



Stars Dance Company Parent Information

The Hoffman Estates Park District is excited that your dancer is interested in trying out for the Hoffman Stars Dance Company. Included in this handbook is important information regarding the 2024-2025 dance season. Please read all the information in its entirety to fully understand the commitment and requirements expected of company dancers and families.

The Hoffman Stars Dance Company is made up of four combination levels. The goal of the program is to offer a competitive dance program that places a strong focus on perfecting technique, increasing performance skills, advancing skills in multiple dance genres and sharing the love of dance with others. The dance company showcases the following genres of dance: ballet, jazz, lyrical, modern, musical theater, tap, contemporary, and hip hop.

Stars Dance Company is for dancers 8-18 years old. Dancers must be 8 by September 1, 2024.

Try-out information:

Try-Outs will take place at Triphahn Center Dance Studio on Saturday, June 29th.

Ages 8-10 – 12:00-1:30p, ages 11-12 – 3:00-4:30p, ages 13-18 – 4:30-6:00p.

Dancers in the younger age categories could be asked to also dance in a higher age level. Dancers will be asked to stay at the audition if we want to see them dance with older dancers.

Dancers: Dancers should wear black leotards and pink tights, bring ballet & jazz shoes, optional black jazz pants and have hair pulled up in a bun.

Parents: Parents are not allowed to watch try-outs.

At tryouts, dancers will warm up with ballet barre exercises, perform ballet skills in the center and across the floor. Dancers will learn a short choreographed routine to perform for the judges. The instructors will observe the dancers.

Try-out assessments: Dancers are evaluated on and placed in levels by skills, performance quality and attitude.

Dancers will be notified via their parent's email the week of July 8th if they have been invited to be a member of the Stars Dance Company for the 2024-2025 season.

All solo/duet/trio/small group invites will be sent out the following week.

2024-2025 Company Information:

Classes:

All dancers will be required to take a minimum of four classes.

- 1) Elite Ballet class: 45 minute class - dancers will continue to learn the foundation of ballet technique.
- 2) Elite Specialty class: 45 minute class - dancers will learn a variety of styles (modern, lyrical, jazz, contemporary).
- 3) 1st choreography class: 45 minute class before or after the dancers' technique class. Dancers will learn choreography for one of their group dances for performance & competitions.
- 4) 2nd choreography class: 45 minute class before or after the dancers' technique class. Dancers will learn choreography for one of their group dances for performance & competitions.

Our Elite and company schedule is as follows:

Day of the Week	Time	Class
Monday	5:15-6:00pm	Company 1/2 Choreography
Monday	6:00-6:45pm	Elite Ballet 1 & 2
Monday	6:45-7:30pm	Company 1/2 Choreography
Tuesday	5:00-5:45pm	Elite Tap **Separate Registration Fee
Tuesday	5:45-6:30pm	Company 3/4 Choreography
Tuesday	6:30-7:15pm	Elite Specialty 3 & 4
Tuesday	7:15-8:00pm	Company 3/4 Choreography
Wednesday	5:15-6:00pm	Company 1/2 Choreography
Wednesday	6:00-6:45pm	Elite Specialty 1 & 2
Wednesday	6:45-7:30pm	Company 1/2 Choreography
Wednesday	5:45-6:30pm	Company 3/4 Choreography
Wednesday	6:30-7:15pm	Elite Ballet 3 & 4
Wednesday	7:15-8:00pm	Company 3/4 Choreography

Expectations:

Attendance: All dancers are expected to attend each weekly class. Stars Dance Company relies on the strength of the entire team. Dancers should also always bring a writing utensil notebook and closed lid water bottle to class each week.

- If you are going to be absent, the instructors must be notified at least 1 weeks prior unless for illness. If multiple classes are missed, it may affect participation in dance performances/competitions.
- We understand the Company dancers are involved in other activities but please keep in mind that missing a dance class impacts not only the dancer that is absent but their fellow dancers as well! Exceptions can be made for school events if notified at least a week in advance.
- Dancers are expected to be in all company choreography classes and dress rehearsals the week of a competition/performance. Failure to attend choreography classes and dress rehearsal the week of a competition could result in not dancing at that weekend's competition/performance.
- Dancers should be arriving at least 5 minutes before class time to get dressed and stretched in the hallway before class/rehearsal.
- Each company has their own rehearsal time, dancers may not come in during another company's rehearsal time unless invited in early by the teacher to view dances.
- If classes are missed, it is the responsibility of the dancer to learn any new choreography.
- If dancer is more than 10 minutes late dancer must stretch on their own in class before being invited to join in on the class.
- Arriving more than 15 minutes late to class or leaving 15 minutes early from class counts as half an absence.

Accountability:

- All dancers are expected to have respect for peers and teachers during classes, rehearsals and performances. Consequences can arise if being disrespectful.
- All company dancers are expected to behave in a professional manner in all classes, rehearsals and performances.
- Dancers are expected to keep talking to a minimum and stay focused on what is being taught in class. If a dancer is asked to stop talking more than 2 times in class, the dancer will be asked to leave class and will be invited back in by the teacher.
- Company dancers should act as role models for younger dancers.
- Dancers are expected to show good sportsmanship in all classes, rehearsal and performances. Dancers should keep negativity out of the classroom and be encouraged by teammates.
- Dancers are expected to learn choreography quickly. If a class is missed it is the responsibility of the dancer to learn the new choreography before the next class.
- Dancers are expected to stretch and practice dances weekly.
- Company dancers must be able to accept and apply teacher corrections. Dancers should not be giving their peers corrections.

Dress Code:

- Ballet: solid black or purple leotard (any style), pink tights, pink canvas ballet shoes, black sports bra (if applicable), hair in a tight bun. Optional simple ballet skirt or form fitted plain black shorts, ballet belt.
- Specialty: solid black or purple leotard (any style), form-fitting plain black capris/pants/shorts, black sports bra (if applicable), clean ponytail, braids, or bun. Bring tan jazz shoes, lyrical shoes, modern sandals and ballet shoes each week.
- Solo/Duet/Trio rehearsals: solid black or blue leotard should be worn. Tights, plain black shorts or leggings should be worn depending on style of dance. No t-shirts!
- Stars Days: dancers and parents will be notified of what to wear before each Stars Day.
- Sweatshirts and warm up must be removed after 5 minutes of class/rehearsal.
- Strikes will be given per occurrence, if dress code is not followed. After 3 strikes parents will be notified.
- Dancers are required to maintain personal hygiene. Dancers at age of puberty and beyond are required to wear deodorant to class, rehearsals, and performances. Be sure to wash dance attire regularly.
- No jewelry – stud earrings okay. No watches in specialty dances.
 - Not responsible for any lost items, these should be left at home.
- Spirit weeks – 1st week after a competition. Teachers will decide themes for the week. Dancer suggestions welcome.

Injuries:

- If a dancer is injured, a doctor's note must be submitted prior to resuming participation. Dancers are required to attend class and observe and take notes to remain part of the team.

Technology:

- Cell phones and smart watches are not allowed to be used during class. Cell phones should be off or on silent and placed aside in bag during class. Smartwatches should be silenced during class & removed during any specialty dances.
- If taken out/used during class a verbal warning will be given, if continued then cell phone/smartwatch will need to be placed on teacher's table and parents will be notified.

Team Support:

- All company dancers are part of one big team. Although dancers will be split up between different levels, dancers should be attending competitions to support the other levels.
- We are one large company/family, we need to support one another and no negative comments about each other, teachers, or the company.
- We all aren't best friends, but we are all teammates doing what we love.
- Attendance will be taken at all competitions whether performing that day or not. Carpooling is highly recommended for parents who cannot attend all times.

Disclaimer:

- Stars Dance Company and its teachers is an all-inclusive dance community. Discrimination in any form is not tolerated.
- Dancers can be asked at any time by teachers to resign their spot on the team if company rules are not being followed.

Competitions:

Hoffman Stars Dance Company will compete in four competitions throughout the season. Each company level will compete in two group dances. The group dance competition fees are included in Company tuition. Competition times are not released until a week or two before the competition, please keep Friday-Sunday open for each competition weekend.

If we do not compete the Friday of competition weekend we will have a dress rehearsal in the dance room. In the event we compete on the Friday then we will have dress rehearsal instead of normally scheduled Wednesday classes the week of competition.

Tentative Performance Schedule:

December	Winter Fest – Performance
February – May	Competition 1
February - May	Competition 2
February – May	Competition 3
February - May	Competition 4
Mid/End of May	Dance Recital
July	Hoffman 4 th of July Parade

Possible extra performances not included in company tuition:

- Possible National/Championship invites
- Current 2024 dancers that were invited to NY to attend in summer of 2025
- Any other performances we are invited to participate in

STARS Days:

We will be having 6, 2 hour sessions throughout the season for the dancers to interact with one another and have group dance classes together.

September 4th 5-7pm	Team building
Friday, November 15 th 5-7pm	Friendsgiving
Friday, December 13 th 5-7:30pm	Holiday Party
TBD	Master Class
TBD	Large Group Rehearsal for Opening/Closing Dances
TBD	Large Group Rehearsal for Opening/Closing Dances

Parent Involvement:

Throughout the year, we will be looking for our Company parents to support the dancers with additional duties at competitions, performances and recital.

Stars Dance Company Seniors:

Stars Dance Company dancers who are in their senior year of high school and have been part of the Stars Dance Company for 2 consecutive seasons going into senior year will have the option of having a solo senior year. Dancers can choose if they will compete the solo or just perform it at recital. Rehearsals will start in the fall either way. The fees would follow the solo fees for that season. If there are at least 2 graduating seniors part of the Stars Dance Company, then the seniors will have the opportunity to have a senior dance at recital. This dance will be choreographed by the seniors. Music, costumes, and choreography has to be approved by Stars Dance Company teachers.

All seniors regardless of the number of years in the company can wear senior sashes at competitions.

Pre-Season Parent & Dancer Meeting:

We will have a meeting with all parents for the 2024-2025 season as well as a potluck to get to know one another. Our meeting will be Wednesday, August 28th.

5:00-5:30 – Junior dancers and parent meeting

5:30-7:00p – All Stars Dance Company levels & Elite Tap dancers and parents potluck

7:00-7:30p – Stars Dance Company and Elite Tap dancers and parent meeting

Company Tuition:

What's included?

Fall Session Ballet (45 minute class)	13 weeks	\$185
Fall Session Specialty (45 minute class)	13 weeks	\$185
Fall Session Choreography (45 minute class - 2 times per week)	13 weeks	\$372
Winter/Spring Ballet (45 minute class)	18 weeks	\$257
Winter/Spring Specialty (45 minute class)	18 weeks	\$257
Winter/Spring Choreography (45 minute class - 2 times per week)	18 weeks	\$514
STARS Days (6 – 2 hour sessions)		\$36
Opening/closing recital costumes	2 costumes	\$130
2 Group dance costumes	2 costumes	\$150
2 Group competition fees	4 competitions	\$520
5 Competition media fees	4 competitions & Recital video	\$130
End of year banquet for dancer		\$28
		\$2764

*** In the event we do not attend 4 competitions we will issue a refund for the 4th competition.*

Payment options:

1. Pay in Full
2. Payment Plan: \$100 deposit when officially registering for company, then 9 monthly payments of \$298 (for residents) on 15th of month (August 2024 – April 2025).

Additional fees will be charged for:

Competition Line:

The Stars Dance Company will compete in a line at their first competition of the season. There will be 3 rehearsals throughout the fall session and one in the new year before the first competition. Dancers will compete either the opening or closing dance from the previous season. There will be a one time fee of \$55 to cover rehearsal time and the competition fee.

Solo/Duet/Trio/Extra Small Group:

If your dancer is asked to participate in a solo/duet/trio/extra small group there will be extra fees. Please read below to see approximate prices for any additional dances. Solo/duet/trio/extra small group rehearsal schedule will be released by the end of August. Rehearsals for solos, duets, trios and extra small groups will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Not all dancers will be offered a solo/duet/trio/extra small group. Only dancers who danced in the previous season will be considered for a solo/duet/trio/extra small group dance.

Approximate price per dancer if offered a solo:

Costume	1 costume	\$70
Rehearsal/Choreography Time	20, 30 minute sessions**	\$195
Approximate competition fees	4 Competitions	\$545
		\$810

** First two rehearsals will be a 30 minute rehearsal to learn the dances. Then the remaining 18 rehearsals will be split with another soloist. 15 minutes for 1 dancer and 15 minutes for the other soloist. While 1 dancer is working with the instructor the other may practice their solo off to the side by themselves.

Approximate price per dancer if offered a duet:

Costume	1 costume	\$70
Rehearsal/Choreography Time	22, 30 minute sessions	\$195
Approximate competition fees	4 Competitions	\$320
		\$585

Approximate price per dancer if offered a trio:

Costume	1 costume	\$70
Rehearsal/Choreography Time	22, 30 minute sessions	\$141
Approximate competition fees	4 Competitions	\$320
		\$531

Approximate price per dancer if offered an extra small group:

Costume	1 costume	\$70
Rehearsal/Choreography Time	22, 30 minute sessions	\$120
Approximate competition fees	4 Competitions	\$260
		\$450

What is not included in tuition? What are parents responsible for?

- Attire for ballet and specialty classes
- Pink canvas ballet shoes
- Nude jazz shoes
- Any other specialty shoes
- Tights for competitions (will finalize all colors once costumes are ordered)
- Nude under suit
- Personal hygiene products

- Competition earrings
- Dance bag
- Makeup for competition (an email list will be provided with links)
- Company/competition jacket – will be worn at every competition and at our Winter Fest performance.
- Travel/lodging for any competitions

Possible extra performances not included in company tuition:

- Possible National/Championship invites
- Current 2024 dancers that were invited to NY to attend in summer of 2025
- Any other performances we are invited to participate in

Refunds:

Competitions, conventions, workshops, costumes are non-refundable. If a dancer decides they do not want to continue with company, you can submit a refund request. Refunds will only be issued for all classes that were not attended from the time the refund request is submitted.

Company Handbook Acknowledgement:

Dancers and parents will need to sign a company handbook acknowledgement when accepting a spot for the season. Forms will be provided at the dancer/parent meeting in August.