



2026-2027 SEASON INFORMATION

Company Goal: *Vibe Dance Company is for dancers who have a passion to learn, to dance well, and to work hard. Dancers prepare for competitions during their company classes, develop their skills in technique classes, and learn the foundation of all dance in their ballet class. This program offers a competitive dance team experience that places importance on commitment, encouragement, technique, and having fun. There is a specific emphasis on ballet, jazz, lyrical and contemporary dance styles.*

VIBE TEAM

Jennifer Hicks – Company Director
Alyssa Sugisawa – Assistant Director
Ashley Valencia – Assistant Director
Lainey Winter – Guest Artist

Company Placement Disclaimer: Company placements are determined based on each dancer's individual skill level, age, technical ability, work ethic, and overall readiness. Placement decisions are made with the best interest of both the individual dancer and the team in mind. Requests based on carpools, friendships, or preferred groupings, cannot be considered during the placement process.

Our goal is to place each dancer in an environment where they will be challenged appropriately, continue to grow, and build confidence without being pushed beyond their current level of readiness. These decisions are carefully made to support each dancer's long-term development and to create the strongest, most successful groups possible. Once lists are posted, the levels are final.

Company Levels: With the continued growth of our teen and senior dancers, we saw a wonderful opportunity to restructure our levels. This new structure is designed to give every dancer within their own group a chance to learn, grow and build confidence alongside others at a similar stage of development. With this structural change, we would like to introduce our new group levels: Mini, Junior, Teen, Teen Elite*, Senior and Senior Elite*.

**Teen Elite and Senior Elite dancers will compete at the Intermediate level. These dancers will be required to take an additional technique class of their choice through EPAA; Senior Elite dancers may choose to substitute high school dance hours (dance team or Orchesis) to meet this requirement.*

Vibe Schedule: This year's season runs August 2026-June 2027. Vibe company members meet weekly (schedule below). All-Company rehearsals are held one Sunday each month; these are noted on the season calendar.

Level	Mini	Junior	Teen	Teen Elite	Senior	Senior Elite
Studio	Admin A+B					
Staff	Vibe Directors	Vibe Directors	Vibe Directors	Vibe Directors	Vibe Directors/Guest Choreographer	Vibe Directors/Guest Choreographers
Day	Monday	Monday	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Time	5:15-7:15pm	5:15-7:15pm	7:15-9:15pm	7:15-9:15pm	7:30-9:30pm	7:30-9:30pm

NEW THIS SEASON: All Vibe Dancers are required to take a **ballet** class and a **jazz** class through Expressions Performing Arts Academy (EPAA). Our company rehearsals are where dancers learn, rehearse, and perform choreography, while our technique classes are where they grow as dancers by strengthening their fundamentals. Requiring ballet and jazz as part of our training ensures that dancers maintain a strong technical foundation while balancing choreography and becoming well-rounded performers. We strongly encourage all Vibe dancers to enroll in additional classes such as lyrical, flex/jumps/turns, and other technique classes within our program. Once you become a member of Vibe, EPAA is your home studio, and training within our program allows our instructors to provide consistent, well-rounded instruction that aligns with our company standards and goals. *Class fees for ballet and jazz will not be included in the company tuition this season, and dancers will be responsible for enrolling in these classes separately.*

Commitment: Vibe Dance Company is for dancers who have a passion to learn, to dance well, and to work hard. Students prepare for competitions during company rehearsals and develop their skills in technique classes. As part of the Vibe Company Member Agreement, company dancers are required to make a serious commitment to their directors and fellow team members. Dancers will be removed from company performances and competitions if they do not meet the expectations and requirements of a company member. While we love that our students are well-rounded and participate in many activities, it is very important that the company is a high priority. We strongly advise that both parent and dancer examine the calendar carefully before committing to VDC.

Competitions: Vibe will compete in four regional competitions March-May and one national competition in June. All competitions are in the Chicagoland area or in neighboring states within driving distance. Mini and Junior will learn two competition routines and will bring them both to all competitions; Teen will learn three competition routines and will bring two to each competition; Teen Elite and Senior will learn three competition routines and will bring all three to all competitions; and Senior Elite will learn four competition routines and will bring all four to all competitions. All Vibe dancers will also compete in the all-company piece, which will be rehearsed during the monthly all-company rehearsals.

Competition Schedules: Specific dates, some still tentative, are listed in the 2026-2027 Vibe Company Calendar below. We do not receive tentative or finalized schedules from competition hosts until 1 week prior to the competition date. We ask that dancers/families keep the weekends of competition available to accommodate for this.

Competition Etiquette: Dancers and family members are expected to always represent VDC in a professional manner, especially at competitions. Any questions or concerns regarding competitions should be addressed with the Vibe Company Director and/or the Cultural Arts Supervisor; dancers and families are not to contact competition staff directly.

Attendance: Attendance is not only imperative for personal growth as a company member, but it also affects fellow company members and staff. All mandatory rehearsals are just that—mandatory. Additionally, if a dancer accumulates excessive absences, they may not be permitted to participate in an upcoming company performance or competition. This could be in the form of removal from a dance, multiple dances, or portions of dances. No refunds are offered for any consequences resulting from excessive absences. ***If a dancer misses a mandatory rehearsal, they may be ineligible to compete in their group dances for the next competition.***

Injury: If a dancer is unable to dance due to injury, please immediately communicate the injury to the Vibe Company Director and Cultural Arts Supervisor along with a doctor's note, if necessary. Please plan to attend your required ballet and jazz classes and Vibe rehearsals as an observer: this keeps the dancer aware of changes and corrections and does not count as an absence.

Required Ballet & Jazz Classes: Company members are required to take a ballet class and a jazz class in addition to their weekly Vibe rehearsal. *Class fees for ballet and jazz will not be included in the company tuition this season, and dancers will be responsible for enrolling in these classes separately.* Those unsure of their proper level should contact the Cultural Arts Coordinator for an evaluation.

TUITION & SPECIALTY FEES

Vibe Tuition: Vibe tuition is an all-inclusive fee that varies by level. Tuition includes weekly level rehearsals and monthly all-company rehearsals; all competition entry fees for each level's total number of routines, along with their costumes; competition media fees; admission fees for special events and performances; 2027 Dance Recital t-shirt and Vibe Showcase digital download; annual holiday party and banquet; company accessory kit, including tights and garment bags; Vibe 26-27 gear; and Vibe individual and company photos. Tuition can be paid in full (5% discount) or in 9 monthly installments, August 15, 2026 – April 15, 2027. ***A \$500 registration fee is due upon acceptance and is included in the tuition fee below. A registration form with instructions for payment will be sent out after all spots have been accepted.***

Optional Specialties (solos, duets, trios & small groups): Vibe members are invited to take part in solos, duets, trios and/or small groups for competitions. Dancers are not required to accept this invitation in addition to being a part of the company pieces. Those that accept the invitation to do an additional competition piece will be responsible for an additional fee that will cover up to 4 hours of instruction choreography/rehearsal time, a choreography fee, costume fees, and competition fees. ***PLEASE NOTE:*** While dancers may request their style and fellow dancer(s), there are no guarantees; dancers will be assigned choreographer, style, partners/group, and music based on where the Vibe team feels everyone fits best.

26-27 VIBE TUITION

<i>Mini & Junior</i>	<i>Teen</i>	<i>Teen Elite</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Senior Elite</i>
\$3,019	\$3,109	\$3,479	\$3,479	\$3,939

2026-2027 VIBE DANCE COMPANY CALENDAR

August	- Fri, 7/31 – 5pm – Acceptance & Deposit Due (<i>Online</i>) - Sun, 8/23 – 12:00-12:30pm – *NEW MEMBER* Parent Meeting (<i>Pioneer</i>) - Sun, 8/23 – 12:30-1:30pm – All Parent Meeting & Dancer Welcome (<i>Pioneer</i>) - Sun, 8/23 – 1:30-3:30pm – 1st All Company Rehearsal (<i>Pioneer</i>) - Mon, 8/24 – Tues, 8/25 – Rehearsals Begin (<i>Admin A + B</i>)
September	- Mon, 9/7 – NO VIBE REHEARSALS - Tues, 9/8 – 2026-2027 EPAA Dance Season Begins - Sat, 9/12 – 3:30-6:30pm – Company & Individual Photo Day (<i>Location TBD</i>) - Sun, 9/13 – 3:00-5:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Pioneer</i>) - Sun, 9/13 – 5:00pm – Vibe Family Tailgate (<i>Pioneer</i>)
October	- Sat, 10/10 – 10:00-11:30am – Autumn Harvest Performance (<i>NSP</i>) - Sun, 10/11 – 9:00am-5:00pm – *OPTIONAL* – ADC Convention (<i>Chicago, IL</i>) - Sun, 10/18 – 1:00-3:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Mon, 10/19 – Tuesday 10/20 – Dance with Your Vibe Sister Week (<i>Admin A+B</i>)
November	- TBD – Windy City Bulls Performance (<i>NOW Arena</i>) - Sun, 11/15 – 1:00-3:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Mon, 11/23 – Sun, 11/29 – EPAA Thanksgiving Break - Tues, 11/24 – 4:30-6:15pm – Feed My Starving Children (<i>FMSC Warehouse</i>) - Fri, 11/27 – 3:30-5:00pm – AH Tree Lighting Performance (<i>NSP</i>)
December	- Sun, 12/13 – 1:00pm-3:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Mon, 12/14 – Sun, 1/3 – EPAA Holiday Break - Mon, 12/21 – 4:00-7:00pm – Holiday Party (<i>Location TBD</i>)
January	- Mon, 1/4 – EPAA Classes & Vibe Rehearsals Resume - Sun, 1/10 – 1:00-3:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A+B</i>)
February	- Sun, 2/21 – 1:00-2:30pm – AH Senior Center Performance (<i>AHSC</i>) - Sun, 2/21 -- 3:00-5:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A +B</i>) - Mon, 2/22 – Tues, 2/23 – Costume Prep @ Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>)
March	- Mon, 3/1 – Tues, 3/2 – Costume Prep @ Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Sun, 3/7 – 1:00-5:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Location TBD</i>) - Mon, 3/8 – Tues, 3/9 – *MANDATORY* Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Fri, 3/12 – Sun, 3/14 – REGIONALS COMPETITION WEEKEND #1 (<i>Location TBD</i>) - Sun, 3/21 – Sun, 4/4 – EPAA Spring Break
April	- Mon, 3/29 – Vibe Rehearsals Resume - Wed, 3/31 – 7:00-8:00pm – All Company Rehearsal (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Mon, 4/5 – Tues, 4/6 – *MANDATORY* Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Fri, 4/9 – Sun, 4/11 – REGIONALS COMPETITION WEEKEND #2 (<i>Location TBD</i>) - Mon, 4/19 – Tues, 4/20 – *MANDATORY* Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Fri, 4/23 – 4/25 – REGIONALS COMPETITION WEEKEND #3 (<i>Location TBD</i>) - Mon, 4/26 – Tues, 4/27 – *MANDATORY* Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>)
May	- Fri, 4/30 – Sun, 5/2 – REGIONALS COMPETITION WEEKEND #4 (<i>Location TBD</i>) - TBD – Six Flags Dance Fest Performance (<i>Gurnee</i>) - Sat, 5/22 – Thurs, 5/27 – EPAA Dance Recital Dress Rehearsal Week (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Mon, 5/24 – Vibe Costume Picture Day (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Tues, 5/25 – Tues, 6/1 – NO VIBE REHEARSALS
June	- Fri, 6/4 – Sat, 6/5 – EPAA Dance Recitals (<i>St. Viator HS</i>) - Sun, 6/6 – 2:00-5:00pm (call times beginning at 12:30) – Vibe Showcase (<i>St. Viator HS</i>) - Mon, 6/7 – Tues, 6/8 – NO VIBE REHEARSALS - Tues, 6/8 – 6:00-9:00pm – End-of-Year Banquet (<i>ALGC</i>) - Mon, 6/14 – EPAA Summer Dance Begins - Mon, 6/21 – Tues, 6/22 – *MANDATORY* Rehearsals (<i>Admin A+B</i>) - Thurs, 6/24 – Sun, 6/27 – NATIONALS COMPETITION WEEKEND (<i>Location TBD</i>)

This calendar is subject to change. There may be additional company events announced or removed throughout the 26-27 season.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Mini & Junior	Mondays	5:15-7:15pm	<i>Admin A+B</i>
Teen & Teen Elite	Mondays	7:15pm-9:15pm	<i>Admin A+B</i>
Senior & Senior Elite	Tuesdays	7:30-9:30pm	<i>Admin A+B</i>

Event Locations & AHPD Facility Key

Feed My Starving Children Warehouse	740 Wiley Farm Ct., Schaumburg
NOW Arena	5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy., Hoffman Estates
Six Flags Great America	1 Great America Pkwy., Gurnee
St. Viator High School	1213 E Oakton St., Arlington Heights

(Admin A+B)	Administration Center – Annex & Lower Level	410 N Arlington Heights Rd.
(AHSC)	Arlington Heights Senior Center	1801 W Central Rd.
(ALGC)	Arlington Lakes Golf Club	1211 S. New Wilke Rd.
(Camelot)	Camelot Park Community Center	1005 E Suffield Dr.
(NSP)	North School Park – Amphitheater	307 N Evergreen Ave.
(Pioneer)	Pioneer Community Center	500 S Fernandez Ave.

Contact

Jennifer Hicks, Vibe Director	847.398.4339	Vibe@ahpd.org
Kate Schwarz, Cultural Arts Supervisor	847.506.7872	KSchwarz@ahpd.org
Amy Braheny, Cultural Arts Coordinator	847.506.7147	ABraheny@ahpd.org

Parent Previews

Parents are invited to preview their dancers' group dances prior to the company's first competition:

Mini/Junior	Monday, 2/15	6:45pm	<i>Admin A</i>
Teen/Teen Elite	Monday, 2/15	8:45pm	<i>Admin A</i>
Senior/Senior Elite	Tuesday, 2/16	9:00pm	<i>Admin A</i>