



Dear CPT Family,

We wanted to get out an updated packet for families since we have had some date changes since originally getting this packet out to families. We have also updated pricing to reflect the 2023/24 season now that we have all that information out from comps.

Please take the time to re-read the attendance section. This has been a huge problem this year with students missing class on a regular basis. Our CPT Director, Jessica Low has updated this policy to include a text to her when students will be missing.

Big Star Performing Arts Studio is so excited to offer performers an opportunity to participate in a competitive level program. As a member of CPT, you will participate in weekly classes, compete in competitions, perform in our Fall, Winter and Spring session showcases, as well as other community events during the summer and school year to help promote the programs at Big Star Studios.

Being on our team is a privilege and commitment. You will be asked to sign a contract at the end of the summer to help recognize the importance of commitment to the team. Team requires a higher level of commitment from both performers and parents. It is also a more significant financial expense. This packet sets forth the expected commitment and expenses associated with being a part of CPT. Please take the time to read this contract carefully before making the commitment to our Competition Performance Team.

TEAMS for CPT 2023/2024:

Big Star Competition Performance Team is split by both grade and ability levels –**Minis, Juniors, Pre-Teens, Teens, Seniors, and Production (JTF Group)**. This allows for age and skill level appropriate pieces in a more focused setting with additional opportunities for solos, duos, trios, select groups and small groups.

TIME COMMITMENT:

All CPT members are required to commit **a minimum** to their grade level group training class (1 or 1.5 hours), one dance class (1 hour) and one 30-minute vocal class at the studio every week (2.5-3 hours total). If you are doing Extra Work (solo, duo, trio, small or select groups) you are required to have a minimum of 5 training hours at the studio each week. All CPT classes run September- end of May.

Required in these 5 hours of training if you are doing extra work are your grade level group team, one vocal class or private vocal lesson, one dance class, and one community class (Young Professionals Audition Class is highly recommended!). Please make sure when signing up your performer meets the 5-hour minimum requirement.

CPT Production/JTF class on Thursday is optional. This will be our production number that not only goes to competitions but will also be our Junior Theatre Festival class. If you are committing to being a part of our Production/JTF group you will be making a commitment to travel to Sacramento, California February 9-11th 2024 for the festival with our JTF team. This group will meet on Thursday for 1.5 hours and be creating a piece to take to competitions as well as a piece to take to the Junior Theatre Festival to compete.

Here is more information on JTF: <https://juniortheaterfestival.com/what-we-do/>

Getting hours can be achieved easily through the CPT classes, any of our community classes and any private lessons or our Full-Scale Musical Production class. These classes will start the week of September 5th and run through June. Extra work on Friday and Saturday will run through May 31st. No extra work on Labor Day weekend!

It is a requirement that all CPT members participate in one of our Summer Stock productions over the summer. This keeps the kids continued training throughout summer with a full-scale production challenging and improving their vocals, acting and stage presence as well as dancing and movement.

COMPETITIONS:

In House Comp	January 13, 2024	Carco Theatre, Renton Wa
Spotlight Competition	January 26-28th 2024	Highline HS Theatre, Burien Wa
JTF Junior Theatre Festival OPTIONAL	February 9-11th 2024 OPTIONAL	Sacramento CA OPTIONAL
Celebrity	March 22-24th 2024	Seattle WA
On Stage New York	May 3 -5th 2024	Portland OR

Our competitions will be between January and May and there will be four competitions. The Junior Theatre Festival is an OPTIONAL competition to attend. Three of these competitions will be regional comps. The fourth competition will be our Big Star hosted In House Competition. We are traveling to Portland Oregon for the 23/24 season as well as Sacramento, Ca if you are a part of JTF. Most of these competitions take up most of the weekend. It is expected that performers are available Fri, Sat and Sunday of comp weekends. Occasionally there are comps that kids perform on a Thursday evening. In most cases these will be the oldest kids on the team. We will do our best to get the schedule to you asap, but it is often that we do not get it until 7-14 days before the comp.

ATTENDANCE:

This is a very important part of being on CPT. Attendance is mandatory. While we understand that things do happen - someone gets hurt or sick, family emergencies - we expect that CPT is given high priority. When one person is not there, the entire team suffers. 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 missing. This requires extra time from our teachers to re-teach parts, making sure nothing is out of sync and everyone has the ability to give their very best performance. If you are unable to make it to class, it will be expected that you Zoom in for class assuming you are well enough to do so.

Attendance Policy:

- If you are going to be absent for any reason you are required to fill out the [Absence Form](#). CPT students should report all absences, including any community class they are enrolled in, on the absence form.
- If you are notifying the studio 'day-of' for any absence, tardiness or early dismissal you are also required to text Jessica at 206-531-3829.
- You are allowed one unexcused absence per 12 week session. If you exceed this allowance you may have solos and/or features reassigned to other students at the discretion of the instructor and studio staff.
- Please stay home if you are experiencing fever, vomiting, diarrhea, have an excessive cough or are contagious.
- If you are unable to attend class, it will be expected that you Zoom in for class assuming you are well enough to do so. NOTE: Students should notify their teacher to arrange Zooming into class.
- 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.
- Any absences that take place 2 weeks prior to any performance/competition may result in a student not being allowed to participate in the performance/competition and/or solos/features being reassigned at the discretion of the instructor and studio staff. This is regardless if the absence is considered excused.
- Frequent absences may result in a student being pulled from a routine. Excessive absences may result in a student being removed from the team, and no refunds will be made to the family.
- Frequent absences from required technique classes (singing and dancing) may also result in solos or features being pulled from CPT routines.

Excused Absences Include:

- Illness
- School Related Requirements
- Pre-Planned Family Vacation where the staff is notified well in advance

CPT MEMBER CLASS REQUIREMENTS: Each team member is required to take 3 hours of training to be on CPT (**except Minis!**). If you are doing extra work (info sent out on June 21st) you are required to take 5 hours of training. All your hours offered above count, if you choose to accept them, towards this requirement, as well any of our other classes on the 2023/2024 class schedule.

- **Grade Group:** All CPT students are required to participate in their grade group team. Each grade group team will focus on two different routines to perform at competitions. This year we have five grade group teams, as follows:
 - **Minis:** PreK-K
 - **Juniors:** 1st grade - 4th grade
 - **Pre-Teens:** 5th grade - 6th grade
 - **Teens:** 7th grade - 9th grade
 - **Seniors:** 10th grade - 12th grade
- **Grade Group Vocal Class:** All CPT students (**except Minis!**) are required to participate in their grade group vocal class, as assigned. These classes will focus on vocal technique,

music theory, blending as a group, holding harmony, and vocal health. *Note: If you are studying private voice at Big Star, this requirement is waived.*

- **Dance Class: All** CPT students (**except Minis!**) are required to take a dance class. This year we are placing a heavy focus on jazz classes and highly encourage you to enroll in the jazz dance class you have been assigned to. If you are not able to join the jazz class, you can choose to take a Hip Hop or Tap class to meet the dance class requirement. Please contact [Jessica](#) if you have any questions regarding placement.

COSTS:

There are many costs associated with being on CPT. It can be very expensive. It can also be reasonable depending on what you want to do for the season.

At a minimum you must take your age group (\$100-\$140), a dance class (\$100) and a vocal class (\$65) this is a minimum monthly total of \$265-\$305. I am listing the MINIMUM next to each fee so that you can see the base starting costs of team. It can obviously go up if you add more classes, more extra work, etc.

- Competition Fees (\$180 x 3 required comps this is based on 2023 pricing)
- Monthly Tuition (\$265-\$305 age group, dance, vocal)
- Costumes (2 routines one-time fee approx. \$150)
- Choreography Fee (2 groups one-time fee \$100)
- Travel Expenses (hotel in Portland/gas/food)
- Coaches Travel Fee (one-time fee of \$400 or spread out in 4 installments)
- In House Comp Fee (\$250)

23-24 CPT FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- Choreography Fee: Due Sept 5th
- Spotlight Comp Fee: Due December 5th
- In House Comp Fee: Due January 5th
- Celebrity Comp Fee: Due February 5th
- On Stage Comp Fee: Due March 5th
- Coaches Fee to be split over 4 payments Dec/Jan/Feb/Mar along with competition fees. Can be made in one-time payment anytime if you prefer.
- JTF Junior Theatre Festival: Due in November

MONTHLY TUITION FEES: \$135 for .5 hours (solos) optional
\$95 for .5 hours (duos/trios) optional
\$65 for .5-hour group class (vocal) required
\$100 for 1.0 hour (group classes) dance/age group required
\$140 for 1.5-hour (group classes) age group required
Unlimited 6.5+ Class Hours (does not include solos or private lessons)
1 child \$640
2+ children \$770

CHOREOGRAPHY FEE:

For every Solo, Duo, Trio, and group number there is a one-time choreography fee. This is a fee that covers the teacher's time to choose the piece, pick and cut the music and track, often teachers may create the track just for that student, choreograph the piece, costume the

piece, and coordinate the scheduling of the piece. Choreography fees will be due on September 5th and will be charged only one time for the season.

SOLO - \$175 DUO - \$95 TRIO - \$70 GROUPS - \$50

EXTRA WORK CLASSES:

Extra Work is a solo, duo, trio or small group. All extra work is OPTIONAL. If you are chosen to participate in a Solo, Duo, Trio or Small Group please plan to be charged your choreography fee on September 5th. Once your time slot is arranged that will be your time slot for the comp season Sept-May. If you are unable to rehearse during a scheduled time you need to provide 24 hours' notice. We will not be able to do make-up for students due to missed lessons. The way the schedule is being done for solos, duos and trios does not accommodate make ups. If it is a competition weekend rehearsal will not be held on Friday and Saturdays for solos, duos and trios because teachers and students will be attending competitions. We will not do make ups on these weekends as students will be running and working their solos, duos, trios all weekend. If it is a Big Star Showcase weekend the Saturday schedule will be held on Sunday that weekend only. The Dates that the extra work will be held on Sunday, December 3rd and March 10th! Please mark your calendar now. Extra work will start the week of September 5th and run through May 2024!

COSTUME FEES:

Every competitive routine your child is in will require a costume. Once our instructors have picked the costumes for the pieces your child is in, you will be sent the links to purchase these pieces. If you can shop around and save money, that is fine and is left up to your discretion as long as the pieces the instructor has requested are purchased and brought in on the costume due date. In some cases, you will be able to look around on different sites for costume pieces but there will often be times you will have to purchase exactly what is provided in the costume link that is sent. This is often the case with a Solo, Duo and Trio costume where all the performers are in the exact same thing. There are also some cases where parents may have to reimburse Big Star for costumes that need to be ordered from sites that require studio licensing to order.

COMPETITION GEAR EXPENSE:

Each performer will need the following items in order to participate on CPT.

- Team jacket (\$100.00)
- Team T-shirt (\$35.00)
- Black Leggings and/or solid black pants (can purchase leggings on your own or through Big Star when we open the store in the fall)
- Black Jazz shoe (purchase on your own)
- Character Shoes (depending on routines)
- Base layers/foundations (purchase on your own)

COMPETITION EXPENSE:

Attendance at competitions is **mandatory** for CPT performers. We will attend three required regional competitions this year PLUS our at home Big Star hosted In House Competition. For each competition there will be entry fees assessed by the competition. Each routine you participate in will have a fee attached to compete. Below is an update of competition fees based on the type of performance for the 2023/24 season.

Our In-House Competition is a fun event with food, drinks and is a great way to kick off our competition season. In House Comp will be \$250 for the day. This includes 2 tickets, and helps cover the cost of theater rental, judge's fees, awards, food, beverages, and staffing for the day.

Type of Performance	Competition Fee per Student
Solo	\$180.00
Duo	\$95.00
Trio	\$95.00
Group	\$90.00

COMPETITION COACHES TRAVEL FEE:

It is a no brainer that all the kids want their coach to be at all their competitions to support them. In the past both Big Star and coaches have covered the cost of travel. We are now passing a portion of the cost of your child's coaches travel on to each family. This fee will cover the following costs to have our coaches travel with the kids:

- Coaches' daily stipend to be at the competitions. We have a flat daily stipend and a per routine stipend
- Hotel room for each coach 2 or 3 nights
- Gas stipend or airline ticket
- Food stipend for meals
- Coaches travel fee is charged in Dec, Jan, Feb, March, it can also be paid just one time if you prefer once the season starts. Email Corey if you want to set a one time payment up.
- This fee is a total of \$400 per family.
- If you'd like a breakdown of the travel costs for teachers Corey is happy to explain further details.

COMPETITION DETAILS:

For the 2023/2024 competition season we will be attending three competitions with the option to attend a fourth (Spotlight in May) and JTF in February. Exact dates are below. Please mark your busy calendars now!

- **Big Star In House Competition** January 13th at Carco Theatre in Renton, Wa
- **Spotlight Competition (Burien Wa)**- January 26-28th at Highline Theatre
- **JTF Junior Theatre Festival OPTIONAL Feb 9-11th** Sacramento Ca
- **Celebrity (Seattle)**- March 22-24th
- **On Stage (Portland)**-May 3-5th

COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to arrive at least 1.5 hours before their first scheduled performance (or when the doors open) with hair and makeup complete. You can leave the competition but if you have another performance you need to be back 1.5 hours before your next piece. Competitions are known for running both ahead and behind so please do not have

expectations they will be running on time. Although it is not required, we encourage students to stay and support fellow team members at least on the same day they perform. It is required for students to stay for their awards ceremony.

Please make sure your performer checks in with their teacher upon arrival and knows when and where they need to meet prior to heading backstage. There is no excuse for forgetting any costume pieces and please label EVERYTHING!

Remember from the moment you step out of your car until the moment you drive away you are representing Big Star. Big Star jackets should be worn at all times when you are at a competition unless you are performing. Jackets need to be worn on stage at all awards ceremonies. Trophies and awards need to be given to a Big Star teacher or representative to be displayed at Big Star with the exception of solo awards, they may go home with your performer. We want Big Star to be thought of as a kind and respectful studio so please be on your best behavior at all times.

CPT PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

For this to be a successful year we need your trust and support. Your children look to you for validation. Please remind them that they have been placed where we feel is the best fit for them as a performer. As always if you have questions, we are here for you.

Parent Expectations at competitions are common sense but please be extra aware of your child or anyone else's child that you have taken responsibility for. Comps are often large with tons of people coming and going and are not places for the kids to be unattended. You are responsible for any performers that have been left with you for any of our competitions or showcases. Yes, we are family, but ultimately, neither our students nor our coaches are responsible for your performers unless they are on stage or in rehearsals and are in our specific care.

Along these lines, please be respectful of our older kids on team being responsible for younger children. We have the bigs and littles program and certainly the bigs are always there to watch out for the littles! However, unless you are making plans for an older CPT kid to officially babysit and have worked out that plan it should not be assumed that the littles are being taken care of by their big.

Student/Parent/Teacher conferences are always available upon request. If you have any concerns about anything involving Big Star, please contact Corey directly. Please refrain from texting or calling staff if you have any issues. If there is a concern, please email Corey and the teachers so that we can have a productive conversation to come to a solution. Beyond a quick message all communication should run through the office at Big Star with Corey copied on the emails.

Corey's Email: corey@bigstarstudios.com

Corey's Cell: 206-779-9337

Please help us continue to keep Big Star a positive place for everyone! We love having all our parents involved and want to keep all lines of communication open and respectful to everyone. It is imperative that we have open dialog, come to quick solutions and make sure the conversation stays positive.

CPT STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

We would like Big Star to be a safe and supportive environment for all kids to explore their potential. If at any time you have questions or frustrations regarding something you have experienced at Big Star, please do not hesitate to contact studio owner/director Corey Schwarz.

Students need to recognize the responsibility of being on CPT at Big Star. Students of all ages look up to team kids and will notice your behavior. Please be sure to arrive on time. If you are going to be more than 10 minutes late, please call the studio to let us know. Items brought to the studio need to be left in the cubbies. Water bottles are only allowed in the studio. Please leave phones or other distractions in the cubbies.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend any performances your big or little are involved in. We understand that certain numbers compete very early or very late, and we can adjust expectations accordingly. Overall, it is really so much more encouraging for the kids to have their teammates in the audience cheering them on!

Please remember to bring a positive attitude and smile into the studio! Be respectful of your teachers and fellow students who are all there to learn and have a good time.

Important Dates for CPT 2023-2024

- Big Star all studio Holiday Showcase (KPC) Saturday December 2nd, 2023
- Extra Work takes place on Sunday, Dec 3rd instead of December 2nd, 2023.
- Extra Rehearsal for JTF Beauty & the Beast 3:30-7:30 Sat January 6th
- Friday, January 12th- combined extra workday to prepare for In House. ALL extra work goes on Friday. Schedule will be sent out!
- In House Competition Saturday, January 13th at Carco Theatre ALL DAY event
- Spotlight Competition January 26-28th 2024 at Highline Theatre Burien WA
- Production of Fall/Winter Musical MATILDA: Feb 3rd matinee and evening shows at Carco Theatre Renton WA
- Saturday extra work will be on Sunday February 4th- due to teachers being at Matilda on the 3rd!
- JTF Junior Theatre Festival Sacramento CA: Feb 9-11th 2024 (optional) No extra work this weekend for JTF competition
- Saturday Extra Work takes place on Sunday March 10th (Studio being used for Winter Showcase on Saturday, March 9th)
- Celebrity Seattle: March 22-24th 2024
- Audition Workshop Saturday April 20th at Big Star Studios 3:30-5pm (optional)
- Audition Workshop Saturday April 27th 3:30-5pm at Big Star Studios (optional)
- On Stage New York Portland OR: May 3-5th 2024
- Friday May 17th combined extra workday to prepare for auditions. All extra work will be held on Friday.
- CPT & Summer Stock Auditions (Big Star Studios): Saturday, May 18th, 2024
- Summer Stock Call Backs (Big Star Studios): June 1st & 2nd 2024
- Production of Spring Musical Saturday, June 8th at Bellevue College Theatre
- Big Star Spring Showcase: Saturday, June 15th, 2024, Bellevue College
- CPT SUMMER RETREAT at Skamania Lodge June 28th-30th
- Summerstock Begins: Monday, June 17th.
- Summerstock Lock In: Aug 17th & 18th 2024.

- Summerstock Performance 2024 Thursday 22nd, Friday, August 23rd, Sat 24th & Sun 25th 2024 TBD waiting on confirmations for theatre space. Please mark off all these dates (Th-Sun) and we will lock in as soon as possible!

Please contact Corey Schwarz if you have any questions about this team packet or any financial questions. Jessica is also always available to help with CPT questions.

We are so excited for the 2023/2024 competition season! This will be our best season yet and we hope you will be a part of our family here at Big Star Performing Arts Studio.

Thank you for joining us!

~Big Star Performing Arts Studio