



Academy for the Performing Arts



Company Information Packet



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Company at APA

APA Company is a select group of dancers chosen through an audition or invitation process based on talent, attitude and commitment to dance. Typically speaking, these kids consider dance to be the focus of their extra-curricular activities, and Company offers them the additional opportunities needed to expand their skill set. In addition to more extensive practices and rehearsal times, Company dancers participate in local community performances, dance conventions, as well as, local and regional competitions.

Above all, Company members are exposed to the best dance training, choreography and instructors APA can offer. They are offered more studio time to refine their dance skills and more stage opportunities to refine their performance skills. In addition, Company requires a certain level of talent, and a higher level of commitment from both the dancer and his or her entire family.



Our Mission & Company Goals

Our Mission

1. To provide the highest quality instruction to those who show a natural gift for dance, a passion for learning, and a willingness to be challenged and coached.
2. To teach to the highest-level dancer in each classroom. This assures that we are pushing the group as a whole.
3. To create an atmosphere for healthy competition that can push dancers to new skill levels
4. To be honest with dancers about their abilities and offer options to dancers at any skill level who is willing to continue to work hard and commit to the team.

Company Goals

- To perform and compete representing APA and the Company.
- To share our passion for dance with the community.
- To display superior dance technique, style and stage presence.
- To be dedicated to weekly and weekend classes and rehearsals.
- To be committed and dedicated to Company for the entire dance season.
- To maintain and improve our skills and performance throughout the dance season.
- To set good examples and be positive role models for all dancers.
- To have fun and enjoy every moment of being in Company!

APA Company Faculty List

Hillary Parnell
Brooke Averette
Niyama Ramanan
Hannah Stephens
Sara Laverty
Erin Laverty
Amber Wirick
Julia Hnatt
Luke Miller
Salem Troxler
Grayson Troxler
Alyssa Pridgen
Amy York
Sneha Ramanan Vats
Jill Guyton Nee

... and other guest
choreographers.



Company Audition Process

Company Auditions will be held for our 2016-2017 Company on **Saturday May 21st at APA.**

Dancers in 1st grade and up should currently be taking a level 2 or 3 Tap, Ballet, Jazz (and Contemporary helps). Tap is mandatory for dancers 9 and under. Dancers younger than 1st grade may audition regardless of dance level placement.

Summer intensives, private or semi-private lessons are strongly suggested for dancers interested in auditioning. Please call APA or visit our website www.apanc.com for details and registration information.

The most productive way to refine your skills would be private lessons; all faculty members to the left are available for private lessons as well as a number of senior level dancers (for a reduced price). You may email info@apanc.com to set up private lessons. List your name, the dates/times you would like and the instructor you wish to work with. If you don't have an instructor preference, mention that in your email.

Day of Audition:

- Arrive 15 minutes early to stretch and warm up.
- Auditions will include combinations and testing from the skills list – no surprises.
- Dancers will also take a ballet class as a part of the audition to show technique and classroom etiquette.
- 100% perfection is not required, but quality attempts and potential are necessary.
- Please wear form-fitting clothes, and have all shoes.

Stand out and try not to be scared! Company is all about performing. Ask questions, we are here to help! If you are frustrated during intensives it's likely you still need practice. It might be a good idea to wait a year before you audition.

Weekly Company Classes

Tech Classes:

APA Company offers tech classes required for all dancers and companies. These classes focus on leaps, turns, tricks, and other skills related to jazz and contemporary. Dancers have the opportunity to move up in any of their tech classes if the instructor feels the dancer is capable. The instructor will inform the parent if the dancer is eligible for this move. ***This is designed so that all dancers may be challenged and may progress beyond their current level.***

Ballet:

APA Company offers a ballet tech class required for all dancers and companies. This class has a focus on barre work and center combinations. The purpose of this class is to improve the technique of all Company dancers. Ballet is the foundation of technique and therefore important as a part of the Company curriculum, however, our Company dancers do not compete in Ballet at competitions.

Jazz & Contemporary:

These two classes are separate during the week. They are purely for weekly dance choreography and are a half hour-an hour long each. These classes are designed to work on a dance and perfect the dance for competition season. These two class types are required of all Company members (only Jazz for Patience and Courage)

Tap:

A weekly tap dance is required for Patience, Courage & Hope dancers, but is optional for Ambition, Strength & Faith dancers. Each company will work on their Tap dance during Tap choreography time. Along with this, each company will have time allotted to tap technique alone. This ensures that their skills and tricks stay up to par and they are progressing with their technique.

Acro:

Acro classes are optional for all company members. These classes focus on dancer friendly acrobatic tricks. These tricks are used in competition dances and allow the dancers to have a well-rounded dance education.

Hip Hop:

Hip Hop is optional for all Company members in either the form of a Rec class or a competition dance class.

****Patience Members (3-5 year olds) will take a Level 2 Tap/Ballet Recreational Combo class during the week and come together for ONE Company Jazz/Technique Class.**



Class Attire

Ballet

Pink or Tan Tights, leotard, hair pulled back into a secure ballet bun. Pink ballet shoes required. Ballet warm-ups are OK until instructor asks dancers to remove them.

JAZZ/TAP/CONTEMP.

Form fitting dance clothes, NO baggy clothing. Hair should be pulled back and out of face. Foot paws and/or jazz shoes are acceptable. For tap, dancers must have black Signature tap shoes ordered through the studio. Younger tappers need black lace up's.

Conventions, Competitions, Recitals, & Community Performances

Conventions:

A convention is a weekend long event that begins either on a Friday evening or Saturday morning through Sunday late afternoon. At a convention dancers do 2 things, they take classes from well known and established choreographers, as well as perform and compete if the APA Company chooses to do so. The Company members take dance classes in all styles to excel and learn from the industry's best. Most classes involve learning a combination from the instructor. For conventions dancers are placed in levels by the studio based on ability and age. Parents may purchase an "observer band" to watch them in the actual classes all weekend. Convention fees usually range from \$120-\$200 for the whole weekend per dancer. Conventions are very inspiring and exciting for the dancers, and APA may have 1-5 required conventions for company members to attend each dance season, as well as, a few optional opportunities.

Competitions:

A competition is a weekend long event that usually begins on Friday afternoon and ends on Sunday evening. Dancers and studios from all over the state and surrounding states attend and compete in different categories like tap, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and open. APA Company members compete in the dances we prepare for all year. As a studio we attend anywhere from 3-5 competitions a year and they are usually all between January-May. The furthest we usually travel is Myrtle Beach, SC. Competition entry fees are usually \$30-\$40 per dance and more for solo/duet/trios. The studio puts together a hotel block for away competitions, and travel/lodging/gas/food is an expense on your own. Competitions are a great way to gain stage experience and to give the kids the tools needed for improving their overall dancing. A list of competitions will be given out at the beginning of each dance year so you can plan and budget accordingly.

Recitals:

APA Company members have their own recital show the same weekend as recreational recitals. This usually takes place in June of each year. The company members will perform a few of their dances in the recreational shows, and then do their own group dance show on a different day. It does turn into a weekend event for Company members.

Community Performances:

It is important to the APA Staff that the Company performs at different community events. This is a great way to bring awareness to the studio but also a way to give back to the community that gives so much to us. Primarily, community performances offer additional stage opportunities to all of our Company members which increases their comfort level on stage and, ultimately, makes them all better dancers. We do performances such as the National MS Walk, College Basketball Half Time Shows, Peak Fest, and Cary Lazy Daze. All community performances are mandatory and you will get more than 30 days notice for these performances.

Company Cost

Monthly Tuition = \$100-\$260 depending on company/hours danced per week.

Costumes = \$90-100 per costume (average of 5-7 costumes, usually 3-4 first year). Does not include Tights and Shoes.

Choreography = \$0 for weekly dances, \$25-\$400 per extra dance (depending on level and invitations accepted).

Accouterments = \$0-\$400 depending on what you get, it is not all mandatory. This includes makeup, sweat suits, dance bags, rhinestone jewelry, etc.

Additional Fees = \$170 approx. This includes parade costume, dress rehearsal fee, competition t-shirt, company membership fee.

Competitions/Conventions = \$150-\$1,000 depending on number of dances and whether it's in our out of town.



August – Classes begin
December – Parades
January – Dress Rehearsal
Feb-May – Competitions
June – Recital
You will get the yearlong schedule in August to plan ahead.

Company Structure:

Competes Rec: Dances less than 4 hours weekly.

Competes Competitive: Dances 4+ hours weekly.

Ambition- all ages- competes Rec

Patience- 3-5 year old- competes Rec

Courage – 6 & Under – competes Rec

Hope – 7-11 years old – competes Comp.

Strength – 11-18 years old – competes Rec

Faith – 11-18 years old – competes Comp.

Weekend Rehearsals:

Weekend rehearsals only apply to dancers who have been invited to extra dances. This includes Large Groups, Small Groups, Duets, Trios, and Solos. Usually first year company members are not invited to any extra dances, and will only have their weekly dances. This is a case-by-case basis based on what the staff thinks the dancer is capable of handling. All company members get a master calendar of weekends they will have rehearsals. They are usually run from Fri – Sun on designated weekends with a set schedule.

Large and Small Groups -

The staff puts special groups together to create new large and small group pieces for competition. They vary in style and showcase the strongest dancers. Small groups are 4-9 dancers, and large groups are 10-19 dancers

Duet/Trios -

Dancers invited to do a duet/trio are paired up with who the staff sees them dancing well with, in their strongest style. To get a duet/trio dancers must have a certain number of large/small groups and have proven successful in their group dances. Each year we invite duet/trios; they are not grandfathered in year to year.

Solos -

Dancers excelling in performance, and ability are invited to do a solo. Solos are offered each year and are not guaranteed. We offer a limited amount of solos per year.

Parent Expectations & Code of Conduct:

Expectations –

- Be ON TIME to all classes and rehearsals.
- Attendance is IMPORTANT for all classes so your dancer does not fall behind.
- Keep your APA Company calendar updated!!
- Open and READ all Company emails

Code of Conduct –

- I will be supportive of ALL instructors at APA
- I will treat teachers, dancers, and other parents with respect.
- I will discuss all questions and concerns with staff, NOT other parents or dancers.
- Speaking about your concerns, other dancers, other parents, or rumors will NOT be tolerated.
- Good sportsmanship is expected. We support and cheer for our studio as well as others.

Parents must trust the APA Staff to do what's best for their dancer and the performance. Trusting in the expertise of the staff is a great thing, you can sit back and watch your child's progress. There are truly a number of decisions that must be made to maintain the company and our standards. Parent involvement in certain Company decisions doesn't work...it is impossible for so many people to agree on one thing. We appreciate your support on our decision-making; it is not limited to but includes the following:

Costumes, Music, Choreography, Placement and casting of dancers,
Conventions/Competitions, Teachers, and Schedules.

Dancer Code of Conduct:

- Have fun, and enjoy dancing!
- Respect ALL company members and instructors.
- NO TALKING in class. You are role models and must set example for other dancers.
- Dress according to dress code for all classes.
- No gossip, negative comments, or rude behavior towards any peers.
- Always give 100% in class and on stage, hard work will pay off!
- No sitting down in class unless directed by the instructor. Even if you aren't dancing at a certain time you should be practicing in the back of the room.
- Support your team; give positive feedback and encouragement.
- Work together as a Company and never make negative comments about other dancers, parents, or instructors.

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