



COMPANY

2023-24 Season

Parent Meeting: Tuesday, May 9th @7:30pm

Auditions: Tuesday, May 23rd

7-10 years: 5:30-6:30pm *you might be asked to stay for the next audition

11-12 years: 6:30-7:30pm *you might be asked to stay for the next audition

13 years and up: 7:30-8:30pm

You do you do not need to reserve a spot to audition.

\$25 (cash preferred)

You will also need to fill out an audition form so please arrive 15 minutes early.

Team Invitations will be sent via email on Friday, May 26th.

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in THRIVE or thank you for returning to our THRIVE program! We would be honored for you to be a part of our competitive dance family and I am excited to share information about THRIVE and what you can expect when you are a part of this prestigious company.

In this handbook you will find important information about our classes, policies, procedures and much more! Please review the handbook thoroughly and then let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We believe communication is key in maintaining a successful company.

We will provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions regarding your dancer(s) and the competitive program. Please make sure that you are able to commit financially to your weekly classes, extra rehearsals, competitions and other requirements outlined in the handbook prior to attending auditions.

Thank you in advance for trusting the STDC instructors during the selection process. The *barre* in the competitive dance world is constantly being raised. THRIVE must not only meet new challenges but we will continue to exceed them. We want the absolute best for each and every dancer no matter what their goals are or where they are currently on their dance path.

We look forward to a successful, rewarding experience for you and your dancer(s) this coming season and for many years ahead.

South Tulsa Dance Co. Mission Statement

- To provide quality education in a positive environment!
- To provide opportunities for dancers to advance their dance training in many venues such as in the studio, conventions, workshops and master classes.
- To provide the finest dance facility in the surrounding area.
- To provide a safe place for dancers to be, a place where they can trust their instructors and their team mates.
- To continue to learn and grow as instructors so they can pass on their most current trends and training techniques to their students.
- To promote healthy bodies and confident kids!!
- To provide a dance environment where they can express themselves and BE themselves!

THRIVE Company is our advanced competition & travel team. We attend 5 competition/conventions and Nationals every other year (our next full team Nationals will be in the summer of 2024.

Ages for Company: 7-18

Casting: STDC faculty will choose the casting for solos/duets/trios/groups. Additionally, a guest choreographer may choose the casting for his/her group. We will place you in a minimum of 2 groups but you will specify how many groups you will allow your child to participate in. Some duet/trio casting may not take place until early to late fall so the choreographers/faculty can make their decisions on casting after watching them in class which might not take place until then.

Summer Weekly Classes:

- Required for all Company members
- June 5th-July 29th
- 7-9 years- 2 ballet, 1 progressions, 1 choreography, 1 optional
- 10-12- 3 ballet, 1 progressions, 1 choreography, tap/hip hop combo, 2 optional
- 13 and up- 4 ballet, 1 progressions, 1 choreography, tap/hip hop combo, 2 optional (pointe can be your optional classes)

Fall Weekly Classes:

- 2-4 ballet classes per week (age 7-9: 2 ballet, age 10-12: 3 ballet, 13 and up: 4 ballet)
- 1 progressions class per week
- 1 choreography class per week
- 1-2 optional classes per week. (ages 7-10: 1 optional, age 11 and up: 2 optional) and tap/hip hop combo for ages 10 and up

- 30 minute rehearsal blocks per group (Co. is guaranteed 2 groups).
- Solos/Duets/Trios: As a Co. member you may be invited to do a solo/duet/trio. It is optional. Solo/duets/trios require weekly 30 minute private lesson. Private lessons are scheduled throughout the week and depends on your assigned instructors available times and studio space availability.

Typical Weekly Schedule:

- 7-8 years: 2-3 days per week
- 9-11 years: 3-4 days per week
- 12 and up: 3-4 days per week.
- Most likely, if you have a solo/duet/trio this will increase the days per week you are at the studio.

*We do not have regularly scheduled competition classes on Friday-Sunday. Those are kept for technique classes (optional) and solos, duets, trios (also optional). Your mandatory classes/rehearsals will take place Monday-Thursday. If you have any schedule restrictions on any of those days you will want to let us know on your audition form.

Competitions:

Company will compete at 5 competitions. We are a traveling team, however, this season since we will go to Nationals in the summer, we are hoping to travel a little less. The week of competition all classes are required. If you miss class the week of competition or the dancer is not prepared for competition for any reason, we may pull her solo or pull her/him from a group routine. If he/she is pulled from a group routine and an understudy fills in, he/she will be expected to loan the (clean) costume to the understudy. There are no refunds if your solo is pulled or if you are pulled from the group routine.

Conventions:

Company will attend 5 conventions.

Nationals:

Company attends Nationals every other year. Our next Nationals will be in the summer of 2024.

Attendance:

Being a THRIVE team member means that dance will be your TOP PRIORITY. Great attendance in your technique classes and your weekly THRIVE rehearsals is imperative to remain in good standing with the team. Communication is key! We do have plenty of opportunities to make up technique classes if you miss due to relevant obligations such as a school event or family emergency.

- 1 absence per quarter- excused (no need to do anything except email your instructors)
- 2-3 absences per quarter- make up ballet class within 2 weeks of absence
- 4-5 absences per quarter- make up ballet class within 2 weeks of absence, 1 private lesson per absence, warning of solo probation
- 5 or more absences per quarter- meeting held with parents and solo probation as well as possible group probation
- Absences will be tracked on Monday's and you will be contacted if you have missed a class and have not signed up for a makeup lesson within the 2 week time period.

Dress Code:

- Ballet: black leotard, clean pink tights, pink ballet shoes, ballet bun
- Jumps/Turns, Progressions/Technique, Choreography: pirouette shoes, socks or barefoot and any combination of dance attire is fine, however, if you have ballet right before or after these classes you will wear your ballet attire.
- Free leotard week is typically the last week of every month and during this week you are free to wear any color leotard you like but don't forget the tights, shoes and bun.

Communication: Contact the below faculty, depending on what you need to communicate.

1. Absences - email your instructors
2. Registering for optional competitions and/or questions about competitions- Megan Maddux, Competition Coordinator
3. Account questions- Keally
4. Questions about your team rehearsals or classes/private lessons- Keally or your instructor

5. Questions about adjusting your schedule- Keally
6. BAND is used for quick communication, polls, etc. so please stay on top of your notifications.
7. Email is used as well. Please make sure you are on the email list.
8. Calls/texts: Please do not call us or text us on our personal cell phones. You may call the studio or email us anytime and we will call/email you back at our earliest available time. Some teachers prefer text and if that is the case then it is fine.
9. Reminder that typically our teachers go from class to class all evening and so they might not be available to chat in between classes.
10. Front desk: The front desk staff is very helpful but they do not always have the answers to questions in regards to competition dance. It is best to contact the faculty above. Anytime Keally is at the desk, she is available to help you 😊

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are scheduled weekly if you have a solo, duet or trio. You can request a specific instructor but we will ultimately decide who would work best with your child. You are billed for the private lessons monthly and then at the end of the month if you had more/less than 4 lessons for the month you will be charged/credited. *For example- in March you will be billed for 4 private lessons. If you end up having 3 due to Spring Break you will then be credited at the end of the month and you will see that credit on your April statement. That credit would go towards to your April tuition/fees.* Missed private lessons are eligible to be made up at a later date if you use the “24 hour rule” and the instructor is available. You will sign a private lesson contract prior to your first private lesson. Private lessons range from \$150-\$190 per month for a weekly 30 minute lesson. 45 and 1 hour lessons are also available for those with 2 solos or those wanting technique lessons.

Choreography and Fees:

Choreography for competition routines is paid to instructors at a different rate than regular weekly classes. All competition team dancers will pay a choreography fee for any routine that is choreographed for competition purposes. The choreographers/directors choose the participants for each competition routine. Many factors go into the placement of the students in the routines. They consider the overall concept of the dance and the dancer’s ability to relate, the dancers overall technical ability and strengths and the ability to adapt.

Much work goes into the choreography of each routine. The concept, music choice,

music editing, costuming, use of props if applicable and many hours of preparation are all part of the “choreography.” Please respect the artistic creativity of the instructors and choreographers and trust that they will do their best for each dancer and routine. Choreography fees are due in August or when group choreography begins and anytime a guest choreographer is brought in from out of town the fees will include choreography, flight, hotel, food, etc. This is not built into your monthly fee schedule.

Work Week:

Some of our solos, duets, trios and group dances will be choreographed during WORK WEEK. Work week is currently scheduled for **August 5th-17th**. **We do realize school will be starting so once school starts we will only have choreography in the evening hours for those going back to school during Work Week.** Keep these weeks (day and evening) open for choreography. Solo, duet, trio choreography may also take place as early as June and July. The remainder of all choreography will take place September-December. We will do our best to get the choreographers in as early as possible. If you have any known conflicts, please indicate that on your audition form.

Understudy:

For group dances we typically have an understudy who learns the choreography and attends the weekly rehearsals in the event he/she is needed to step in. In this instance the understudy will not owe any fees to participate in the group dance and he/she will be loaned a costume. The dancer that was sick, pulled from the group dance etc. will still pay the fees for the group dance. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Fee Schedule:

You will receive a fee schedule that will show the breakdown of all of the fees that you can expect during the season. The fee schedule is August-May. The following will be included (but not limited to) your monthly fee schedule and we have a sample fee schedule attached for your review.

- **Monthly Tuition:** Tuition is due between the 5th-10th of the month. A statement is emailed to you for your review before charging. STDC does offer yearly scholarships to a select few families in need of financial assistance. If you would like an application, please contact Keally Lilly. An account that goes 30 days in arrears will be charged a \$25 late fee and your solo will be cancelled at the first/next competition as well as your standings in the group dance may be in jeopardy.

- **Rehearsal fees:** Every group that you are placed in has a weekly rehearsal time. The monthly fee for this varies but typically start at \$25 for 1 large group and then up to \$100 per month for several groups. The fee will depend on how many groups you are in and how many dancers are in your group. This fee also covers any extra rehearsals that we might have outside of your regular class. This includes weekend rehearsals and dress rehearsals prior to your first competition.
- **Costume fee:** All costume fees will be paid in 4 installments, September-December. Most costumes are custom made and ordered in August and September. Stones and hairpieces are included in your fee. We will also buy costumes online as well which is typically under \$100 to help offset the high costs of custom costumes. The fee is approximate, it could be less/more. We design all solo costumes for ages 11 and under but if you have an idea and want to do it on your own you are welcome to it just has to be approved. Solos for ages 12 and up are expected to design/order their own costume with guidance from your instructor. If you do your solo costume on your own, we will credit your account once your costume is approved and ordered. Brooke (DanceBarre Boutique) will be happy to order anything for you, if we have an active account with that company. Troy (if he has time) helps with solo costumes too and if he finds a costume for you, he will charge a “finders fee” so please speak to him about that 😊
- **Competition Fees:** We will attend 5 competitions and the fee is included in your fee schedule.
- **Convention fees:** We will attend 5 conventions and the fee is included in your fee schedule. Once the schedule is announced, It will be up to you to give any scholarships you have to Megan so she can deduct that from your fees owed.
- **Travel & Misc fee:** Travel fees cover flights/hotel/food/gas/per diem. Misc. fee covers some props, photo shoot, parties, dress rehearsal facility rental, and other misc. items needed for competition throughout the year.

Optional competitions:

Optional competitions are recommended! New this year we will have a sign up google document for you to sign up for the optional competitions. There is a \$15 admin. fee for optional competitions. If the request to do an optional competition is made after the sign up is closed, a \$25 admin fee will be added. For all competitions, we will register your dances and upload your music. We can also register you for photogenic, title, etc. If you would like to have an instructor at the competition with you to warm you up & run your routine you can request that and if an instructor is available to attend it will be a \$25

min. fee. Judges critique will be sent to you upon request for optional competitions. We kindly ask that you do not contact your instructor about the critiques, tell them what to work on in class or what the judges had to say.

Team Apparel:

A team warm up jacket is mandatory and will be purchased in September. If you have the 2022-23 jacket you do not have to purchase a new jacket this season. All other apparel will be optional but welcome to all dancers and family members.

Photoshoot:

In the summer or fall, THRIVE members will have company pictures taken so they can be on display at the studio, Facebook, website etc. There is no fee for the photoshoot, however, you are welcome to purchase pictures as well.

Recital:

Attendance at the Recital is a requirement. It is a great way for your family and friends to come see you dance and a great way to get others interested in THRIVE. Recital fees do apply and are due in March. Our 2024 Recital fees are \$75 for 1 dancer, \$100 for 2 dancers.

Fundraisers:

As a team we would like to offer at least 2 fundraisers per season. All fundraising is done by the parents and all monies will go directly back into your accounts. Fundraising is not mandatory however it is a great way to offset your monthly expenses and Nationals. Make sure to get added to the Fundraiser BAND communication app.

Awards/Cash Winnings/Scholarships:

All students are required to attend their awards ceremonies. It will be your child's responsibility to collect any awards that are given out at the competitions. At some competitions, cash prizes are awarded. All solos/ duets/trios receive up to 100% of their cash back into their account unless you request the cash be given to you directly. If the

check is blank, it will be written to you. Typically cash prizes for groups go back to the students as well, however, that is decided case by case basis. *In the past we have purchased a trailer for props with winnings, stretch bars and other things for studio use. If you have a scholarship, it is imperative that you give that information to us at the beginning of the season.

Parent Involvement:

Parents are a part of our success! Parents can volunteer their time rhinestoning costumes, making hair accessories, planning and hosting parties, organizing travel plans, organizing food for conventions and much more! We do appreciate parents help in these areas and a sign up will be available to you this summer.

Contract:

You will be given your fees before signing the contract. Contracts will be due along with a \$150 non-refundable on/before June 5th. The deposit goes towards your August dues.

Questions:

Keally Lilly: Studio Director & Owner: keally@southtulsadanceco.com