



January 2024

**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 in-person auditions will be held in the Dance Studio (MC 040) in Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. Please refer to detailed directions located below and on the 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 (interview) with the adjudicators to determine each dancer's interest, commitment, ambitions, maturity, and ability to positively contribute to a creative community of dancers, each with their unique talents, styles, and abilities.

The ballet portion of class will include pointe work for the female dancers. If you are not comfortable on pointe, tell me before the audition begins. We will make accommodations for you. Male dancers will be asked to show jumps and turns while the ladies are changing shoes. Female dancers should wear a solid-colored leotard, skin-toned or pink tights, ballet shoes and no leg warmers or shorts. Male dancers should wear black tights and ballet shoes. Male dancers may wear either a leotard or a white T-shirt if it looks professional. All dancers 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 [lmerrri@ilstu.edu](mailto:lmerrri@ilstu.edu) or call me at (309) 838-4136. See you soon,

Laurie Merriman  
Audition Coordinator  
Dance Division Chair

Directions to MTSU Dance Studio  
Murphy Center at MTSU  
2650 Middle Tennessee Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

- It is easiest to turn onto campus using Faulkenberry Drive from Middle Tennessee Blvd. (Note that you can only make a right onto Faulkenberry Drive from Middle Tennessee Blvd, so if you are coming from the other direction, you will need to go past and turn around.)
- Look for the Murphy Center building on your left (many windows)
- Parallel parking located on Faulkenberry Dr, and there is a parking lot (highlighted in blue below) that is also convenient. Walk down lane to left of the football stadium (highlighted in yellow below). You will see football coach parking spot at end of lane...take those stairs down to basement (red X on the map).
- The studio is in the basement – go through the doors at the bottom of the stairs – take left down hallway – dance studio space (G040) first set of doors on the left.
- Call Laurie Merriman at 309.838.4136 if you get confused!!

