



December, 2016

**To: Applicants to the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, Dance**  
**From: Laurie Merriman, Audition Coordinator**  
**Re: Auditions at Middle Tennessee State University**

Welcome to all of you who are planning to audition for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts in dance. The auditions will be held in the Murphy Center Dance Studio on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. Please refer to detailed directions located at the GSFTA website.

The audition will include ballet, modern/contemporary and repertoire. Candidates are asked to warm up on their own in the studio before the audition begins. The studio will be open to you at 1pm prior to class beginning at 1:30pm. After the two hour technique portion of the audition, students will be asked to talk briefly with one of the four adjudicators.

The ballet portion of class will include pointe work for the ladies. If you are not comfortable on pointe tell me before the audition begins. We will make accommodations for you. Gentlemen will be asked to show jumps and turns while the ladies are changing shoes. Ladies should wear a solid colored leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes and no leg warmers or shorts. Men should wear black tights and ballet shoes. Gentlemen may wear either a leotard or a white T-shirt as long as it looks professional. Both men and women will be asked to dance barefoot for the modern/contemporary portion of class. It is advisable for each of you to wear tights that can be converted easily.

**Schedule:**  
1:00 -1:30 P.M. CST Registration, warm up on your own  
1:30 – 3:30 P.M. CST Audition class  
3:30-4:30 P.M. CST Candidate interviews

The results of your audition will be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's School for review and final selection. The results will not be available on the day of the audition. Every student will be notified as soon as possible about the summer. We can accept a limited number of students according to the state guidelines. There will also be a pool of alternate candidates that traditionally have had a good chance of attending.

**What to bring to the audition:**

We will need each student to bring a photograph in an arabesque pose on the day of the audition. This is for identification only, and they will not be returned. The photo should be taken with a full length view of the student.

**Final thoughts:**

No observers are allowed. They are too distracting to the students. I respectfully ask that those people bringing students plan accordingly for the time of the audition.

I wish all of you the best of luck. We are looking forward to seeing each of your gifts. If you have any questions or need further information please either email me at [lmerri@ilstu.edu](mailto:lmerri@ilstu.edu) or call me at (309) 838-4136.

See you soon,

Laurie Merriman  
Audition Coordinator  
Dance Division Chair