**How do tryouts work?**

Tryouts are for both the Fall Performance and Winter Competition season.

In the fall, all dancers are on one team. The fall team learns 4-5 different dances that may include jazz, high kick, hip hop, field dance, and pom.

In the winter, there is a second tryout for placement on a winter team. There are usually three Jazz teams (Varsity, JV and B-Squad) and two Kick teams (Varsity and JV). It is possible to be on Varsity for one dance and JV for the other. Dancers may be moved between teams after the tryouts as determined by the coaches based on dancer performance. For Varsity teams, later in the season there may be cuts where dancers are either made alternates or moved to JV teams.

**What happens during the tryout days? What should I have prepared?**

The first two days of tryouts dancers will learn all material required for the formal audition. Those auditioning will learn a short Jazz and/or High Kick routine as well as skill combinations that they will perform during final auditions. Auditions are done in groups of 4 privately in front of a panel of judges.

**How many dancers are on the team?**

This is different each year! We have had anywhere from 45 – 80 dancers on our team. Most recently, our roster has been around 55 dancers. At spring auditions, dancers are selected for the team as a whole. Placement on Winter Varsity, JV, and B-Squad teams are done at a second audition at the beginning of Winter season.

**What is the time commitment to be on BDT?**

Fall season runs from mid-August to mid-October. Practice is 5 days per week – generally after school but August practice times may differ. Winter season practice is 5-6 days per week, after school and Saturday mornings. See the posted schedule for more information.

**Why are there summer events?**

Like most other sports at the high school level, it is important for the dancers to continue conditioning and training during the off-season. Summer trainings provide the opportunity for the dancers to train together. Development Camp is one suggested option. Another option is Just for Kix camp – it gives the dancers an opportunity to learn new dance styles, improve technique and build strong team relationships. The Blaine Blazing Fourth parade is a great opportunity for the dancers to reach out to the community. Coaches encourage all dancers to continue their skill development by taking outside dance instruction (studio, technique classes, master classes, etc.).

**What is Just for Kix camp?**

Just for Kix camp is a four day camp for high school dance teams held in Brainerd. It is a great opportunity for our dancers to bond with the team and coaches, get coaching and instruction from some phenomenal teachers and have a great time with their teammates. The team rides together on a bus from Blaine High School on Sunday and parents travel to Brainerd on Wednesday to see the camp show and carpool dancers back home. The fee paid to JFK includes hotel, meals, and transportation to and from the school each day. The Booster Club pays for the bus to Brainerd. JFK Camp is not required , but it is a great experience for dancers.

**What Fall activities do the dancers participate in?**

In the fall, the dancers participate in the State Fair parade, home football game half-time performances, metro-area dance shows, pepfests, volunteer activities and fundraising programs.

**What should I expect at a Dance Show (Fall)?**

Fall Dance Shows are not competitions. At these shows the participating teams normally perform two dances. The hosting team may have youth clinic dances, a guy/girl dance, a dad/daughter dance, a senior dance and a senior recognition time. There is usually an intermission and the show lasts 2 hours or so. Admission is $6 - $8. Concessions are available. Per District policy, the dancers ride a bus to and from the event.

**What Winter events do the dancers participate in?**

The team compete in conference meets (usually four meets) and the conference championships. The Varsity dances at the U of M Best of the Best Show. The team will also compete at invitationals in the metro area and at the Section Championships. Teams placing in the top three at the Section Championships qualify for State. The entire team attends all events.

**How does the Junior Varsity and B-Squad season differ from the Varsity season?**

We think of our dancers as one team. The conference meets and Invitationals include B-Squad, JV and Varsity dances. Only the Varsity dances at Sections and State, but we make arrangements for all dancers to attend. All dancers come to all practices for the entire season (up until the State tournament).

**What should I expect at a Conference Meet?**

There are usually two Jazz meets where the Varsity, JV and B-Squad teams perform. There are also two Kick meets where Varsity and JV teams perform. To conclude the conference season there is a Conference Championship where the Varsity teams perform their Jazz and Kick routines.

At conference meets the schools are divided into two groupings. Half of the teams will compete against each other and face SIDE A. The other half of the teams will compete against each other and face SIDE B. The top three teams on each side will be announced. These placements count towards the scores that will decide the conference champions for Jazz and Kick.

The dancers LOVE to see a big Bengalette cheering sections at their performances. Please wear your Bengalette or Blaine High School gear and sit with other BDT fans. If you are one of the first to arrive, start a section by saving some seats so most of us can sit together.

**How does scoring work?**

Independent judges score the routines on individual elements like technique, style, straight lines, leaps, turns, unique choreography, etc.. They also assign a place ranking to the dance – from 1 through whatever number of dances are performing. The high and low ranking for a team are dropped and the other numbers are added together to get that team’s ranking points. For example, there are five judges and School A received rankings of 1, 1, 2, 2, 3. A 1 and the 3 are dropped and School A receives a ranking point score of 5. The team with the lowest ranking score wins. If there is a tie, the tie is broken based on criteria that takes into account the individual scoring elements mentioned earlier.

**What is an Invitational and what should I expect at one?**

An Invitational is an all day Saturday event/competition sponsored by a dance team. Teams are often from several different conferences. At larger invites, there can be 20+ teams. Both jazz and kick dances are performed. Varsity, JV and B-Squad will participate in the invitationals. In general, the B-Squad and JV competition is performed and awards are given, then there is a break and the Varsity competition begins. Awards are given to the top placing teams in each division – number of awards varies based on number of teams participating. The entire team travels to and from the competition together. Admission is usually about $8. There is usually an Invitational t-shirt available for purchase – sometimes a pre-order is available, sometimes they are just available at the event. There are also often vendor booths and gift booths at the invitationals.

**What should I expect at the Section Championships?**

The teams in our section are different than the teams in our conference. Section alignments are available on the Minnesota State High School League website. Only Varsity teams perform Jazz and Kick. The first, second and third place teams in each event qualify to compete in the State competition.

**What should I expect at State?**

There is a Jazz day and a Kick day at State. There are three divisions of schools - A, AA and AAA. BDT is in the AAA division. In the Preliminary round, all 12 qualifying teams dance. The top six teams advance to the finals. In the evening, those finalists perform a second time and awards are given for first, second and third place.

Each qualifying school receives an allotment of tickets. The tickets are reserved for the preliminary competition. The finals are open seating. There is a bus for the JV/B-Squad teams to attend the competition. Parent volunteers attend with them. The JV dancers purchase general admission tickets.

Varsity dancers stay downtown as a team and do not require admission tickets.

**What fees need to be paid to be part of BDT?**

There is an activity fee charged by the district for all activities. The fee is paid directly to the district through the district website during the registration process. Dancers must have an up to date physical on file with the school in order to register. Each dancer is also responsible for purchasing required clothing and accessories. There is also a small “hype” fee that goes to the Booster Club and is used to purchase gifts the dancers receive throughout the fall and winter. A fee is charged for Summer Development Camp.

**What can I expect to purchase for required clothing/accessories?**

Items required include team warmup, backpack, poms, sweatshirt, team shirts, shorts, shoes, tights. We do try to keep the same warm-ups for at least two years as long as they are still available from the supplier.

**What fundraising activities will the team participate in?**

The team has a Subway Card fundraiser and a Winter Dance Invitational that raises a large portion of the money needed to pay for team expenses. Smaller fundraisers include car washes, Cub Foods bagging, Youth Clinic, Fall Dance Show and other opportunities brought to the Booster Club by parents. Participation is expected from all families.

**What is the money raised used for?**

The fundraising money is used to cover things like coaches (the district fee pays for two coaches), costumes, music, music mixing, speakers, recording equipment, carbo loads, team parties/events, competition fees, awards, state expenses, and JFK camp coaches fees.

**Will families be expected to volunteer throughout the season?**

In order to provide the best experience possible for the dancers, it is expected that each dancer’s family volunteer during the fall and winter seasons. All families are needed at the Winter Dance Show. In addition to that event, families are expected to volunteer for at least two other activities/events. We use Sign Up Genius for the volunteer activities.

**How will families receive updates throughout the season?**

A weekly communication is sent out via email from the Booster Club secretary. Updates are also often posted on the team website, HUDL and the parent Facebook page. A weekly email update will supply the information for the parent page. The parent page is also a great way to share pictures and videos.

**I have more questions, what should I do?**

Many questions may be answered on the team website. All information that is sent out to the team is typically on the team website. If you can’t find your answer there, please contact a member of the Blaine Dance Boosters board. Contact information is on the website in the Boosters tab.