body piercing, or tattoos may be shown at any time. Please do not wear booty shorts. An example of an appropriate outfit would include

leggings, t-shirt, and socks/jazz shoes. Ensure that hair is up and away from the face. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE OF WATER.

*****The next page includes an example of a scoring sheet that will be used at the audition.**

Scoring Sheet

STUDENT NAME: _____

1. Knowledge of Choreography

1 2 3 4 5

2. Musicality

1 2 3 4 5

3. Technique

1 2 3 4 5

4. Full Out/Execution

1 2 3 4 5

5. Facial Expressions/Confidence

1 2 3 4 5

6. Overall Performance

1

2

3

4

5

Vernon Dance Team Application

Name:

Birthday: _____ Grade Next Year:

School Currently Attending (if you are an oncoming 7th grader):

Years of dance training: _____ Current dance studio (if applicable)

Styles of dance you know:

Any years of gymnastics:

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Preferred Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s) Required:

Parent/Guardian Email(s) Required:

Allergies: _____

Medical conditions:

Parent Signature:

Students: Please answer the following questions and attach your responses behind this sheet. You can type or neatly handwritten (if printed out).

1. Describe your dance background (where, what kind, what level, how many years?

2. What other activities are you going to be a part of next year that may also take up your time?

Vernon Dance Team Contract

Student: I have thoroughly read and agree to follow completely the guidelines set forth in the Vernon Middle School Dance Team Handbook. I understand that my failure to abide by its policies is grounds for my dismissal from the team.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Parent: I have thoroughly read and agree to support my child in following the guidelines set forth in the Vernon Middle School Dance Team Handbook. I understand that my child's failure to abide by its policies is grounds for dismissal from the team. I understand that attending all dance parent meetings and participating in team events and fundraising will enhance my child's Dance Team experience. As a parent of a student who is on the Dance Team, I will help out with concerts, performances, and fundraising as it will help in bettering my child's experience.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Teacher Evaluation for Dance Team Tryouts
(Must be completed by a current teacher of the student below)

STUDENTS NAME:

When deciding the team, attitude & initiative are considered just as much as athleticism & ability. Please complete the following with this in mind (5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest). Please hand the form back to the student in the provided envelope so that this information is kept private. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE:

1 2 3 4 5

COMMENTS:

ATTITUDE:

1 2 3 4 5

COMMENTS:

WORK ETHIC:

1

2

3

4

5

COMMENTS:

WORKING WITH OTHERS/COOPERATION:

1

2

3

4

5

COMMENTS:

In your professional opinion, is this student able to maintain acceptable grades?

YES

NO

WITH HELP

Teacher Signature: _____ **Subject Taught:**

Teacher Name: _____ **Date:**
