



Junior Stars Dance Company Parent Information

The Hoffman Estates Park District is excited that your dancer is interested in trying out for the Junior 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 junior company dancers and families.

The Junior Stars Dance Company is made up of one level. 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, and tap.

Junior Stars Dance Company is for dancers 5-7 years old. Dancers must be 5 by September 1, 2024.

Try-out information:

Try-Outs will take place at Triphahn Center Dance Studio on Saturday, June 29th from 11:00am-12:00pm.

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 Junior Stars Dance Company for the 2024-2025 season.

2024-2025 Junior Company Information:

Classes:

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

- 1) Junior Technique class: 30 minute class - dancers will continue to learn the foundation of ballet technique, jazz and lyrical.
- 2) Junior choreography class: 30 minute class - dancers will learn choreography for their group dances for performances & competitions.

Our Elite and company schedule is as follows:

Day of the Week	Time	Class
Monday	4:45-5:15pm	Junior Technique Class
Wednesday	4:45-5:15pm	Junior Choreography Class

Expectations:

Attendance: All dancers are expected to attend each weekly class. Junior 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 Junior 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 choreography class 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Or 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, and ballet shoes each week. The teacher will notify dancers what needs to be worn each week depending on the style they will be working on.
- 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:

- Junior 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 two competitions throughout the season. Group dance competition fees are included in 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
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 5, 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	Large Group Rehearsal for Opening/Closing Dances
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Parent Involvement:

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

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 Technique (30 minute class)	13 weeks	\$124
Fall Choreography Class (30 minute class)	13 weeks	\$124
Winter/Spring Technique (30 minute class)	18 weeks	\$171
Winter/Spring Choreography Class (30 minute class)	18 weeks	\$171
STARS Days (5 – 2 hour sessions)		\$30
Opening/closing recital costumes	2 costumes	\$130
1 Group dance costumes	1 costumes	\$75
1 Group competition fees	2 competitions	\$130
3 Media fees	2 competitions & Recital video	\$80
End of year banquet for dancer		\$28
		\$1063

Payment options:

1. Pay in Full
2. Payment Plan: \$100 deposit when officially registering for company, then 9 monthly payments of \$107 on 15th of month (August 2024 – April 2025).

Additional fees will be charged for:

Competition Line:

The Junior Stars Dance Company dancers from the 2023-2024 season 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.

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

- Attire for 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 junior 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.

Junior Company Handbook Acknowledgement:

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