***Meridian & Mattson Diamond Dance Team***

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – WELCOME DIAMONDS!!!**

1. **When and where are tryout practices?**

*Monday, June 1st through Friday June 5th from 6 pm to 8 pm*

*Zoom meetings – each dancer will be invited to a Zoom meeting for each practice. Dancers will also be invited to join the team’s Tryout Group on Band. Dancers can post questions and get information or feedback about tryouts there.*

*Videos are due not later than 12 pm on Monday, June 8th. Judging will occur during that week with results posted on the Tryout Band on Friday, June 12th by 6 pm.*

*Application Process*

1. **When are practices during the school year?**

*Starting August 31st (tentative)… hopefully in person!*

*Mondays from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Meridian Middle School*

*Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Mattson Middle School*

*Tuesday evenings – Technique Class September through December*

*Tuesday evenings – Competition Practice January through February*

*During competition season – November through February, practices start earlier and/or end later. This will be announced as we get closer to that time. Coach also reserves the option to add practices during the year as needed.*

*“No school, no practice.” If school is cancelled and the building is closed, there is not practice at school. If a dancer is ill or absent for the school day, then she cannot practice with the team. Dancers need to attend 4 of their 6 classes in a day in order to practice that night. Dancers need to attend 4 of their 6 classes on Fridays in order to compete on Saturdays.*

1. **What should my dancer wear for practice?**

*For Tryout practices, please wear all black dance clothes. Jazz shoes, ballet shoes, or socks may be worn as footwear. What you wear will depend upon what flooring surface you have at home.*

*Matching camp/practice wear will be purchased prior to our team camps. The team will wear coordinated outfits on each day of camp and on each night of practice throughout the year. The coach and/or designee will set the schedule for which outfit combination is to be worn and when. The set outfit schedule will be on the team calendar throughout the school year.*

*Hair should be worn neatly pulled back and out of the dancer’s face before coming to practice; ponytail or braids are preferred.*

*Tights are to be worn under all bootie shorts, but do not have to be worn under capris or longer dance pants.*

1. **Who do I contact during the year if something comes up with my dancer during the tryout process or during the year? How does communication happen throughout the year?**

*Please contact Coach Lori at 206-940-6856.*

*The team email address is* *mmdiamondsdance@gmail.com**.*

*If it’s for the Booster Club, please use the Boosters’ email address at* *mmdiamondboosters@gmail.com**.*

*Band App – Tryouts Group*

1. **Should my dancer take dance classes outside of team practice?**

*Dancers are encouraged to dance as much as they can – especially over the summer -whether it is at home or at a studio. Technical skills can be enhanced in structured dance programs. Dance studios that we know have good programs are: The Dance Room and Allegro – all in the Kent area. The Dance Room has smaller classes and your dancer may get more personalized attention there. It is up to each dancer and their family to decide what is best for him/her. Extra dance classes are* ***not required*** *to be on the team. There are also dance workshops locally – Kentwood, Kentridge, The Dance Room, and Allegro all have summer camps for younger dancers. Our team will be attending the Kentwood Dance Camp this season.*

1. **What are the summer time commitments?**

*Sixth graders cannot practice or participate in team activities until after June 6th. Summer events for the team include dance camps, fundraisers, Team Clinics, community events, and other dance workshops.*

*Currently known dates:*

*New Team Meeting June 15th (tentative)*

*Mandatory Booster Meeting June 17th 6 pm to 8 pm*

*Team Car Wash TBD*

*Camp Prep Meeting July 22nd 6 pm to 8 pm (location to be determined)*

*Kentwood Dance Camp TBD - Fall Kentwood H.S. MANDATORY*

*Allegro Dance Camp July 28th -30th Allegro Performing Arts*

*Team Back to School Camp Aug 17th -21st tentative time TBD*

*Team Carwash TBD*

*First Day of School*

*First Regular Practice August 31st 6pm to 8:30 pm at Mattson*

*Elite Performance Dance Camp Late Summer or fall – TBD pending restrictions*

*Additional fundraising activities and/or dance workshops may be added pending availability and dancer commitment.*

1. **How much does dance team cost?**

*Costs to participate in the Dance Teams is normally front-loaded with most of the expenses occurring at the beginning of the season. This year is different with COVIDThese are estimates based upon anticipated expenses and are subject to change once the team is selected and the team budget is finalized.*

*Booster Club Membership Fee $130\* Due July 28th*

*Camp related expenses*

*Practice Wear $250 Due June 15th*

*Sneakers & slides $75 Due June 15th*

*Allegro Camp (may be optional) $150 TBD*

*Elite Dance Camp $361 Fall - TBD*

*Kentwood Dance Camp $100 Fall - TBD*

*Warm up jacket - personalized $65 Due June 15th*

*Dance backpack with logo & name $65 Due June 15th*

 *Total for Camp $1066 per dancer - estimated*

*Competition / performance teams*

*Competition Routine outfit $125 - $425 Due upon selection to routine(s) in fall*

*Performance poms $25 Due Aug 31st (tentative)*

 *$150 - $450 per dancer*

*\*\*Fees associated with camps will vary with the number of dancers on the team. An estimate of 20 dancers is used to give an example of the costs. Actual costs will be determined once the team has been selected. This number will go up if there are fewer than 20 on the team and down if there are more than 20 on the team. Fundraising activities will also decrease the cost camps.*

1. **What happens at camp?**

*Coach to share – take notes!*

1. **How many competitions will my dancer be in?**

*The team competes in at least five competitions each year. Kentlake, Kentridge, Kentwood, and two others which will be determined in the fall. All dancers go to all competitions and stay for the full time regardless of how many routines they are in.*

*The team will be competing in three categories again this year – jazz dance, hip hop and pom. All dancers will learn each routine, however, final competition performers will be selected by audition in the fall. It is our goal to have dancers in at least one routine for at least one competition. Competition costume fees will be due upon selection to the competition routines.*

1. **How do dancers balance all the dance commitments with their schoolwork and grades?**

*Time management is strongly encouraged for the Team. With evening practices, the dancers have time after school and before practice to complete most of their schoolwork. Starting homework after practice is not a good idea. All dancers are expected to submit their schoolwork on time and participate in all school required events and activities. Dancers know about projects and assignments in advance and are expected to plan accordingly. Leaving assignments until the last minute and having to miss practice is not acceptable.*

*While a GPA of 2.0 is the minimum required GPA to participate in sports, the dancers as a team typically maintain an average GPA of above 3.0. It is our goal that our Team continues this commitment to academic excellence along with their dance skills.*

***NOTES:***