Introduction
The competitive dance team is designed for the student who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Placement on a competition team is an honor and should be regarded as such. Those selected should incorporate the following into their dance studies:

- Must be self-motivated.
- Must work extra hard on all technical and performance skills AND have a desire to develop these skills further.
- Must have a positive attitude.
- Must have a team mentality and show support for fellow team members, the studio, and the teachers.
- Must have a supportive family that shows respect for all teachers, other parents, and especially other students at all times.

Commitment
Dance Team participants are required to participate from September 2015 through Nationals in 2016. Acrobatic Team participants are required to participate from September 2015 through March 2016.

Attendance
Excellent attendance is mandatory! Students on a Dance or Acrobatic Competition Team may miss no more than 6 classes for the duration of the season. Attendance is very important because the student will be learning new elements of the routine every week. You will be immediately dismissed from the team if you miss more than 6 competition classes, more than 6 of your corresponding technique classes, a scheduled competition, or nationals. Dismissal from a team will automatically forfeit your chance of making another team in the future. There will be no make-up classes or private lessons given for missed classes.

Financial Commitment/Competition Fees
Being on any competition team requires a substantial financial commitment. Acrobatic and Dance Team members are required to compete in 4 competitions in the 2015-2016 dance season. There are competition fees associated with each competition. The competition fees range from $20 to $120 per dance/per competition and are set in the competition guidelines. (For example: Susie is on the ballet competition team, hip hop competition team, and lyrical competition team. She will be required to pay a competition fee for each dance team at every competition we perform with.) No student will be allowed to compete if fees are not paid and will be dismissed from the team. Tuition is also a financial commitment. Please keep in mind when committing to your team, you must be able to attend and pay for all technique classes and the competition classes for which you are selected for and agree to. Payment of tuition must be made monthly. Parents must also purchase a costume for each routine which can range from $65-$150 per routine. Specific shoes are also required per routine which is an additional cost to the costume fee.
Fees are Per Routine and Per Competition:

Example of Dance Competition Fees (Costs vary from competition to competition and year to year)
Talent On Parade
2015 REGIONAL ENTRY FEES
Solos — $89; Duets — $48 for each member; Trios — $42 for each member; Groups — $40 for each member.

2015 NATIONAL ENTRY FEES
Solos — $98; Duets — $54 for each member; Trios — $45 for each member; Groups — $44 for each member.

National Acrobatics Competition Fees:
Compulsory & Optional Routine – $22
Compulsory & Optional Power Tumbling – $10
Mini Trampoline – $14

Competitions
The competition schedule for the 2015-2016 dance/acrobatic season is as follows:

The following Events and Competitions are Mandatory:

Dance Team
Aug 29  Try Outs
Sept 20  Parent Meeting  7:00pm
Feb 13  Lock In
Feb 20  In Class Dress Rehearsal
Feb 27  Showcase
May 26-27  Dress Rehearsal for Recital
May 28  Recital at Folly Theatre

Dance Competitions:
1) March 4-6  NexStar:  TBA
2) April 1-3  Stage One: Overland Park Convention Center
3) April 28-May1  Talent On Parade:  Overland Park Convention Center
4) June 21-26  Nationals with Talent On Parade: Oklahoma City

Optional but Recommended:
Oct 25:  Dance Intensive with Talent On Parade

Acrobatics Team
All meets held at Monticello Trails Middle School
* Meet start time 1:00 PM

1) November 14
2) January 31
3) February 14
4) March 5  (students competing on the dance team will not compete in this event)
All dancers and acrobats are required to perform at all regional and national competitions. For dance competitors, it is important for you to not make any plans in the span of the dates given for each competition. Exact dates and times will not be available until approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the competition. If you are on several competition teams, you may spend the majority of the weekend at the competition. We make every effort to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible.

- Competitions are an educational opportunity – Students learn team building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self-confidence that will last a lifetime. It also gives teachers and students an opportunity to see “what else is out there” and grow from there.
- It is a fun, family activity – Students and their families will spend time together. Parents/Family members should encourage their child/sibling/family member to do their best and have fun.

**The Competition Experience**

It is important to understand that competing as a member of the United Dance/Acro Team is a privilege, and it offers great performance opportunities. Competition results are subjective opinions. Your child’s growth shouldn’t be completely gauged by their score at competition. It is important to keep their competition experiences positive and be proud of them and their team, no matter how they score. We do not foster competition within or between our dance teams. All we ask is for each student to perform to their full potential.

**Costumes**

A separate costume will be chosen for each routine, dance and acrobatic, in which a student was selected for. By accepting placement on a competition team, you agree to purchase and wear the costume designated by your teacher. Cost is based on specific costumes. You will receive that information shortly.

**Team Warm-Ups**

We wear team warm-ups to each competition. Our warm-ups consist of a team jacket and pants. Team participants are required to wear these at all competitions when not performing and especially during awards ceremonies.

**Parent Roles**

United Dance highly stresses that we want and promote a “Drama-Free” zone! Plainly speaking, parents are expected at all times to be supportive, respectful, and courteous to all dancers, family members, and teachers from our studio and other studios. Parents are also expected to show respect to the staff members of the hosting competition. We will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment, or disrespect. Please do not bring negativity into the studio! A positive attitude is expected!

A parent’s role is to do the following:

- Support all of the kids and teachers at the studio.
- Teach your child that the competition will be tough and how to handle setbacks
- Be happy for others when they do well
- Teach your child to be happy for others when they do well
- Help other parents who may be new to the program or have questions about the competition
- Support your teachers and their decisions so that your child will learn to do the same
- Come into the studio weekly to check for competition handouts/posted updates, etc
Students and Parents who support the team, the teachers/coaches, and each other will be successful! We want all our children to succeed, but success is not measured by the size of the trophy they bring home or by the row in which they stand on the stage. Success is measured by the effort they put forth!

**Dress Code/Personal Hygiene/Make-up/Hair Requirements**

It is very important to have good hygiene, not only for competitions, but also for class. Some teachers require dancers to wear certain clothing in class. Please adhere to your teachers’ dress code. For dance competitions, you will be required to wear specific make-up, wear your hair in a certain style or have costume accessories which are required (hairclip/earrings). It is important to look your best at competitions! Follow your instructor’s hair, makeup, and accessory instructions 100%. Having an impeccable and uniform appearance is an important part of competition. We are not only judged on our dance technique, but on our appearance as well. It is a good idea to have a make-up case and/or tote bag with hairspray, bobby pins, deodorant, a small sewing kit, safety pins, pain reliever, make-up remover, baby wipes, etc.

**Rules For Dance Competition**

 Auditions will be held August 29th

1) Audition for many disciplines. Previous placement on a team does not guarantee you a spot on the team the following year. All former team members must re-audition for the 2015-2016 dance year. At auditions you will be able to tell us how many competition teams you are willing to be on. Example- You may audition for 5 teams and choose to be on only 3 teams. We recommend auditioning for many teams to increase your chances of being on a team.

2) We will not be moving students who do not make larger teams to smaller teams after auditions this year. If you do not audition for a team, you will not be able to be on that team.

3) If you would like to be in a solo, duet, or trio, you must audition for AND MAKE the group routine for the discipline of your solo, duet, or trio. Example- I want to do an acro solo. I must audition for and make the acro dance group routine. Example- I want to do a contemporary duet. I must audition for and make the contemporary/modern group routine. Example- I want to do a modern trio. I must audition for and make the contemporary/modern group routine.

4) Teams will be announced on the competition bulletin board and on the website on Sept 1st.

5) Requests for solos, duets, and trios will be handed out the first week of competition classes. Not all requests will be accepted. You will be required to list three teachers you are willing to work with per request. You will be able to submit your available practice times on this request. Solos, Duets, and Trios will begin the first week of October.

6) Required Classes: You are required to take one hour of technique class for each hour of competition class you are in. You will have your choice of non-recital technique classes: Ballet, Leaps and Turns, Dance Conditioning, Acrobatics OR a recital technique class of the same discipline. Example: If you are on hip hop competition, you can take dance conditioning OR a hip hop recital technique class.

7) Attendance: You may only miss 6 classes of your competition class and 6 classes of your corresponding technique class for the duration of the Competitive Season. (September-June). If you miss more than 6 classes of your competition class OR technique class, you will be immediately removed from your competition team.
This contract serves as an agreement between you and United Dance Inc. as produced and directed by Vickie Zachary, owner and director. Your child has been selected to be a member of the 2015-2016 United Dance Acrobatic/Dance Teams. Your signature below indicates you have read this contract and fully understand all requirements/commitments associated with participating in this program as outlined in your Competition Dance/Acrobatic Team Handbook. Furthermore, your signature and the signature of your child, indicates your acceptance of these terms and conditions and your awareness of the time/monetary commitment involved in this program.

Please note: At any time a teacher or the director of the studio feels that a student has violated the United Dance No Tolerance rule of extreme bad behavior, trashing or defacing venues we are performing at, disrespectfulness to other students or teachers (causing them to be dismissed from class or at a competition), or numerous unexcused absences, we have the right to expel you from the team, and any fees paid are non-refundable. Also, if all fees are not paid by the time of the due date for a competition, the student will not be able to perform.

Student:
Being a member of the 2015-2016 Dance/Acrobatic Competition Team means, I will actively participate from September 2015 – June 2016. I will not miss more than 6 classes of my competition classes or 6 classes for my corresponding technique classes in this time. I am committed to this acro/dance program and I will participate in ALL performances, special engagements, competitions, and recitals which are scheduled during this time period. I will come to class on time, dressed appropriately, with proper shoes, and be ready to learn.

Being a member of the United Dance or Acrobatic Team means I will dedicate myself to working hard and will always have a positive attitude. By signing this contract below, I am taking ownership and will become part of the United Dance/Acrobatic Competition Team. I will always treat this opportunity with kindness and respect at all times.

Student Signature________________________________________  Date ___________________

Parent:
Please be sure you feel comfortable with your ability to handle the fees associated with this activity. As with most competitive activities, there are many uncontrollable circumstances and we don’t want to catch anyone off guard with this dance obligation.

Monthly tuition, competition fees, costume fees, etc. all have due dates. These due dates are always posted at the studio, in the newsletter, and on the website – www.uniteddanceinc.com. Monthly tuition is due at the beginning of each month and is late after 7 days. Late fees are outlined in your handbook information and will be added to any late payments. There shouldn’t be any excuse for lack of knowledge of a due date or amount. It is each parent/students responsibility to be aware of any fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest for you to come into the studio weekly to check on any competition updates.

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child’s account and activity requirements.

Parent Signature________________________________________  Date ___________________

Please return this agreement, signed, to the front desk by September 26th. Please complete one form for each of your children who have accepted placement on a United Dance Competition Team or United Dance Acrobatics Team.