



2023-2024 SEASON

KANVAS DANCE COMPANY

SHINE, TROOP, BIG BROADWAY, BIG TAP REQUIREMENTS, AUDITIONS, AND NOTES

Kanvas "Company" dancers include all of the following groups:

1. **Shine:** Shimmer, Glitter, Gold, Diamond and Elite Teams. These teams compete at 2- 3 regional dance competitions during the season, and travel to at least one convention per season. The Kanvas has Shine teams in Wamego and Council Grove. *If a dancer is unable to compete at the same level as the rest of the team in any given style, they may still be selected for the team but not be cast in ALL of the team routines.*

Glitter (Mini): Ages 6-8

Gold (Jr): Ages 8-11

Diamond (Teen): Ages 10-13

Elite (Sr): Ages 14+,

Elite dancers must meet all technical requirements and score within top 10.

2. **Big Tap:** All level 3 & 4 tappers are eligible for this! This routine is for Council Grove Recital only. This routine will require extra practice commitment in April and May. No audition required, no fees.

3. **Troop:** This is a hip hop only group that will take one large group hip hop routine to each competition. This routine will rehearse on some weekends November-March.

4. **Big Broadway:** For ages 7-18 at our Council Grove location. Our Glitter and Gold teams will compete with their Big Broadway musical theater routine. The Sr. Company, ages 14+, is considered "Big Broadway Jazz." These production routines perform at the end of the recital. The Sr. Company does not attend competition.

5. **Solos / Duets:** Solos & duets are considered part of our company. The technical, dress code, attendance guidelines, and expectations for behavior are the same as other company programs.

2023 Conventions:

All company dancers are required to attend at minimum 1 dance convention per season. These conventions will be listed on the company page of the website when they become available. Dancers are highly encouraged to attend as many conventions as possible. These are the most impactful learning experiences we have found for our dancers. Dance conventions can cost between \$100-\$300 depending on the length of the convention. NEW THIS YEAR: We plan to bring convention to our studio! Typically we travel in the fall, but we are working on plans to bring in guest instructors and master classes in September.



Community Performances:

Each community has events that our dancers get invited to perform at. Below are a few events we may be performing at this season. We will keep this list updated on our website on the Company page.

Wamego: Tulip Fest, 4th of July, Oztoberfest

Council Grove: Washunga Days, Seth Fest Oct. 14

Competitions: **For 2024:** We will attend 2 competitions as a full team, and 1 competition as optional. Our usual radius for travel is in the Kansas City, Wichita, Lawrence, Topeka areas. There may be options for Omaha, Tulsa, and OKC & National Events.



Class Requirements for Company:

1. Company dancers should have at least 3 credits of technique per week. This is to keep their bodies safe and give them the proper education for the stage they are performing on.

2. Company dancers should take class in the style they are performing with company:

Troop dancers should enroll in hip hop.

Shine & Big Broadway should enroll in Jazz, Lyrical/Contemporary/Tap, Musical Theater

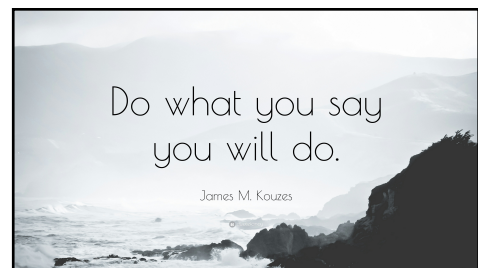
Solos/Duets: whatever style you are performing a solo in should be supplemented in lessons.

3. Team members should strive for perfect attendance for their team rehearsals. During the months of February and March, we ask for no requested absences for sports or other elected activities, as it creates a stress on the entire team that we try to avoid.

What is a “**technical class**” (also referred to as a “technique class”

The following classes have technique credit:

1. Ballet (Level 2-4): 1
2. Jazz (Level 2-4) : .5
3. Tap: .5
4. Contemporary (Level 2-4): .5
5. Turns and Leaps: .5
6. Yoga or Pilates: 1
7. Acro Dance (Levels 1-3): 1.5
8. 30 min technique class: .5
9. 60 min technique class: 1
10. Private lesson for technique: .5/week if taken twice a month.



“**Team Rehearsal**” is the scheduled times that the team is required to practice their routine, learn or adjust choreography, clean formations, and discuss team issues. Usually these are very short weekly practices, so dancers’ attendance plays a large role in how effective these practices are.



Cross Training Policy: Many dancers choose to participate in other sports and activities. The Kanvas supports this! However; we have tried many times and failed at cross-training with sports and activities in February and March and have found that it is too stressful as well as physically and



mentally taxing for children and adults alike to participate in Shine without a priority commitment to the Shine team. Should your dancer decide to participate in elected activities during the months of February and March, and these activities will prevent your child from attending their full load at the studio during that time, parents should inform Anneliese prior to auditions of their plans, and parents will need to provide a note, or e-mail from the conflicting activity director/coach that states they understand the dancer is required to attend all of their technique classes and team rehearsals for February and March and the coach will support the dancer during this time while they are cross training. Pulling kids in too many directions is not something the Kanvas supports. **If you do not feel like you can commit to this policy, we ask that you do not commit to the current season and let your dancer experience recreational dancing while they are cross-training.**

How much does it cost?

Dance is expensive. Competition dance is exponentially more expensive. Travel costs can be minimal if you plan accordingly and are resourceful, but can be quite pricy if you like to stay at hotels and go out to eat/shop. Please do not overcommit yourself financially. A child will not be able to enjoy themselves if their parent is continuously complaining about the costs associated with this sport. They will feel guilty, and we want them to feel joy. The below information is for you to get an idea of the expenses that come with the various options for Company and Competitive dance. Although our prices are considered low by industry standards, we recognize that it is in no way cheap and for most families they must consider if Company dance fits into their budget.

Troop: \$20/month tuition in addition to whatever tuition package you choose. A one time \$60-\$100 choreography fee per dancer (summer). Approximately \$130 in registration fees (for 2 competitions, approx. \$65 each), and one \$65-\$75 costume. We typically purchase "team shoes" between \$30-\$60.

Big Broadway: Tuition: \$150/month (includes all recreational, Big Broadway Choreography, Acro, and technique classes) \$65 costume for Musical Theater, \$65 costume for Big Tap, \$65 costume for Big Broadway. (Sometimes we try to re-use costumes for Big Broadway, we attempt to cut costs whenever possible, but we prefer to budget on the high end).

Shine: \$160/mo x 10 mo (\$1600/year) tuition includes all Kanvas classes (recreational & competitive, with the exception of private lessons/solos/duets) for your dancer in their age group and special rehearsals. Summer tuition: Varies, choreography fees for routines they elect for, strengthening and conditioning classes, private lessons. Audition fee: \$10/dancer. Costumes, \$60-\$65/routine. Competitions Registration Fees,



\$65/per group routine. Solos: \$135/routine. Conventions: \$130-\$350, must go to one per season.

Solos/Duets: Solo tuition is \$90/mo for every week, or \$45/mo for every other week. Competition registrations for solos are \$115-\$150/routine depending on the competition. Duets are \$60/mo per dancer for weekly lessons, and \$30/mo for alternating schedules. Costs for competition registrations are \$100-\$140 depending on the competition. Dancers can choose how many competitions their solos/duets attend. Audition fee: \$10.

Shine is a not-for-profit program. The Kanvas does not make a profit from Shine. Our fees are in place to avoid our teachers/studio from losing money when we attend competitions. Attending competitions is a way for us to push our students to their full potential and expose them to bigger and better learning opportunities. Money paid for Shine goes directly towards Registration Fees, Costumes, and Conventions, and Teachers/Choreographers, equipment maintenance, new equipment, curriculum, training, staff education, staff lodging during events, and travel stipends for food. All efforts are made to keep costs for this program at a minimum. We believe in being transparent about the fees that are charged, please know that only 10% of the fees you are charged for Shine stay with the studio and are spent covering expenses for coaches and the studio.

Time Commitment:

A substantial amount of time is required to adequately prepare for company productions and performances. Additional practices will most likely occur. Below is an idea of how much time will go into rehearsals, although this regularly changes slightly according to the needs of the team.

Troop: 1 day/week rehearsal, 30 min. Nov through March we will hold 1-3 weekend rehearsals a month, 1-3 hours long. (Usually less, but can be as much as this). Travel time should be considered for the 3 competitions. Choreography is learned in the summer or early fall. This will either be 1 day per week, or it will be a block of time when our choreographer is available. Busy time: November-March (Medium time commitment. Must attend with consistency!)

“
If you're interested,
you'll do what is
convenient; if you're
committed, you'll
do whatever it takes.
”



Big Broadway: Weekly rehearsal times, and extended rehearsals during recital week. (Low time commitment, however must attend consistently.)

Shine: A Shine dancer can expect at *minimum* 2 days/week at the studio, but most likely 3. If dancers are doing solos, duets, or special routines they will sometimes attend classes 4 days a week. Sometimes these nights can be only an hour, but sometimes they can be as long as 3 hours. We try our best to provide a balanced schedule for our dancers, but we cannot accommodate personal preferences for schedule. Private lessons can (in some circumstances) be purchased if the provided schedule does not work for a dancer. Please plan for the entire weekend to be filled on weekends of competition; although usually it is 1-2 days.

Busy time: Nov-Mar, July (For some) (High time commitment, must attend regularly!)

Solos/Duets/Trios: 1-2 days a week, 30 min-2 hr rehearsal. We will try to learn choreography in the summer if taking solo/duet to a competition for the following season.

Busy time: Nov-Mar, July (for some) (Medium time commitment, must attend regularly!)

Big Tap:

Will be taught IN CLASS for levels 3 and 4. No extra practice requirements for this performance; unless student exhibits a slip in execution of choreography or Big Tap Series. Requirements: must be enrolled in either tap 3 or tap 4 for the duration of the season, must purchase the costume for Big Tap. No additional costs. Extra rehearsal times during recital week. Time commitment: low, should attend consistently but is the most lenient for attendance of all of our company groups.





Company Auditions:

“Company” refers to our Shine teams, soloists, as well as our Big Broadway Production. Any dancers wishing to participate in this should mark their calendars for this year’s auditions.

Wamego Auditions: May 21 (Wamego Studio)

CG Auditions: June 11 (Council Grove Studio)

Ages 6-10: 2:00 p.m.

Hip Hop Troop* Glitter & Gold Shine *

Ages 11+ 3:30 p.m.

Hip hop Troop* Diamond / Elite Shine*

Solos/Duets/Trios (All ages) 4:30 p.m.

Solos: you choose your preferred style. The judge’s pick the songs based on your style choice. You will be asked to improv for 1 minute and judge on performance quality, transitions, lines and technique.

Duets / Trios: Please prepare a one minute combo of the song you wish to use for your 2024 piece, or similar style. (do not cut music). We will play your song on Spotify or YouTube. Judge’s will be looking for partners that work well together, have clever choreography, and excellent technical skills.

- * All Soloists and duets and trios must attend the entire audition, including group work and parent meetings.
- * Only the top 10 solos will be offered a spot for the 2023-2024 Season. Duet and Trio spots are limited.

A waitlist will be created for anyone wishing for a solo/duet that did not make the first round, and will be assigned on an instructor permission basis.

***Parent Meeting** 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the beginning of your dancer’s audition.

***Cost:** \$10/dancer (please attach to form, cash preferred)

***All Forms will be available on our website (company page) the week prior auditions.**

*Attends 2 regional dance competitions.



Parent Meetings:

Please attend your parent meeting, this will help us all to be on the same page. We will discuss the upcoming season, convention and competition schedules, team picture dates, guidelines and answer any questions.

Audition fee is \$10/dancer. (Please attach cash payment to registration form.)

*Dancers that cannot attend the audition may set up a private video audition for \$20.

Solos/Duets/Trio Auditions: In addition to attending group auditions, please plan to stay at the end of your session. Soloists will be asked to perform a 1 minute improvisation in the style they want to use. Duets/Trios will be asked to perform 4-8 eight counts or 1 minute (choreographed prior to audition by dancers) in the style they want to use.

Required Attire: Black Leotard, tights (nude), and all appropriate shoes (jazz, lyrical, contemporary, musical theater, tap). *Presentation is 25% of audition scores, please take this portion of the audition seriously!* **Hair: in a bun or clean tight pony tail.**

Important Notes for Company Dancers:

Shine:

Summer: Instead of summer intensives, we will have summer classes the month of July once or twice a week for some of our groups. We will learn choreography and work on Acro skills and Ballet/Jazz Technique. This has been incredibly helpful in reducing stress and the amount of weekend practices during the season. **It has also allowed dancers to be in other sports and activities like volleyball and cheer.**

-Attendance: Shine Dancers Must have 80% attendance each month in all of their classes. Attendance is the single most important thing you can help your dancer do to be successful. Showing up for themselves and their team teaches them accountability and resiliency.

****Parents: please schedule family vacations when we do not have performances or competitions. If this cannot be done, please inform us as early as possible so we can prepare an understudy for your dancer's part.**



DRESS CODE: All Company dancers must wear either a leotard, fitted dance top, or bra top to their technical classes and team rehearsals. *T-shirts, hoodies, loose fitting crop tops are not permitted in class. Dancers can wear leggings or tights/dance shorts. Dancers may not wear sweatpants or jeans to class. Dancers*



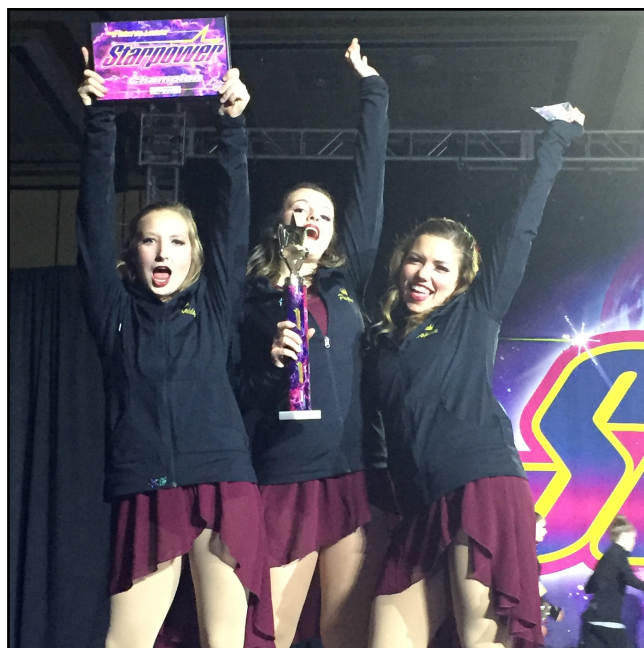
must wear their correct shoes. Please dress in compliance with Tiptoz Dress Code. (Proper footwear, dance wear, and hair) Dancers parent's will be notified if your dancer is not in compliance with drsesscode. They may be asked to go home and change.

-Behavior: We expect our company dancers to behave like young professionals at technical dance classes, team rehearsals, conventions, and competitions. (No tearing down of peers, fighting, rolling eyes at teachers, "back-talking" to teachers and coaches, or goofing off/ interrupting during classes. Behavior at competition: show up on time with all costumes and accessories, practice and warm up on your own, find your team and stay with them before your routines.)

-FUN! This should be fun! For everyone! We try to have lots of fun at practices, but we need your dancer to do their part with a good attitude! Teachers love what they do, but they need the support of the parents, even when things don't go the way as planned.

-Participation: Dancers will be expected not only to show up to classes and rehearsals, but also to participate. We have encountered issues this year with dancers attending but not participating., When a dancer is consistently in the mindset of being "injured", "in a bad mood", "tired" etc., they loose self motivation, and stop progressing. We encourage our dancers to push through feelings of tiredness, moodiness, bad days, sore, etc. A doctor's note is required to not participate in classes.

Please choose which competitions you want to participate in at registration for auditions. If you choose not to participate in all of the competitions, you may not be considered for certain teams/routines in which the others want to compete at all of the competitions. *In some circumstances we may use an alternate if a dancer knows they won't be at a given competition/ performance.*





Teacher/Student Communication:

For dancers ages 12 and under, all communication is through the parents and with the students in class. Parents can email the coaches with questions or concerns. Please use texting for short questions only - please do not send texts to coaches/teachers when you are angry. Coaches and Teachers will do the same.

Students in high school and middle school may text or call their instructors directly for everyday questions like "what do we wear" or "can you remind me what time this is". This is the most effective way to communicate in this day and age. One of the benefits of this type of communication is that it teaches children ownership in their own activities, and also teaches them how to have productive and appropriate interactions via text. However, some parents do not feel comfortable with their child having texting conversations with their teachers and coaches, and while we hope to stay out of the middle of these situations - we also want to be supportive and offer an open door policy with all texts. Parents with concerns should have conversations with their dancer first so they understand, and then communicate to the director about any requests. Please consider though - our teachers service and communicate with 300 students and it is difficult to remember everyone's personal preferences. Our coaches and teachers know when to involve parents, and when the matter at hand is acceptable to discuss with team members directly. Parents input will be requested when the coaches/teachers feel like it is necessary, but most communication with parents is informative in nature, not collaborative. We do encourage parents to ask questions for clarifications as there are many many details that can often go un-transcribed.

Young Adults: One of the coolest things about dance is how you can watch a child grow up! They become wiser, stronger and dance helps them with this SO much. Another thing that happens is...hormones! Middle school and high school are a tricky time for emotions, boundaries, and communication. Dance typically falls at the end of a long day of school, sports and social lives. Please let us know if your dancer is expressing concern about their dance classes - but also - please bear in mind that while every parent has the instinct to believe and protect their child - sometimes children will tend to mis-understand, take things personally, exaggerate, or tell a one sided story. They are moving from child to adult, and we want to help guide them during that transition. Our team is committed to loving these dancers, and doing what is best for them always. By being part of our Company, we can guarantee your child will encounter some disappointments and failure. However, it can make a difficult situation into an opportunity to grow if parents remain in the "teamwork" mindset.

Depression: We have noticed an increase in the number of students displaying signs of depression. Here are a few of the warning signs we see:

-Changes in sleep and/or appetite



- Difficulty concentrating/making decisions/remembering things
- Difficulty regulating emotions, crying regularly
- Withdrawn behavior, lack of interest in usual activities, not wanting to attend lessons
- Tiredness / Decreased energy
- Feelings of hopelessness/guilt, expressing anxiety
- Slowed speech, lethargic movement
- Acting out towards peers / teachers

Please let us know if you would like us to contact you if we notice these symptoms in your dancer! We do not want to overstep our role as a dance instructor and mentor, but we also want to help our student live happy, healthy lives!

-NEW NO PHONE POLICY:

We want our students to feel free to express themselves without the burden of incoming calls/texts that are sometimes disturbing and distracting. We will be asking ALL of our company dancers to turn in their phones and watches at the beginning of their classes. This was a HUGE issue for our middle and high school dancers, and we know they will not be happy about this, but we think it is in their best interest, and that everyone will get much more value from their time if phones are not being used during lesson times. We are also going to make note to see if removing phones from classes helps alleviate some of the depressive symptoms, and replaces them with the feel good endorphins released when dancing.



Dear Parents:

Thank you for considering Kanvas Dance Company and the Company program for your child. We hope that your dancer grows tremendously through this challenging, but rewarding dance program.

Our goal is to support your child and their family however we can while your dancer is involved with our company. We hope that you will also support us by helping your child get to their practices, and stay prepared for the season ahead. We promise to encourage your child to work hard, stay open minded, strive to learn, and strive to improve.

Everyone at the Kanvas will work to help your dancer succeed and enjoy being on Company. However, there will be times that will challenge not just the child, but also the parents. Schedules can get hairy, kids can get run down, and parents can get lost in the emails!

Our company program is not for profit. Our teachers pour their hearts and souls into these programs, and volunteer many unpaid hours of teaching, cleaning and choreographing and will typically invest more money into the program than they take home. Please be considerate of how much of their lives they devote to helping your child, and to making this program great. Please limit how much you text your instructors, while we are happy to answer questions, it is taxing on us to have parents constantly sending us text messages. Stop in and chat at the end of class, or email us a list of questions for better communication!

As the director of Kanvas and Kanvas Dance Company, I truly believe that our Company experiences help teach children so much more than dance. Below you will find a summary of our "culture" at the Kanvas

Yours in dance and art,

Anneliese Troxell
Kanvas Dance Co. Director



KANVAS DANCE COMPANY CULTURE

Family should come first.

Respect self, and others.

Promote a desire for learning and continued education

Provide performance opportunities

Open door, mutual trust policy

Connection between students and teachers

Provide bonding opportunities for families and friends

Measure growth and encourage tackling challenges with hard work

Less is more

Dress for success

Self Care & Healthy Decisions

Encourage dancers in all of their life endeavors

Explore inspiring and emotional topics through dance

Expose children to classical and iconic musical artists

Prepare dancers to create choreography, effectively audition, balance commitments, accept challenges, and live in the moment with dance.

Teaching kids to tune into their own energies

Body, mind and soul experiences

Empowering each other to succeed

Allowing kids the opportunity to fail

Encourage problem solving and conflict resolution

Building internal motivation

Living Active Lifestyles

Teamwork

Promote Responsibility, Creativity, & Integrity



2023-2024 Dates

(These are what we are currently planning, but especially the later dates can change)

SUMMER

May 21: Wamego Auditions

Pre-Enrollment Deadline

June 11: CG Auditions

Pre-Enrollment Deadline

July 5: Summer Choreography Classes Begin

August 1: Fall Enrollment (payments processed for pre-enrollment)

Aug 7-10: Studio Intensives & Team Choreography (Please block of these days from 8 am - 8 p.m., a more detailed schedule will follow.)

FALL

Sept. 17, Combined WA & CG Shine Team Kick-Off Party and Pictures

Oct. 7: Ozttoberfest, Wamego

Oct.14: Sethfest, Council Grove

WINTER

NEW: January 26-28 Radix Convention

Kansas City, MO

(One day: \$135-\$195)

(Weekend: \$196/Rookies, \$295)

Candlelight Charm: TEA Ballet / Nutcracker / Nov. 11th (Second Saturday)

December: We would like to perform at local retirement homes, dates TBA.

All Team Lock In- CG, Dec. 29 (This could change!)

SPRING:

Not all competitions have their dates up for next season yet. We typically compete the last weekend in February, or the first weekend in March. We also typically compete the last weekend in March, or first weekend in April. The last optional competition is typically the last weekend in April.



Kanvas Dance Company Dancer: Parental Agreement

➡ Dancers registering for Company: _____

Parents: please initial below that you have read and understood company policies.

Do you understand that your dancer is expected to attend 80% of all of the classes and rehearsals they commit to throughout the season, and that during the months of February & March, sports practices, games, meets, sleepovers or other elected activities are not an excusable absence from classes or rehearsals? (Spring break vacations are the exception)

➡ *Yes I understand this policy is in place for the good of the entire team and agree to help my dancer comply by supporting this policy.*_____

Do you understand that if your dancer is in middle school or high school, their coaches will be communicating directly with them through text messages in some circumstances in regards to team affairs, and if you wish for them not to be communicated with in this way it is your responsibility to communicate this up front with your dancer and their coach and set up alternative means of communication?

➡ *Yes I understand this policy is in place for the good of the entire team and agree to help my dancer comply by supporting this policy.*_____

Do you understand your dancer is expected to follow the guidelines in this document for professional behavior at events, respectful behavior in the classroom, and dress codes?

➡ *Yes I understand this policy is in place for the good of the entire team and agree to help my dancer comply by supporting this policy.*_____

I have read, understand, and agree to all of the expectations, costs, time commitments, and notes in the Kanvas Dance Company information packet.

Parent Signature: _____