



# St. Augustine Dance Academy

200 Business Park Circle  
Suite 113  
St. Augustine, Florida  
904-940-1818  
www.staugdance.com  
info@staugdance.com

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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 or more 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 and St. Augustine's Christmas Parade 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 social compatibility. Dancers are placed where they will grow both performance-wise and socially. We have the following levels of team: 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 2024-2025. 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 29 – August 2, Summer Choreography Camp
- Saturday, September 14, Dance-a-thon Fundraiser
- Saturday, October 12, Platinum Convention at UNF (*pre and performance groups only*)
- Saturday – Sunday, October 12-13, In-Studio Dance Device Lab Convention (*premier groups only*)
- Friday – Sunday, November 9-10, Showstopper Convention in Orlando (*optional*)
- Friday – Sunday, November, Convention/Competition in Jacksonville or Orlando (*optional*)
- Saturday, December 7, St. Augustine's Christmas Parade 8:30am – 12pm
- Friday – Saturday, January, Company Dress Rehearsal and Showcase
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Dance Competition in Jacksonville (*premier and performance groups only*)
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Convention/Competition in Jacksonville (*premier groups only and convention optional for performance level dancers*)
- Saturday, Spring, Community Service Performance (*for select group dances only*)
- First Week of May, Romanza Festival (*for select group dances only*)
- Friday, April, 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*.** All company fees are non-refundable for any reason. Uniforms are not included in the cost of company. For new members, a full uniform (including jacket, leggings, leotard and required makeup kit) is \$250 and must be purchased separately. Replacement costs are as follows: jacket (\$100), leggings (\$60), leotard (\$40) and makeup kit (\$50).

	<b>Pre</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Premier</b>
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)	\$100 (1 dance)	\$120 (1 dance) \$140 (2 dances)	\$190 (2 dances) \$220 (3 dances)
Required summer training*	---	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive (12 hrs)	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive (12 hrs) <b>AND</b> additional intensive (6 hrs)
Required classes during school year	Ballet, Jazz and Company	Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Company	Ballet (x2), Tap, Jazz, Contemporary and Company
Recommended classes (to progress to next level)	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**

The \$50 audition fee is due by Saturday, March 9. You can register in the Parent Portal under Events. Any registrations made after March 9 will incur a \$25 late fee. ***Dancers will only be considered for duo/trio opportunities if they submit a separate paper application with all appropriate signatures. Solos are by invitation only. Solo/duo/trios will be determined after a separate call back audition on Saturday, April 27.***

Audition times/levels will be determined by age or current ballet class level. If your dancer is not currently enrolled in ballet, ages 6 to 10 will join the Pre and Novice Ballet A group and ages 11+ will join the Novice Ballet B group. Female dancers 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 bun. Male dancers 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.

***Pre and Novice Ballet A*** → Saturday, April 6, 1:00 – 2:20pm

***Novice Ballet B and Intermediate Ballet A*** → Saturday, April 6, 1:15 – 3:45pm

***Intermediate Ballet B and above*** → Saturday, April 6, 2:15 – 5:45pm

***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 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 next company season.

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. 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 makeup 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 29 – August 2. Days/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 (at least 12 hours) over summer. Premier level dancers are required to register for 1) ballet class or a ballet intensive (at least 12 hours) **AND** 2) one additional intensive in the style of their choice (at least 6 hours) over the summer. **All summer training must be taken at St. Augustine Dance Academy.** Any alternatives must be approved in advance. Our intensives are planned and prepared with specific goals for our company dancers.

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. More details will be included in the company placement letter.

Showstopper Convention in Orlando (November 9-10) 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*

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

*There is no competition at this event.*

Convention/Competition in Jacksonville or Orlando (late Fall) 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

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

*Solo/duo/trios can compete at this competition for an added cost (\$290 per solo, \$145 per duo/trio member due July 1) which includes two additional practices before the event.*

Convention/Competition in Jacksonville (Spring) 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:* \$350 total due by September 1

*Option 2:* \$70 per month due on the 1st, August through December (\$350 total)

*Solo/duo/trios can compete at this competition for an added cost (\$290 per solo, \$145 per duo/trio member due July 1) which includes two additional practices before the event.*

### **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
- Low-top solid white parade sneakers with laces

Female dancers will also need:

- Low-top solid white parade sneakers with laces
- 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 next school year are due by April 15.