



Updated 08/29

Welcome to the Ormao Student Company 2026/2027

WELCOME! OFC: Ormao Foundations Company (Beginning ages 7-11)

OYC: Ormao Youth Company (Intermediate ages 10-13)

OJC: Ormao Junior Company (Intermediate ages 13-18)

OSC: Ormao Senior Company (Advanced ages 14-18)

Ormao's Mission

Ormao's mission statement is threefold:

- To provoke, challenge, and entertain those in our community and beyond through the creative language of dance.
- To encourage diversity and experimentation in the arts.
- To enrich and enhance cultural opportunities within southern Colorado's communities and schools by spear-heading initiatives that bring dance to the public and programs that educate people of all ages.

The Student Company Journey

Students begin by developing their artistry, technique, and confidence alongside their peers. As they grow, they gain opportunities to perform, create original work, collaborate with guest artists, and engage with the community through dance.

Many students continue their dance education in college, pursue professional opportunities, or return to Ormao as teachers, choreographers, performers, and mentors for future generations.

Every journey begins with one step—and one question: **What if?**

Company Expectations

Our Community Expectations

At Ormao, being a Student Company dancer means becoming part of something bigger than yourself. Our Student Company is built on respect, curiosity, teamwork, and a shared commitment to learning. Every dancer plays an important role in creating a positive environment where everyone can grow. What if you challenged yourself? What if you encouraged a teammate? What if you discovered strengths you never knew you had? Growth begins when you are willing to try.

We Grow Together

Student Company dancers are held to the same standards of professionalism, responsibility, and respect practiced within Ormao's professional company. These expectations are not about perfection - they are about building habits that will serve you both inside and outside the studio.

As a member of our community, we ask you to:

- Arrive prepared, on time, and ready to learn.
- Attend classes, rehearsals, and performances consistently, knowing your presence supports your entire team.
- Treat yourself, your classmates, instructors, and our studio with kindness and respect.
- Practice leadership through encouragement, responsibility, and service to others.
- Bring a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. Every class is an opportunity to improve your craft.
- Give your best effort in every class, rehearsal, performance, and experience.
- Listen carefully, retain choreography, and apply corrections with focus and determination.
- Support the performing arts by attending performances whenever possible. Company students receive BOGO tickets to Ormao professional performances because great artists continue learning by watching others create.

Dress for Success

Being prepared allows you to focus on learning.

- Arrive dressed in appropriate athletic dance attire with no loose jewelry.
- Hair should be secured neatly before class begins. Ballet requires a bun, while Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, and Tap may be worn in a ponytail or another instructor-approved style.
- Bring all required dance shoes, journals, and any additional class materials.
- Cell phones and smart watches should be stored away during class so everyone can remain fully present and engaged.

Caring for Your Body

Your body is your instrument. Taking care of it helps you continue growing as a dancer.

- Fuel yourself with healthy meals and snacks throughout the day.
- Bring a large, full water bottle to every class.
- Snacks may be enjoyed between classes and only with instructor permission. Our community snack basket is available for students dancing multiple consecutive hours without a dinner break. Families who wish to contribute individually packaged snacks such as granola bars, trail mix, fruit snacks, or crackers are always appreciated.
- Smoking, vaping, alcohol, and illegal drug use are not permitted.

We Support the Whole Dancer

Dance is one part of who you are. We celebrate your interests both inside and outside the studio and encourage you to pursue opportunities that help you grow as a well-rounded individual.

If you are participating in school activities, theater productions, choir, athletics, clubs, or other extracurricular commitments, please communicate with your directors. We want to support your goals, celebrate your accomplishments, and help you balance the opportunities that matter most to you.

Commitment & Attendance

Being a member of the Ormao Student Company means becoming part of a community that depends on one another. Every class, rehearsal, performance, and volunteer opportunity is an opportunity to grow—not only as a dancer, but also as a teammate, leader, and individual.

Our Student Company season runs from **August 24, 2026, through the June 2027 Recital**. By accepting a place in the company, dancers commit to participating fully in the training, rehearsals, performances, and experiences that make our community stronger.

At Ormao, showing up is about more than attendance—it is how we build trust, strengthen our community, and create opportunities for everyone to grow. When one dancer is absent, the entire group is affected. Choreography, partnering, formations, and artistic growth all depend on each member being present and prepared.

Attendance Guidelines

To support both individual and team success, the following attendance expectations apply:

- Each student is allotted **6 absences per semester**.
 - **Fall Semester:** August 24 – December 19, 2026
 - **Spring Semester:** January 4 – June 2027 Recital
- Missing one class or an entire day of scheduled company activities counts as **one absence**.
- **Three tardies equal one absence.**
- Missing choreography rehearsals may result in losing the opportunity to perform choreography learned during that rehearsal.
- Planned absences during the week leading up to a performance are not permitted.
- Absences or tardiness for dress rehearsals may result in removal from that performance, as these rehearsals are essential for the safety and success of the entire production.

If a student exceeds the allotted absences, a conference with the student, family, and company director will be scheduled to discuss continued participation in the Student Company. When appropriate, directors may offer make-up assignments to help students regain missed learning opportunities.

Communication Matters

We understand that life brings unexpected circumstances. Open and timely communication allows us to support both the individual dancer and the company.

Please report all absences by emailing ormaodance@gmail.com and notifying your Company Director.

The following absences, when communicated **at least one week in advance**, will not result in attendance repercussions:

- School-sanctioned academic events or activities required for a grade
- Pre-planned extracurricular commitments such as theater productions, choir performances, school clubs, or athletic events
- Contagious illness

The following situations may result in attendance repercussions, particularly when communication is delayed or not provided in advance:

- Homework or studying
- Minor, non-contagious illness (including headaches or menstrual discomfort)
- Social activities such as football games, school dances, family gatherings, or other optional events

Classes & Training

Enroll **ONLY** in the selected Company group time slot OFC, OYC, OJC, or OSC. Ormao will register you for the required technique classes and your weekly schedule will appear in your online portal calendar. If your student wishes to enroll in any additional classes, please alert Ormao via email ormaodance@gmail.com.

OFC Required Classes (Beginning Level 2 technique)

- Tuesday: Ballet/ Modern 5:30-6:30pm
- Tuesday: OFC rehearsal 6:30-7:30pm
- Thursday: Ballet/ Jazz 5:30-6:30pm
- Friday: Occasional pre-scheduled company rehearsals 4:00-6:45pm

OYC Required Classes (Intermediate Level 2 technique)

- Monday: Ballet 5:00-6:30pm
- Monday: OYC rehearsal 6:30-7:30pm
- Wednesday: Jazz/ Modern 5:00-6:30pm
- Wednesday: OYC rehearsal 6:30-7:30pm
- Friday: Occasional pre-scheduled company rehearsals 4:00-6:45pm

OJC Required Classes (level 3 technique)

- Tuesday: Ballet 4:00-5:15pm
- Tuesday: OJC rehearsal 5:15-6:15pm
- Tuesday: Jazz 6:15-7:30pm
- Thursday: Ballet 4:00-5:15pm
- Thursday: Modern/ Contemporary 5:15-6:30pm
- Friday: OJC rehearsals 4:00-6:45

OSC Required Classes (level 4 technique)

- Monday: Ballet 4:00-5:15pm
- Monday: Modern/ Contemporary 5:15-6:30pm
- Monday: OSC weekly meeting 6:30-6:45pm
- Wednesday: Beginning Pointe 4:00-5:15pm
- Wednesday: OSC Rehearsal 5:15-6:15pm
- Wednesday: Jazz 6:15-7:30pm
- Friday: OSC rehearsals 4:00-6:45pm

Performances

At Ormao, performing is more than stepping onto a stage—it is an opportunity to share your growth, creativity, and hard work with your community. Every performance represents the commitment of each dancer, instructor, volunteer, and family member who helped bring the experience to life. When we perform together, we support one another, celebrate our progress, and discover what is possible when everyone contributes their best.

To help every performance run smoothly, Student Company dancers are expected to:

- Attend all required dress rehearsals. Dress rehearsals are essential to the success and safety of every performance. Absences or excessive tardiness may result in removal from the performance.
- Arrive with all costumes, dance shoes, and accessories clean, organized, and performance-ready. Hang costumes to prevent wrinkles whenever possible.
- Label all costumes, shoes, and personal belongings with your name or initials to help prevent misplaced items.
- Bring a laundry basket or designated costume bag to keep worn costumes organized between dances.
- Bring all required hair supplies and makeup, and arrive prepared to complete your assigned performance look.
- Leave jewelry, electronics, and other valuables at home whenever possible, as dressing rooms remain open throughout performances.
- Know your choreography, apply your corrections, and perform each piece with confidence, focus, and respect for your teammates.
- Choose backstage snacks that provide lasting energy. Please save meals for scheduled breaks and avoid candy or messy foods backstage.
- Bring a covered, refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout rehearsals and performances.

Success comes from supporting one another, embracing the process, and sharing the joy of dance with our community.

Tuition & Financial Information

Tuition supports high-quality dance instruction, meaningful performance opportunities, mentorship from experienced educators, and a welcoming community where students can explore their potential and discover where dance can take them.

Fall & Spring Tuition

Student Company tuition is paid through **monthly ACH automatic withdrawal** over **9 months** (August 24, 2026 – June 2027 Recital).

Foundations Company (OFC) \$220 per month

- Includes all required Company classes and rehearsals
- Includes **1 hour of optional technique classes** each week

Youth Company (OYC) \$240 per month

- Includes all required Company classes and rehearsals
- Includes **1 hour of optional technique classes** each week

Junior Company (OJC) \$365 per month

- Includes all required Company classes and rehearsals
- Includes **2 hours of optional technique classes** each week

Senior Company (OSC) \$365 per month

- Includes all required Company classes and rehearsals
- Includes **2 hours of optional technique classes** each week

Summer Training

Learning never ends. Summer classes provide an opportunity for dancers to continue building strength, technique, and confidence while maintaining the progress they've made throughout the school year.

To provide flexibility for family schedules and vacations, Summer classes are offered on a **drop-in basis** rather than monthly tuition. Families only pay for the classes their student attends.

Summer Session: June 14 – August 14, 2027

Summer tuition:

- **\$20** per 1-hour class
- **\$25** per 1.5-hour class

Dance Cards:

- **10 Classes:** \$180
- **20 Classes:** \$340

Dance cards are valid only during the Summer session and are non-refundable after the session concludes.

Guardians are responsible for pre-registering Summer classes through the online parent portal. Monthly ACH tuition is not available during the Summer session.

Company Costumes

Performances are an important part of the Student Company experience, and we strive to make costume expenses as affordable as possible. Whenever appropriate, we reuse Ormao costumes to reduce costs while maintaining a polished, professional appearance on stage.

A **\$15 costume rental fee** helps cover laundering, alterations, repairs, embellishments, and costume maintenance. When new costumes are needed, we carefully research cost-effective options while maintaining the artistic integrity of each performance.

Families can expect to pay **no more than \$200** for Student Company costumes throughout the year, not including Recital costumes.

Estimated Costume Fees

- **Halloween Spooktacular**
Fee Due: October 3
Estimated Cost: **\$30–\$50**
- **Holiday Who-pla**
Fee Due: November 10
Estimated Cost: **\$30–\$50**
- **Company Showcase**
Fee Due: February 10
Estimated Cost: **\$100–\$200**
- **Recital Costumes**
Fee Due: March 10
Estimated Cost: **\$30–\$60 per costume**

Ormao Apparel

Being part of the Student Company means belonging to a community of dancers who encourage and inspire one another. Families will have two opportunities each year—Fall and Spring—to purchase official Ormao apparel and celebrate their connection to our community.

In Need Fund

Ormao believes every student deserves the opportunity to grow through dance. Our **In Need Fund** was created to help reduce financial barriers for families by assisting with expenses such as guest choreographer and company costume fees.

An application process was developed to ensure support is distributed thoughtfully and equitably. If your family would benefit from financial assistance, or if you would like to contribute to helping another dancer continue their journey, please contact the Ormao office for more information.

Additional Opportunities (CoDEO, NHSDA, Pre-Pointe, Guest Artists, etc.)

At Ormao, learning extends far beyond weekly classes and performances. As students grow through the Student Company, they are invited to explore new experiences that expand their artistry, strengthen their leadership, and deepen their connection to the dance community.

Guest Choreographers

Working with guest choreographers allows students to experience new artistic voices, creative processes, and movement styles while learning how to adapt, collaborate, and grow as versatile dancers.

Each company can expect the following guest artist experiences during the school year:

- **Foundations Company (OFC):** Choreography led by your primary Company Director.
- **Youth Company (OYC):** One guest choreographer.
- **Junior Company (OJC):** One to two guest choreographers.
- **Senior Company (OSC):** Two to three guest choreographers.

Attendance at all guest choreography rehearsals is expected. These artists are invited to invest in our dancers, and every rehearsal is an important part of the creative process. Students who are unable to participate may be assigned an understudy role for that work.

Guest choreographer fees support the artists' time, expertise, choreography, rehearsal instruction, and creative work. Fees vary based on the artist's credentials and will **not exceed \$500 total throughout the school year**.

Junior and Senior Company dancers have the opportunity to attend the annual Colorado Dance Education Organization (CoDEO) Conference.

This inspiring weekend brings together dancers and educators from across Colorado to learn, collaborate, and celebrate dance in an inclusive environment. Students participate in classes taught by professional artists covering subjects such as ballet, modern, jazz, multicultural dance, anatomy, pedagogy, audition preparation, and more.

Ormao's Junior and Senior Companies also perform in the conference's Opening Showcase and learn new choreography to present in the Closing Showcase.

CoDEO encourages students to build confidence, expand their perspective, and discover new possibilities within the dance community.

Conference Dates: January 17–18

Estimated Cost: \$150–\$175

Fee Due: November 10, 2026

National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA)

Ormao proudly hosts a chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) for students in grades 9–12. NHSDA recognizes students who demonstrate artistic achievement, leadership, academic excellence, and dedication to dance education. Students who earn sufficient points graduate with Honors in Dance, a lifelong distinction that strengthens college applications, resumes, and professional portfolios.

For students considering careers in dance—or simply wishing to challenge themselves as leaders and scholars—NHSDA is an opportunity to celebrate the many ways dance prepares us for the future.

Students interested in joining NHSDA are encouraged to speak with an instructor for additional information.

Ormao Pointe Program

The journey to dancing en pointe begins long before wearing pointe shoes.

Our Pointe Program helps dancers safely develop the strength, alignment, technique, and body awareness needed for this important milestone. Students earn the opportunity to begin pointe work through consistent training and demonstrated readiness.

Pointe is available to Level 3 and Level 4 dancers who successfully complete a readiness evaluation.

Pointe will look different this year. Our goal is to develop pointe technique in and out of the ongoing Ballet technique practice and with this in mind pointe will be held on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 in place of the regular Ballet 4 timeslot.

For level 3 and 4 students who have earned their pointe shoes, students will practice regular pointe technique during this new class. For level 3 and 4 students who have not earned their pointe shoes, this class will provide pre-pointe technique and Ballet technique that supports their progress towards dancing on pointe. For students not interested in pointe technique, this class will serve as an additional Ballet technique class with the option of pointe work.

This new class is included in the required classes for level 4 students. For level 3 students, Pointe may be included within the additional technique hours provided in the Junior and Senior Company tuition. Students exceeding those included hours will be charged an additional **\$65 per month**.

Students are **not** required to purchase pointe shoes until they have demonstrated the strength and technique necessary to begin pointe training.

Students should attend class wearing their regular ballet attire with hair secured neatly. Participants will also purchase *The Pointe Book* as part of the curriculum. All additional instructional materials will be provided by Ormao.

Dance Diversity Master Classes

At Ormao, we believe every dance tradition has something valuable to teach us. Exploring diverse movement styles helps students become more thoughtful artists while fostering curiosity, respect, and appreciation for cultures and communities different from our own. Dance Diversity classes are now offered as quarterly **Master Classes**, providing students with opportunities to study a variety of cultural dance forms with experienced guest instructors. Dates are announced throughout the year as guest artists are confirmed. Families are encouraged to prioritize attendance whenever possible, as these classes are an important part of the Student Company experience.

Students are welcome to invite family members and friends to participate in many of these community-centered events as we continue learning together. These opportunities help build confidence, curiosity, and leadership that extend far beyond the studio.

Family Partnership

At Ormao, we believe a student's journey is strongest when families, instructors, and dancers work together. The Student Company is more than a dance program—it's a community where students are encouraged to discover where they belong, grow with confidence, and build skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Your partnership plays an important role in making that journey possible.

Throughout the season, families support the Student Company in many ways, including volunteering at events, assisting with transportation, helping move props, ushering audiences, participating in fundraising efforts, and encouraging dancers as they prepare for performances. Every contribution, big or small, helps create meaningful experiences for our students and our community.

We also encourage families to remain actively involved in their dancer's education by:

- Maintaining open communication with Company Directors.
- Promptly communicating absences, illnesses, or schedule conflicts.
- Staying informed through the Parent Portal and studio communications.
- Watching rehearsals and performances whenever appropriate.
- Celebrating progress, effort, and personal growth both inside and outside the studio.

At Ormao, questions are always welcome, and feedback is valued. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive environment where students, families, and staff communicate openly and work together to support every dancer's success.

Communication

Strong communication helps our Student Company community thrive. We believe students grow best when families, directors, and instructors stay connected, informed, and engaged throughout the season.

We are committed to providing timely, consistent communication so your family knows what to expect and feels supported every step of the journey.

Email

Email is our primary method of communication with Student Company families.

Each month, Ormao sends a newsletter highlighting important dates, upcoming performances, rehearsals, opportunities, and reminders. During performance weeks or special events, Company Directors will send additional emails with detailed schedules and event-specific information.

To report an absence, please email ormaodance@gmail.com as early as possible. Advance communication allows us to notify instructors, update our attendance records, and prepare for any necessary adjustments.

Text Messaging

Text messaging is reserved for time-sensitive or urgent communication.

Examples include:

- Your dancer is running late.
- Your dancer needs to leave early.
- You need assistance locating a rehearsal or performance venue.
- Another unexpected situation requiring immediate communication.

Once Company casting is complete, Directors will create group text messages for each Student Company to share important reminders and updates.

Directors will respond to non-emergency text messages within **24 hours** whenever possible.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is the central hub for Student Company information.

Families can use the portal to:

- View class and rehearsal schedules
- Access announcements and important updates
- Review tuition and billing information
- Check attendance records
- View the studio calendar and upcoming events

We encourage families to log in at least twice each month to stay informed. Downloading the Parent Portal app provides quick and convenient access wherever you are.

Student Company Website

The Student Company webpage serves as a year-round resource for Company families.

You'll find:

- Performance schedules
- Event calendars
- Ticket information
- Student Company updates
- Important forms and resources
- Additional opportunities throughout the season

To access the page, visit:

www.ormaodance.org → **Classes & Training → **Student Company** → **Student Company 2026–2027****

We recommend bookmarking the page for easy access throughout the year.

At Ormao, communication is more than sharing information—it is how we build relationships, strengthen our community, and support every dancer as they continue to grow. We look forward to partnering with your family throughout the season and discovering together what is possible through dance.

Expectations and Guidelines

Expectations: Student & Guardian Initial

- _____ I will arrive prepared, on time, and ready to learn.
- _____ I will attend classes, rehearsals, and performances consistently, knowing my presence supports my entire team.
- _____ I will treat myself, my classmates, instructors, and our studio with kindness and respect.
- _____ I will bring a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.
- _____ I will give my best effort in every class, rehearsal, performance, and experience.
- _____ I will listen carefully, retain choreography, and apply corrections with focus and determination.
- _____ I will support the performing arts by attending performances whenever possible.
- _____ I will fuel myself with healthy meals and snacks throughout the day.
- _____ I will refrain from smoking, vaping, alcohol, and illegal drug use are not permitted.

My Commitment

I _____ am committing to fulfill participation in the 2026/ 2027 Student Company Program.
(Student Name)

I will do my best to make Student Company top priority among other activities. I will fulfill the expectations of my director and my peers to make an effort to reach my full potential.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Director Signature _____

Date _____

School Year 2026-2027

All dates and times are subject to change. This calendar provides an outline
for when you can expect calendar events.

Studio Closed **Company Shows/Dress Rehearsals** **Company Team Building/Volunteer Opportunities**
Additional Payments Due

AUGUST

Aug 7 Student Company Auditions 1:00-4:00pm

Aug 24 Fall Classes Begin

Aug 28 Company Orientation (All Company students *AND* parents invited)
Students 4:00-5:00, Students & Guardians 5:00-6:45

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7 Studio Closed (Labor Day)

Sep 18 All Company movie night and rehearsal, NHSDA meeting

Sep OJC & OSC Guest Choreographer rehearsal and payment due

Sep 14-19: Open House Week: Bring a Friend

OCTOBER

Oct 10 Halloween show Costume and Production Fees Due

Oct 23 All StuCo in studio dress rehearsal

Oct 24 Halloween Community Performance and lunch

Oct 24 Halloween Showcase at Ormao

NOVEMBER

Nov 10 Holiday costume Fees due

Nov 20 All StuCo Thanksgiving potluck, NHSDA meeting

Nov 24-30 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 22 CoDEO conference fees due OJC/OSR

DECEMBER

Dec 18 Holiday Showcase Dress rehearsal, cookie exchange

Dec 19 Holiday Community Showcase, and Secret Santa Lunch

Dec 19 Holiday Showcase

Dec 22-Jan 3 Holiday Break

JANUARY

Dec 22- Jan 3 Holiday Break

Jan 8 Student Company Second Semester Orientation. All Company students *AND* parents

Jan 16-17 CoDEO conference OJC/OSC

FEBRUARY

Feb 10 Company Showcase Costume Fees due

Feb 12 All StuCo Valentines Day Party, NHSDA meeting

Feb 8-13 Share the Love: Bring a Friend

MARCH

Mar 10 Recital commitments & fees due

Mar 19 All StuCo in-studio activity, NHSDA meeting

Mar 22-28 Spring Break, NO CLASS

APRIL

Apr 10 NHSDA induction and fees due, Recital Performance Fees Due

Apr 16 All StuCo in-studio rehearsal

Apr StuCo Community performance tentative

Apr 30 StuCo in-studio Dress rehearsal

MAY

May 1 StuCo Showcase Dress rehearsal

May 2 StuCo Showcase

May School Recital Photo Day TBD

May 31 Ormao Closed for Memorial Day

May 24-29 Parent Participation Week

JUNE

June 1-4 School Recital Spirit Week

June 4 School Recital in-studio Dress rehearsal

June 5 School Recital Dress rehearsal

June 6 School Recital Performance @ Mitchell HS

June 7-13 Closed for summer break