

Dear Parents and all kids who made the Extreme Ballroom Company for the 2023-24 year,

We appreciate all of you coming out and hope that you had a good experience at tryouts. We think this is going to be another fantastic year!

**First**—Unless you simply can't find your student's name listed somewhere on this posting, then we ask that you please understand that I cannot and WILL NOT take calls and e-mails regarding the placement of your child in our program, and neither will my TEACHERS or STAFF at this time. Sometimes a Junior who still looks younger, will be moved to a pre-teen team, and vice-versa. Check all the ages first BEFORE you email us with a missing name. We are all in need of time with our own families now, as it has been, and always is a very busy year☺ Everyone this year was placed on one of our teams or tech. classes! This is amazing!! We are very proud of all of you!!

**Second**—Many of you are wondering about the Cabaret Team. We will hold tryouts for this at our boot camp. We will keep you posted.

**Third**-We did not have enough PT boys to have a PT Blue team again this year. We would really like to make this happen if possible, so we are asking that everyone try your best to find boys for these girls....We also still need some boys for PT Gold, so PLEASE, PLEASE help us find some if you can.

**Fourth**-We were able to create a Jr. Showcase team this year, but need to recruit more Junior Boys for this team as well. We currently have 4 couples, but would really like to make this an 8 couple team if possible. Talk to friends, people at your churches, family, etc.

**Fifth**-You will see a new tech. class added that is required for ALL youth gold, youth blue and jr. gold team members who are dancing open (those not dancing open and those on junior blue will be required to take the American class). You will note that the Ballroom and Latin Competition classes are held at the same time, so if you are someone who competes in both styles, you will alternate weeks that you attend each style. We will go through this in more detail as the year begins so you understand how this will work. We feel this will really give coaches a chance to give more feedback for open couples in a class setting as well as help them get into better shape physically. We are looking forward to implementing this class again.

**Sixth**-We will assign all dancers to tech. classes for their level before the beginning of the year. We are not going to require anyone who is ONLY on the Youth Showcase team to attend a tech. class if they choose not to, however we would highly recommend that they participate in at least one tech. class that suits their level. We will not be responsible for partnering them up for syllabus, so be sure to do that parents if you want them to compete. If you need help, be sure to ask us.

**Seventh--** With eleven couples on Youth Gold, it makes it impossible to have each member compete in both medleys. Also, a few of you are more proficient in one style than the other and some are quite proficient in both. Because of this, some of you will not compete in both medleys at Nationals and may not compete in either of the finals. However, this doesn't mean that you won't PERFORM both medleys. If you learn both medleys well, you will get a chance to perform them as we rotate groups each time. As we get closer to nationals, you will not be switched into a dance you are not assigned to compete in. We just won't have time to do that and be ready. I would like to meet with you all very soon to explain this and some other important requirements for Youth Gold, but for now this will suffice. Watch on band for a meeting within the next two weeks.

**Eighth**--Please remember that we have auditions for a reason: To place the kids where they need to be. We have done that now, and I know some of you may disagree, but that is why we have judges, and the decisions

are final. Something that I worry about each year at this time, is that we maintain our reputation of fostering good manners and courtesy among parents, students and teachers. Auditions are a difficult OR joyful time for all. Many friends who have danced together for some time get moved on to different teams, some make the team they have always wanted, others not. Please be sensitive to one another and remember once a friend, always a friend. Thinking you are better than someone else because you made a higher team is a trait that is not welcome at Extreme. On the flipside of that, those who did not make a higher team and talk badly about those who did, is equally not acceptable. DO NOT belittle one another. It only makes you look weak.

Parents remember, your children will be ok, if YOU are supportive, positive, and encourage your children to be grateful that they get to be a part of a wonderful program, no matter what team they made. New relationships will be made, and much fun awaits all of our students!!

**Finally-** I just want to thank all of you for your support this year and every year. So much love and support...I can't believe it! We would never have been able to pull off a competition without all of you helping and making it spectacular, as well as the concert. I truly do feel we have a great feeling in our studio, which has been told to me by many coaches who have come here to work with our kids. They have said that there is just a different feeling here. I know it is because we have the best kids and families in the world at Extreme and I want to keep it that way!! If you are one who actually read all of this letter, then you will be pleased to know that we added two new teachers to our Extreme Staff!! If you pull up the class schedule, you will see their names and I think everyone will be pleasantly surprised! I'm so glad I don't need to keep it secret anymore 😊

P.S. Please be sure and read your Summer Responsibilities Page. It is just around the corner 😊 Thanks and have a GREAT memorial weekend with your families!!

Sincerely, Staci Huston and all the staff at Extreme Ballroom!