



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 three 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

Pixies – this team will be the cutest to hit the stage in all of Northeast Florida. Ages 4 and up will perform one dance at two competitions, local events and will even join us for the Christmas Parade!

Pre – this group is for ages 6 and up. This team will participate in a one-day convention, dance down the street in the Christmas Parade and perform one dance at two competitions and local events.

Performance and Premier – these teams are for our older, promising dancers that seek to improve their dancing skills and camaraderie with peers as they compete, perform at three competitions and more!

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 2022-2023. 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 2022-2023:

- Monday - Friday, July 25-29, Summer Company Camp (with Lock-In 5-10 pm on Friday night)
- Saturday, September 10th, Dance-a-thon Fundraiser
- Saturday, October 22nd, Platinum Convention at UNF
- Sunday, October, Children's Art Festival at The Amp in St. Augustine for one select group dance only
- Saturday, December 3rd, St. Augustine's Christmas Parade 8:30 am – 12 pm
- Friday – Sunday, December 16-18th, Dancemakers Convention/Competition in Daytona (*optional*)
- Friday – Saturday, January, Company Dress Rehearsal and Showcase
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Disney Performance (*performance and premier groups only*)
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, VIP Dance Competition in Jacksonville
- Saturday, Spring, Community Service Performance
- Friday – Sunday, Spring, Convention/Competition in Jacksonville for Premier group dances only
- Friday – Sunday, May, Platinum Competition in Daytona
- Saturday, May, Romanza Festival for select group dances only

Cost

Company 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. Uniforms (including required makeup kit) are \$215 and must be purchased separately. Replacement costs are as follows: jacket (\$75), leggings (\$50) and leotard (\$40).

	Pixies	Pre	Performance	Premier
Choreography Camp	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dues	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shirt	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uniform**	---	---	---	---
Showcase	✓	✓	✓	✓
Competitions (x2)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Performance(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Costume(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Platinum Convention	---	✓	✓	✓
Additional Competition	---	---	✓	✓
Advanced Convention/Competition	---	---	---	✓
Monthly Cost (does not include class tuition)	\$60 (1 dance)	\$90 (1 dance)	\$115 (1 dance) \$135 (2 dances)	\$170 (2 dances) \$200 (3 dances)
Required summer training	---	---	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive	Ballet class <u>or</u> intensive AND 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

Auditions

There will be a \$50 audition fee and online application form due by Saturday, March 12th. ***Dancers will only be considered for duo/trio opportunities if they submit a separate paper application (that must be picked up at the front desk) with all appropriate signatures. Solos are by invitation only. Solo/duo/trios will be determined after a separate call back audition on Saturday, April 30th.***

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 2nd 1 – 2 pm

Pre and Novice Ballet A → Saturday, April 2nd 1 – 2:30 pm

Novice Ballet B and Intermediate Ballet A → Saturday, April 2nd 3 – 5 pm

Intermediate Ballet B and above → Saturday, April 2nd 5:30 – 8:30 pm

AUDITION

Auditions will be closed and parents are not required to stay. 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. Any questions or comments regarding level of placement - in person, via text/email or on social media - will result in immediate dismissal from the team. All dancers are carefully placed in dances 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 2022-2023 company season.

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 \$100 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 25-29, with a mandatory lock-in until 10 pm on Friday night. 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 \$100 per dance restaging fee automatically charged upon leaving the team during or after summer 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.

New this year – In an effort to better prepare our dancers with technique and continuous training, **summer dance is now 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.

Company classes will be held on Friday afternoons at both our locations. Specific times will be released with acceptance letters. 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 Convention – *New this year!!! Parents are responsible for securing transportation/hotel and supervising dancer all weekend.*

This year, we will be attending Dancemakers in Daytona (December 16-18). This opportunity is available to any studio dancer in middle or high school. Studio teachers will NOT chaperone this event.

Option 1: \$300 total due by July 1st

Option 2: \$60 per month due on the 1st, May through September (\$300 total)

Solo/duo/trios can compete at this competition for an added cost (\$200 per solo, \$100 per duo member, \$70 per trio member due July 1st).

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 for the 2022-23 school year are due by April 15th.

SOLOS/DUOS/TRIOS

Dancers can apply for a duo/trio! Please see the duo/trio application for more details. Not all dancers that would like to compete a duo/trio will be approved for this opportunity, but you must apply to be considered. If your application is approved, you will automatically be signed up for a duo/trio with the first payment due on May 1st so please consider costs before submitting. Dancers should consider peers in the same levels of classes when applying for duo/trio. Dancers may apply for multiple duo/trio opportunities but should apply carefully as they will automatically be committed to each one that is approved. Solos will be by invitation only. **Solo/duo/trio payments are due monthly May through April.**

So You Want a Solo (or Duo/Trio)?

If you're a dancer who hits the competition circuit, you've noticed a trend: Each year there are more and more solos at dance competitions. These soloists are dancers who have the guts to get onstage by themselves, are confident about their abilities, and aren't afraid to accept the judges' criticism. Most important, they are the dancers who are technically and emotionally ready for the experience. Or are they?

Twenty years ago, only a few deserving students from each studio danced solos. Today, though, just about everyone who wants to do one, does. So what's wrong with that, you're wondering?

Dancing a solo can be a wonderful and motivational experience, but it can also be devastating. We all have seen dancers who lack confidence attempt their first solo, only to end up running off stage. Humiliation and embarrassment—two pretty nasty feelings to have as a result of doing something we're supposed to love—take the place of the expected exhilaration and pride. In some cases, the disappointed dancer questions whether she wants to continue to dance. All this for a solo?

I'm Ready! (I Think)

You're absolutely determined not to be embarrassed onstage, but how do you know when you're ready to take on the challenge of a solo—and succeed?

Take a close, honest look at yourself and your dancing. You're ready to solo when

- you have made a serious commitment to yourself and to dance;
- you're willing to go into the studio or your bedroom, on your own, to focus extra time on your solo;
- you are willing to take your solo apart count by count and make sure you know what's up technically (where your arms are on every count, what the best angles are, and so on);
- you are willing to rehearse your solo full-out all the time in order to build stamina;
- you are technically ready.

If you aren't 100% ready to be on stage alone, maybe a duo or trio is a great place to start. Most soloists venture onto the stage with one or two other dancers for a year or two before taking a stab at a solo. This is a much more cost effective option and can build confidence before stepping on the stage alone.

Music Does Matter

You are *not* going to use the most popular song of the year for your solo, no matter how much you love it and are dying to dance to it! Everyone will be using that song, and you don't want to be the ninth dancer performing to it. Your choreographer will find something different, something you've probably

never heard at a competition before. Your choreographer will spend time selecting the right piece of music for your personality.

Walk, Don't Run

It's hard to be patient when you see dancers who are less talented than you performing solos at every competition. But readiness is everything, so put aside your ego, take a close look at your goals and motivations, and talk to your teachers. They can offer an objective assessment of whether you're ready to solo. Trust their judgment, do what you *know* you can do, and get ready for a positive performing experience!

The Bottom Line

Each solo/duo/trio will require a separate entry fee at competition. You will also need a separate costume for these dances. You will be required to attend a ½ hour private lesson for twelve lessons to learn the choreography. After choreography is complete, your choreographer will schedule any necessary practices at your regularly scheduled private lesson day/time to rehearse prior to competitions and performances. This is not only an emotional and physical commitment but a monetary commitment as well.

	Solo	Duo	Trio
20 private lessons*	✓	✓	✓
Costume	✓	✓	✓
Competitions (x2)	✓	✓	✓
Monthly Cost	\$110	\$60 (per dancer)	\$45 (per dancer)

**Additional private lessons are \$40 per half hour.*

Premier solo/duo/trios will not automatically perform at the spring Convention/Competition (for premier groups only).

New this year – Solo/duo/trios will have the opportunity to opt into additional competitions: Dancemakers and our local spring Convention/Competition for premier. See page 4 for details about competing at Dancemakers (must also attend convention for the weekend). Add on competitions will be \$200 per solo, \$100 per duo member and \$70 per trio member. Payment options will be available upon commitment.