

Contest Season 2019

Everything You Need To Know☺

Competitions can be very confusing and many of you probably have or will have many questions about what to do before, during, and after the competitions. This handout should answer any questions you may have.

Dates, Times, & Locations

This year we are going to TWO competitions and each team and soloist will perform at both of the competitions. The first competition is Dance Showcase USA on March 22nd-24th at the Stafford Center Theatre, in Stafford, TX. The second competition is Rainbow Dance Competition on March 29th -31st at the Hays Performing Arts Center in Austin, Texas. You will NOT need to be there everyday for either of these competitions, unless you are in more than 2 dances and are scheduled everyday. The actual performance times will not be released until closer to the competitions, but *please* keep your entire weekend clear. Some choose to get a hotel for this, you are welcomed to but it is not required. Your arrival time will be chosen once we find out what time your performance is. You may be required to be at the competition as early as 7:00 AM – ready to go with hair & makeup done. You MUST be on time for these competitions. Tardiness is unacceptable and will result in demerits. Students are **NOT** allowed to leave the competition until their awards are over and they have been released. If parents plan to leave the competition, please make sure your child will be supervised, as Mrs. Taylor and I will not be available to “watch” them.

Dress Rehearsals/Bag Check:

We will have MANDATORY BROSIG Practice the Monday after Spring Break. Mini Teams and Jr Varsity will meet at their regular class times at Brosig, and other teams will double with them. Tiny Hip Hop and Mini Hip Hop will meet @ Brosig Monday March 19th from 5-6pm. Jr Hip Hop and Mini Jazz will meet from 6-7pm, and Varsity and Jr Varsity will meet from 7-8:30pm. Wednesday and Thursday classes will go on at APDD as normal. Any dances that may seem to need more work will meet at the studio that Thursday March 21st from or between 6:45 and 8:30pm.

We will have ONE dress rehearsal at Brosig Auditorium on TUESDAY March 19th at 6:00pm. Friends and Family are welcomed to come to this, although it will not be formal. We may run dances twice, have to wait for students to finish changing hair and costumes, and critique on stage after the performance. We want our dress rehearsal to mimic a performance so that the dancers are truly prepared for the nerves they will feel at contest. Students should arrive in *full uniform*. This includes hair *and* makeup. Eyelashes are not required at dress rehearsal. You may choose to do a trial run of fake eyelashes with an extra pair if you choose. You have a pair already for Contest 1, 2 and recital. If you need an additional pair, they are \$2. Students must arrive at least 15 minutes early to stretch and prepare. A note with information regarding dress rehearsals, order of performance, and what to wear will be passed out beforehand. What to wear slips can be found in your hanging bag behind your nametags. These dress rehearsals will start *promptly* at the time listed above. Just like the competitions, you MUST be on time for dress rehearsals. Tardiness is unacceptable and will result in demerits. After dress rehearsal we will have a bag check. This means your student should have EVERYTHING ready for competition as if we are already there. This includes hanging bag, studio bag, all warm-up and costume items, etc. A checklist will be passed out before dress rehearsal and demerits will be distributed for ANY missing items.

Before the competition:

Each dancer should arrive in *full uniform* (this includes shoes, if required) with her hair, makeup, & **eyelashes** done. On top of the costume, she should be wearing some form of Company Warm-ups (APDD Jacket & Leggings). We will give you a separate note “Official Competition Performance Times & What To Wear” with specifics for this. This note is always passed out at Dress Rehearsal so that the most recent information can be taken into account for your notes. Failure to arrive in proper attire will result in demerits. Please make note of this! Arrive with your APDD Co. Bag & Hanging Bag. You will need to arrive at your designated time and we will meet inside the building. Please make sure to account for traffic and potential parking problems when deciding when you should leave. Traffic is NOT an excuse of being late to these competitions. It would be a good idea to try and arrive early!

During the competition:

Before dancing, everyone will stay together in our designated warm-up/practice area. As soon as your daughter enters the dressing room cell phones should be put away. We have been somewhat more lenient about this, as phones can be used to take pictures of the day, as well as listen to your dance music before performances. However, we are there as a team and a student should not be on his or her phone all day. Moms are welcomed and encouraged to be in the dressing room before the performance when dancers are getting ready or to help them change from costume to costume! Mrs. Taylor & I ARE NOT responsible for getting your child ready! No Dads, or any males are allowed in the dressing room area for ANY reason!!

Before and during our competing times, there will be no leaving our area. We will walk together to the performance area and get ready to perform. After your student has performed, they will need to change into his/her warm ups and team shoes. Remember to bring proper undergarments IF you choose to change out of your tights! After that you are free to go watch the rest of the competition. DO NOT leave the competition. Please feel free to bring a pillow/blanket and take a nap in our “classroom”/dressing room. There will be no room or time for this at the three-day competition. We will meet about 10-15 minutes before the awards ceremony and then walk to the awards ceremony together. We will announce at the competition where we are going to meet. Remember, parents may leave and come back but dancers are NOT ALLOWED to leave the competition under any circumstance!! Sometimes we will sit as a team and watch the other dances. REMEMBER that sometimes there is a showmanship award, and all dancers watching should be alert and showing support for other teams! As we have 20+ dances going to contest, APDD Staff is unable to supervise while our dances are still being performed. Please make sure that your kids, if not supervised by a parent, are behaving and representing APDD properly. Demerits have, and will be given out for anyone not behaving.

Awards Ceremony:

One student from each dance will be selected to get the team trophy. Students doing solos will not be the first choice to get a trophy since they have an additional opportunity. SOLOISTS: Even if you receive a trophy, please remember that it will go home with Mrs. Abbey to be displayed at the studio before you take it home. Take as many photos as you would like at contest, however these are passed out at the end of the recital so that you are recognized on stage in Navasota! Parents, please help discuss this with the younger kids, as this has been something that has caused problems and sad feelings the past!! Students, remember that even though you will probably be so tired at the awards, your facial expressions and body language can say a lot for you and for APDD. Keep a smile on your face and participate in the dance party that happens on stage! This is what you live for, remember? Let it show! <3

After the competition:

- After *each awards ceremony is over, **we will take team pictures** in the hall or in the front. **DO NOT LEAVE the competition until Mrs. Abbey releases you!**
- YOU MUST SIGN OUT WITH MRS. ABBEY BEFORE LEAVING!!!

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS & LAST MINUTE REMINDERS!

- Tights MUST be worn under the costume. **No exceptions.**
- Panties are ABSOLUTELY NOT allowed under the costume. This rule is for ALL FEMALE dancers in ALL studios and *we will check for them*. Bring an extra pair to change into before the awards ceremony if you would like.
- Eyelashes are MANDATORY at the competitions. If you don't know how to apply them, don't wait until the day of competition to learn. Please learn to apply your daughters' eyelashes, or make sure that a friend is willing to help. It is not Mrs. Taylor or Mrs. Abbey's job to apply anyone's fake eyelashes!
- All pony tails and bobby pins MUST be similar to your hair color!! No bright colored ponytails!
- Buns may need a hairpiece (if you choose, or if you hair is not as thick) and/or a *hairnet to keep the bun tight and without flyaway strands of hair!
- No extra accessories of your own may be worn at competition! All dancers are to look uniform unless otherwise specified by Mrs. Abbey (soloists – accessories must be approved)
- Nail polish & toe nail polish should be removed **BEFORE dress rehearsal**. Demerits will be given out for polish **at Dress rehearsal and competition**. Clear, nude, or French tips are the ONLY exception.
- We will be giving out more specific directions on what to wear and how to arrive at dress rehearsal!
- Please TRIPLE check your packing lists that will be provided IN YOUR HANGING BAG and on our website! The last thing that we want is for a student to forget a piece of their costume. Please work together to make sure everything is packed!!!
- Anything that you have ordered from me will be delivered to you in your hanging bag with your costumes just before the competition.
- Contest 1 (Dance Showcase): Free. Pictures and Videos ARE NOT allowed at this competition. Please note for the future that most competitions DO NOT allow this and you CAN be disqualified. You are on your own for food and drinks. Make sure to come with your water bottles full of water! Parents are welcomed to leave and come back with food but ALL DANCERS MUST stay at the competition until awards are over. When permitted and announced by Mrs. Abbey, there will be breaks for dancers to go watch other performances, etc. Moms please meet your dancer(s) in the hall/dressing room for these directions after the performance.
- Contest 2 (Rainbow Dance): Free. Pictures and Videos ARE NOT allowed at this competition. Please note for the future that most competitions DO NOT allow this and you CAN be disqualified. You are on your own for food and drinks. Make sure to come with your water bottles full of water! Parents are welcomed to leave and come back with food but ALL DANCERS MUST stay at the competition until awards are over. When permitted and announced by Mrs. Abbey, there will be breaks for dancers to go watch other performances, etc. Moms please meet your dancer(s) in the hall/dressing room for these directions after the performance.
- Parking might be difficult at all locations, make sure to plan accordingly.
- We follow the buddy system as far as restroom trips and water/snack breaks! Please help us reinforce these rules to our students!

- Remember that dancers are not only representing themselves, but their teachers, the entire studio, and the town of Navasota. Make sure you are always being polite and positive to the other dancers. Disrespect and bad attitudes will result in demerits. Let's make it a great contest season!
- Remember that we will not receive actual schedules until a week before the competitions. This means arrival times and days will not be handed out until Dress rehearsal, and most likely the week after for the second competition.

Hopefully, all of this information will help you with any confusion you may have about these upcoming competitions. We are so excited for these contests! Everyone has been working so hard and we know all of the extra time and effort will pay off. With your help following these basic guidelines, we are sure that these competitions will run smoothly and we will have a GREAT 2019 contest season. ☺