

## 2026-2027 JFK ROCHESTER PLACEMENT TEAM INFORMATION

### WHAT IS A PLACEMENT TEAM and WHY?

As Just For Kix Rochester continues to grow as a studio, it is our goal to meet the needs of all dancers and families while also keeping the Rochester program competitive. The studio operates as both a recreational program and competitive program creating options for dancers at any level and any age. "Placement teams" or leveled classes were formed as a way to ensure that each dancer reached his/her potential for that given season with his/her assigned team. A dancer needs to feel challenged accordingly to grow in technique, flexibility, strength, and self confidence.

### LEVELS AND REQUIREMENTS

We offer placement teams for grades 2nd-12th in jazz, kick, lyrical, pom, and hip hop. An evaluation/ audition is an excellent way to ensure proper placement for the upcoming season while also providing the dancer with an experience of an audition. Depending on the grade and dance style, we offer up to three levels of teams. Level 1 does not require an evaluation for registration. Level 2 or 3 DO require an evaluation. Each level will have class requirements and/or recommendations for proper technique training, strength development and safety, and choreography/ competitive level.

### AUDITION/ EVALUATION INFORMATION

Placement auditions are open to current and non current JFK dancers. If new to Just For Kix please feel free to reach out to the Director. **Evaluations will be at the JFK studio, in person and held on June 10th and 11th** - each grade group (26-27 school year grade) has an assigned time slot and registration ahead of time is required (no fee, simply register online at <https://www.justforkix.com/danceclasses/rochester-mn/#Classes-Schedule> ). If you will be absent for the assigned date or you cannot attend an in-person evaluation, all audition materials can be videotaped and sent directly to the Director via our JFK Placement Evaluation Band App for review. **Video auditions are due by noon on June 10th - Jazz, Kick, Lyrical or Pom, and by August 3rd - Hip Hop.**

Join The Band App and open the invite link (26-27 Placement Evaluations) below on your iPhone, Android, or desktop. <https://band.us/n/a0adA5E6o2F9T>

Dancers will learn the audition material via our Band app link provided above prior to the placement evaluation. We will continue to offer an Audition prep class for each grade group (June 8th and 9th - register online for prep clinic by incoming school grade). While this clinic is not required, I highly recommend registering to better prepare for your audition.

**Dancers MUST wear a black leotard with hair in a low bun.** Dancers should look professional when auditioning. If wearing a bottom such as shorts or legging it should also be black and fitted. This is required of a video audition as well.

Dancers will be placed on teams based on the performance of the routine choreography, improvisation, technique level and flexibility movements of audition material. **For current JFK dancers, attendance, coachability and progress during the 25-26 season will be highly considered.** Maturity level, work ethic, and behavior are also taken into consideration. Placement decisions are made in the best interest of each dancer as well as the development of the Rochester JFK program. All decisions are finalized by the Director. Feedback will be provided to the dancer post audition if requested.

### 2nd-12th grade Evaluation Prep Clinics/Class Placement Evaluations

Incoming Grade	Prep Clinic	Evaluation
2nd-3rd	June 8th 4:30-6:00 PM	June 10th 4:00-6:00 PM
4th-5th	June 8th 6:30-8:00 PM	June 10th 6:30-8:30 PM

6th-8th	June 9th 4:00-6:00 PM	June 11th 4:00-6:30 PM
9th-12th	June 9th 6:30-8:30 PM	June 11th 7:00 PM

## MENTAL PREPARATION

Evaluations/Auditions can create mixed emotions of excitement, fear, uncertainty, etc. Parents, we ask that you talk/counsel through these emotions, the evaluation process, and time commitment. This is a commitment from both parent and dancer regardless of placement results.

Here are some thoughts:

\*Your value does not come from what team you are on. All dancers at any level or point in their dance journey are IMPORTANT. All dancers are encouraged, supported, and coached to reach their potential for the upcoming season.

\*Moving up an age bracket can be difficult especially for our 6-8th grade and 9-12th grade teams. Your years of experience and/or training are beneficial but do not guarantee a certain team level. Each season is a new season.

\*Being evaluated/auditioning - it is a great experience to learn how an audition works, to put yourself out there, and work through results. I always say to the dancers when trying something new, "If you say you Can't, YOU won't." JUST go for it - the JFK staff want every dancer to succeed and reach his/her potential!

\*Questions to consider and talk through with your dancer - How will you handle it if placed on a different team than your friend? How will you act and how will you encourage others to continue their passion for dance? If you do not get your desired placement, will you still be motivated to take classes in order to keep improving on skills, flexibility, etc. or will you feel defeated? How will you pick yourself back up? How will you respond to those that do make the team you wanted? Life is not defined by our successes but by our responses. How will you respond?

This is an important conversation that will better prepare the dancer throughout the evaluation process. We want to build each other up and be supportive! Together WE ARE STRONGER!

## PLACEMENT LEVELS/CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Level 1 does not require Director approval or an evaluation. These classes will be open and available for spring registration to any dancer interested.

Level 2 and Level 3 are considered Placement teams. Director must give approval prior to registration and an evaluation/audition is required. A dancer will be placed in Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 based on their evaluation as well as progress and attendance from past season. Please contact the Director with questions – happy to help!

### 1st Grade Class Name and class requirements

**Level 1: Dynamites (no evaluation, Director placement. If interested, please contact the Director)**

\*Dynamites Hip Hop/ Jazz

\*Optional/Encouraged to help with skill development: Technique class and/or Ballet class

### 2nd-3rd Grade Class Names and class requirements

**Level 1: Dazzlers (Non-compete)**

\*Dazzlers Combo (Jazz/Kick)

**Level 2: Twinklers**

\*Twinklers Combo (Jazz/Kick)

\*And at least one of the following classes: Wee Lyrical, Technique I, Ballet/ Technique I

**Level 3: Sparklers Elite**

\*Sparklers Jazz, Sparklers Kick, Sparklers Lyrical, Sparklers Ballet, Technique I

## 4th-5th Grade Class Names and Class requirements

### **Level 1: Starbrites**

\*Starbrites Jazz, Mini Kix Monday

\*Optional/Encouraged to help with skill development: Ballet/Technique I or Technique II (Director approval)

### **Level 2: Shining Stars**

\*Shining Stars Jazz, Mini Kix Tuesday, Shining Stars/Starlites Ballet, Technique II Tuesday, Shining Stars Lyrical

\*Optional/ Encouraged: Mini Hip Hop, Pom

### **Level 3: Starlites Elite**

\*Starlites Jazz, Starlites Kick, Starlites Lyrical, Shining Stars/Starlites Ballet, Technique II Wednesday

\*Optional/ Encouraged: Mini Hip Hop and Pom

## 6th-8th Grade Class Names and Class requirements

### **Level 1: Showstoppers**

\*Showstoppers Jazz

\*Middle Kix or placement into Middle Kix Select

\*Ballet I or Ballet II **and/or** Technique II or Technique III (Director approval)

\*Optional/ Encouraged: Hip Hop, Contemporary and Pom

### **Level 2: Shooting Stars**

\*Shooting Stars Jazz, Shooting Stars Lyrical, Middle Kix Select, Shooting Stars/Rising Stars Ballet, Technique III Wednesday

\*Optional/ Encouraged: Hip Hop, Contemporary and Pom

### **Level 3: Rising Stars Elite**

\*Rising Stars Jazz, Rising Stars Lyrical, Rising Stars Kick, Shooting Stars/Rising Stars Ballet, Technique III Tuesday

\*Optional/ Encouraged: Hip Hop, Contemporary and Pom

## 8th-12th Grade Class Names and Class requirements

### **Level 1: StarDreamers**

\*StarDreamers Jazz

\*Kick class (depends on placement - Jr/Sr Kix, Advanced Kick, or Middle Kix Select)

\*Ballet/ Technique II and/or Technique class (dependent on skill level)

### **Level 2: Dream Team**

\*Dream Team Jazz, Dream Team Lyrical, Dream Team/Elite Ballet

\*Kick class (depends on placement - Jr/Sr Kix, Advanced Kick or Varsity Kick)

\*Technique III or IV (dependent on kick placement)

\*We also suggest an additional FULL Season such as contemporary, pom, or hip hop, etc.

### **Level 2: Elite Team**

\*Elite Jazz, Elite Lyrical, Dream Team/Elite Ballet

\*Kick class (depends on placement - Jr/Sr Kix, Advanced Kick or Varsity Kick)

\*Technique IV

\*We also suggest an additional FULL Season such as contemporary, pom or hip hop, etc.

**\*PLACEMENT KICK TEAMS 6th-12th grade** – Dancers will be placed in this class based on audition as well as progress and attendance from past season. A dancer only interested in KICK placement would complete only the Kick portion of auditions. Dancers will be required to take a Ballet and/or Technique class in addition if placed on a Level 2 or 3 team.

### **Kick (6th-8th)**

**Level 1:** Middle Kix (6th-7th grade), Jr/Sr Kix (8th-12th grade)

**Level 2:** Middle Kix Select

### **Kick (8th-12th)**

**Level 1:** Jr/ Sr Kix (8th-12th grade)

**Level 2:** Advanced Kick (9-12th grade)

**Level 3:** Varsity Kick (9-12th grade) – National Showcase Team

**\*PLACEMENT HIP HOP 6th-12th grade** - Recommendation of class placement will be provided at the end of the season upon request. If a dancer would like to move up a level from recommendation, summer hip hop class options are highly recommended. We will hold a Hip Hop prep clinic on August 3rd to review materials for evaluations. Final evaluations for ALL dancers will take place on August 4th to confirm placement for the 26-27 season. Registration is open for the prep clinic and evaluations. Evaluation materials will be posted in July.

### **Hip Hop (6th-12th grade)**

**Level 1:** Hip Hop

**Level 2:** Hip Hop Select

**Level 3:** Elite Hip Hop - National Showcase Team

**\*PLACEMENT POM 8th-12th grade** - We will be adding a level for pom this season as well as require an evaluation. Recommendation of class placement will be provided at the end of the season upon request. Evaluation materials will be reviewed at the June prep clinic and evaluations will take place during June evaluations. See more information in the placement band regarding Pom requirements.

**Level 1:** Competition Pom 8th-12th

**Level 2:** Advanced Pom 8-12th

**Level 3:** Showcase Pom 9th-12th - Nationals Showcase Team

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Should my dancer be evaluated?**

Yes, if interested in training with our placement program. An evaluation can provide a dancer with feedback on next steps for the upcoming season or future goals.

### **Does a dancer HAVE to be evaluated to be on a team?**

No. If you or your dancer are only interested in Level 1 classes an evaluation is NOT required. You will simply register for your desired class option. Depending on the dance style additional requirements may be required i.e. jazz, contemporary, and lyrical require kick and/or ballet and/or technique.

### **What if my dancer only wants to do Hip Hop or Kick or Jazz?**

All core classes (level 1) are open for any dancer. Some styles require additional classes as there is more training involved for that particular style.

Hip Hop - Any 6th-12th grade dancer can register for Level 1 Hip Hop. There are NO additional requirements and an evaluation is not needed. Level 2 or Level 3 will require a final evaluation in August.

Kick - Level 1 kick classes do NOT require an evaluation and are open to any dancer. These include Dazzlers Combo, Mini Kix, Middle Kix, and Jr/Sr Kix. All other kick classes are considered Level 2 or 3 and would require an evaluation.

Jazz and/ or Lyrical - Level 1 jazz and lyrical classes do not require an audition, but some do require additional classes. This includes Starbrites, Showstoppers, StarDreamers, Wee Lyrical, Mini Lyrical, Middle Lyrical, Jr/Sr Lyrical.

### **What about ballet levels?**

We offer 2 levels of ballet/technique that are open for any dancer. All Ballet/Technique classes are listed for grades 2nd-12th. Ballet level is determined by the experience years of this style and dancer development, progression, and maturity. If unsure what is best for your dancer simply contact the Director for assistance. Dancers placed in Level 2 or 3 classes will be assigned a ballet class, but can also continue taking additional ballet classes.

### **What about Technique levels?**

We offer 4 levels of Technique that are open for any dancer. All Technique classes are listed for grades 2nd-12th. YOUR GRADE does not determine YOUR proper level for dance training. Technique level is determined by dancer's strength and flexibility, technique development, and progressions. To ensure the safety and proper training of a dancer, it is important that he/she is placed in the correct class!!! If unsure what is best for your dancer simply contact the Director for assistance. Dancers placed in Level 2 or 3 classes will be assigned a Technique class, but can also continue taking additional technique classes as desired.

### **How do I sign up for evaluations?**

Under the classes tab on our Rochester Just For Kix website. Select the evaluation listed for your dancer's 26-27 school grade. There is no fee to be evaluated.

### **What is Audition Prep?**

We will offer an audition prep class for each grade group to work on the evaluation routine and technique. Dancers will be provided feedback throughout the class. The fee is \$35/\$40 and registration can be completed online at <https://www.justforkix.com/danceclasses/rochester-mn/#Classes-Schedule> . It is not required but a great way to feel confident going into evaluations!