



Welcome to the Pacific Northwest Performing Arts Competition Team where passion meets performance! This packet is designed to provide you with all the essential information you need to know about our performing arts competition team. Whether you're a seasoned performer or new to the stage, we are thrilled to have you join our talented ensemble.

TEAMS FOR CPT 2025/2026

The PNW Competition Performance Team is organized by Levels. Please review the [CPT Level Breakdown](#) for details. Levels 3 and 4 are further organized by Grade Groups.

Grade Groups: All Level 3 and 4 students are required to participate in their grade group team. Each grade group team will focus on two different routines to perform at competitions. Some grade groups will combine to collaborate on one routine. This year we have six grade group teams, as follows:

- Minis: PreK-1st
- Juniors: 2nd grade - 4th grade
- Pre-Teens: 5th grade - 6th grade
- Teens: 7th grade - 8th grade
- Seniors: 9th grade - 10th grade
- Premiere: 11th grade - 12th grade

Select Groups: (optional) are by invite only and are based on age and skill level, and usually have a specific skill set or song in mind when students are selected for a particular group. Each select group performs one routine at each competition.

Extra work: (optional) is made up of solos, duos, trios, and small groups. Each extra work spot performs one routine at each competition.

- Thank you for providing us with your requests for extra work preferences. While we aim to accommodate your wishes, it is important to note that the allocation

of extra work will ultimately be determined by the CPT staff. There may be instances where a student is assigned to work with someone they did not initially select, as our coaches identify them as an ideal match for a particular project. Should such a situation arise, students are welcome to decline the assignment; however, alternative routines aligned with their preferences may not be provided as a replacement.

- Students are not allowed to come up with extra work assignments on their own, they will be assigned solely by our CPT staff.
- Extra work will take place Monday-Thursday evenings, and Fridays from 12:30pm-7:00pm. A few extra work routines may be scheduled on Saturdays.
- Extra work schedules will be sent out to families in late August.
- During competition season we will not run extra work on Friday or Saturday as that will be time we are participating in the competition. This may occasionally also affect Thursday extra work if comp starts on a Thursday.
- Extra Work does have additional choreography and competition fees as outlined in the Cost Breakdown section.

JUNIOR THEATRE FESTIVAL GROUP: (OPTIONAL)

This premier group (optional) works on a 15-minute-long piece of a junior version of a musical to present at the Junior Theatre Festival. Participating in this group requires travel to Sacramento in early February. This group invites students who are ready to work in a highly focused, collaborative, and professional environment.

- After JTF is over in February this class will become the **CPT Advanced Full Scale Production Class**. The students will now rehearse the full Jr. version of the show and present it in May or June.
- This class will also compete a version of this JTF piece at all competitions.
- Students participating in this group will be held to the following high standards.
 - Students may not miss more than two rehearsals:
 - Excused or Unexcused: Missing more than two rehearsals may result in a student having their part or track adjusted and/or being required to schedule a make-up lesson with the instructor at the cost of the family.
 - Ongoing attendance issues will result in a student being removed from this group.
 - Students must exhibit their best behavior:
 - Students who display disruptive focus issues or disrespect towards instructors or other team members in class will be removed from this group.
 - At the festival, students are representing PNW Performing Arts to the larger JTF community. Students must display polite, supportive and respectful behavior while participating in all festival activities. These types of behavior issues will result in a student not being allowed to participate in further festival activities.

2025-2026 CPT MEMBER COSTS, CLASS REQUIREMENTS, AND TIMEFRAME:

Please review the details for all costs, class requirements, and timeframes on the [CPT Levels Breakdown document](#).

2025– 2026 CPT MEMBER COMMITMENTS:

The competition performance team participates in competitions and festivals between January and May, depending on the CPT Level you are participating in. All students are also required to participate in PNW Performing Arts 's December, March and June Showcases as well as the Summer Stock program over the summer.

- **Competitions:** Some competitions do require travel. Team members are expected to be available Friday – Saturday for each competition weekend. Occasionally older students may get scheduled on a Thursday evening, competition depending. Exact competition schedules will be shared ASAP but often are not received until 7 – 14 days prior to competition dates.
- **Showcases:** Showcases are a one-day event that take place locally, usually at Carco Theatre in Renton and occur in December, March and June.
- **Summer Stock:** PNW Performing Arts produces two shows each summer: one for all ages and one geared towards older students (usually 8th grade and up). CPT members are required to participate in one of the summer productions.

REQUIRED	COMMITMENTS	DATES	LOCATION
All levels	PNW Performing Arts Holiday Showcase	December 6 th , 2025	Carco Theatre – Renton, WA
All levels	In-House Competition	January 2026, TBD	Carco Theatre – Renton, WA
Optional	Junior Theatre Festival	February 6-8th, 2026	Sacramento, CA
All levels	PNW Performing Arts March Showcase	March 2026, TBD	Local, TBD
Levels 2- 4	Celebrity Competition	March 27th-29th 2026	Renton, WA
Levels 3, 4	Turn It Around Tour	April 2026 (likely 10-12th) TBD	Anaheim, CA
Optional	Disney Experience	April 2026 (likely 13/14th) TBD	Anaheim, CA
Level 4	MTC	April 30-May 3rd, 2026	San Diego, CA
All levels	PNW Performing Arts Theatre Festival	May 2026 (likely 15-17), TBD	Local, TBD
All levels	PNW Performing Arts June Showcase	June 2026 TBD	Local, TBD

All levels	Summer Stock Rehearsals	June-August, 2026	PNW Performing Arts Studios
All levels	Summer Stock Performances	August 20-22nd, 2026	Local, TBD

To learn more about the competitions, festivals, and events - click below:

- [Celebrity](#)
- [Turn It Around Tour](#)
- [MTC Triple Threat](#)
- [Junior Theatre Festival](#)
- [Disney Experience](#)
- [Pacific Northwest Theater Festival 2026](#)
 - PNW Performing Arts will host the Second Annual PNW Theater Festival! This event, packed with activities, competition, workshops and opportunities, promises to be an unforgettable experience for our team and other studios. We will showcase our team's talents in competition and receive constructive critiques from seasoned professionals in our local theater community. The team will engage in acting, vocal, and dance workshops led by renowned local actors and directors and strengthen bonds through interactive team-building exercises. Parents and students will be able to enjoy delicious options from local food trucks throughout the weekend! It will be a weekend filled with creativity, learning, and good times for our students and families!

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is a crucial part of being a member of CPT. When performers are not in class, they are not progressing in the routine and other students are also not learning the correct routine because formations, vocals and staging are negatively impacted. When one person is not there, the entire team suffers. While we understand that things do come up - someone gets hurt or sick, family emergencies - we expect that CPT is given the highest priority. This absence policy also applies to all required vocal and dance classes. Frequent absences from these technique classes may result in solos or featured roles being removed from CPT routines.

2025-2026 Attendance Policy:

- **Communication:**
 - Clear communication is essential if you need to miss class. If you will be absent from any CPT class—including dance and vocal required classes—you must notify Jessica, the CPT Director, by email or text. For any absence, tardiness, or early dismissal on the day of, please **text Jessica at 206-531-3829**. If you do not

communicate with PNW Performing Arts , your absence will be considered unexcused.

- **Preplanned Absences:**

- For preplanned absences, you must email Jessica **at least two weeks in advance**. She will send you a form to complete and will review it to either approve your absence or follow up with additional questions.

- **Excused Absences Include:**

- Illness: these must be communicated via email or text
- School Requirements: these must be communicated at least two weeks in advance
- Pre-Planned Family Vacation where the staff is notified well in advance.
- All of these require written communication for them to be considered Excused

- **Allowances:**

- You are allowed one unexcused absence per 12-week session. If you exceed this allowance, you will likely have your performance track altered (have solos and/or features reassigned to other students) at the discretion of the instructor and studio staff.
- Any absences that occur within the two weeks leading up to a performance or competition may result in a student being unable to participate in the event and/or having their performance track (including solos and features) reassigned at the discretion of the instructor and studio staff. This policy applies regardless of whether the absence is considered excused. Absences during this critical time place an extra burden on teachers and teammates, who must re-learn and adjust choreography to ensure everything is in sync and that all performers can present their best work. It is also unfair to the other students who are present and fully committed to CPT.
- Please stay home if you are experiencing fever, vomiting, diarrhea, have an excessive cough or are contagious. You are encouraged to Zoom in for class assuming you are well enough to do so. If an injury is preventing you from participating in class, you will still be expected to attend class to watch so you don't fall behind.
- You are responsible for viewing the rehearsal video(s) from class and/or getting together with a peer to learn what you missed before you return the following week regardless if your absence is excused or unexcused.

- **Excessive absences:**

- Excessive absences, excused or unexcused, may result in a student being removed from the team, and no refunds will be made to the family.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS:

- **CPT Website:** Your go to source for ALL CPT information and updates! Please bookmark this website, as it is important to access it frequently.
- **Stack Team App:** Our main communication tool while at competitions/events.
- Newsletter: Sent every Monday via email with weekly updates.
- Important Emails/Phone Numbers
 - Corey, Studio Owner: corey@bigstarstudios.com 206-779-9337
 - Jessica: CPT Director: jessica@bigstarstudios.com 206-531-3829

CPT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

Being a member of CPT is a huge responsibility. Students of all ages look up to CPT students, and it is important that all CPT members exhibit upstanding behavior.

- **Studio Etiquette:**
 - Please be sure to arrive on time for all classes and rehearsals. If you are running late, please call the studio or text Jessica to let us know.
 - All personal items should be placed in the cubbies or lockers.
 - Only water is allowed in the studio spaces; food and drink are permitted only in the locker rooms or student lounge areas.
 - Phones and other distractions should be left in the cubbies or lockers unless the instructor gives permission to bring them into the classroom.
 - Show respect to your teachers and fellow students—everyone is here to learn and enjoy their time.
 - Treat the studio space, props, sets, and equipment with care.
 - At the end of each day, clean up after yourself and take all personal items home with you.
- **Dress Code:**
 - **Shoes:**
 - Proper shoes are essential for practicing movement and maintaining correct posture and technique. Students must always wear appropriate footwear to all classes. This includes tennis shoes, jazz shoes, character shoes, and any footwear required for a specific CPT routine.
 - Slippers are not allowed in the classroom
 - Socks or bare feet are only permitted with instructor approval.
 - If a student does not have the proper footwear, they will be asked to sit out of class.
 - Repeated issues with footwear may lead to further disciplinary action.
 - Once footwear has been chosen for a routine, students must bring and wear the correct shoes to every class.
 - **Clothing:**
 - How students dress directly impacts their focus and engagement. Students should wear clothing that allows them to move freely and enables instructors to clearly see their lines, promoting a professional and productive environment.
 - Pajamas, sweatpants, or overly baggy clothing are not permitted.
- **Supplies:**
 - All CPT students are required to have a team jacket. The studio will order the jackets and the charge will be applied to your accounts.
 - Students are expected to supply a 3-ring binder or similar folder to keep their sheet music and other important papers organized. They should bring this with them each week, along with a pencil.
 - Students should also bring a water bottle and healthy snacks. We recommend having a bag that is dedicated to PNW Performing Arts that can always have

your binder, shoes and proper clothing ready to go.

CPT COMMUNITY GUIDELINES:

- We are storytellers first. Not singers, dancers, or actors. We tell stories.
- We grow.
- We compare ourselves to ourselves yesterday, not anyone else today.
- We take care of ourselves.
- We take care of each other. We support each other.
- We are open to new ideas.
- We help each other through our hardest times.
- We are happy for each other's successes.
- We lead with gratitude.
- We live in the room.
- We believe in ourselves and each other. We own our confidence.
- We have fun whenever we can.
- We respect the studio, the teachers, each other, and ourselves.
- We can rely on each other.
- We are all different in our own ways. And that is our superpower.

COMPETITION BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES:

- Students are expected to always be on their best behavior. Remember that from the moment you step out of your car until the moment you drive away, you are representing PNW Performing Arts . We want PNW Performing Arts to be thought of as a kind, respectful, and supportive studio.
- PNW Performing Arts jackets should be worn unless you are performing, including at the awards ceremonies and when helping with set changes.
- Students are expected to support their fellow team members by assisting with set changes whenever possible and by watching each other's routines perform. We understand that certain numbers compete very early or very late, and we can adjust expectations accordingly. However, it is important for students to have their teammates in the audience cheering them on!
- Students are expected to arrive at their designated call time (often 1.5 hours before their first scheduled performance) in costume and with hair and makeup complete. Students are to check in with their head coach promptly at their call time, where they will then run through their routine and receive final notes.
- Students may leave the competition in between their routines for meals if there is time; however, we expect students to stay and support other team members as much as possible. If students leave the competition, they are expected to be back 1.5 hours before their next routine is scheduled to perform.
- Students are expected to use the Stack Team App to stay in communication with their coaches and studio staff. Competitions are known for running both ahead and behind,

so students need to keep a close eye on communications from the staff.

- Students are expected to label ALL costume pieces and double check that they have all items with them before leaving for the competition. There is no excuse for forgetting a costume piece.
- Students are required to stay for their awards ceremonies. Any group trophies or awards need to be given to a coach or studio staff to be displayed at PNW Performing Arts . Solo awards may go home with the students.

Behavior Issues: It is crucial that PNW Performing Arts is a safe and supportive environment for all students to explore their potential. If you have questions or concerns about something you have experienced at PNW Performing Arts , please contact studio owner/director Corey Schwarz.

- Students who do not abide by the CPT and Competition Behavior Guidelines will be subject to the following behavior correction plan:
 - 1) Verbal warning from instructor or studio staff to the student
 - 2) Student/Parent meeting with CPT Director with a written plan for behavior improvement
 - 3) Performance Tracks in CPT routines will be altered (solos/features)and the student may also be removed from extra work pieces
 - 4) Removal from the CPT Team

BIGS/LITTLES PROGRAM:

Our Bigs and Littles mentorship program pairs older or more experienced CPT students (Bigs) with younger or less experienced students (Littles). This program is designed to build a supportive community, encourage skill development, and enrich the learning experience for both Bigs and Littles. By creating these connections, the Bigs and Littles program nurtures an environment where students can grow both artistically and personally. It not only helps individuals thrive but also strengthens our entire studio community. Here's how it works:

- **Structure of the Program:**
 - Students are paired based on factors such as age, skill level, interests, and goals. The aim is to create compatible and mutually beneficial partnerships.
 - Pairs are introduced during a special event or class to establish their relationship formally and set expectations.
 - **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - **Big Siblings:** Act as role models and mentors, providing guidance, support, and encouragement. They might help with practice, offer advice on techniques, and assist with navigating studio culture.
 - **Little Siblings:** Receive personalized attention and support, helping them to feel more comfortable and confident in their abilities.
 - **Activities and Interaction:**
 - **Regular Check-ins:** Bigs and littles will get to see each other weekly in the production class.
 - **Competitions:** It is expected that Bigs will attend all competitions to

support their little!

- **Social Events:** Group activities such as outings, performances, and workshops to build camaraderie and strengthen bonds.
- **Gift Exchanges:** Two to three times a season the bigs and littles will do a gift exchange of something small at our holiday event and our last competition of the season. Bringing notes of encouragement to all events is always encouraged!

- **Benefits of the Program:**

- **Confidence and Self-esteem:** Consistent support and positive reinforcement from a peer can significantly boost a young performer's confidence.
- **Role Modeling:** Seeing their Big Sibling's success and dedication can inspire Little Siblings to strive for their best.
- **Community Building/Sense of Belonging:** Newer or younger students feel more integrated into the studio community, reducing feelings of isolation and fostering a family-like atmosphere.
- **Mutual Support:** Creating a culture of mentorship and support helps to build strong, lasting relationships among students, promoting a positive and inclusive environment.

CPT PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

To make this a successful year, we need your trust and support. Your children look to you for validation and encouragement. Please remind them that they have been placed in the group(s) we feel will best support their growth as artists and performers. As always, if you have any questions, we're here for you.

- **Parent Expectations at Competitions:** While these expectations are largely common sense, we ask that you be especially vigilant when it comes to your own child or any child you've agreed to supervise. Competitions are often crowded and busy, and children should not be left unattended. You are responsible for any performers in your care during competitions and showcases. While we function as a family at PNW Performing Arts, neither the students nor the coaches are responsible for your child's care unless they are on stage or in rehearsals.
- **Regarding the Bigs/Littles Program:** Please also be respectful of our older CPT students in the Bigs/Littles mentorship program. While our Bigs are always there to support the Littles, unless you have made specific arrangements for an older CPT student to officially babysit, you should not assume that your child is being fully supervised by their Big.
- **Communication:** Student/Parent/Teacher conferences are always available upon request. If you have concerns about anything related to PNW Performing Arts, please email Corey directly rather than texting or calling staff. Beyond a quick, clarifying message, all communication should go through the PNW Performing Arts office, with Corey copied on the emails. This ensures we can have productive conversations and find solutions together.