



**2025-2026  
SQUAD INFO PACKET**

## **OVATION SQUAD DANCERS**

ODA Squad Dancers are dancers in 4th- 12th grade who have decided to dedicate themselves to becoming the best dancer they can be! Squad dancers excel in a particular style and improve their training and performance by participating in an elite level class and taking advantage of additional performing opportunities.

The first step in becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class ready to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal and performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most out of every chance you get to dance.

Our goal as a Squad is always to give our personal best. Your teachers and choreographers will commit to giving their best when training and preparing you for performances and competitions. While we require our dancers to be the best they can be, we recognize that competitive dance is subjective. Therefore, we realize the real success at competition is not whether we win or lose, but rather that we see progress and growth as individuals and a team.

## **2025-2026 CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

**Company dancers must participate in our six week summer session- attending at least four of the six classes.** Class requirements are outlined below. See summer schedule for specific days/times.

- Hip Hop Squad
  - Required (at least two hours):
    - Appropriate level Hip Hop class
    - At least one other Upper Academy class
- Musical Theatre Squad:
  - Required (at least two hours):
    - Musical Theatre Dance I or II
    - At least one other jazz style class- appropriate level Tap/Jazz and/or Leaps and Turns

The 25-26 ODA class schedule will be sent out via email in July. Squad dancers must take their Squad class and at least one other Upper Academy class. For Musical Theatre Squad dancers, they must be enrolled in an additional jazz class (tap/jazz, Musical Theatre Dance, or Leaps and Turns). In order to remain in good standing as a member of the Ovation

Dance Academy Squad, dancers may not miss more than FIVE of any one class in the entire season. This means dancer will have a minimum attendance requirement of 85% before disciplinary action is taken. Any attendance issues that arise will be brought to the attention of the dancer and/or parent(s) and an action plan will be created by the instructors and director. This action plan could involve makeup classes or removal from routine(s) and/or removal from Company. **Dancers removed from Squad due to attendance issues, withdrawal, or as a means of any other disciplinary action will be required to pay all remaining competition fees, recital fees, and monthly tuition. Dancers will also be subject to a re-staging fee of \$50 per dance.**

**Dancers must be in attendance in all classes and rehearsals the week leading up to a performance.** If a dancer is not in attendance in the classes immediately preceding a performance, they may not be eligible to perform.

**Squad dancers will be invited to attend ONE in studio convention in the fall.** This is not required, but encouraged!

Injured dancers should always attend and observe classes as their injury permits. Injured dancers should bring a notebook and record notes while observing classes.

Injury or illness that will require a dancer to be out for an extended period will require a doctor's note. Dancers may also need to provide a doctor's note releasing them to dance when returning from an extended injury or illness.

### **Dress Code**

It is important that all Squad dancers adhere to the ODA dress code. Proper attire allow instructors to ensure dancers are using proper technique and help instructors when cleaning routines. Dancers should wear fitted dancewear (leotard, tank top, crop top, booty shorts, etc) to Squad classes. Jackets, t-shirts, hoodies, pajama pants etc are not allowed in any dance classes. Squad dancers are permitted to participate in spirit weeks!

Hair should always be secured tightly with an elastic (no claw clips), away from the face, and off the neck. **Buns are preferred.** Braids or a neat ponytail are acceptable. Dancers **should not need to redo their hair during class.** Jewelry is not allowed. Apple/Smart Watches are allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Dancers wearing jewelry and/or distracted by smart watch will be asked to remove the items and place them in the pocket of a hanging organizer in the studio. It is the responsibility of the dancer to retrieve these items from the pocket at the end of class. If you wish to avoid lost items, please ensure your dancers is not wearing a watch and/or jewelry to class.

## **ROUTINE/PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Each Squad will perform in one routine at two local competitions, the Company/Squad Showcase and Recital. Performances take place in the spring semester- typically February-May. A full performance calendar will be distributed in the fall. **All Squad Dancers are expected to be at all scheduled performances.**

Throughout the season there may be an occasion for parents to film practice videos, or the instructor will take a video and send it out to the class. These videos will only be taken with the permission of the instructor and used for the purpose of practicing at home. **Please refrain from taking unauthorized videos during class,** as it can be distracting to the dancers and instructors. Practice videos should never be posted publicly. If you wish to post performance videos for family and friends to see, please wait until the season has concluded, and credit the dance studio and choreographer. For safety reasons, **dance competitions DO NOT allow the recording of personal videos during the performances.** Most competitions will allow parents to purchase videos following the performance. Please do not take personal videos during the competitions.

Dancers will wear Squad makeup and earrings at each performance and Squad jackets over their costumes. Hairstyles and costume requirements will be communicated prior to performances. Uniform hair and makeup are required for all performances. Dancers and

parents are expected to learn the proper makeup/hairstyles to help create a uniform appearance. Squad makeup will be purchased online from Lover Cosmetics. Lover Cosmetics provides clean, cruelty free and affordable products safe for our dancers of all ages!

Competitions typically release their schedules one to two weeks in advance. **Dancers are asked to block off the entire competition weekend, as we have no way of predicting the schedules until they are communicated by the competitions.** Any scheduling information will be communicated to all families via email as soon as it is made available.

Dancers must be at their performances AND awards ceremonies for each competition. Dancers are encouraged to attend other Ovation Company/Squad performances to support when possible!

#### **Competition/Performance fees:**

- Fees vary based on the competition and the number of routines your dancer is participating in. Competition fees may be subject to changed based on 25-26 season rates. The following are rates from the 24-25 season. **A full spreadsheet with competition fees and due dates will be distributed in October.**
  - Group fees- \$65-80 per dancer per competition
- There will be a performance fee for the Company Showcase.

## **SQUAD BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

Squad dancers are considered representatives of Ovation Dance Academy, and should behave in a manner that is reflective of this important role inside and outside of the studio. Ovation Dance Academy is committed to being a safe place for ALL. Any instance of bullying, mocking, and/or gossiping are unacceptable. Dancers are expected to treat all Ovation Dance Academy students, staff, parents, and property with respect at all times. Dancers are also expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and respectable manner on social media and while engaging in text/group messaging.

#### **Guidelines for Behavior**

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least five minutes before the start of any class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are required for all classes and rehearsals. Hair must be pulled back from face and off shoulders during all classes and rehearsals.
- Choreography should not be questioned.
- Decisions regarding class and routine placements are final. Should you wish to receive feedback regarding class and routine placement, you may request a conference with the director and/or instructor(s). Please be ready and open to receiving constructive feedback at this time.
- Finish every class or rehearsal with a “thank you” to the choreographer and/or instructor.
- When wearing your studio apparel, be sure your activities and behavior reflect positively on Ovation Dance Academy whether or not you are at a studio event.
- Appreciate the Critique— listen to all corrections given, whether it is directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor as it shows your instructor cares about your progress as a dancer. Always thank the instructors offering constructive criticism and apply the correction immediately.

#### **For Dancers and Parents**

The dancers and parents involved in the ODA Company and Squad participate in many activities outside of the studio, all of which reflect on Ovation Dance Academy. Please keep in mind the following...

- We will not speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from Ovation or any other studios.
- We will not create conflict with directors, judges, or other competitors at the events in which we participate.

- Our studio director will handle all communication with the directors/staff at any events we participate in.
- We will always treat other members of the ODA Company, staff and their family members with kindness and respect. We are one team!
- We are all representatives of Ovation Dance Academy and will commit to maintaining a positive image and attitude.

### For Parents

Parents play an important role in their child's dance training and success. The most valuable role a parent can play is their dancer's number one fan!! Parents may encourage practicing, stretching, and rehearsing choreography outside of the studio, but should allow all coaching to come from instructors. This allows parents to remain a supportive figure and instructors to carry the role of coach.

Competition weekends can be long, tiring, and full of emotions. Dancers may need to be reminded that they are loved and supported unconditionally regardless of the outcome. In the rehearsals following the performances, instructors will give the dancers feedback and allow them to hear feedback from the judges. Dance is very subjective, and competitive dancers should always remember the results from each competition are the opinions of three individuals on that particular day. A different day or set of judges can yield different results. At Ovation, we are focused on personal progress, doing our best, and making improvements every time we step on stage. Some dancers may want to reflect on their performance immediately following the competition or performances. Allow your child to decide if and how they wish to reflect after a performance. Good questions to ask to guide these conversations are:

- *What went well?*
- *Tell me about...?*
- *How did you feel when...?*

These questions allow you to talk about your family values and what competition teaches you through highs and lows. You also get to explore the value of personal development beyond winning and placements.

Great things to tell your child after their performance are:

- *I love watching you perform!*
- *You've worked so hard! I am so proud of you!*
- *I love watching you light up the stage with your passion and joy!*

### Required Supplies

Company dancers must obtain the required supplies. Additional items are available for purchase as well.

- Squad Jacket- \$75- purchased through ODA
- Makeup- Purchased at the following link: [https://www.lover-cosmetics.com/product/ovation-kansas-city/371?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=false&category\\_id=12](https://www.lover-cosmetics.com/product/ovation-kansas-city/371?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=false&category_id=12)
- Earrings- please specify if you need clips-ons. \$18- purchased through ODA
- Optional spirit wear will be available for dancers and families via an online store.

### Shoes

*When purchasing shoes we recommend The Dance Shop at 4833 W. 119th St.*

- **Color of shoes required could change depending on costume or routine selections. Final color requirements for shoes will be sent out in October.**
- Musical Theatre Squads- Bloch Pulse jazz shoe (color TBD)
- Hip Hop Squads- uniform tennis shoes will either be purchased through ODA, or a link will be sent for dancers to purchase on their own.

### Costumes

- Costumes will be purchased for each routine.
  - Competition costumes will be \$85-150 per costume