



Welcome to Starpath Dance Academy's Professional Path and Starlette Programs!

At Starpath, we offer an education-based program. Our vision is to provide students with dance education in a positive environment that will allow them to pursue any type of dance dream they may have. One way for us to achieve this vision with our committed students is to bring them to conventions where they will learn, grow and be exposed to scholarship opportunities and professional dancers. Any dancer trying to get a job later in life will benefit immensely from being a well-rounded dancer with these experiences and exposures.

Starpath will offer a professional path – any dancer age 6+ who takes tap, ballet and jazz with Starpath can be registered as a Professional Path Member and will be invited to conventions we attend.

Our program takes a holistic approach to dancer development and is based in dance education, instilling confidence and building mental discipline.

Expectations of All Starlettes and Professional Path Members

Starpath Dance Academy must be the sole source of dance education for all Starlettes and Professional Path members. Teams through academic school and opportunities awarded at conventions/competitions are exempt from this rule.

Of Students:

- Be courteous and respectful to all teammates, teachers, staff and parents
- Be on time to class
- Always give 100%
- Be role models at the studio
- Be dressed appropriately at all times
- Be at all performances
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Adhere to the attendance policy outlined on page 10
- To understand that a unified look and appearance is imperative when competing as a team. This means no bright colored hair dye throughout the competition season.

Of Parents:

- To trust our teachers and staff
- To have your dancer bring a doctor's note to class if they must sit out
- To make your own hotel and eating arrangements and do your own research about parking and any other details that do not directly involve dancing
- To make timely payments
- To support all dancers
- To leave choreography, costume, music selection up to the teacher
- To do your dancer's hair and makeup as requested by their teacher or to have it done that way by a friend or esthetician
- To understand being a dance parent can mean sewing, gluing, pinning
- To be on time to drop off and pick up dancers
- To maintain a positive outlook about the Starlettes and Starpath Dance Academy
- To check email regularly
- To mark their calendars early and re-adjust their schedules to allow their dancer to make ALL performances

- To understand that the nature of this highly committed group means dance should trump all other activities in your dancer's schedule
- To be model parents at the studio – respectful, supportive, positive, trusting of our staff, on time to all meetings/parent observations, etc
- To use sdastarlettes@gmail.com for communications regarding the Starlettes
- To understand it is the nature of the dance industry to provide schedules and details at the last minute (we wish it weren't so)
- To understand unexpected expenses may arise during the season, and that as part of the team please trust Starpath's staff and incur expenses deemed necessary
- To do your very best to make your dancer available for exciting performance/training opportunities that come up unexpectedly during the year
- To understand that all actions, behaviors and attendances are considered when making placements for the following dance season.

STARLETTES

Team

A group of people who share the same interests and are all working together to achieve the same goals.

Starlettes

The main objective for our Starlettes is to nurture their desire to take their dancing to a serious, committed, professional level.

Our Mission

Our mission is to offer high quality dance training in all genres of dance. We strive to expose young aspiring dancers to opportunities that will enhance their dance knowledge and training. We will work as mentors to dancers and give them ample opportunities to perform dance as an art form. We will nurture dancers in a positive, community environment.

Starpath Faculty Mission and Purpose

We understand that each child and young adult possesses different learning styles and progresses on different timelines. Our faculty is committed to understanding these differences and nurturing each student regardless of learning style. We as teachers are here to pass on our enthusiasm for dance to your children and your family. What we require from the students is a genuine love for dance. What is required of parents is to trust in our abilities as teachers and to support our vision for your children.



STARLETTE Requirements – MANDATORY

-Dancers must attend and pay for auditions. Dancers will be placed into one or more groups, a solo or not at all if the student is not ready.

-Must make a commitment by signing this document and paying the registration fee for the season by **May 15**.

- All Starlettes will be charged an \$88 registration fee (this will be instead of your normal registration and not in addition to).

-Must be registered for required classes by June 30 for July 18th start date.

-Summer Intensive – June, July or August Date TBD; choreography will be taught on this day

-You are required to purchase a Starlette Welcome Kit: includes required makeup for performances, required jewelry for performances and warm-up outfit required to wear at performances. Returning Starlettes can purchase items as necessary a la carté.

-You are required to purchase tights, costume and shoes for your performance dance as well as for your normal Starpath classes.

-All dancers must take the tap, ballet and jazz classes they are assigned to plus a rehearsal class. Rehearsal class is based on your dancer's placement and your dancer will be added to the appropriate rehearsals by Starpath staff members (30 minutes per routine, and solos/duets/trios a minimum of 18 times during the dance season). *Competitive elite dance has different requirements.

-If a dancer is placed in a group piece or duet/trio outside of their required Jazz, Ballet or Tap technique style, they will be required to take a class in that style i.e. dancers in a lyrical routine would take lyrical class, etc.

-All performances and events are MANDATORY.

*Dancers placed in "competitive elite" pieces will be required to take jazz, ballet and rehearsals as placed and then must select two other weekly classes from this list: hip hop, tap, contemporary/lyrical, strength/flexibility, dancing & acting, musical theatre and/or acro.

Performances and other Events – MANDATORY; Dates and Names are Tentative

- 1-2 Dance Conventions/Competitions in the February –May timeframe

-2-3 competitions between February-May timeframe

-Potential of one one-day optional convention only

-Potential community service-type performances (examples include UNC Hospital/library/elementary school/retirement center/Harvest Festival/Fest in the West)

-ALL shows on recital day for all classes

-Winter Performance

-Starlette Performance

**Because some conventions/competitions and community events do not post their dates and locations until later on in the year, all Starlettes will be expected to keep a clear calendar until November 1st. Starpath will provide you with all required performance dates no later than this.

Expenses –Starlette Team

Auditions

Costumes: The cost of costumes can get out of hand very quickly and we are sensitive to this. Most costumes will be in the \$65-90 range plus tights and shoes. Please note: you may have to have two different colored shoes depending on the costume selection (i.e. a pair of tan jazz shoes and a pair of black jazz shoes).

Costume Return Policy: Parents will be given the opportunity to confirm the sizes we are ordering for their child. Any returns/exchanges will result in a minimum fee of \$30 all the way up to the full cost of the costume depending on the costume company's policies.

Starlette Welcome Kit: Up to \$350 – Includes required makeup, required jewelry, required warm-up, etc

Tuition

All Starlettes train under our professional teachers. Our teachers are experienced, highly trained and dedicated to teaching dance. We pride ourselves in making tuition rates affordable, while supporting our high-quality teacher salaries. All teams must have a minimum number of enrolled dancers or are subject to cancellation.

Monthly Tuition:

- A) MOST ages 10+ dancers: Ballet (1 hr); Tap (45 mins); Jazz (1 hr) – \$171
- B) MOST ages 6-9 dancers –For Dancers in Junior Level Classes: Ballet (45 mins); Tap (45 mins); Jazz (45 mins) – \$162

PLUS: Required Rehearsal for ALL: \$44 per month for a 30-minute rehearsal once per week. Each routine will have one 30-minute rehearsal per week.

Each extra routine is an additional \$44 per month (for rehearsal time).

If dancer is placed in a routine outside of required base style classes, they are required to take that style of dance (lyrical/musical theatre) – typically ages 10+

Total When Adding Extra Classes to A – NOT REQUIRED:

Add a 45-minute class (lyrical/contemporary/musical theatre/hip hop, etc) – \$226

Add two 45-minute classes – \$247

NEW: Competitive Elite Dancers – (very small number of older dancers, by placement only):

Ballet (1 hr); Jazz (1hr) plus two other classes and one rehearsal per routine

If two “other” classes are 45 minutes – total is \$226/month plus rehearsal fees

if one “other” is 45 minutes and one “other” is one hour –total is \$233/month plus rehearsal fees

if two “other” classes are one hour long – total is \$237/month plus rehearsal fees

Summer Choreography Intensive - \$64 per dancer per group intensive subject to change with guest choreographer

*Registration Fee- \$88; \$145 for families with more than one competitive dancer

Conventions: -\$250+ per convention plus food, transportation, lodging

Competitions: -\$60+ per group performance

Additional Rehearsals: If a unique performance opportunity arises and extra rehearsals are needed, dance families will be charged for additional rehearsal time.

Additional Accessories: If a costume needs extra design for the stage, dance family may be required to purchase extra lace/rhinestones/hair accessories, etc and to take appropriate measures to have them added to the costume

Master Classes: Typically -\$20-50/hr-long class. We hope to do several of these during the season.

Solo Requirements/Selection Process (Additional)

Solo Opportunities:

- 1) Student must be at least 8 years old
- 2) Student must audition and be selected
- 3) Student must also be in a Starlette group routine
- 4) Style performed to be selected by teacher

Soloists will get a 15 minute meeting with an instructor to discuss goals and determine their best path, which could include adding an additional technique class.

- 5) Choreography/costume/music to be done/selected by instructor
- 6) Must learn choreography over the summer (\$205 for Choreography intensive* subject to change)
- 7) Solo rehearsals will be scheduled – times will be evenings and weekends. You will be charged \$75/month on the first of the month with the rest of your tuition in September – May (for 18 total rehearsals broken up across the dance season regardless of whether certain months have more rehearsals than others).

Expenses – Solo

Auditions: Same as group audition

Costumes: The cost of costumes can get out of hand very quickly and we are sensitive to this. Most costumes will be in the \$65-90 range plus tights and shoes. Please note: you may have to have

two different colored shoes depending on the costume selection (i.e. a pair of tan jazz shoes and a pair of black jazz shoes).

Costume Return Policy: Parents will be given the opportunity to confirm the sizes we are ordering for their child. Any returns/exchanges will result in a minimum fee of \$30, up to the full cost of the costume depending on the costume company's policies.

Starlette Welcome Kit: Up to \$350 - Includes required makeup, required jewelry, required warm-up, etc

Tuition

All Starlettes train under our professional teachers. Our teachers are experienced, highly trained, loyal and dedicated to teaching dance. We pride ourselves in making tuition rates affordable, while supporting our high-quality teacher salaries.

Choreography Intensive - \$205* subject to change

Monthly Tuition (tap, ballet, jazz, rehearsal): tuition above plus \$75 per month September - May

Conventions: -\$250+ per convention plus food, transportation, lodging

Competitions: -\$60+ per performance

Additional Rehearsals: If a unique performance opportunity arises and extra rehearsals are needed, dance families will be charged for additional rehearsal time.

Additional Accessories: If a costume needs extra design for the stage, dance family may be required to purchase extra lace/rhinestones/hair accessories, etc and to take appropriate measures to have them added to the costume

Master Classes: Typically -\$20-50 hr-long class. We hope to do several of these during the season.

Duet/Trio Requirements/Expenses

Duet/Trio Opportunities:

* Same 1-5 requirements as solos listed above.

6) Must learn choreography over the summer (\$205 for Choreography intensive-Split equally between group members- \$102.50 per person for duet; \$68.33 per person for Trio subject to change)

7) You will be charged \$37.50/month for duet and \$25/month for Trio on the first of the month with the rest of your tuition in September - May (that is 18 total rehearsals broken up evenly across nine months regardless of whether certain months have more rehearsals than others). Instructors can discuss potential best rehearsal scheduling for your dancer.

8) Dancers in a lyrical/contemporary/musical theatre duet/trio should also take that style class each week.

What is a Convention?

Dance Conventions are weekend events where master teachers from across the nation hold classes. Conventions are great for young dancers because they get to see fantastic professional dancers, at the top of their field, perform and teach. Dancers will have classes in tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, musical theatre, etc. Some conventions also include a competition where the master teachers comprise the panel of judges.

Conventions are typically for dancers only. Parents drop-off their children and pick them up when appropriate. Sometimes observer bands are available for purchase in advance and Starpath will let you know if that is the case. Payments are made to Starpath and we pass them along to the conventions. It is the responsibility of the dance parents, NOT Starpath Staff, to book any hotel arrangements for your family. The staff will get families all pertinent information as soon as it is available. Please note: often conventions/competitions/community events do not get us specific scheduling information until approximately one week prior to the event.

What is a Competition?

A competition is an opportunity for our team to showcase their abilities and receive feedback from judges and to earn a score. For dance competitions, each dance will have a “call time” and dancers will have to arrive one hour prior to that time ready to go. Dancers will be required to stay for their awards. Competitions can be long days.



Starlette/Professional Path Attendance Policy

As a team member, your child is a role model to all Starpath students. If a child misses class they may not be improving their skills and can potentially hold back the other students by having the teacher go back and review what was missed. We understand that other things come up such as school functions and family events, etc. and ask that you give us advance notice by emailing us at sdstarlettes@gmail.com. Extenuating circumstances such as injury, illness, hospitalizations, etc. will be handled on a case by case basis..

When Missing a Starlette rehearsal: Parent must sign-off on at least 30 minutes of rehearsal time at home, along with submitting a video of the dancer practicing to sdstarlettes@gmail.com within one week.

Keep in mind that all actions, behaviors and attendance are considered when making placements for the following dance season.