

North Shore Dance Studio

Parent/Dancer Handbook

“The Company” of North Shore Dance Studio has been active for over 3 decades, striving for dance excellence, learning responsibility, and developing friendships.

Requirements

As dancers enter 3rd grade, they are eligible to audition for Company. A strong technical background is needed along with dedication, responsibility, and hard work.

Levels

There are many different levels in the Company in which we place dancers. The ultimate goal is to create cohesive teams within the company. Age is not a factor as everyone develops at their own pace. It is not uncommon for a 5th grader to dance alongside of an 8th grader if their skill level is similar.

Cadettes, Cosmos, Comets, Astros, Orbits, Galaxy, Equinox, Eclipse, Solstice, Sonics, Infinity Companies all fall under the umbrella of the Company. We use these names to distinguish between each different group. Dancers do not need to start with any particular group and there is not an exact order to the ability level. There is no ranking order.

One dancer might be in Astro Ballet Company, and Comet Tap Company. A cohesive group is key, and similar skill levels

are heavily looked at when determining each group. There are also Roman Numeral Numbers for Levels. These are mainly used for Ballet class.

Levels Continued

Ballet I, Ballet II, Ballet III, Ballet IV, Ballet IV, Ballet V, Ballet VI, Ballet VII, and Ballet VIII. Once a dancer reaches Ballet Level IV, they are required to enroll in Ballet class twice a week.

Genres

Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Contemporary, and Hip-Hop are part of The Company Umbrella.

A dancer may choose to be a part of/and audition for 1 company or all 5 Companies. If you are a part of Jazz or Contemporary Company, participating in Ballet Class is mandatory.

Pre-Pointe and Pointe class are invite only and need to be selected by the NSDS Ballet Staff. Dancing En Pointe takes strong Ballet technique and is not to be taken lightly as the workload and commitment is high.

Auditions

During audition week, each dancer will take the appropriate classes so the NSDS Staff and guest judges can observe technique, work ethic, class etiquette, muscle memory, etc. The dancers will learn short combinations during the audition and will be looked at in a group setting as well as smaller groups (maybe 3-5 dancers at a time). You will not have any

choreography prepared to audition. We also take into consideration about previous work ethic, attendance, accountability, etc. We observe the dancers through the competition season and factor in their performance abilities out on a competitive stage. The staff will take notes on each dancer and come to a group conclusion regarding each dancer and where or if, he or she should be placed.

Auditioning for the Company does not mean you...

[Auditions Continued](#)

automatically are accepted into the program. For instance, a dancer could audition for Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet and Hip-Hop, but the staff might only place them in Tap and Hip-Hop Company. They still have the option to take Jazz, Contemporary, and Ballet classes, but they would be recreational level classes. We do not have a specific number of dancers for each company. Sonics Jazz Company might be 8 dancers while the Comets Jazz Company could be 15 dancers. Dancers will be notified via email and U.S Mail about one week after auditions have culminated. Once you have received your results list, you will be able to determine how many classes or competition dances he or she will be in.

[Audition Fees](#)

There is a fee for auditions.

Early Bird Fee: \$25 for each audition

Week of Fee: \$30 for each audition

Early Bird Solo Showcase Fee \$20

Week of Solo Showcase Fee \$20

[Audition Requirements](#)

If your dancer is auditioning for Jazz and Contemporary, please know that attending the Ballet Audition is a require so the dancer can be adequately placed in a Ballet level. Once dancers receive their acceptance or declination letter, both parent and student will be responsible for reading through the Company Policies page located on our website. Parent and Dancer will need to return the provided contract as to let NSDS know what Companies he/she has accepted by June 30. All Contracts are to be received by JUNE 30.

[Audition Etiquette](#)

Arrive to your audition on time or before time to begin stretching. For Jazz/Contemporary auditions, form fitting clothing, appropriate footwear and hair pulled up in a ponytail. For Ballet Auditions, a black leotard, pink tights, and Ballet slippers are required along with secure, sleek bun. Tap and Hip-Hop auditions are more casual in attire but be sure to have your tap shoes or sneakers that are NOT worn outside. Give effort through the entire audition and pay attention to comments and notes from the teacher or judges. Applaud for groups when they are performing. Ask questions if something is unclear. Try your best and have fun!

Welcome to the Company

The Company commitment is July-June which includes Summer Dance, Guest Teacher Workshop, Fall Dance, and Spring Dance semesters.

*Summer Dance is a 5-week session for dancers to keep up their technique. We understand families take vacations etc., however it is expected that all dancers be taking class when they are in town.

*Guest Teacher Workshop is a requirement for Company members. The dates are provided over a year in advance so families can make necessary arrangements for vacations and travel.

*Fall Dance is September-December.

*Spring Dance is January-June. (Sometimes May)

During Fall and Spring Dance, is when students will be working on technique as well as learning the choreography for required performances. Choreography in most classes will begin right away in September.

It is expected that all students attend all classes. Dancers will be excused for illness.

Performances

There are several opportunities for the Company to perform.

*November—Nursing Home Show. This is a small group of selected company members (usually, solos, duos, or trios are asked to perform because of the small space allotted).

*November-December—Nutcracker. All Ballet Classes and Ballet Companies are required to be a part of The Nutcracker Performance.

*March—Benefit Concert (BENCON) requirement for all Company Members.

*March-May-Competitions (traveling required) 3
Competitions in or around the Metro Milwaukee area, Madison, Chicago, Green Bay, Appleton, etc. Each dance season will be different in terms of dates and locations. We aim to do 1 competition each month, in March, April, and May. Competitions are Mandatory.

*May or June—NSDS Recital

Any show that is put on by NSDS will have a ticket fee which can range between \$12-\$25. It will depend on the venue about how many tickets are allotted to each dance student.

Tuition Fees

Tuition will be due for Summer Dance, Guest Teacher Workshop, and Fall and Spring semesters.

Please view the current pricing grid on the website. Tuition is based on weekly hours per family. There will be a \$50 registration fee if your dancer is not registered by the first day of dance class. Please be sure to register in July or August.

Costume Fees

Each Company will require a costume fee that ranges from \$75-\$115 per costume. If your child is in a recreational dance class, there will also be a fee of \$65-\$80 per costume.

Competition Fees

There will be a Competition deposit fee of \$300 paid with a check when you turn in your Company Contract.

There is a fee associated with each time the dancer steps onto the competition stage to perform.

These rates are an average and are subject to change.

Rates are created by each competition organization. Below are some examples of competition entry fees...

Solo--\$120

Duet--\$65/dancer

Trio--\$60/dancer

Group--\$65/dancer

Example: Your dancer is in 5 group dances and a duet. Your total fee would be \$975 which covers all your competition fees.

NSDS Administration Fee

There will be an administration fee of \$100 per dancer each season. This fee covers a large range of various items, such as Music Licensing, Music Editing, Competition Registrations, and logistics, staff per diem, etc.

Drop Fees

Each dancer will be charged \$300 per Company if they quit the Company at any time during the season.

Company Jacket Fee

Each Company member is required to have a Company Jacket. These jackets are around \$70.-\$110. You do NOT need to purchase a new jacket every year.

Dance Apparel & Footwear Fee

Each dancer is expected to have the appropriate dance and footwear. This includes tights, leotards, and specific genre shoes.

*Tights--\$12-\$25

*Leotards--\$15-\$50

*Shoes--\$15-\$150

*Rhinestone Earrings--\$10

*Rhinestone Hair Binder--\$10

These items might need to be replaced throughout the season, dependent on usage and durability.

Miscellaneous Fees

There are several items that are not on the list but can be helpful.

*Glam Kit for hair and make-up around \$75 (Optional)

*Parent or Student Cheer Gear (Optional)

*Sibling Gift (Optional) A sibling gift is a small gift (though can be homemade) to give to a "buddy" who is in the company with you.

*Hotels-There is the possibility of hotel overnights for out-of town dance competitions. These are not required but can be beneficial for you for early morning or late nights.

*Food/Gas-Out of town competitions means traveling which will also most likely include gas fill ups and dining out while you are away from home.

*Trophies for purchase. Some competitions will offer trophies for purchase once a dancer has been awarded. These purchases are completely your choice.

*Competition Merchandise is often offered at events. A fun memento for your dancer, but not required.

Private Lessons

Private Lessons are an option to get some one-on-one training. If you are interested, please notify the office. NSDS will check in with the staff to check on availability as well as studio space. Private Lessons are not guaranteed to be scheduled.

There will be a fee (dependent on staff member) that can range from \$20-\$60 an hour, paid directly to the staff member.

Company Connections

NSDS has created a group of Senior Member dancers to meet with our younger dancers or people who are looking to improve their skills. If interested, you would contact NSDS and then we would get you in contact with one of the Company Connections teachers so the two parties could set up lesson times. Company Connections are \$10 for every 30 minutes which are paid directly to the senior company member.

Extra Dances

Some dancers will be selected to be part of an Extra Dance. This could be a solo, duet, trio, or a small group dance. There will be additional time required to meet for choreography which the teacher and student will decide on. There is an additional fee to be part of an Extra Dance. Prices will range for different choreographers. Normally, there would be 30-minute time slots.

Solo--\$25/30 minutes

Duet--\$20/30 minutes per dancer

Trio--\$20/30 minutes per dancer

Group--\$10/30 minutes per dancer

All families are responsible for payment directly to the choreographer via, cash, check, or cash app. These choreography fees do not go through NSDS.

There will also be a costume for an Extra Dance that ranges from \$100-\$115.

All Extra Dances are also entered into competition which will mean that there will be an added competition fee entry for each competition that is attended. See above pricing.

I auditioned, but was not accepted into The Company

There are still plenty of options for dancers to continue their training with NSDS in our recreational program. The tuition will remain the same, and there will still be performance opportunities for The Nutcracker and Recital. Recreational class Costume fees are \$75-\$80 per class.

Private Lessons and Company Connections are encouraged if you are interested in auditioning in the future.

[I auditioned and I was given an apprenticeship in company](#)

Being an apprentice means that we would like you to participate in a specific class with other company members to receive more intense training, but there is still work to be done and improvements to be made in order to be an official company member. You will receive costumes, but will only participate in the end of the year recital. Final decisions will be at the discretion of each teacher. Apprentices will not participate in Production dances.

[Dancer Responsibility & Expectations](#)

There is more to being a part of the Company than just dancing. You are also expected to be a respectful individual in the community. Earning a spot on the Company means that you are to hold yourself in a high regard with respect for others around you along with personal responsibility in all that you do.

[Attendance](#)

Your attendance is required for classes, meetings, rehearsals, performances, competitions, summer classes, and workshops. Be sure that you are arriving with plenty of time to get settled, this includes classes, rehearsals, performances, etc. Poor attendance can result in termination from the Company.

[Class Etiquette](#)

Each dancer is responsible for their actions in class and while representing NSDS. Remembering choreography and notes from each week is necessary to grow in your dancing and performance. Dressing appropriately along with required shoes is necessary. Following rules from your teacher is important along with respecting your fellow dancers.

[Health & Fitness](#)

Being an elite dancer requires a certain level of fitness and health. Be sure that you are taking care of your physical and mental health. Eating a well-balanced diet, staying active, and having a healthy understanding of your workouts and dietary needs/restrictions.

[Outside of the Studio](#)

Being a Company member means you are continuously trying to improve upon yourself. Being a kind, caring, individual with strong morals and respect for yourself and others around you is very important. You are representing NSDS, from your peers to your teachers.

[Social Media](#)

There are dozens of ways for you to express yourself on social media these days. It is very important that you are holding yourself and your behavior to high standards. The internet is forever, and it is important that you are not posting anything that could get you into trouble, give you a bad reputation or a poor reflection of your character. Older Company

members are often looked up to. Please be a positive and appropriate role model for all of our younger members.

[Drugs/Alcohol/Vaping](#)

All the above is not tolerated at North Shore Dance Studio.

This item is not taken lightly as associating with any of these substances can cause bodily harm, injury or death for you or others around you. It is not worth the risk.

[Parent Responsibilities](#)

[Communication](#)

Our main means of communication is email. Please be sure that you are frequently checking your account. Often, we are requesting an RSVP or answer from you. Please reply to our emails immediately, so we can continue to run a smooth office.

If your dancer will miss class, please notify us via email, text, or phone call.

It is highly recommended that you follow the NSDS social media accounts, such as Facebook and Instagram.

Main [Email—northshoredancestudio@hotmail.com](mailto:northshoredancestudio@hotmail.com)

Accounting [Email—northshoredancebills@hotmail.com](mailto:northshoredancebills@hotmail.com)

Facebook—North Shore Dance Studio LLC

Instagram—North Shore Dance Studio

Phone/Text—262-242-4077

Transportation

It is your responsibility to provide transportation to and from dance class for your child. Carpooling is encouraged. Please be sure students are arriving with plenty of time prior to class and are promptly picked up once they are finished.

It will also be your responsibility to ensure your child is at all required dance events, I.E., competitions, recitals, etc.

Payments

It is important that you make timely payments and provide NSDS with a current debit/credit card. For any questions or concerns with billing, please call or contact

northshoredancebills@hotmail.com

If accounts go ignored or unpaid, your child may be pulled from classes or performances.

Payment Schedules

During the first semester, (September-December) your tuition and company costumes will be due.

Spring Semester (January-May/June) your tuition and competition fees will be due.

NSDS will run monthly payments for these items at the beginning of each month.

We will notify families when other fees will be invoiced and paid through your card on file.

[Fundraisers](#)

We offer a Cheesecake fundraiser to help offset the cost of competition fees. Generally, \$8 is earned for every cheesecake you sell. It is your responsibility to pick up the cheesecakes from NSDS on pick-up day and distribute them to your buyers.

[Social Media](#)

You are able to share any photos of your child that you feel comfortable, but if you are acknowledging a dance event, please be sure to be tasteful. Check in with NSDS/choreographers prior to sharing any dance videos online. A choreography/photography/song tag is strongly encouraged.

[Parent Etiquette-At the Studio](#)

Please abide by all rules that NSDS has set in place. Respect class time and refrain from entering any of the studios unless you are invited in. Do not speak ill towards any student or NSDS staff member. Do not gossip. If you have questions, speak directly with your teacher or director. If the concern includes your dancer, we will set up a time when the dancer, teacher, and parent can be involved.

[Parent Etiquette-Performances/Competitions](#)

Please be mindful of what you exude. Speak and behave respectfully. Dance competitions are filled with opinions about costumes, dance moves, etc. Please keep negative

thoughts to yourselves as you never know who is sitting in front of you.

Refrain from going into the dressing rooms and allow the dancers to have their own space to get ready.

Only move about the auditorium in between dances.

Support System

Your child has entered a competitive program where hard work is required along with grace and responsibility. Be proud of your dancer and let them know it. Leave the criticism up to dance professionals. Sit back to watch your child enjoy what they love.

Believe in your dancer (off the stage as well). A lot of responsibility will be placed on him/her. Encourage them and believe that they can do it.

Dance Season-At A Glance

September

September Tuition/Costume fee withdrawn

Fall Dance begins, along with Nutcracker choreography

Size for Costumes

Order Company Jackets

Company Dancer/Parent Meeting

Company Meet & Greet Party

October

October Tuition/Costume fee withdrawn

November

November Tuition/Costume fee withdrawn
Senior Citizen Show-invited dancers
Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals
Thanksgiving Break
Nutcracker Performance-TBD

December

December Tuition/Costume fee withdrawn
Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals and Performances-TBD
Winter Break

January

January Tuition/Competition fee withdrawn
New Ballet choreography is started
Production Rehearsal
Hair & Make-up Meeting

February

Tuition/Competition fee withdrawn
Completing Company Choreography
Production Rehearsal
Competition Meeting
Company Lock-In

March

March Tuition/Competition fee withdrawn

Benefit Concert
Competition #1
Spring Break
Register for June Bugs
Cheesecake Fundraiser

April

April Tuition/Competition fee withdrawn
Spring Break
Competition #2
Summer Dance Schedule is released

May

May Tuition/Competition fee withdrawn
Register for Auditions
Competition #3
Next Season Schedule is released
Purchase Recital Tickets

May or June

Dress Rehearsals
Picture Day
Recital
Auditions
Turn In Company Contracts
June Bugs
Parade/Performance

July

Summer Dance Begins

Nationals Dance Competition (if applicable)

NSDS will decide as a whole if we will attend Nationals. This will be determined if and when we qualify.

August

Guest Teacher Workshop-Mandatory

Register for Fall Dance

Please keep in mind, these dates are just a general idea of the season. Events might be subject to change once other organizations (like competitions) determine their dates.