



**STAGE DOOR**  
SCHOOL OF DANCE

**SDSD** weDance  
**CREW**®

**2023-2024**

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# STAGE DOOR

## SCHOOL OF DANCE

## About this Handbook

For more than four decades, Stage Door School of Dance (SDSD) has been a leader in dance education. We believe our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service in an **inclusive** environment. We have created this handbook to offer our SDSD weDance Crew students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the SDSD weDance Crew program.

## Key contact information for Stage Door School of Dance

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Patchogue, NY 11772

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# For Our Dancers

***Congratulations and Welcome to SDSA's weDance Crew Program!*** We hope you embrace this exciting new opportunity at SDSA! Please read all the information below very carefully in order to fully understand the components and policies of the weDance Crew Program!

Stage Door School of Dance is proud to introduce the SDSA weDance Crew Program, an open-enrollment dance team program for weDance dancers. No audition required.

*Dancers who CHOOSE to participate will be placed in a dance team and will participate in 2 local dance competitions annually.*

## **SDSA weDance Crew dancers will be enrolled in 3 mandatory classes per week:**

- ✓ weDance Crew Choreography (Thursday 4:45-5:30)
- ✓ weDance Crew Technique (Thursdays 5:30-6:00)-this class will not require a costume purchase
- ✓ At least one weDance class of your choice (levels and genres recommended by teachers)

## **Additional SDSA Crew Exclusive Opportunities**

- ✓ 4th of July Parade
- ✓ Community Performances
- ✓ Workshops with SDSA Faculty / Professional Industry Guests

## **SDSA weDance Crew Program Benefits**

- ✓ Establish a sense of commitment and dedication to a team.
- ✓ Develop a goal oriented mindset.
- ✓ Participate in a physical activity that enhances the understanding of the value of a healthy body.
- ✓ Develop a sense of confidence and pride.
- ✓ Work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents.
- ✓ Discover the results of hard work and determination.
- ✓ Develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

## **For the Parents: “*We’re in This Together*”**

We believe that each dancer’s success depends on the support of their parents, guardians and families. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference and we encourage you to be a part of your dancer’s education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty, students, and parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for other parents, the students, and the faculty makes an important impression on the dancers. You are a role model for your dancer. We must work together to teach how to interact with others and conduct oneself in a professional setting. I will share a Document at the beginning of the dance year for Parents to add in their contact information if you would like to get to know your fellow dancers’ families.

Your dancer’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the invaluable lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a dancer’s learning process from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every dancer receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally.

## Attendance Policy

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to any scheduled weekend rehearsals.

There will be **1 mandatory 1 hour** rehearsal for their competition dance on a weekend outside of class time.

**weDance Crew:** *Sunday, February 4th 10:00-11:00am*

We are excited to invite our SDSA weDance Crew to participate in the Patchogue 4th of July Parade alongside our SDSA Elite Company and SDSA Crew! This is another exciting opportunity granted to all our students who participate in the SDSA weDance Crew! Each dancer will wear their Recital T-Shirt, white shorts and white sneakers.

Every student will be permitted **5 Excused Absences** for their Crew Competition Classes (weDance Crew Choreography and weDance Crew Technique). At the 5<sup>th</sup> absence, you and your dancer will receive an email. If a 6<sup>th</sup> class is missed you will receive a phone call from the office and your child will be placed on Attendance Probation. If a 7<sup>th</sup> class is missed, your child will be dismissed from the SDSA weDance Crew Competition Class, regardless of the time of year. There will be no refunds for Rehearsal Fees, Competition Fees, or Costumes. Please use your absences wisely anticipating mandatory school & family functions.

If a student is injured for an extended amount of time, accompanied by a doctor's note, their status in that class will be up to the discretion of the SDSA instructor. In certain situations, when a student misses weeks of class at a time, even if they are observing they may fall behind in their choreography and technical responsibilities. It is at the instructor's discretion if they believe the student will be able to catch up. At that point, the instructor has the authority to take them out of sections of the dance or replace them entirely.

## Zoom

If a dancer is away or not feeling well but they are able to take class via Zoom, we highly encourage them to do so! However, please note this will count as a ½ absence.

## Image/Dress Code

Image is important to us here at Stage Door School of Dance and should be to you as well. If you look good, then you feel good, and perform better in class; this is proven. *Please encourage your dancer to be dressed appropriately in all dance classes.*

For our **weDance Crew Choreography** and **weDance Crew Technique** classes, dancers are **required** to wear the following:

A solid color t-shirt or a Stagedoor t-shirt and black dance shorts/pants and a tan or black Jazz shoe. Hair must be pulled back off of your face.

For a more **professional** look during these classes, we *suggest* that dancers abide by the following SDSD Crew attire policies listed below.

CLASS	ATTIRE	TIGHTS & SHOES	HAIR
SDSD Crew Classes	<b>Girls:</b> Leotard; Tan tights, black shorts.  <b>Boys:</b> White/Black T-Shirt, Black Pants or Shorts.	Tan Jazz shoes  Black Jazz shoes	<b>Girls:</b> In a bun.  <b>Boys:</b> Off of face.

**IMPORTANT:** *The use of the Stage Door School of Dance logo and brand name (including the initials SDSD and weDance Crew Program logo) are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** for use on any attire, gift, merchandise, or designs without the written permission of Stage Door School of Dance and the Director, Branding and Communications.*

***SDSD weDance Crew Dancers will have a NEW Jacket this 2023-2024 season! There will be a fitting with Ms. Tara, Director of Merchandise, in October.***

## 4th of July Parade Rehearsal & Performance

There will be a **1-hour** rehearsal for the 4th of July Parade.

- ✓ **Rehearsal:** Tuesday, July 2, 2024 | 6:30-7:30pm
- ✓ **Performance:** Thursday, July 4, 2024 | Time & Meeting location TBD



# Financial Expectations

As part of this exciting opportunity, our SDDS weDance Crew dancers will participate in events along with our SDDS Select & Elite Companies and SDDS Crew. It is important to know that due to the high caliber of training we wish to provide our dancers with, there will be additional fees associated with being an SDDS weDance Crew member. All dancers are held to the same standards and therefore all fee due dates are firm. Please be sure to communicate with the office, any issues that may arise in regards to payment due dates.

Your commitment to the SDDS Crew Program will involve fees in 4 categories.

## FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS

### JUNE

SDDS Annual Recital (aka #BestShowEver)

### JULY

Summer Dance Classes  
Summer classes begin.

SDDS weDance Crew Program Summer Package	
Hours of Class Per Week	Investment
3 hours	\$270.00
4 hours	\$360.00
5 hours	\$450.00

### AUGUST

2023-2024 Class Registration

SDDS weDance Crew Program 2023-2024 Package	
Hours of Class Per Week	Investment
2.5 hours	\$163.00
3 hours	\$195.00
3.5 hours	\$228.00
4 hours	\$260.00
4.5 hours	\$293.00
5 hours	\$310.00

\*\*\*Minimum registration requirement - 3 Classes

### SEPTEMBER

2023-2024 Dance Classes

Fall/Winter/Spring classes begin.

Tuition payments will be due on the 5th of each month.

Registration closes on September 30th for all Crew classes.

### OCTOBER

Costumes Posted to Accounts

Due in November

Crew Welcome Meeting

SDDS weDance Crew 2023-2024	
Service	Investment
Administrative/Directors Fee	\$50.00
<b>Total Mandatory Investment</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

\*\*\*Due in October 13th

SDDS weDance Crew Large Group Package	
Competition Fees - Per Dance	Total
Competition Entry Fee	\$150.00
Rehearsal Fee	\$40.00
Panel Fee	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>

\*\*\*Post in October - Due in full on January 31, 2024  
\*\*\*additional fees may apply if shadows are required

SDDS Crew Jacket Measurements

Make an appointment with Miss Tara in the SDDS Styles Store, to be measured for your Crew Jacket, estimated cost \$65-75. You can also purchase our performance makeup kit & earrings if needed.

### NOVEMBER

Costume Payment Due

### DECEMBER

Happy Holidays!

### JANUARY

Competition Payment Due January 31, 2024

### FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL

Competition Prep and Competition Season

### MAY

Recital Tickets Go On-Sale

### JUNE

SDDS Annual Recital (aka #BestShowEver)

## **Additional Financial Notes**

Part of the commitment to the SDDS Crew Program is being current with your SDDS account. If you have advance knowledge of a financial concern regarding your SDDS account, you must communicate that concern to management. Additionally, all accounts must be **paid in full** prior to the purchase of any tickets to the annual recital; a code will not be given if your account is not up to date. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please contact Cori at [sdsdfinance@stagedoordancer.com](mailto:sdsdfinance@stagedoordancer.com). Our staff will continue to provide monthly statements so that you can process Self Direction reimbursement. Please make sure that the front desk is aware that you require this paperwork.

## **Adjudication Panel @ SDDS: Competition Dress Rehearsal**

Every year Ms. Mary brings out a "panel" viewing all of SDDS's Large Group Competition Routines. We've found this to be very helpful and inspiring for our young dancers to meet REAL WORKING DANCERS and to hear their feedback, which is always very useful at this stage of the game!! Each parent is invited to be in the room when their dancer is dancing, as the Panel will give your dancer's choreography amazing feedback and insight into their dancing.

## **The Competition Experience**

For dedicated dancers, the satisfaction of an excellent performance is all the motivation they need to work harder to continue improving. Don't judge how you feel about your performance by the size of the trophy or the color of the medal.  
The Focus Is Not Simply on Competition.

It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. We believe the lessons learned through community performances and services are as valuable, if not MORE, than the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal is to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider students' participation in competitions not merely part of their dance training; it's also an important part of how we influence their growth as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about. Trophies and the pressure of "winning" become secondary. Being given the opportunity to perform is priceless.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education and inspires and drives us all to be greater artists.



## Policy for Optional Private Lessons

This program is open to all SDSD students (Recreational & Company Level). In order to schedule a private lesson, you must email our admin staff at [manager@stagedoordancer.com](mailto:manager@stagedoordancer.com). Please allow some time for coordinating schedules for booking privates. Privates are NOT considered to be officially scheduled until the full DEBIT/CREDIT CARD payment is submitted. There will not be any privates scheduled prior to receiving payment, as the time and effort put in for these sessions must be equally shared between teachers and dancers. All cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance to receive a credit on your account for paid fees. All of your favorite teachers will be involved in this program! This is a great opportunity for students to make improvements in specific classes since they are receiving private lessons. We believe the student's performance quality; work ethic and technique will improve drastically from this experience. You choose the teacher for your private lesson and get ready to see FAST AND POSITIVE results!

## Studio Bookings & Rehearsal Space

The studio is available to individual dancers and groups of dancers to rent for rehearsal time. Rehearsal space bookings and Private Lesson bookings can be scheduled through admin by emailing: [manager@stagedoordancer.com](mailto:manager@stagedoordancer.com).

## Student and Parent Use of Social Media

We encourage all Select Program Students & Parents to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Threads, and Tik Tok, as well as download the SDSD Mobile App (in order to stay current in last minute changes, news, and updates, in addition to really fun content. This policy is intended to provide SDSD students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- ✓ We encourage **POSITIVITY** when utilizing social media regarding SDSD. If you are excited about the dance season, parade, recital, competition, convention, etc. feel free to post!
- ✓ You **DO NOT** have permission to reveal any information that compromises SDSD. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students, SDSD families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or SDSD.
- ✓ Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of SDSD.
- ✓ Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend SDSD.
- ✓ Please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.

- ✓ Parents / Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to take or post photos / videos taken during class, backstage at recital, or while our communications team is in the process of filming / taking photos unless explicitly given permission by the Director, Branding and Communications.
  
- ✓ Parents / Students **ARE PERMITTED** to take photos / videos in the lobby, in-studio during their private studio time, in-studio during Parent Observation Week, or in-studio during Dress Rehearsal Week. When doing so, we ask that you please tag Stage Door School of Dance within your post, or with in the post's location geo tag.

## Recital

Your dancer will be performing in 2-3 performances depending on which classes they are taking. We do our best to only have you in two of the performances, but if a dancer is taking additional recreational classes or dancing outside of your Select classes, we cannot always guarantee 2 recitals.

## Summer Commitments: *Intensive & Performances*

Our Five-Week summer intensive is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all SDSA weDance Crew Program members in order to hold your status for the following dance season. While we understand that the summer is a time for vacations and spending time with your family, as a dancer it is not a time to fall behind on your dance technique. Use the summer to focus on your technique and push yourself prior to the new dance season!

**Monday, July 8–Saturday, August 10, 2024:** Summer Classes

## Staying Informed

We are working hard to make your dance experience organized and fun this year. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information on our website. Both parents and students should check their email regularly for up-to-date information regarding company events.

- ✓ **Website:** [stagedoordancer.com](http://stagedoordancer.com)
- ✓ **#SDSDstrong Blog:** [stagedoordancer.com/news](http://stagedoordancer.com/news)
- ✓ **Studio Calendar:** [stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar](http://stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar)
- ✓ **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer](http://www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer)
- ✓ **Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/](http://www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/)
- ✓ **TikTok:** [www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny](http://www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny)
- ✓ **YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance](http://www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance)
- ✓ **SDSD Mobile App:** [www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsd-mobile-app/](http://www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsd-mobile-app/)

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent, and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

**Thank you for being a part of the SDSA Crew Program!**

# DATE SHEET



# STAGE DOOR SCHOOL OF DANCE

## SDSD CREW DATE SHEET 2023-2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>What</b>
Thursday, September 7, 2023	ALL DAY	First Day of SDSD Classes
Monday, October 2, 2023	6:00pm	SDSD weDance Crew Welcome Meeting via Zoom
Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	weDance Crew Mandatory Rehearsal
Saturday, March 2, 2024	3:00pm-6:00pm:	Panel Day, Large Group Dress Rehearsal
Friday, March 22-Sunday March 24, 2024	TBD	Competition: Long Island
Friday, May 3 -Sunday, May 5, 2024	TBD	Competition: Long Island
Thursday, May 9, 2024	4:45pm-6:00pm	weDance Crew End of Year Party
Tuesday, July 2, 2024:	6:00pm-8:00pm	4th of July Parade Rehearsal #2
Thursday, July 4th, 2024:	TBD	4th of July Parade (time TBD-morning)
Monday, July 8–Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024	TBD	Summer Classes

## STUDO CLOSURES

Monday, September 25, 2023	Yom Kippur
Monday, October 9, 2023	Indigenous Peoples Day
Tuesday, October 31, 2023	Halloween
Tuesday, November 21-Sunday November 26, 2024	Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, December 20-Monday, January 1, 2024	Winter Break
Monday, January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Day
Thursday, January 25, 2024	SDSD Administration Day Studio Closed
Monday, February 19-Sunday, February 25, 2024	Mid-Winter Break
Tuesday, March 26-Sunday, March 31, 2024	Easter Recess
Friday, April 19-Sunday, April 28, 2024	Spring Break
Wednesday, May 22-Monday May 27, 2024	Memorial Day Break

*\*Should you have any questions regarding any of the dates or events listed above please contact the Director, SDSD Crew Program Ms. Ashley Long at [wedance@stagedoordancer.com](mailto:wedance@stagedoordancer.com).*