



## RF Middle School Dance Team 2022-2023

*Welcome! We are so excited you are here! As a member of the RFDT you won't just learn exciting and challenging competition dances, attend practices, and perform at football games, basketball games and dance competitions... you will make life-long friends, work together towards common goals, become stronger dancers, be more active members of the River Falls community, build school spirit and represent River Falls across the state of Wisconsin!*

*This team is all about setting goals and achieving them. It's about passion for dance, passion for performance, and passion for working closely with a group of girls who have the exact same goals as you. This team is about inspiration, determination, respect, friendship and teamwork...but most of all, it is about a sense of identity, belonging, and family.*

### **DATES/TIMES: Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

- **Workshop** (for Dancers): 3:15-5:15pm in the **\*MMS CAFETERIA\***
- **New Team Parent Info Meeting** (for dancers and parents): 5:30-6:30pm in the MMS Cafeteria

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** We will stretch and be learning skills and fun combos in Pom, Hip Hop & Jazz!

*\*If you have a scheduling conflict, we can also schedule a 1:1 make-up - just let us know if you need to do that by emailing coaches at [riverfallsdanceteam@gmail.com](mailto:riverfallsdanceteam@gmail.com)\**

**WHAT TO BRING/WEAR:** Wear dance/tennis shoes, clothes you can move in (no jeans), hair pulled back and a smile. ☺ Bring along a water bottle.

**REGISTRATION PAPERWORK:** The registration form is online, on our website [riverfallsdanceteam.com](http://riverfallsdanceteam.com). You can register for the "class session" named **2022-2023 MSDT** on the link in the menu and on the home page. The registration includes the following and is due no later than **Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**:

- Dancer & Family Contact Info & Apparel Sizing (we will use this throughout the year)
- Medical Info (we will be able to access this quickly in the event of an emergency)
- Participation, Liability, Photograph & Transportation Waivers
- Parent Support Agreement
- \*If you already have an account on [Riverfallsdanceteam.com](http://Riverfallsdanceteam.com), it should have saved all of your info. Please double check and update if anything has changed (address, sizing etc).
- **\*\*A Team Expectations** form will be due at a later date, after families have read through the team handbook.

**NUMBERS:** Everyone who goes out for the team is offered a position on the team. If we have a very large turnout we will split into two teams – Gold and Blue. Being a Blue team member gives dancers a great chance to work on their dance skills and technique without the stress of competing at bigger competitions. Blue team members will dance at games and compete at the Wildcat Invite. We want to take as many *qualified* dancers on the Gold team as possible. All dancers who were on the team previously are required to tryout again each year.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all students entering grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> for the 2022-2023 school year. All dancers must not be failing any classes at the time of auditions. They should have all costumes from previous seasons turned in and a current dance team account in order to be eligible to participate.

**DANCE TEAM & STUDIO:** YES, dancers are able to go to their dance studio, and several dancers do! We do our best to have a schedule that is easy to work with around studio classes, but please keep in mind there are several studios in the area, and only one RFDT, so there may be conflicts. It is only fair to the girls who are in attendance at the entirety of each practice that we adhere to our attendance policy, and missing a dance team practice or performance for studio dance would be an unexcused absence unless you have prior approval from coaches with an absence form.

**ESTIMATED 2022-2023 DANCE TEAM SEASON:**

**November:** Practice 3x/wk

**December:** Practice 3x/wk. Competitions (Menomonie 12/3 & RF Wildcat Invite on 12/17), Bball Games

**January:** Practice 3x/wk, Best of the Best 1/6, JEM (MS State Comp)

**February:** Practice 2x/wk, HS Bball Game 1/31, Recital 2/11, Banquet 3/3

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS:** Practices in the school year are held 3:15-5pm at Meyer Middle School. Because this is a performance-based team activity, any absence makes it difficult for everyone else; therefore, it is absolutely essential that dancers are at all of practice, for the entirety of practice. Absences need to be cleared by the coach beforehand by filling out the online absence form at least 72 hours before the practice they will miss stating when and why they will miss a practice (vacation, wedding etc).

- Head coach needs to be notified of sickness/injury at least 30 minutes *prior* to practice by a parent. Dancers who miss practice will need to make up the material they missed.
- Each dancer has three unexcused absences for other things that come up. Work, concerts, family dinners, birthday parties, etc are not excused and count as one of your three.
- If a dancer is not keeping up in the dances due to absences, they may be benched from performing until they are ready/caught up.
- **Practices the day before a game are mandatory and all practices the week of a competition are mandatory.**

**FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:** As a member of the River Falls Dance Team, you should anticipate that there will be many fundraisers that you will be required to participate in. Because the dance team is self-supporting, there are personal expenditures that come with being part of the team, but for the most part the cost is minimal. You should anticipate that there will be an initial expenditure for dance gear (warm up jacket, shoes & tights) approximately \$150 for new dancers, \$100 for returners, and Activity Fee (\$150). Our main fundraisers this year are the Wildcat Invite as well as sponsorships, we need all hands-on deck in order for these events to be a success, and in order to keep costs down for our dancers' families. We do our best to keep costs to a minimum as well as offer multiple team and individual fundraising opportunities. **\*\*\*No dancer will be turned away due to financial constraints, but an attempt to help the team fundraise will be required from each dancer. Scholarship money is available and personal payment plans can be worked out. Please contact the coach if this is a concern for your family.**

**NEW TEAM MEETING:** There will be a MANDATORY New Member Parent Meeting. At least one parent and the dancer must attend this meeting (both parents if joint custody), on **Thursday, October 27th at 5:30pm**. *If a family cannot attend, we will need to schedule a make-up meeting.*

*We can't wait to have you be a part of our team!*

**Questions?** Email coach Franklin at [RiverFallsDanceTeam@gmail.com](mailto:RiverFallsDanceTeam@gmail.com)