

AIM
DANCE
FORCE
HANDBOOK



2022-
2023

All-Stars in Motion Dance Studio, LLC

WELCOME TO

AIM

**DANCE
FORCE!**



AIM Dance Force is developed to create a positive environment where young dancers can grow as performers and teammates, as well as increase their self-esteem, self-discipline, and pride in their accomplishments. Dance Force team members will improve their dance technique, become more precise and enthusiastic, and learn how to be responsible team members. We view both performance and competition as learning tools. The advantage of both is that it gives the dancers specific goals and a set timeframe to accomplish these goals.

At AIM Dance Studio, we value all accomplishments; no matter how small. The process will help dancers learn to respect others and themselves, and boost their self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they perform, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about; whether they win, or which award they win, is secondary.

The members of AIM Dance Force will be the face of AIM Dance Studio. The dancers will perform in the community and have chances to compete from a local to a national level.

Skylyne Fulwider
Owner & Studio Director

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www.allstarsinmotiondance.com



All-Stars in Motion Dance Studio, LLC

What is AIM Dance Force? The AIM Dance Force is a team of dedicated dancers of different ages and experience levels, who love to perform and are looking to be challenged in class, rehearsals, performances and competitions. The AIM Dance Force helps team members grow in confidence and competence through dance classes, rehearsals, community performances, competitions and more! Older dancers mentor younger dancers and all members are part of a team of friends where everyone strives to be the best they can be. The following is an overview of the AIM Dance Force team's rules and regulations. *Please note, the policies in this handbook are in addition to the AIM Studio Handbook.*

Is AIM Dance Force for a dancer like me? There are several options for dancers. Each group has different requirements for time commitment and training. We want everyone who wants to perform to have the opportunity to get on a stage and dance! If you maintain regular class attendance, love to dance, and work hard in your dance classes, AIM Dance Force is for you! AIM Dance Force is great for young dancers looking to perform more often and further their studies or for those considering studying dance and performing arts in college.

Are there auditions for AIM Dance Force? There are not auditions for AIM Dance Force. However, there is an application that will be considered along with the dancer's behavior in class in order to determine the dancer's technique, potential, commitment level, enthusiasm, and attitude. Team members are placed in numbers based on ability and technique, not just age or class level. The application is where dancers can indicate their interest in the number and style of competition dances they wish to participate in. A select number of dancers will be awarded solos, duets & trios. Dancers applying to be in group dances will ultimately be placed based on the instructors' knowledge of who will work the best together in rehearsals and how individual strengths will be combined to create the best synergy during performances. The goal is to place members in dances that will help build their self-esteem while also challenging them and helping them grow. **Applications are due August 12th.**

What will my child and family gain from being a part of AIM Dance Force? Team members will benefit from accelerated training and additional learning opportunities, as well as have additional performing opportunities. More importantly, dancers and their families will benefit from: gained confidence; increased physical fitness: strength, stamina, flexibility; enhanced ability to work as a group; time management skills, independence and a sense of personal responsibility; sportsmanship; a strong work ethic; a drive for personal excellence; lifelong friendships; becoming a role model; treasured memories and SO MUCH MORE!

2022-2023 AIM Dance Force Teams

Grades based on the 2022-2023 school year.

Mini Team	K-4 th Grade
Junior Team	5 th -7 th Grade
Senior Team	8 th -12 th Grade

*All Grade Levels are approximate. Placement is decided by instructors.

Competitions and Performances

Competitions have been chosen based on the type that will suit our team best, as well as the scheduled dates that allow for the preparation time needed for our groups to learn and perfect their dances. If you agree to participate in AIM Dance Force, it must take priority over all other events planned for the competition weekends.

TOP Dance Directive Masterclasses – October 9, 2022

Hyatt Regency Downtown: 400 W. Waterman St, Wichita, KS 67202

www.talentonparade.com

**Optional convention for all team members*

Annual Competition Showcase – January 28, 2023

The Sherman Theatre: 1203 Main, Goodland, KS 67735

**MANDATORY for all team members*

AMP Regional Dance Competition – February 3-5, 2023

The Arvada Center: 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

<https://ampdancecompetition.com/>

**MANDATORY competition for all group dances, optional for solos and duets/trios.*

Talent on Parade Regional Competition – March 3-5, 2023

Pueblo Memorial Hall: 1 City Hall Pl, Pueblo, CO 81003

www.talentonparade.com

**MANDATORY competition for all group dances, optional for solos and duets/trios.*

Groove Regional Dance Competition – March 31-April 2, 2023

Denver Metro Area, CO – exact location TBD

<https://www.groovecompetition.com/home>

**Optional for all dances. All group dances will be taken, and will be restaged if dancers are unable to attend.*

Legacy Dance Championships Regional – April 28-30, 2023

Denver Metro Area, CO – exact location TBD

<https://www.groovecompetition.com/home>

**Optional for all dances. All group dances will be taken, and will be restaged if dancers are unable to attend.*

Talent on Parade National Competition – July 6-10, 2023

Overland Park Convention Center: 6000 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66211

www.talentonparade.com

**Optional for all dances. Group dances will be taken if possible, and will be restaged if dancers are unable to attend.*

The focus is not simply on competition. Since it is our goal to instill a passion for performing, rather than merely the desire to win awards, AIM Dance Force may have performance opportunities other than competition. Performances will be scheduled at local events as they come up. Dates and times will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Annual Recital: New small and large group dances will be performed in the annual recital. (Dances from last year's recital will not be in this year's recital.) We will schedule extra practices in the month leading up to recital. Dates and times will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Expectations

Commitment: Being a member of the AIM Dance Force is a great deal of fun but it also requires a large commitment, both financially and time-wise. Every dancer (and parent) who chooses to participate must be ready to commit to the team and the work required. AIM Dance Force is a team and just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance companies require their dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Each dancer must be physically and mentally present at each practice to be fair to the other dancers, instructors, and themselves. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are both a big part of our program's process, therefore **each member will be required to participate in at least one group dance this year.**

At AIM Dance Studio we understand and encourage our dancers to be well rounded individuals. There will be several team members and that means a great deal of schedules to work around. We will do our best to accommodate your schedules, but if a conflict arises, AIM Dance Studio and ADF will need to be the priority. We will need all sports, band, cheer, play, dances, etc. schedules as soon as possible to avoid conflict with extra practices. Please remember when you sign the AIM Dance Force Contract you are not only committed to AIM and the instructors, but you are also committed to the other team members.

Attendance: For continued progression in dance technique, performance, and choreography, each dancer must be present in AIM Dance Force lessons and group classes, unless there is an emergency, illness, or outstanding circumstance, or previously approved by the instructors. There are no refunds or credits for missed practices. Please notify the instructor of absences through email. Dance requires consistent ongoing training, and dancers who miss several classes will not be able to compete at the same level as those who have attended classes regularly. **Any dancer who misses 3 or more group rehearsals will be required to take private lessons to remain on the team.** Private lessons are not included in your fees, and are provided at an additional charge. A single 30-minute private lesson is \$15 and a single 60-minute lesson is \$30. The length of private lessons must be at minimum the amount of rehearsal time missed (in excess of 2 rehearsals). The decision to remove a student from a number or require private lesson(s) is at the teacher's discretion. If a dancer is removed from the team, it could negatively affect their participation in following years.

Lessons: Group competition dances will have choreography sessions and/or bi-weekly lessons starting in August/September. Solos, duets & trios will either have a choreography session in the fall and then meet once per month for 30 minutes, or meet bi-weekly for 30 minutes. Practice schedules for solos/duets/trios are determined by dancer's age/ability and with input from parent(s). All dancers are expected to work on their dance at home as well.

Group dance lesson times are built into the schedule; solos and duets/trios will be scheduled between the dancer(s) and instructor. There will be one open studio time scheduled monthly beginning in December. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor/choreographer, especially before a competition or the recital. Please refer to the calendar on the AIM dance studio app for specific dates and times. All practices are closed to parents and spectators.

If your soloist, duet or trio would like extra rehearsals, a single 30-minute private lesson can be scheduled for \$15 and a single 60-minute lesson can be scheduled for \$30.

Additionally, AIM Dance Force members are required to take group classes as well. These classes teach foundational dance technique and will enhance and reinforce all that is taught in AIM Dance Force practices. At a minimum, dancers are required to be in a group class for the style of their competition dance (i.e., all dancers in a jazz competition dance must be in a jazz group class).

Showcase: All AIM Dance Force members are required to attend the pre-comp showcase that will take place at Sherman County Theater. All groups, duets/trios, and solos will perform their routines in costume with performance hair and make-up. The rehearsal will be open for friends and family to view free of charge. The date is listed in the "Important Dates" section of this handbook and the time will be confirmed in the fall/early winter.

Dress Code: It is important for members of AIM Dance Force to always observe the dress code. Members are setting an example for the non-competitive dancers and for younger teammates. Please refer to the AIM Handbook regarding dress code expectations for lessons. Each competition dance will have its own required costumes and tights for performances. Each member of the AIM Dance Force is required to have the new AIM Jacket and AIM Leggings that will be worn for all competition award ceremonies.

Behavior: Dancers will be expected to focus and try their best in every practice. Positive attitudes are essential! All dancers must work as a cohesive team, which means holding their team members and instructors in the highest regard. Team members are expected to treat each other, teachers, parents, competition judges, and dancers from other studios with the highest level of respect at all times. Remember, you are a representative of AIM Dance Studio and Goodland, Kansas! Once accepted on the team, all dancers and parents will sign an ADF Etiquette Agreement for the season.

AIM Dance Force dancers and parents are expected to support and encourage each other at all times, especially at competitions. Support of your team is vital to our success and our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful of one another and be kind to one another.

Parent Expectations: Children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. The parent's commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, so parents are encouraged to be a part of their child's dance experience. Showing respect for the other parents, along with the dancers and instructors, makes an important impression on the dancers. At times, parents and instructors may look at a dancer's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure every dancer receives the best possible training, both mentally and physically. Mutual respect between the instructors and the dancer's parents provides the dancers with the ultimate care and learning.

Communication: Email is the major form of communication. It is necessary that we have your current email address and any changes of your email address that occur during the year. All practice times will be updated on the AIM Dance Studio Team App. Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, you may call the studio at 785.260.2247 or email misssky@allstarsinmotiondance.com.

Parent Meetings: This year we will NOT have parent meetings the week of competition. Instead, competition notes along with the schedule will be emailed out once they are available. This way families have a written document with all the information that is needed for each competition!

Competition Rules & Etiquette

In general, dancers will arrive at the competition site **two hours before their first dance**. However, if someone on the team is dancing earlier, you are highly encouraged to come and support him or her. Once competition schedules are released, specific call times will be given.

Only dancers and AIM Dance Studio employees will be allowed backstage and in dressing rooms at competitions. Our dancers have proven that not only are they capable of being backstage without additional parents/siblings/etc., but they actually thrive in such an environment. It provides a less crowded and chaotic environment, and allows the dancers to focus on their upcoming performance with less distractions. Once dancers check in with us, they will need to stay with us until after their performance. This is to ensure time for rehearsal, making sure they are stage ready, and most importantly to ensure the safety of the dancers!

Team members are encouraged to wear a cover-up when they are not performing to keep their costumes clean (especially when eating/drinking!). Team members must wear their official AIM Studio Jacket, AIM Leggings and jazz shoes during all award ceremonies.

During a dance, please refrain from leaving your seat or talking. Always enter and exit the audience during a break between dances.

Competition companies do not allow any form of videotaping during the competition. Please remember that your studio or dance can be disqualified from the competition for breaking this rule.

Financial Commitment

Any kind of intense instruction or team is a larger financial commitment than basic classes. We aim to offer the most valuable experiences to each dancer in AIM Dance Force. If a circumstance arises that no longer permits your child to participate on the team, please contact the studio right away. In the event that your child leaves the team, you will still be responsible for the full choreography and lesson costs, costume/merchandise costs for anything that has been ordered, and competition fees for any due dates that have passed. Additionally, dancers who withdrawal after December 1st will be charged a \$50 drop fee per dance (excluding solos) to compensate for time spent re-choreographing dances. All fees, including the annual ADF fee, choreography and lesson costs, costume and merchandise costs, and competition entry fees are non-refundable once paid.

Annual ADF Fees: A one-time, flat fee for each member of the ADF. This payment covers the extra expenses associated with competition including props, hair and make-up supplies, studio fees at competitions, etc. and helps defer the costs our staff members incur while volunteering their time at extra rehearsals and competitions. It will also be used to cover the cost of renting the auditorium for dress rehearsal. The Annual ADF Fee is \$45 per dancer and is due September 1st.

Choreography & Lesson Costs: The fee is a flat charge and is only applicable to dancers participating in competitions. There are no additional charges associated with lessons and rehearsals for local performances. On average, solos, duets, and trios will have 5.5 hours of lessons, small groups with new choreography will have 7 hours, small groups with recital choreography will have 4.5 hours and large group will have 10 hours. Fees will be divided into four payments September thru December. Prior to taking the stage at competition, dancers will have the opportunity to run thru their dance a maximum of 2 times at no charge. If extra practices in-studio or at competition are scheduled by the choreographer/instructor, there will NOT be an extra charge. If any form of extra practice is requested by a dance family, it will be billed at \$15 per half-hour or \$30 per hour.

Performance Type	Rate per Dancer
Solo	\$160
Duet/Trio	\$80
Small Group – New Choreography	\$60
Small Group – Recital 2022 Dance	\$40
Large Group	\$100

Team Uniform: All dancers will need to have an official AIM Studio Jacket which can be purchased from the Online AIM Store for \$65 + tax. Additionally, all dancers will need to have AIM Leggings for award ceremonies. Dancers can provide their own plain black leggings (cannot have a seam on the outside of the leg) or order them through the studio (please contact us for pricing). The leggings will be embellished with vinyl for \$10 + tax.

Costumes: Group dance costumes will be decided by the instructor/choreographer. We make every effort to keep costs reasonable, including using costumes from past years when possible. Solo and duet/trio costumes are selected by the dancer/parent; however, the costume must be approved by the instructor/choreographer to ensure appropriateness and that it goes with the song selected. Costume costs will be communicated two weeks before they are due, with an estimated due date of October 15th.

All female dancers will need to wear Balera tights and nude leotards while performing. These can be ordered through the studio; please contact us for pricing. All female dancers will also need to wear rhinestone earrings that will need to be ordered through the studio. The cost is \$11 + tax per pair.

Competition Entry Fees: Please note, rates are determined by the competition companies and are subject to change. Competition entry fee due dates are listed in the “Important Dates” section of this handbook. The below pricing is from last year and is only approximate. Actual amounts will be communicated to parents by email as soon as possible.

Convention	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced
Dance Directive	\$75	\$119	\$129

Competition	Solo	Duet/Trio	Group	Media Fee
AMP	\$130	\$70	\$59	\$25
TOP Regional	\$122	\$60	\$52	n/a
Groove	\$145	\$78	\$60	FREE
Legacy	\$125	\$74	\$52	FREE
TOP National	\$130	\$63	\$59	n/a

In addition to the competition fees, some competitions have a required, All-Inclusive Media Fee. The fee includes all photos and videos associated with each dancer. The fee is due at the same time as entry fees.

Payment Policies: All choreography and lesson costs will be split into four equal payments and are due on the 1st of the months of September, October, November, and December.

Competition entry fee costs each have their own due date and are outlined in the “Important Dates” section of this handbook. The ADF Annual Fee is due September 1st and costume costs are due around October 15th (exact due dates will be communicated once costume selections are made). The multiple student discount does NOT apply to costs associated with AIM Dance Force. A late fee of \$15 will be charged to unpaid charges 15 days after the due date. If left unpaid, another fee of \$15 will be charged every 30 days. Any student that becomes 60 days or more past due will not be allowed to participate in practices or competitions/performances until their account is current. We do not want to deny any student the opportunity to dance but at the same time cannot allow a student to get too far behind on their payments. Refunds of any costs and fees, as well as cost adjustments for missed practices, will not be made due to delinquent accounts. Late fees are applicable to choreography and lesson costs, competition entry fees, media fees, Annual ADF Fee, and costume/merchandise charges.

Important Dates

ADF Team Pictures	Fall 2022 (Date TBD)
ADF Annual Fee Due	Thursday, September 1, 2022
ADF Choreography/Lesson Fee Due	Thursday, September 1, 2022
TOP Dance Directive Fees Due	Friday, September 9, 2022
ADF Family BBQ	Saturday, September 17, 2022
ADF Choreography/Lesson Fee Due	Saturday, October 1, 2022
TOP Dance Directive	Sunday, October 9, 2022
Costume Fees Due	Date TBD (around October 15 th)
ADF Choreography/Lesson Fee Due	Tuesday, November 1, 2022
ADF Choreography/Lesson Fee Due	Thursday, December 1, 2022
AMP Fees Due	Friday, December 2, 2022
Open Studio	Saturday, December 3, 2022
ADF Team Christmas Party	Thursday, December 22, 2022
TOP Regional Fees Due	Friday, December 30, 2022
MANDATORY Rehearsal & Team Party	Saturday, January 14, 2023
Groove Regional Fees Due	Friday, January 27, 2023
MANDATORY Annual Showcase	Saturday, January 28, 2023
AMP Dance Regional Competition	February 3-5, 2023
Legacy Fees Due	Friday, February 24, 2023
Open Studio	Saturday, February 25, 2023
Talent on Parade Regional Competition	March 3-5, 2023
Open Studio	Saturday, March 25, 2023
Groove Regional Dance Competition	March 31-April 2, 2023
Open Studio	Saturday, April 22, 2023
Legacy Dance Championships Competition	April 28-30, 2023
TOP National Fees Due	Thursday, May 4, 2023
Talent on Parade National Competition	July 6-10, 2023

Rehearsal Schedule

All group rehearsals will be held on Mondays during the regular season and in general be held every other week. **Specific rehearsal dates will be released with team announcements during the third week of August.** All Junior and Senior level groups will also have a choreography session during the last part of August or first part of September (before the regular season begins). This includes groups from Recital 2022 dances so that they may be restaged/choreographed to accommodate any changes in participants, cuts in song length, etc. Large Group may have multiple choreography sessions to be able to focus on different age levels/parts. Mini group will not have longer choreography sessions but may begin rehearsing prior to the start of the regular season. All of the choreography session dates/times will be decided once group placements are made, and will also be released at the same time as team announcements.

Group	Style	Rehearsal Time (On Mondays)
Large Group (all ages)	Musical Theater	6:30-7:00 pm
Mini Small Group	Jazz	5:45-6:15 pm
Junior Small Group	Jazz	5:45-6:15 pm
“Poison”	Tap	6:15-6:30 pm
“No Place Like Home”	Lyrical	7:30-7:45 pm
“Nails, Hair, Hips, Heels”	Hip Hop	7:45-8:00 pm
Senior Small Group	Jazz	8:00-8:30 pm