

STARPOWER PERFORMING ARTS

Family Handbook

2015-2016 Season



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* Please note: Updated or additional information may be added as the year progresses.



Welcome



I am thrilled to welcome you to StarPower Performing Arts Studio and am so pleased that you've decided to be a part of our studio family. When I first opened the front doors of this studio, I knew the possibilities were endless. I could feel the energy of all the students that had come with us, and all those yet to come, and I knew these people were special. I think the continued success of the business is symbolic of the arts training we practice at SPAC: built on the solid foundation of centuries of tradition, we value technique, structure and discipline. But even the most solid foundations need diligent upkeep, provided here by the youthful energy of our students and their families. When our foundation is strong, we have the freedom to play, explore and grow.

I am so proud of the faculty and staff that we have and that will be joining the SPAC family this year. Not only are they professionals in their own fields, they are committed to creating a positive and nurturing learning environment. Many of them have long-standing relationships with our students already and are deeply invested in every young artist's development.

Again, welcome to the SPAC family. Whether you have been training with us for years or are walking through our doors for the very first time, I hope that you will have as much fun making the studio your home as I have.

Deanna

Deanna Duke
Owner + Director

Our Mission



StarPower Performing Arts Studio is a place for young people to grow into artists of integrity. Our top-of-the-line training program will nurture and challenge both recreational and pre-professional students to become their best selves. With faculty who understand that there is more to performing than pointing your toes and kicking high, we promise to support every student's development. We believe that discipline, respect and self-confidence walk

hand-in-hand with artistry and grace. We strive to offer a safe and positive learning environment, where individuals are valued for what they each have to offer. Most of all, we believe that artistry and community are interdependent and inseparable. Our studio is a second home to our students and we are committed to filling that home with fun, passion, and professionalism.

Commitment to Excellence

With many years of arts teaching experience, we are dedicated to developing talent at both the recreational and competition level. We provide every student a solid foundation for dance/voice/acting and help every student to discover their strengths and to reach their own personal potential.

Commitment to Inspire

We are all students of art, of performance, and of life. Through this shared learning experience, we strive to inspire our students and be inspired by our students. Living, learning, teaching, creating, and developing an appreciation for the performing arts.

Commitment to The Team

Together we learn and grow. Together we share the responsibility for building self-esteem and improving confidence. We place the highest value on respect – respect for each other and respect for ourselves.

Our hope is to provide each student with an experience that will be looked back upon as an important and special part of their life.

About The Director

Deanna duPont - Duke is the founding director of StarPower Performing Arts Studio. For over seventeen years, Deanna has been helping young people grow into artists by providing a nurturing environment in which to train, develop and be heard.

As the parent of a performer herself, Deanna initially opened the studio to help create a positive place for her own child, Alyssa, to study and further her arts education. Her venture was successful. Deanna's daughter is now a successful teacher and choreographer in Florida as well as choreographing and guest teaching for StarPower.

Deanna began in the arts at age 3 & appears in several films thanks to her mother having been a well known theatre professor & casting agent. She has taught vocal and acting and her vocal techniques are published nationally. She is a graduate of the Weist-Barron School of TV New York & the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in Hollywood. She attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts where she studied Music. She studied dance for 15 years and danced with the Alabama Ballet. She holds degrees in Psychology & Fine Arts. Deanna was named one of 2001 & 2011's "Who's Who In Professional & Business Women" and 2001 & 2004 "Personality of The Year" for Music. In continuing her arts education, Deanna became licensed in (SLS) Speech Level Singing & Speech Therapy for Singers. Her students have won numerous national awards & scholarships, received recording contracts, & landed professional gigs as well as being finalists on The Voice & in many Broadway tour companies. Deanna also taught voice in Nashville & is an Entertainment Rep for Artist Arena. She & her husband have been married for over 30 years & have 2 children & 4 grandchildren.

Deanna is mentor to all her students, believing very strongly that every child has something special to offer. Her greatest joy is advising students and helping them succeed in all aspects of their lives and, having supported her own daughter through the many joys and challenges of growing up in the arts, she is well positioned to mentor young people through everything from social conflicts to college auditions.

It can be very difficult to navigate the world of performing arts training. Deanna created SPAC to provide a safe, challenging, and professional space for students to explore their creativity, take risks, and excel. She believes if you put the positivity and heart into the process, the results will speak for themselves.

IMPORTANT SPAC POLICIES

Registration Form: All registration forms must be done on line and completed in order for your child's enrollment to be complete. Please make sure that you have read the information and understand all the terms and conditions. Please note: Returned checks will result in a \$35 fee.

Rights and Reservations: StarPower reserves the right to change or alter class dates and times based on scheduling needs. Cancellation and/or consolidation of classes may occur due to low enrollment. Clients will be given the opportunity to select another class, or receive a refund, should their preferred class become unavailable. We also reserve the right to place students in age and/or level appropriate classes at our discretion, based on the individual student's needs and progress.

Faculty and Substitute Teachers: Our teachers are highly qualified specialists in their respective fields and have been carefully selected to lead our program. StarPower feels very fortunate to have faculty of this caliber and is extremely supportive of teachers' professional careers outside of our studio. As a result, we understand that it may be necessary from time to time to bring in a substitute. However, we will ensure that all substitutes are also highly trained professionals, whether they are teaching on a short or long term basis.

Refunds: As stated on the studio website and your online profile, all registration fees are non-refundable. Additionally, no course fees even if you choose to withdraw your child from a class. This policy applies to all classes. All costume orders are non-refundable.

Weather Related Closings: Please check our website, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram pages for possible studio closings due to inclement weather or any other emergencies. We are unable to call each family individually to notify of unexpected closings but you should receive a mass text regarding these instances. You may also call us on the afternoon of a snow day to see if classes will be running as usual. We follow the Etowah County School schedule and their weather postings. All classes missed due to inclement weather will be re-scheduled. Please note: It is possible that company rehearsals may be called even if the studio is closed for regular classes.

Missed Classes and Make-ups: If your child is unable to make a class, please try to call ahead of time so that we can notify the instructor. Unless otherwise agreed upon, repeated and habitual absences are frowned upon and will be addressed individually. In most cases,

StarPower will allow make-ups for any private classes missed with a two hour notice of the absence before the class.

Private Lessons: Private lessons are contingent on studio and teacher availability, and are to be paid in advance. Please check with the desk for availability and rates. Private lessons are non-transferable between family members.

Private voice: Lessons are sold in month long packages. Private voice lessons MUST be cancelled and rescheduled at the front desk at least 2 hours in advance. It is your responsibility to reschedule the cancelled lesson. If not, the full amount of your lesson will be charged and no make up lesson will be scheduled. No refunds/credits will be given for any cancelled lessons. Should your teacher be unavailable for a scheduled lesson, the lesson may continue as planned with another of our highly qualified teachers or substitutes. Should we need to reschedule the lesson due to teacher scheduling conflicts, you will be notified as soon as possible and we will make three attempts to reschedule. Following that, the lesson will be considered cancelled.

Privacy Policy: Personal information collected by SPAC such as addresses, emergency contact and medical information, is for internal use only. It will not be shared with external organizations without your consent.

Child Safety: In order to ensure your child's safety, please notify the front desk if you are unable to pick up your child, and will be sending another adult to do so. If you are running late, please alert the front desk by phone as soon as possible. Younger students must be picked up in the reception area, not outdoors.

Credits: Any monetary credit in your account will be considered non- transferrable and will be honored for 12 months from the date of issue.

Annual Showcase: At the end of the year, students participate in a showcase featuring performers from all classes and levels. Showcase rules, logistics, and obligations will be made available to families as soon as they are finalized.



The StarPower Way

At STARPOWER, we believe that discipline, respect and self-confidence walk hand-in-hand with artistry and grace. Let's use these tools as our code of conduct and uphold The StarPower Way:

- * Arrive early and be ready/willing to work with a positive attitude.
- * Be prepared! Come to class with all necessary materials (shoes, dance clothes, voice binders, water and pencils).
- * Give instructors/assistants your attention.
- * Wear cover-ups and street shoes when not inside the studio. No dance shoes outside!
- * No cell phones on in class.
- * Keep your hands to yourself and maintain quiet while fellow performers are working.
- * If you are late or have to re-enter the room after class has begun, please wait until the music has stopped before entering. Please ask the instructor before leaving the room during class.
- * No food, gum, or drinks (other than water) inside the teaching area.
- * The barres are for exercises during class only
- * Please keep quiet in common areas being mindful that other classes might be underway and students may be doing homework.
- * Pick up after yourself. Take pride in your studio home! Throw out any garbage, food, drinks in the trash receptacles.
- * When you exit the building, make sure you have all of your belongings with you.
- * Support your fellow performers. This includes not directing or correcting other students no matter how helpful you think your suggestions might be.
- * Take and apply corrections from instructors willingly.

Parents and caregivers are role models for the children.

We ask that you set a good example by:

- * Reviewing this Family Handbook thoroughly
- * Checking website/social media/your account regularly to ensure you are informed about important studio and performance information.
- * Taking young children to the bathroom BEFORE class begins.
- * Labeling all shoes and dancewear with your child's name. Label all shoes on the inside.
- * Making arrangements with the front desk for make-up private classes.
- * Assisting us in keeping your children quiet in common areas.
- * Treating the front desk staff with respect and staying out of the office area.
- * Keeping in mind that teachers often have limited time between classes to talk. Should you need to speak to a teacher, it would be best to e-mail or set up an appointment. Teachers often have to run right back into the studio to teach another class, so their time is limited.

Student Dress CodeClass

Dress and Shoe Requirements

Company Team:

Girls: Any style dance clothes that has been pre-approved. No tights required.

Shoes: Team jazz shoes and or lyrical shoes required. Boots for hip hop.

Boys: Fitted tee with jazz pants or shorts. Shoes: Tan jazz shoes. Boots for hip hop.

Ballet

Girls: Hair in a bun. Black dance clothes and or leotard with pink tights. No skirts.

Shoes: Pink ballet shoes or Pointe shoes as per teacher.

Boys: Solid white tee with black tights or black shorts. Shoes: Black ballet shoes.

Jazz / Lyrical / Contemporary

Girls: Leotard or sports bra and dance shorts. tights are optional with dance shorts or jazz pants. Shoes: Tan slip-on jazz boots.

Boys: Fitted tee with jazz pants, sweatpants, or shorts. Shoes: Black slip-on jazz boots.

Tap

Girls: Any style dance clothes that is pre-approved. No tights required. Shoes: Tan tap shoes.

Boys: Solid color fitted tee with jazz pants, or shorts. Shoes: Tan tap shoes.

Hip Hop

Girls: Any style dance clothes that is pre-approved. Fitted clothing that you can move in. No tights required. Shoes: Black jazz sneakers or Company team hip hop boots.

Boys: Solid color fitted tee with jazz pants, sweatpants, or shorts. Shoes: Black jazz sneakers or company team boots.

- For ballet, hair must ALWAYS be worn in a bun. For all other classes, hair must be tidy and pulled away from the face in a high pony or other style suitable to hair length.

- Dance shoes are as important to class as proper attire. We ask that all students protect their property by labeling all shoes on the inside with the student's full name. Please do not wear your shoes outside of the dance studio.

-Please take care to wear proper clothing over your dancewear when coming to or leaving from the studio.