



TRYOUT PACKET

2022-2023 Season

Thank you for your interest in the SPARK Junior Raptors Dance Team! As part of our middle school program, your dancer will learn a number of skills and receive multiple opportunities that will benefit them as they transition to their High School Dance Team!

The purpose of our Middle School programs is to help junior dancers develop the necessary skills and technique that they will utilize as they transition to their respective high school dance teams. Each junior team is designed to mimic their respective high school dance team experience through training, performances, opportunities, and more.

At SPARK, our mission is to foster excellence, develop strong and consistent dancers, promote self-esteem, understand the mechanics behind the movement, and instill a solid work ethic. Within our middle school programs we promote school spirit and involvement, teamwork, dedication, and respect; as well as learning effective technical skills, time management, and accountability, all to help your dancer learn how to become a valuable team member and to create a successful and meaningful experience.

“At SPARK, we focus on the mastery of skills rather than on winning”

Important Dates

PRE-TRYOUT PARENT MEETING

April 11, 5:30 - 6:30 PM [VIRTUAL]

*Meeting link can be found by visiting our team Instagram page
[@SparkJrRaptors]*

TRYOUTS

*April 24, 10:00AM - 1:00PM @ Classic Dance Academy
[7036 S Potomac St, Centennial, CO 80112]*

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TRYOUT INFORMATION

Please read through the entirety of this packet carefully and thoroughly, and contact the coaches directly (SparkJrRaptors@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns prior to tryouts.

****PLEASE NOTE****

****TRYOUTS ARE CLOSED TO SPECTATORS****

****Please plan to drop your athlete/dancer off and pick them up at the time stated above.****

****Parents/guardians are welcome to sit in their cars in the parking lot while waiting for tryouts to end.****

****Thank you in advance for adhering to this request.****

REQUIRED ITEMS - *The following items are required from each athlete to participate in tryouts*

- Tryout Registration
 - Registration link can be found at www.spark-dance.com/jr-raptors
 - The liability waiver must be agreed to in order to participate in tryouts

TRYOUT ATTIRE - *Please dress appropriately!*

- Wear ALL BLACK and *FITTED* dance attire
 - i.e. something you can move comfortably in
 - Preferably no baggy shirts, sweaters, or sweatpants
- Bring tennis shoes and/or some form of dance shoe
 - i.e. jazz shoes, turners, etc.
- NO jewelry, NO Gum, NO EXCEPTIONS
- Hair should be pulled back & out of your face
- Cell phones and smart watches must be **turned off and put away**
 - Texting is not permitted during tryouts

PREFERRED SKILLS - *The following is a list of skills the coaches will be looking for as we consider which team each dancer should be placed on. The following list is just a reference and should be used as such. Coaches/judges may ask to see additional skills not listed here.*

- General Skills
 - Basic arm strength & coordination
 - HIGH energy
 - Smiling
 - Ability to learn choreography
 - Desire to learn & grow as a dancer
- Technique
 - Flexibility - Splits/Leg Holds
 - Kicks - Individual/Kickline
 - Toe touches
 - Leaps
 - Single or double pirouette
 - Knowledge of basic hip hop & pom style/skills
 - Strong grounded movement
 - Endurance

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TEAM EVALUATION - *The following is a list of categories that coaches and judges will use when considering the placement of each dancer.*

- Dance/technical abilities
 - Dance technique
 - Knowledge of routine/steps
 - Execution
 - Showmanship
 - Overall performance
- Overall qualities
 - Attitude
 - Work ethic
 - Ability to work well within a team
 - Professionalism
 - Coachability
 - Participation
- Preferred skills
 - SEE ABOVE

TEAM SELECTION - *Team selections are at the coaches discretion.*

- Team selections will be emailed out to individuals following tryouts on the evening of **April 24**
- Any questions regarding placement will be answered 12-24 hours after results have been sent
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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Junior Raptors 2022/2023 season will run from April through January. Tryouts are open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who plan to attend Eaglecrest High School. All athletes who make the team will receive the following team items:

- Performance attire (costume)
- Poms
- Practice apparel
- A team bag
- Jazz shoes/Pirouettes
- Team tennis shoes

The following opportunities will be made available to each dancer who makes the team (pending COVID restrictions from the county, school district, and/or high school/venue):

- Team performances (Competitive and other)
- Mentorship from the Eaglecrest Dance Team members
- Team bonding events
- And more!

The team will compete in Hip Hop for the 2022/2023 season.

PLEASE NOTE, athletes/dancers cannot participate on another competitive dance team while on the Junior Raptors Dance Team.

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SEASON PRACTICES

- Practices will typically be held on weekdays in the evenings
 - Teams *may* have additional Saturday or Sunday practices at the coach's discretion and pending facility availability
- Practices will be held at local dance, yoga, and/or other studios or appropriate dance spaces
 - Locations may vary day-to-day but will typically be the same week-to-week
 - *(i.e. Mondays and Tuesdays at Classic Dance, and Thursdays at Trails Rec Center - this is just an example)*
- Coaches will distribute and review the schedule for the season at the first team meeting following tryouts

WEEKLY COMMITMENT

- Practice/technique [4-5 hours total]
- Additional hours may be added/expected *on occasion* for things such as:
 - Performances/Competitions
 - Team events (Team bonding activities, fundraisers, ect.)

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES *Pending COVID restrictions of the school, district, and county*

- Mini Raptors Clinics
- Eaglecrest High School Basketball Games
- SPARK Spring Showcase
- Any other opportunities that may arise!*

**We will participate in as many performance opportunities as we are able/invited to!*

COMPETITION SCHEDULE *Specific dates are TBD & pending COVID restrictions*

- November → UDA Competition
- November/December → NDA
- January → DTU Competition

IMPORTANT DATES *The following events should be taken into consideration before trying out as participation in these events is of the utmost importance. Any known conflicts with the following dates and times should be discussed with the coaches **prior to tryouts***

- **Post-Tryout Parent Meeting**
 - *April 25, 5:30 - 6:30 PM [VIRTUAL]*
 - Any parent who will be financially responsible for their athlete/dancer over the course of the season **MUST** attend the first parent meeting
 - The initial deposit will be due at this time
- **Spring Technique/First Practices** **Pending facility confirmation*
 - *Week of May 9th - exact date & time TBD**
 - *Week of May 23rd - exact date & time TBD**
 - *Week of June 6th - exact date & time TBD**

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- **Spring Showcase**
 - May 14th, 1:30 - 4:30PM
 - Tentatively at Falcon Creek Middle School
- **Summer Camp**
 - June 13-16, 8:30AM - 12:30PM each day
- **Choreography**
 - July 25-26, 5:00PM - 9:00PM each day

IMPORTANT - If you have any scheduling conflicts with the dates listed above, please discuss with the coaching staff ASAP. [This includes any school related conflicts]

****PLEASE NOTE, the dates and times listed above are subject to change at the discretion of the program and coaches. For the most accurate information, please follow us on Social media and check our website regularly.**

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES - *The following dates should be carefully noted for those who wish to participate on the Junior Raptors Dance Team*

- **Summer Break**
 - Athletes are OFF from June 17 to July 24
 - We ask that you please try to plan any vacations during this time so that trips do not interfere with the important dates listed above and practice schedules
- **Weekly Practices Begin**
 - Weekly practices begin the week of **August 22, 2022**

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The estimated total cost for the 2022/2023 season is \$3,345 - \$3,800. This amount will be split between April and February, with a payment due by the 1st of each month. A detailed financial breakdown can be found in the "Financial Agreement" document. A deposit of \$400 will be due following the first parent meeting to secure your dancer's spot on the team. The deposit is applied to your total for the season.

As requested by the team/parents, fundraising opportunities will be made available to reduce overall costs for the season.

We do recognize that this sport is expensive. As a program that exists to help junior dancers prepare for their High School Dance Team, we aim to mimic the structure of their respective high school team but on a smaller scale. As such, our budget and pricing are built to reflect that. We continually do our best to minimize costs for the season and we create our annual budgets with this in mind. Upon request, we are happy to provide the estimated costs for the high school team in which your dancer will be joining for comparison.

We never want an athlete's participation to hinge on finances so PLEASE reach out to the coaches and/or SPARK admin to discuss financial options for the season if needed.

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REMEMBER to be positive, stay actively involved, and enjoy the experience!

Good Luck!

Coach Des & Coach Lisbel
SparkJrRaptors@gmail.com