



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 – **new this year!!!** This team will be the cutest to hit the stage in all of Northeast Florida. Ages 4 to 6 will perform one dance at two competitions, local events and will even join us for the Christmas Parade!

Pre – previously known as Petite Performance team, 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 – back again, these teams are for our older, promising dancers that seek to improve their dancing skills and camaraderie with peers as they compete, perform at Disney 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 2021-2022.*** *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 2021-2022:

- Monday - Saturday, July 26th – 31st, Summer Company Camp (with Lock-In Friday night)
- Saturday, September 11th, Dance-a-thon Fundraiser
- Saturday, October, Platinum Convention at UNF
- *Sunday, October, Children's Art Festival at The Amp in St. Augustine for one select group dance only*
- Saturday, December 4th, St. Augustine's Christmas Parade 8:30 am – 12 pm
- Friday – Saturday, January, Company Dress Rehearsal and Showcase
- Friday – Sunday, Early February, Hall of Fame Competition in Jacksonville
- Saturday, March, Community Service Performance
- *Friday – Sunday, April, Fluid Dance Convention/Competition in Jacksonville for Premier group dances only*
- Friday – Sunday, May, Platinum Competition in Daytona
- *Saturday, May, Quigley House Benefit 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 April and are in addition to monthly tuition.** All company fees are non-refundable for any reason.

	Pixies	Pre	Performance	Premier
Age (as of August 1)	4 – 6	6+	8+	8+
Camp	✓ *	✓	✓	✓
Dues	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shirt	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uniform**	✓	✓	---	---
Showcase	✓	✓	✓	✓
Competitions (x2)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Performance(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Costume(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Platinum Convention	---	✓	✓	✓
Disney Performance***	---	---	✓	✓
Advanced Convention/Competition	---	---	---	✓
Monthly Cost (does not include class tuition)	\$60 (1 dance) ---	\$85 (1 dance) ---	\$100 (1 dance) \$120 (2 dances)	\$150 (2 dances) \$180 (3 dances)
Required classes	Stars/Ballet and Company	Ballet, Jazz and Company	Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Company	Ballet (x2), Tap, Jazz, Contemporary and Company
Recommended classes (to progress dancing to next level)	Flip Hoppers, Jazz	Tap	Contemporary	Acro

* Pixie camp will only be 3 days during the week of company camp for 2 hours each day. Wrap-around care will not be available for this age group.

** Replacement costs are as follows: jacket (\$75), leggings (\$50) and leotard (\$40).

*** Our Disney performance may be changed to an additional competition in Jacksonville depending on Disney's safety protocol at the time (if performances are still prohibited on their stage).

Auditions

There will be a \$50 audition fee, head shot and application form due by Saturday, March 13th. The head shot does not need to be professional. It should be between a wallet and 4 x 6 size of the dancer facing forward, smiling from the shoulders up. ***Dancers will only be considered for duo/trio opportunities if they submit a separate application with all appropriate signatures. Solos are by invitation only.***

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 10th 1 – 2 pm

Pre and Novice Ballet A → Saturday, April 10th 1 – 2:30 pm

Novice Ballet B and Intermediate Ballet A → Saturday, April 10th 3 – 5 pm

Intermediate Ballet B and above → Saturday, April 10th 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. St. Augustine Dance Academy reserves the right to audition new students as deemed necessary prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 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 Monday through Saturday, July 26th – 31st, 2021 with a lock-in Friday night. 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.

Company classes may be held on Friday afternoons between 4:30 and 7:30 pm at our World Golf Village location or specific weeknights between 5:30 and 8:30 pm at either location based on interest. Specific days/times/locations 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 Package – *includes convention fee, food, hotel and travel*

This year, we will be attending Dancemakers in Daytona (November 12-14). This opportunity is available to any company dancer in middle or high school. Dancers travel and stay with the company. Studio teachers chaperone this event.

Option 1: \$500 total due by July 1st

Option 2: \$100 per month due on the 1st, May through September (\$500 total)

Supplies

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

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
- Make-up will be required for performances, including foundation, mascara, eyeliner, etc. (a studio make-up kit is required and application instructions will follow)

Male dancers will also need:

- Black dress socks

Acceptance

To accept this invitation and secure your dancer's spot on our team, your signed commitment form, first month's company fees (including solo/duo/trio) and registration payment for the 2021-22 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 April 15th 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 April through March.**

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 1/2 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	\$105	\$55 (per dancer)	\$40 (per dancer)

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

Premier solo/duo/trios will not perform at Fluid Competition (for premier groups only).