

## SonShine Performing Arts Academy Policies

### **Who We Are:**

We are a Christian organization that exists to train students in the field of performing arts with excellence for the glory of God. We believe that artistic expression can be a powerful tool for worship and ministry. We seek to inspire students to pursue their natural talents, refining their skills, and use them for the proclamation of the gospel.

### **Payment Policy:**

Each month's tuition is due on the Friday after the first class of the month, and no later than the 15th of the month. You may pay with Auto-Pay through the Parent Portal. If you are unable to pay using Auto-Pay, please contact the director to make other arrangements. You are welcome to pay more than one month's tuition at a time. We will work with any family who needs special financial consideration and is willing to work or contribute to the academy in a meaningful way.

See website for current class pricing information.

### **I. Student Conduct**

#### **A. General Standards**

We believe all behavior in class and during performances should align with the values taught in Scripture, and therefore reflect a desire to strive to honor the Lord. In general, students are to show respect for: 1) God and His laws, and 2) others. If these principles are followed the student will go a long way in maintaining compliance to SonShine's standards. These standards below are to be followed at all times, whether in class, between classes, before or after class, in study/game room or on the playground, during an outreach or performance, or at any other time when the student is under the supervision of SonShine Performing Arts Academy.

1. Students are to be submissive to all authority figures (teachers, church personnel, parents and volunteers) and to respond with cheerful and prompt obedience to the standards and requests of authority figures. "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17
2. Students are to support and encourage one another, preferring others before themselves. "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4
3. Students are to work heartily and to approach all activities, required or voluntary, cheerfully and with their best effort. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you

will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24

4. Students are not to complain or grumble. “Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” Philippians 2:14-15
5. Students are to avoid rowdiness or horseplay inside the building.
6. Students are never to be in parking lots, fields, or any area other than the designated use areas without express consent of a SonShine teacher or administrator.
7. There shall be no pursuing of romantic relationships while at a SonShine sponsored activity.
8. Students are to keep their own hands to themselves.
  - a) No physical contact between boys and girls outside planned choreography
  - b) No public displays of affection
  - c) No hitting, kicking, slapping, pushing, etc.

#### B. Classroom and Group Event Standards

1. Students shall be on time so we can begin and use our class time efficiently.
2. Music and theater students need to bring their folders with music, pencil & colored pencils to each rehearsal.
3. Students are expected to practice what they are taught in class, and to be prepared for each new class.
4. Students are not to bring candy, food, drink or gum into the sanctuary. (this prohibition excludes water bottles)

#### C. Attendance Policy

1. Excellent attendance to rehearsals is essential to preparing songs and dances well and allows everyone to enjoy the outreaches and performances to their fullest.
2. When outreach event dates are given please respond quickly with your availability so we can plan accordingly.
3. If you must miss a class or lesson, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. No discounts will be given for absences. If the instructor must cancel a class or lesson, you will be given the corresponding discount off the following months' tuition.
4. Refunds will not be given for weather related events or things outside the direct control of SonShine. One weather makeup day is built into the spring schedule.

#### D. Off-Site Student Activities and Communication

SonShine's teachers and admins are committed to the spiritual well-being of not only our individual students, but also the collective culture of the academy as a whole. Because the actions of students both at SonShine and away have a direct impact in each of these areas, SonShine students are expected to act consistent with the Student Conduct policy, as outlined in the SonShine Policies, at all times. The Academy reserves the right to investigate and subsequently apply discipline in any instance of on or off-site activities, behaviors, or communications (including electronic communications) of, by, or among students, that the academy deems worthy of investigation and/or disciplinary action.

E. Serious Offenses

Student conduct and attitude has a direct effect on the Christian testimony of SonShine Performing Arts Academy. As such, the behaviors listed below are prohibited and can result in a student's dismissal from Sonshine: Aggressive behavior, physical fighting, stealing, property destruction, possession of illegal substances, deceitful words or actions, obscene language, any immoral behavior, or promotion of immoral behavior or anti-Christion philosophies.

F. Gender and Sexuality

1. SonShine Academy interprets the Bible to clearly state that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, use of pornography, or open acceptance of any of the above, is a sin according to God's Word and violates the biblical description of manhood and womanhood as reflecting the image and nature of God.
2. SonShine Academy reserves the right to expect its students to live and act in accordance with his or her God-given biological sex at birth regarding "gender identification." Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from SonShine Academy.

II. **Dress Code**

A. Philosophy

SonShine is committed to the principles of modesty, decorum and suitability in the grooming, appearance and dress code of our teachers and students. We are convinced that this enhances the pursuit of excellence in the performing arts and creates a positive atmosphere for appropriate behavior and attitude.

Note on Modesty:

With respect to how students dress, we affirm that modesty is a matter of the heart first and foremost. It is important that we recognize that the heart's disposition, and not rules, must be the starting place for a godly approach to modesty.

**B. Dress Standards**

1. Students' attire must at all times be neat, clean, in good repair, and fit properly. Additionally, students are to dress at all times in accordance with their God-given gender at birth. "A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 22:5
2. Students are not to wear clothing that condones, promotes or glorifies immoral, illegal or anti-Christian products or philosophies.
3. Neither baggy, oversized, sloppy, nor excessively tight or immodest clothing are allowed. If leggings/yoga pants are worn, the top should cover their bottom. Shirts/Tops should not show the stomach, or conceal the shorts, and girl's shirts should not be low cut. Shorts and skirts should be at least fingertip length. No undergarments should be visible. If the Director views something as inappropriate, she will ask the student not to wear it again.

**C. Class Attire**

Parents and students are informed of specific class attire requirements via email upon registration.

**D. Grooming**

**1. Boys**

Hair is to be neatly groomed, not excessively long (I Cor. 11:14-15), of natural color and not distracting. Jewelry: Earrings and distracting jewelry are inappropriate and not to be worn. Makeup is inappropriate and not to be worn. Boys' fingernails are not to extend beyond the tip of the finger.

**2. Girls**

Hair is to be neatly groomed, of natural color and not distracting. Jewelry: Excessive and distracting jewelry is inappropriate and not to be worn. Makeup: Should not be excessive or distracting.

**III. Important Information for Parents**

**A. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

It is desired that during SonShine, devices are put away and learning and fellowship are prioritized. Students are permitted to have a cell phone at SonShine provided they are put away and retrieved for the sole purpose of communication via talking or texting. If a student is observed with a cell phone or other non-approved electronic device during class, the device(s) may be confiscated and turned in to the director. No device may be used to record, store, or transmit any type of image, sound, or video without the express permission of a teacher or administrator. At no time and under no circumstances may a student post to social media any image, sound, or video taken while at SonShine. At no time may any student use a device's internet capabilities while at SonShine or academy sponsored events unless that student has the

permission of and is in the presence of a teacher or administrator. If a teacher or administrator has a reasonable belief that a student has used his or her device in a way that violates academy policy, that student's device may be inspected and/or confiscated, and the student may lose the privilege to bring electronic devices in the future. Depending on the severity of the violation, additional disciplinary action, up to dismissal, may occur.

B. Parent Volunteers:

In order to make SonShine Academy successful, we need family members' help with a variety of tasks. Some examples are: pursuing outreach opportunities, assisting during outreaches with student oversight or sound equipment. We also need Mom's help during the Reverence week in the green room, with costumes, refreshments for our guests, as well as sound and lights. \*Please contact the director or admin to indicate if you are interested in assisting in one or more of these areas.

C. Parent Observation:

Parents may stay to watch during class if they would like. To minimize distractions, please sit toward the back of the classroom, turn down cell phones and use discretion if you have small children with you. The director may ask any parent to wait outside the room if distractions detract from instruction. Parents are not permitted to interact with teachers or students during class time. If a parent interrupts class verbally or otherwise, the instructor will ask them to move to the parent waiting areas. Thank you for your graciousness in this, as we want our class time to be as productive and orderly as possible.