



# St. Augustine Dance Academy

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## Purpose

The purpose of our dance company is to help promising dancers grow in their dance ability and to learn camaraderie with teammates. This is not going to be a trophy experience but a growing experience. The goal will not be to win but to constantly improve in dance and in character as individuals and as a team. Company dancers will be chosen for one to two pieces of group choreography this upcoming year. Dancers will perform at competitions near St. Augustine and at various other events, such as the Company Showcase in January, St. Augustine's Christmas Parade and a local nursing home performance, representing St. Augustine Dance Academy throughout our community. All activities are mandatory and dates will be presented as far in advance as possible. Performances and competitions are typically held on the weekend.

## Teams

Our teams are separated based on a combination of age, ability and compatibility. Dancers are placed where they will grow both performance-wise and socially. We have the following levels of team: Pixie, Pre, Performance and Premier.

## Tentative Calendar

All company event dates will be posted to Team App as soon as they are confirmed. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from all events. ***The events with dates are already confirmed for 2023-2024. We will not schedule competitions on Easter Weekend, St. Johns County School District spring break or Memorial Day Weekend.***

Here is a sample schedule for next school year:

- Monday - Friday, July 24-28, Summer Choreography Camp
- Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Dance-a-thon Fundraiser
- Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Platinum Convention at UNF (*pixie, pre and performance groups only*)
- Saturday – Sunday, October, In-Studio Guest Artist Convention (*premier groups only*)
- Friday – Sunday, October 27-29, Showstoppers Convention in Orlando (*optional*)
- Friday – Sunday, November 18-19, Tremaine Convention/Competition in Orlando (*optional*)
- Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, St. Augustine's Christmas Parade 8:30 am – 12 pm
- Friday – Saturday, January, Company Dress Rehearsal and Showcase
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Showstoppers Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Inspire Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Starpower Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Fluid Convention/Competition in Jacksonville (*premier groups only and convention optional for performance level dancers*)
- Saturday, Spring, Community Service Performance
- First Week of May, Romanza Festival (*for select group dances only*)
- Friday, May, Company End of Year Party

## Cost

All dance accounts must remain on auto-pay on the 1st of the month. Company costs have been broken into 12 monthly payments. **Company costs begin in May and are in addition to monthly tuition.** (Please note that tuition will increase next school year.) All company fees are non-refundable for any reason. Uniforms are not included in the cost of company. **All dancers will be required to purchase our new jacket style for the upcoming school year at \$80 each.** For new members, a full uniform (including jacket, leggings, leotard and required makeup kit) is \$225 and must be purchased separately. Replacement costs are as follows: jacket (\$80), leggings (\$55) and leotard (\$40).

	Pixies	Pre	Performance	Premier
Choreography Camp	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dues	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shirt	✓	✓	✓	✓
Showcase	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Performance(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Costume(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fall Convention	✓	✓	✓	✓
Competitions (x2)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extra Competition	---	---	✓	✓
Advanced Convention/Competition	---	---	---	✓
Monthly Cost (does not include class tuition)	\$80 (1 dance)	\$100 (1 dance)	\$120 (1 dance) \$140 (2 dances)	\$185 (2 dances)
Required summer training*	---	---	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive <b>AND</b> additional intensive
Required classes during school year	Stars/Ballet and Company	Ballet, Jazz and Company	Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Company	Ballet (x2), Tap, Jazz, Contemporary and Company
Recommended classes (to progress to next level)	Flip Hoppers, Jazz	Tap	Contemporary	Acro

✓ = included in monthly cost

--- = does not apply

\* all summer training must be taken at St. Augustine Dance Academy unless approved in advance

## Auditions

There will be a \$50 audition fee and online application form due by Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. ***Dancers will only be considered for duo/trio opportunities if they submit a separate paper application all appropriate signatures. Solos are by invitation only. Solo/duo/trios will be determined after a separate call back audition on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.***

Audition times/levels will be determined by age or current ballet class level. If your dancer is not currently enrolled in ballet, ages 6 – 9 will join the Pre and Novice Ballet A group and ages 10+ will join the Novice Ballet B group. Dancers ages 3 to 5 should come barefoot or in ballet shoes, in dance clothes or shorts and a fitted shirt with hair up/out of the face. Female dancers ages 6 and up should wear a solid black leotard, solid black shorts (if desired), tan tights, and either ballet or jazz shoes with hair worn in a professional high bun. Male dancers ages 6 and up should wear a solid black shirt, solid black shorts and either ballet or jazz shoes with black socks with hair groomed and out of the face.

**Ages 3 to 5** → Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1 – 2 pm

**Pre and Novice Ballet A** → Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1:45 – 3:15 pm

**Novice Ballet B and Intermediate Ballet A** → Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1:15 – 3:45 pm

**Intermediate Ballet B and above** → Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2:15 – 5:30 pm

***Arrive early - auditions will start on time. Tardiness may have a bearing on your dancer's placement.***

Auditions will be closed and parents are not required to stay. Dancers ages 5 and under will take a combination class to include ballet and jazz fundamentals. Dancers ages 6+ should be prepared to perform in the following styles: jazz, contemporary/lyrical, tap (for Intermediate Ballet B and above only) and improvisation. These students may be asked to demonstrate splits, pirouettes, and grand jetes (leaps). All steps will be demonstrated in detail during the audition. Participants are not required to know all of the steps prior to the audition. The auditions will include a warmup, across the floor work, and age-appropriate combinations in the center.

Participants will be notified by mail during the week following auditions regarding the results and class placement for the upcoming school year. All dancers are carefully placed in company levels and classes where they will grow both socially and as dancers. Dancers selected to audition at solo/duo/trio call backs will be notified by mail as well. St. Augustine Dance Academy reserves the right to audition new students as deemed necessary prior to the beginning of the 2023-2024 company season.

**New this year!** You may challenge your dancer's company placement. If you are not happy with your dancer's company placement, you can set up a meeting with the artistic director to determine a summer training schedule at your expense to include required intensives/classes and possible private lessons based on your individual dancer's needs. During the week before choreography camp, there will be an additional \$50 reevaluation fee due to determine whether a placement change is warranted. Keep in mind that participation in summer training will not guarantee a change in placement but it will guarantee a growth in your dancer's ability. Company payments for May through July will also be due before camp.

## Attendance

Consistent training is extremely important for any dancer's success. If a dancer is absent from a mandatory company class during the two weeks before any performance, the dance will be restaged and the dancer will not be allowed to perform at the corresponding event. Company members will only be allowed to miss

three non-mandatory company classes throughout the year without the excuse of a doctor's note or death in the family. We plan to allow these three days off with no demerits and will make Student Holidays optional if they do not fall within two weeks before a performance. Company class absences cannot be made up. Subsequent company class absences would result in two demerits each.

Company dancers may miss a total of five classes in each of their required classes throughout the year (example – missing 5 jazz classes). Dancers will need to schedule make up classes during normal class times in the same or a lower level at either location to stay below this threshold. After five absences in a required class (without making up classes), company dancers will be dismissed from the team with a \$200 per dance restaging fee automatically charged to the credit card on file.

### **Required Training**

With this opportunity to grow through dance, there is a necessary commitment to a team. Company members will not be able to participate in other conflicting team activities. Choreography will begin over the summer with mandatory day camp during the week of Monday through Friday, July 24-28. Days and times will vary based on assigned group dances. All choreography will begin for the season during this week. Any missed days will result in dismissal from the company without a refund. There will be a \$200 per dance restaging fee automatically charged upon leaving the team during or after choreography camp for any reason. Beginning in August, each dancer will be required to take the classes for their team listed in the table on page 2. In order to perform acro tricks in choreography, a dancer must be enrolled in acro to maintain strength and technique for their safety.

In an effort to better prepare and protect our dancers with technique and continuous strength training, summer dance is required for performance and premier levels. Performance level dancers are required to register for ballet class or a ballet intensive over summer. Premier level dancers are required to register for 1) ballet class or a ballet intensive **AND** 2) one additional intensive in the style of their choice over the summer. **All summer training must be taken at St. Augustine Dance Academy.** Any alternatives must be approved in advance.

Specific company class times for next school year will be released with acceptance letters before you commit. Please consider these carefully before committing to our team. Solo/duo/trios will be scheduled when studio space, the choreographer and the dancers are available throughout the week. These time slots may be early in the afternoon (2:30 – 3:30 pm for homeschool and middle school students that get out early), late in the evening or on Saturdays.

### **Optional Conventions/Competitions**

Conventions are events where dancers take class in multiple styles of dance from master teachers from around the country. This year, dancers can expand their experience by adding any of the following:

Showstoppers Convention in Orlando (October 27-29) This opportunity is available to any studio dancer in middle or high school. Parents are responsible for their dancer all weekend – including travel arrangements (hotel, gas, etc.) and meals.

*Option 1: \$350 total due by July 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Option 2: \$70 per month due on the 1<sup>st</sup>, May through September (\$350 total)*

*There is no competition at this event.*

Tremaine Convention/Competition in Orlando (November 17-19) This opportunity is available to any studio dancer in middle or high school. Parents are responsible for their dancer all weekend – including travel arrangements (hotel, gas, etc.) and meals.

*Option 1: \$350 total due by July 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Option 2: \$70 per month due on the 1<sup>st</sup>, May through September (\$350 total)*

*Solo/duo/trios can compete at this competition for an added cost (\$200 per solo, \$100 per duo/trio member due July 1<sup>st</sup>).*

Fluid Convention/Competition in Jacksonville (April/May TBD) Performance level company dancers can elect to participate in the convention portion of this event. All Premier level company will attend the convention and compete group dances at this event (already included in their company fees). Premier level company dancers can elect to compete solo/duo/trios at this event. Parents are responsible for transportation and meals.

*Option 1: \$300 total due by January 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Option 2: \$50 per month due on the 1<sup>st</sup>, September through January (\$300 total)*

*Solo/duo/trios can compete at this competition for an added cost (\$200 per solo, \$100 per duo/trio member due January 1<sup>st</sup>).*

### **Required Supplies**

Dancers may need to purchase special shoes depending on the style of dance they are chosen for.

Male dancers will also need:

- Black dress socks

Female dancers will also need:

- Solid black fitted shorts with no brand symbols or names showing
- Two new Revolution pairs of tights (color/style will depend on dance) without holes or snags - these tights should be saved strictly for performances
- Nude leotard if in more than one dance
- Make-up will be required for performances, including foundation, mascara, eyeliner, etc. (a studio make-up kit is required and application instructions will follow)

### **Acceptance**

To accept this invitation and secure your dancer's spot on our team, your electronic commitment and registration payment (\$45 for one dancer and \$75 for multiple dancers) for the 2023-24 school year are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.