

# STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

# **ABOUT US**

Stray Dance Company offers dance classes for beginners through advanced dancers ages 1 - adult. We strive to provide a positive, creative outlet where dancers feel safe to be themselves. With 3 different programs to choose from, dancers will always be challenged to reach their unique potentials as an artist and human.

# ABOUT STRAY CURRICULUM

A top priority of our program is promoting healthy and safe movement practices that are developmentally appropriate. We will focus on ballet to develop a strong foundation. Each level is carefully planned to ensure understanding of proper alignment is achieved. Anatomy will be integrated into each class as we talk about body positions and how to correctly achieve them. As part of a well rounded dance education, dance history will also be integrated into each class by discussing the origin of each style and key dancers responsible for building and influencing each style. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, students will learn life lessons essential for success in any path they may take into adulthood. Responsibility, accountability, punctuality, perseverance and time management outline a few of our high standards at Stray Dance Company.

# CLASSES OFFERED

**Family & Me:** This class is designed for dancers who are not yet comfortable being in a class alone or for the parents who want to be a part of their child's early dance education. Each dancer is joined by one parent or caregiver who will act as their "dancing partner". Both will participate in movement exercises, games and other activities to introduce the joy of creative movement in a fun environment.

**Creative Combo:** A ballet and tap combo class that nurtures the development of your child's dance education. Each dancer will learn basic ballet language, skills, body positioning and musicality. During tap, your dancer will be introduced to basic tap steps and terminology as well as rhythm and sound coordination.

**Ballet:** Ballet classes are the foundation for training and focus on developing a solid ballet technique with emphasis on understanding correct body placement, proper use of turn out, coordination of the upper body, and use of arms (port de bras). Class begins with work at the barre to build strength and coordination, followed by center exercises, culminating in a grand allegro combination or variation.

**Modern:** Modern dance is a contemporary, expressive dance form, stemming from a history that includes ballet, jazz, African, capoeira, yoga, and many other rich cultural dance traditions. We will incorporate many of the foundations of

modern dance technique, including suspension and release, fall and recovery, the use of momentum and connecting breath with movement. Dancers will explore new ways of moving in combinations, floor work and partnering.

**Contemporary:** A class that explores elements of modern and ballet movement with a focus on the dancers' individual movement styles. Class will focus on expanding musicality, floor work, use of weight and breath, and safe body alignment. This class consists of a proper warm up, center exercises, across the floor, choreography and stretching.

**Jazz:** A class focusing on specific jazz technique: body lines, isolations, musicality, style and presentation. This class consists of a proper warm up, center exercises, across the floor, choreography and stretching.

**Tap/Musical Theatre:** A class that focuses on tap terminology, rhythm, history, musicality, timing and clear sounds. All classes begin with an energetic warm-up, across the floor exercises and combinations. This class will be a part of the musical theatre production in our concert!

**Lyrical:** A class that combines ballet and jazz techniques. This class focuses on an individual approach and expressiveness of their emotions.

**Hip-Hop:** A class that explores street dance styles primarily performed to hip-hop music or that have evolved as part of hip-hop culture. Dancers will develop stamina, musicality, rhythm, coordination and their personal style.

**Acro:** A class that follows the Acrobatic Arts curriculum. This program is based on safe and effective progressions with proven results in five divisions of AcroDance: flexibility, strength, balancing, limbering & tumbling. Simple thoughtful progressions take the beginner preschool level dancer from log rolls and somersaults to the advanced dancer tumbling effortlessly across the stage.

# Class Attire: Visit Stray's Discount Dance Store:

https://www.discountdance.com/search/teacherid:136734?tp=136734&teacherSearch=stray%20dance%20company

Ballet leos that come in each age group's required color have been added. Other lists include Bikers, Contemporary, Ballet Warm Ups, & Pants/Leggings; these are options for items you can wear, you do not have to buy only these listed items.

## Important Dress Code details:

- Options are given, not for boy vs girl, but for what your dancer feels most themselves in.
- No attached ballet skirts are allowed past the creative movement program.
- No jewelry or accessories
- All boys 13+ must wear a dance belt
- Dancers must enter and exit building in street clothes and shoes
- During cold months, approved warm-ups will be allowed at the discretion of the instructor.

- Please practice proper hygiene. No heavily scented perfume or body lotion.
- Please label all personal items and shoes. SDC will not be responsible for any lost or missing items. Anything left behind will be placed in our lost & found. Lost and found will be cleaned out and donated at the close of each semester
- Instructors have the right to ask dancers to observe class if not in proper attire.

# SEASON 3 ATTIRE

\*\*\*Hair should be in a bun for ALL classes\*\*\*

### **BALLET**

#### Leotard:

Ages 5-8 - Solid White Leotard Ages 8+ - Solid Dark Green Leotard

Company - Assigned Leotard

Male Identifying: White or Age Specific Color Crew

Neck Shirt/Tank

#### Tights:

Youth: SoDanca TS81 - Child Convertible Adult: SoDanca TS82 - Adult Convertible

Male Identifying: SL160 Jacob's Kid's Tights or Bikers

Color: Ballet Pink

BIPOC Dancers: Skin Tone (Mocha or Espresso)

Male Identifying: Black

#### Shoes:

SoDanca Bliss - SD16 - Stretch Canvas Split Sole

Color: Light Pink

BIPOC Dancers: Skin Tone (Suntan or Mocha)

Male Identifying: Black

\*Shoes should always match tights!\*

#### **CREATIVE MOVEMENT**

#### Leotard:

Solid Light Blue Leotard

Male Identifying: Solid Light Blue Shirt/Tank

#### Tights:

SoDanca TS81 - Child Convertible

Male Identifying: SL160 Jacob's Kid's Tights or Bikers

Color: Ballet Pink

BIPOC Dancers: Skin Tone (Mocha or Espresso)

Male Identifying: Black

#### **Ballet Shoes:**

SoDanca Bliss - SD16 - Stretch Canvas Split Sole

Color: Light Pink

BIPOC Dancers: Skin Tone (Suntan or Mocha)

Male Identifying: Black

\*Shoes should always match tights!\*

## Tap Shoes:

Capezio 356 - Shuffle Tap Shoe in Caramel

## JAZZ/TECHNIQUE/LYRICAL

## Top:

Any Dance Top or Leotard

Male Identifying: Any solid color T-shirt or Tank

#### **Bottoms:**

Any Biker Shorts or Leggings

Shoes: NONE

\*Trunks or Leotard Only is Not Allowed\*

## MODERN

## Top:

Black Leotard or Company Leotard Male Identifying: Any black T-shirt or Tank

#### **Bottoms:**

Black Convertible Tights or Leggings

Male Identifying: Black Leggings or Dance Pants

Shoes: NONE





### **ACRO**

Top:

Any Leotard or Biketard

Male Identifying: Any Tight Fitting Shirt or Tank

**Bottoms:** 

Bikers or Leggings

**Shoes:** NONE

## CONTEMPORARY

Dark or Neutral Tone Comfortable Clothing You Can Move Freely in.

Shoes: NONE

\*Trunks or Leotard Only is Not Allowed\*

## FAMILY & ME

Top:

Solid Light Blue Leotard

Male Identifying: Solid Light Blue Shirt/Tank

**Bottoms:** 

Black Dance Shorts

**Shoes:** NONE

Family: Any Tee/Tank & Leggings/Gym Shorts/Bikers

## Top:

Any Solid Leotard or Dance Top
Male Identifying: Any Solid Color T-shirt or Tank

TAP/MT

**Bottoms:** 

Black leggings or Dance Shorts

Shoes:

Bloch S0321L in Black

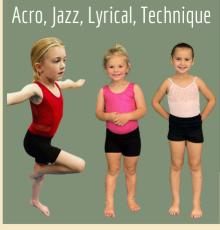
## HIP-HOP

Loose, Baggy Clothing **Shoes:** Sneakers & Socks

\*Your Hip Hop Shoes Must Not Be Worn Outside\*















# TUITION - 2023/2024 Season 2 = August - May

Monthly Fees Per Dancer
TUITION IS DUE ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH

Registration Fee New: \$50
Returning: \$40 (*\$5 off for siblings*)
\*Includes Stray Dance Company T-shirt\*

Creative Movement	The Collective	THE COMPANY	
1 student - 1st class: \$50 Each additional class: \$35	1 student - 1st class: \$55 Each additional class: \$35	Unlimited classes - 1 student: \$260	
2 or more students - 1st class: \$40 Each additional class: \$30	2 or more students - 1st class: \$45 Each additional class: \$30	Unlimited classes - 2 or more students: \$245	

(if you quit after paying tuition, you will receive a credit for the following dance year)

# PAYMENT OPTIONS

	· ' '	•
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	Semester Payments	PULL YCAR PAYMCNT
Due on the 1st of each month	2 tuition payments ½ at registration, ½ January 1st	1 tuition payment due at registration
Full monthly tuition is due regardless of # of weeks in a month	5% tuition discount	10% tuition discount

Costume Fees: (Broken up into two equal payments)
Family & Me - \$90
Creative Movement - \$180 (\$90/ea.)
The Collective - \$100/costume

**Performance & Media Fee:** \$210 - 1st student, \$160 each additional student (broken up into two equal payments)

### Late Fees & Penalty Fees

NSF Fees: \$25

Late Concert & Competition Costume Fees: 15% of total fees due Late Competition Fees: 15% of total fees due Late Picture Fees: 10% of total fees due All Other Fees Paid Late: \$25/dancer/month

# TUITION POLICIES

- Registration fee and first month tuition is due at time of registration.
- Sibling discount: 2nd child and more receives a \$10 discount on 1st class and \$5 discount on each additional class.
- Tuition is based on the total number of classes in a season divided amongst the months; therefore, holidays are not prorated, and there are no additional fees for months with more than 4 weeks.
- No refunds will be given for missed classes.

Other Fees \* Optional purchase

**Performance & Media Fee:** \$210 - 1st student, \$160 each additional student (broken up into two equal payments)

**Costume Fees:** (broken up into two equal payments)

Family & Me - \$90

Creative Movement - \$180 (\$90/ea.)

The Collective - \$100/costume

Earrings: \$5

Pictures\*: Based on The Field Gallery's Pricing

Adding Pictures in the Program\*:  $$80=\frac{1}{4}$ of a page, $300 = full page$ 

**Concert T Shirt:** \$25 (included in your costume fee)

Concert Program\*: \$25 Concert Order\*: \$5

Concert Admission (each dancer is provided with 4 tickets (Admits 1/each)\* (2 additional tickets for sibling)

\$10 at the door

Private Lessons:\*

1 hour - \$60

30 minutes - \$40

Semi Privates (2-4 dancers, dancers share rate):

1 Hour - \$75

30 Minutes - \$55

Private Lesson Bundles(must be paid prior to lessons):

5 privates for 5% discount

10 Privates for 10% discount

Late Fees & Penalty Fees

NSF Fees: \$25

Late Concert & Competition Costume Fees: 15% of total fees due

Late Competition Fees: 15% of total fees due Late Picture Fees: 10% of total fees due All Other Fees Paid Late: \$25/dancer/month

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

# STUDIO ETIQUETTE

We aim to create a culture of community, joy and safety. We have a zero-tolerance policy on any type of violence, sexism, racism, homophobia or general prejudice against another student or a member of faculty.

## The Space

- Personal belongings should be kept neatly in designated area.
- No street shoes should be worn inside the studios. We put our faces on those floors! Let's protect them and keep them clean.
- No dance shoes should be worn outside of the studios. This will aid in keeping our studio floors clean and also protect the life
  of your dance shoes.
- Studios are not to be used without permission and attendance of a SDC director or faculty member.
- Studios should be left clean at the finish of each class. No food allowed in the studios!
- No drinks other than water are allowed in the studio
- Please exit the studio quickly after each class to ensure the next class isn't delayed.

Bathrooms should be used for their original intent. No food allowed in the restrooms. Please do not crowd the bathrooms.

### Responsibility

- It is the dancer's responsibility to manage their time. Schoolwork, outside activities and dance should not conflict.
- Dancers should arrive at least 10 minutes before the class start time and should be in the studio at least 5 minutes before the start of class. If late, enter quietly and ask the instructor for permission to participate in class. Warming up is important for dancers' safety. Instructors reserve the right to ask them to observe class and take notes if late.
- While in class, dancers should be respectful to the instructors, all fellow dancers and themselves.
- Attention must always be on the instructor. Talking during class or leaving early will not be allowed.
- Love and apply corrections! This is how we grow.
- Drink water only during transitional moments or when given a water break by the instructor.
- Always clap and thank your instructor at the end of class.
- If injured, dancers are still expected to attend class to observe and take notes. It will be counted as an absence if not.
- If a dancer must leave class early, ask the teacher before the start of class and exit quietly and quickly when leaving.
- Positivity! We are a family at SDC and any negative behavior towards the class, instructor or fellow dancers will not be tolerated. Instructors have the right to ask a dancer to leave if negative behavior is observed.
- Phones should be silent and untouched during class time and rehearsal. They will not be allowed in the studios during instructional time.

# **ATTENDANCE**

- Progress in class depends on consistent attendance in class. Students are expected to attend all classes.
- Makeup classes are encouraged! Classes may be made up by attending any lower level technique class. Makeup class forms can be found and returned to the office.
- Notice of absences and makeup up classes must be sent to the respective instructor.

# PARENT/GUEST ETIQUETTE

At Stray Dance Company, we strive to provide a safe, caring and exceptional learning environment. We ask all visitors to help by observing the following rules:

- When invited to enter the studio spaces, please remove shoes, silence your cell phones and remain quiet if dancers are dancing.
- Please keep noise levels at a minimum in the lobby/lounge areas.
- Parents or guardians wishing to discuss questions or concerns with an instructor should leave a message at the front desk or email us @ <a href="mailto:straydancecompany@gmail.com">straydancecompany@gmail.com</a>. Please do not discuss questions or concerns with instructors between classes!
- Please keep all young children under your control. They will not be permitted to run around the lobby or studios.
- At Stray Dance Company we are proud to offer professional and experienced instructors to train your dancers! All
  faculty are highly trained and have years of teaching experience. We believe this will lead to all students' safety and
  success at SDC!