



Student/Parent Handbook

2015 – 2016

Contact Us

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Stardance Performing Arts 2014-2015 Season

WELCOME

Stardance Performing Arts is a new studio in Hayesville and is now offering North Georgia and Western North Carolina superior dance education. Our program has been developed with our students' best interest in mind. The curriculum consists of Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Acrobatics, and Creative Movement. Adult classes are also offered in Tap, Stretch & Tone, and Hip Hop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Stardance for your child's dance education for the upcoming season. In order to provide you with possible information about the studio, I have developed this Parent/Student handbook. It provides a detailed description of policies and procedures used by the studio. I believe this handbook will answer most of your questions. Please keep this as your reference for the dance school year. Should you have a question that is not answered in the handbook, feel free to ask me. I am looking forward to another exciting and successful year!

Sincerely,

Shelley Gordon, Director

Stardance Performing Arts 2015-2016 Season

Calendar of Events

The following is a tentative “year-at-glance” schedule, subject to change as needs dictate. These schedules will be confirmed in newsletters.

August 17 th	Classes Begin
September 7 th	Studio closed – Labor Day
September 14 th -18 ^h	Bring-A-Friend Week
October 1 st	<u>Recital costume fees are due</u>
November 11 th	Studio closed – Veteran’s Day
November 25 th -27 th	Studio closed-Thanksgiving
December 21 st -January 3 rd	Studio closed-Christmas Vacation
April 1 st	<u>Recital fee is due</u>
April 11 th -15 th	Studio closed-Spring Vacation
April 30 th – May 1 st	Picture Day
May 30 th	Studio closed-Memorial Day
June 1 st – 4 th	Recital Week
June 13 th	Recital Dress Rehearsal – Towns County Auditorium
June 14 th	Recital

Memo: Tuition payments are due at the first class meeting of each month.

Registration

Each student must complete a registration form as well as read and agree to the policies and procedures listed in the Student Handbook. A non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. The first month's tuition installment will also be due at this time. If a student has scheduling conflicts and is unable to participate in assigned classes, the first month's tuition installment will be refunded no later than October 15.

Registration Fee:

Single new student: \$25.00

Family rate *: \$35.00

Returning students:

Single student: \$10.00

Family rate *: \$15.00

*** Family rate applies to immediate family members only.**

SDPA Scheduling

SDPA will follow the Clay County School Schedule for closings due to holiday breaks. In the event of inclement weather closings, SDPA students will be notified 30 minutes before the start of the first class, via Facebook message or telephone. SDPA does not follow the Clay County School System when closing due to inclement weather.

The SDPA will observe all national holidays on the Clay County School calendar. In addition, we will excuse any student's absence due to religious beliefs or holiday's not listed on our Student Calendar.

Classes **will not** be cancelled due to teacher workdays.

Stardance Performing Arts does not prorate tuition installments due to class cancellation. If a student's class is cancelled due to weather conditions or a holiday, you may check with the office in regards to a make-up class. However, tuition will not be refunded if a make-up class is not available or if a student chooses not to participate.

Arrival & Departure

Students should arrive no less than 10 minutes before their class start and be picked up no later than 15 minutes after their class has ended. Students are not allowed to hang out in the parking lot or leave before their guardian or other permitted transportation has arrived.

Class Scheduling

Student scheduling will be based on age and experience. Please remember that the first month of classes is an opportunity for the instructors to get to know their students. All students learn differently and progress at different rates. Be aware that we have the right to change any student's placement to better suit their needs. Also note that enrollment into our advanced classes are by invitation only. Placement will be determined by age, experience, ability, technique, potential and dedication.

Attendance

Our goal is to provide a superior level of dance education. In order to maintain that level we need participation from everyone. Attendance will be vital to have a successful year. Excessive absences of one student will negatively affect his/her entire class. A student's dance ability and technique will severely suffer if they are not in class on a regular basis. Excessive, unexcused absences will result in a dismissal from our program* In the event that a student must miss a class, we ask that you please notify us via telephone or email. There may be opportunities for make-up classes depending on age and class style.

From the first week of January through early June, we will be working very hard on our recital dances. This makes class time even more valuable. Therefore, if a dancer in any one hour class, misses more than two weeks in a row during these months, the dancer or parent is required to schedule a private lesson with the teacher. At the end of the year, perfect attendance awards will be given to students with no absences.

*If a student has missed 50% or more of their scheduled classes, they may be terminated from our program. Costume fees and tuition payments will not be refunded if a student is terminated under these conditions.

Withdrawals

A student may withdraw from any or all classes at any given time throughout the year. Tuition installments will not be refunded or pro-rated during the month of withdrawal. Costume payments will not be refunded if a student withdraws after December.

Parent Waiting Area

Parents are welcome to stay in the waiting area while their child is in class. Parents and waiting students are not allowed in the dance room, while class is in session. If a student is not able to attend class without their parent, they will be placed in the waiting room until they decide they can participate. If a student continually has problems leaving their

parent, we may suggest that you wait another year before enrolling your child in our program.

Student Break Room

We have provided a spacious break room specifically for our students. We ask that all students place shoes and other belongings in the provided cubby holes to decrease clutter and lost items.* Students may have snacks in this area. There is to be no food in the classroom. Students may bring water only into the classroom. (* SDPA is not responsible for lost or stolen items. A “lost and found” box is kept in the break room and will be emptied each month.)

Recital

Stardance Performing Arts will hold an annual spring recital. Although not mandatory, we encourage all students to participate in this exciting evening. A mandatory dress rehearsal will be held the day prior to our recital. Additional rehearsals may also be scheduled prior to the week of our recital.

Each student will be charged a \$75 recital fee. This fee includes a recital video, new tights and any additional accessories needed for class costumes. Each class will have one costume which ranges between \$50 and \$70. Costume payments are due during the first of October and recital fees are due by the first week of April. If you would like to have these fees divided into payments, we will be happy for you to do that. All costumes will be ordered before December to ensure a spring delivery. If we do not receive your costume payment, your child’s costume will not be ordered. Costumes will be ordered for delinquent accounts upon the time of payment but we cannot guarantee a timely delivery. Once a costume has been ordered, there are NO REFUNDS/CREDITS.

Tuition Schedule

Tuition payments are due at the first class meeting of each month. There will be a \$20.00 fee added for payments received after the 15th of each month. You may pay by cash or check. Please make checks payable to **Stardance Performing Arts**.

1 Class Weekly:	\$38-\$48/month
2 Classes Weekly:	\$90/month
3 Classes Weekly:	\$130/month
4-8 Classes Weekly:	\$160/month
Unlimited Classes Weekly: (9 or more)	\$200/month
Private Lessons:	\$30/1/2 hour or \$50/hour

Immediate family members qualify under the 2 classes or more.

August and June tuition is combined as one month due to fewer classes each month. Tuition is not prorated for classes missed due to illness, vacation, or inclement weather.

A \$30.00 returned check fee will apply to any check returned to Stardance Performing Arts. A receipt will be given to you each time you pay in cash.

You **WILL NOT** be receiving a monthly statement from the office for your monthly tuition. If at any time you would like a statement of your account you may request one. **Monthly statements will be communicated for overdue balances only.**

Dress Code

We feel that maintaining a proper dress code is vital to ensure a high standard of dance education. Adhering to the dress code will form a sense of unity and equality among students and reduce unnecessary distractions. All students will be fitted for shoes at the beginning of the year. You will also have the opportunity to purchase the necessary dancewear. This is the most convenient way to get what you need and at half the cost you'll find in retail stores. This will also ensure that all students will be properly dressed for class. Students who do not abide by dress will not be allowed to participate.

Female Students

Creative Movement: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers. Sheer ballet skirt optional.

Ballet/Tap Combination: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers, tan tap shoes. Sheer ballet skirt optional.

Acrobatics: Black leotard, tan or pink convertible or footless tights. Dance shorts optional.

Ballet Technique: Black leotard, pink tights, pink split-sole ballet slippers. Sheer ballet skirt optional.

Pointe: Same as ballet technique. NO LEGWARMERS.

Jazz: Black leotard, suntan tights, tan split-sole jazz shoes (laceless preferred). Jazz pants or shorts optional.

Tap: Black leotard, suntan tights, tan tap shoes. Jazz pants or shorts optional.

Lyrical: Black leotard, suntan tights, jazz shoes. Ballet skirt optional.

Modern: Black leotard, suntan convertible tights. Shoes optional. Dance shorts or capris optional.

Hip Hop: Leotard of any color, dance pants, black hip hop sneaker. **NO JEANS OR STREET CLOTHES.**

NOTE: Hair should always be secured off the face and neck. A standard bun is required for ballet technique and pointe.

Male Student

The standard for our male students is a white, fitted t-shirt, black pants or shorts and black dance shoes (Style appropriate). Male students will wear the same style shoe as female students.

NOTE: Street shoes and loose fitting clothing such as t-shirts and sweatpants* are never considered appropriate. Jewelry of any kind is prohibited due to safety reasons. Sweatshirts and other warm-up garments are allowed only while dancers are stretching and must be removed when class begins.

***Male students are allowed to wear black sweatpants.**

Class Descriptions

Creative Movement: (Ages 2 – 4)

Teaches rhythm and coordination by introducing basic ballet technique and movement phrases. Offered in 45 minute sessions.

Pre-Ballet/Tap Combination: (Ages 3 – 4)

Introduces basic tap and ballet technique combining rhythmic variations, musicality and proper terminology. These skills will help students advance in higher levels of dance.

Ballet/Tap Combination I, II: (Ages 4 – 7)

Introduces basic tap and ballet technique combining rhythmic variations, musicality and proper terminology. These skills will help students advance in higher levels of dance. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Acrobatics I, II: (Ages 4 – Teen) Incorporates balance, flexibility and coordination to develop basic acrobatic skills. Will include back bends, handstands, cartwheels, walkovers and more. Offered in 45 or 60 minute sessions.

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Ballet Technique I – VI (8-Adult)

The foundation for all dance forms. Barre, center work and traveling progressions will develop proper alignment, balance and posture. The Cecchetti method is the predominant style used. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Pointe I, II: (11 – Teen)

A continuation of ballet technique for the more advanced dancer. Dancers must obtain approval from instructor before entering the class and must be enrolled in ballet technique. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Jazz Technique I, II: (Intermediate Teen – Adult)

An upbeat and energetic style that has been derived from ballet technique. This class will focus on technique, style, coordination, flexibility and strength. (Ballet technique recommended). Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Tap Technique I, II (Intermediate Teen – Adult)

Perfect for developing coordination by combining technique, rhythm, timing and style. The Al Gilbert technique is the predominant style used. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Jazz/Tap Combination I, II, III (6 – Intermediate Teen)

Offered in 60 or 90 minute sessions.

Musical Theatre

Provides an introduction to skills in acting, singing and dancing.

Lyrical I, II, III, (11 – Teen)

Combines ballet technique with a jazz style. Lyrical is an expressive dance form focusing on coordination, flexibility and technique. (Ballet technique required). Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Modern

A style that encourages individual creativity and freedom of self expression. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Hip Hop I – VI (5 – Adult)

Hip Hop is a freestyle form of dance using today's popular music. This is a fun, upbeat class in a less structured environment. Offered in 60 minute sessions.

Stretch & Tone: (Teen – Adult)

Increases strength, endurance and flexibility. Recommended for Intermediate and Advanced levels. Offered in 45 and 60 minute sessions.