

STEPS on Broadway — ACADEMY —

FIRST STEPS HANDBOOK 2023-2024

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1. Introduction

It's our absolute pleasure to welcome you into our community at the Steps on Broadway Academy. Our team is thrilled to see many familiar faces return to the studio and even more excited to see some new faces join our team. We have created this one-stop handbook to shed some light on how things will run throughout the year as well as answer questions you may have before the year begins. Please take the time to read this information carefully and keep your handbook in a safe place to refer to as you need. Additionally, our office staff are always here to help and will happily answer any questions you may have.

QUICK REFERENCE STUDIO INFORMATION

Address: 2121 Broadway, Floor 4, New York, NY 10023

Phone Number: (332) 334-4177

Email: Academy@StepsNYC.com

Website: www.stepsnyc.com/academy

Parent Portal: www.dancestudio-pro.com/stepsacademy

2. Registration

It's important that all students and parents – whether returning or new - fill out the registration information so we can ensure we have the most up-to-date details for your family. This includes your contact information and waivers such as media releases and studio liability.

Our priority registration offer not only means that you will receive **\$100 off your tuition**, but it also ensures you will be guaranteed a place in the class(es) of your choice.

You can register online and take advantage of our priority special until June 21 at www.dancestudio-pro.com/stepsacademy.

Our annual registration fee is \$65 per student and must be paid in full upon registration.

Trial Classes: For those wanting to check out our programs before jumping in, new students may schedule trial classes for \$20 per class. Each student is allowed one trial per class but they may take as many trials as necessary to find the right spot within their age group's offerings.

3. Communication

For convenience, our primary means of communication is via email. You will receive regular newsletters and important information via email so please ensure you have provided the studio with an up-to-date email address that is regularly checked. We are of course happy to include multiple email addresses per family if you would like your correspondence sent to numerous recipients. You may update this via your parent portal under **Account – Account Settings – Family Contacts**. Don't forget to add our email address academy@stepsnyc.com to your contacts so we don't end up in your spam folder! Our friendly office staff can be contacted at (332) 334-4177 for urgent matters.

We are also proud to provide you information around-the-clock via our very own Dance Studio Pro Parent Portal.

You can access this at www.dancestudio-pro.com/stepsacademy to check your schedule, register for classes, pay a balance, submit an absence, purchase tickets, and more!

In the event of urgent information (for example, day-of class cancellations), we will send an SMS text message to all families. So, for this reason, please make sure the mobile phone number you have provided to the studio is correct and up-to-date.

We always display important information and studio details in our 4th floor reception so please have a quick look when dropping off and picking up in case there is anything you may have missed. We are always happy to chat in more detail about communications you may receive from the studio, so if you need any clarification, please don't hesitate to email us to chat with one of our helpful team members.

4. Important Dates

Below we have listed some of our most important “Save the Dates” with more information (including times, costumes, requirements, etc.) to be communicated as we get closer to the events. If you know ahead of time that your family will be unable to attend these events due to planned holidays or existing commitments, please submit those absences via your Parent Portal at your earliest convenience.

DATE	EVENT
Sept. 11	First Day of Classes - Semester 1
Sept. 15 & 16	NO CLASSES - Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 25	NO CLASSES - Yom Kippur
Nov. 22 - 26	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 19 - Jan. 4	NO CLASSES - Winter Break
Jan. 15	NO CLASSES - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 27 & 28	Starlight Pre-Professional Concert
Feb. 5	First Day of Classes - Semester 2
Feb. 10	NO CLASSES - Lunar New Year
Feb. 19	NO CLASSES - President's Day
Mar. 31	NO CLASSES - Easter
Apr. 9	NO CLASSES - Eid al-Fitr
Apr. 22 - 28	NO CLASSES - Spring Break
May 27	NO CLASSES - Memorial Day
June 1	Pre-Professional Spring Concert
June 2	Youth Division Showcase
June 9	Last Day of Classes - Semester 2

5. Code of Conduct

To ensure the smooth, safe running of classes and an enjoyable experience by all, below you will find our code of conduct. If any of the requirements outlined are unclear or concerning, please reach out to us to discuss further. Following a formal meeting, we do reserve the right to dismiss or take disciplinary action on any students or parents who breach our studio's code of conduct.

We are unable to take responsibility for our students before or after their scheduled classes and it is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver to ensure their child is picked up and dropped off on time. In the case of an emergency or unavoidable delay, please contact the studio immediately to inform us of the situation.

Any questions or complaints must go through reception – parents and students are not permitted to contact the Steps on Broadway Academy teachers via phone, email, or social media unless it has been approved through administration. Meetings with the studio directors and/or teachers can happily be arranged via reception.

In the rare case of a parent or student showing disrespect or defamation to any other parent, staff member, or student, a meeting will be called and dismissal may be considered at the discretion of the director. Physical, mental, emotional, or cyber bullying by parents, staff, or students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the studio.

Our administration reserves the right to change teachers or schedules, when necessary, at any time throughout the year.

Choreography, costuming, curricula, and studio policies remain the intellectual property of the Steps on Broadway Academy and may not be reproduced or sold by any students, parents, or staff without permission of the director.

6. Safety

With the safety of our families being our number one priority, the Steps on Broadway Academy is very serious about upholding Child Protection laws and policies within the studio as well as at public performances and in the online arena (website and social media).

New York law requires that a parent/caregiver remain on the premises at all times for children 6 and under. We have viewing windows within the studio space which can be viewed by parents and family members from the comfort of our waiting areas.

Students are not allowed to be in the studios without a faculty or staff member from Steps present.

As part of your registration, you will have read and signed a media waiver allowing us to proudly use images and audio/video footage of your student for advertising, promotional purposes, and performance events. Should you have any concerns whatsoever with signing this declaration, please see our reception staff who will happily assist you.

The directors and staff at the Steps on Broadway Academy are aware of the negative impact of inappropriate music and costume selection when it comes to performing dance routines and are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring children in all of our dances are not subjected to any inappropriate songs or costuming.

The Steps on Broadway Academy takes no responsibility for any stolen or misplaced property on the studio premises, and we encourage our families to avoid bringing valuable items to the building when possible. When students come to class, they **MUST** bring all their belongings into the studio and place them along the walls.

You will find within our enrollment process our liability release and other waivers. Please read these carefully and accept the terms prior to the commencement of classes so you fully understand the rights and responsibilities of your family and our studio.

7. Dress Code

Our dress code is designed to prepare our students for success in class. It allows them to fully focus on their work in the studio, while providing instructors with a clear perspective on their alignment. Arriving in proper attire creates an atmosphere of professionalism and community while providing an opportunity to demonstrate respect for faculty and craft.

For the 2023-24 year, dancers may continue to wear black or navy leotards and tights that they already own as we transition to the new dress code. Please keep the approved styles in mind when purchasing new dancewear. The approved styles for each program are listed below.

Hair

Dancers' hair should be worn in a classical bun or pinned, clipped, or tied neatly and securely from the face.

WHERE TO BUY

Steps on Broadway partners with the dance manufactures in NYC and all offer a generous discount to Academy students. You can find the required styles at On Stage Dancewear, Bloch, Capezio, and in the Steps Shop on the 3rd Floor.

FIRST STEPS

Approved Styles

Bloch Essential short sleeve leotard (style CL5602) in pastel blue. Light blue First Steps T-shirt - the shirt will be given to all students.

Ballet

Option 1: Pastel blue leotard, pink tights or tights to match complexion and matching ballet slippers. Wrap sweater and Bloch pastel blue pull-on skirt (style CR5110) optional. No sparkle or sequin skirts. No tutus.

Option 2: Light blue First Steps T-shirt, black shorts or pants, black socks, and black ballet slippers.

Tap/Jazz

Option 1: Pastel blue leotard with black shorts, pants or leggings.

Option 2: Light blue First Steps T-shirt, black socks, black shorts or pants.

Shoes: Black tap shoes and black socks for tap, black jazz shoes and black socks for jazz.

8. Fee Structure

Registration Fee: Each student is charged an annual registration fee of \$65.

Tuition Policy: Tuition is charged as a full semester. If you decide to withdraw from classes mid-semester, you will still be charged for the entire period. Tuition is refundable only in the case of extenuating circumstances such as medical issues, injury, moving, etc. These scenarios are subject to the approval of the director and are not guaranteed.

First Steps Tuition: \$680 per class (1 semester)

Class Change Fee: 1st Change - \$0
All Others - \$25/change

Please note: Refunds will not be issued for missed classes due to cancellation or public holiday. Families are able to arrange make-ups in any class within their student's age category.

Financial Aid

Students may receive reduced tuition for classes based on financial need. All financial aid is subject to the availability of funds for each academic year and is not guaranteed, so please apply early. You can find the application and more information on our Academy website.

9. Attendance

Your student's attendance in class is very important to their peers and our teaching staff. It is a commitment for you to ensure your student attends their classes on time each week. Absences impact the social and confidence-building principals we work hard to foster in each age group.

If you know that your child will be absent due to holidays/vacations, commitments, or school trips, please let us know ahead of time so the class impact is minimal. You must log these pre-planned absences in our parent portal. If your student is ill or injured, we ask that you inform our admin team as soon as you can so they can let the teachers know.

Excessive absences (over 20% of their scheduled classes) may be cause for removal from the program.

Makeup Classes: Tuition will not be refunded for class absences. Instead, students are encouraged to schedule make-up classes. Students may schedule a make-up class in any style that falls within their age category. If a student is already taking the full schedule of classes for their age category. Students may not schedule a make-up class during observation weeks. **Please note:** If a student misses more than 3 sessions, makeup classes must have a director's approval and are not guaranteed.

Tardiness: Students are expected to be on time to every class which means being dressed, with appropriate shoes/clothing, and in the room when class begins. Students that enter late to class will have missed instruction and this affects their overall growth within the class. Students that have missed more than 50% of the class may be asked to refrain from entering class that day. After 3 instances of tardiness, the studio will arrange a meeting with the parent to discuss solutions to avoid future late arrivals.

10. Social Media

The Steps on Broadway Academy's Social Media Policy refers to all social networking environments. Please see below for our regulations regarding Social Media and feel free to contact our office staff if you have any questions.

Any comments or posts perceived to be obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory or hateful towards the Steps on Broadway Academy' staff, students or families may subject the participant to disciplinary action.

Intellectual property (for example, photography, choreography) must be credited when posting online.

You may not post photographs / videos that feature the Steps on Broadway Academy dancers other than your own online without the proven consent of their parent/guardian.

11. Other Policies

Class Section Cancellations: The Steps on Broadway Academy reserves the right to cancel a class section if there is insufficient enrollment and will issue a full refund to remaining participants if there is not another class to transfer to.

Class Monitoring: No guests are allowed in the studio during regular classes (except Dance with Me). Observation days are scheduled at specific times throughout the year. Parents and guardians are welcome to observe classes via the windows. Video recording and photography of the classroom is strictly prohibited to maintain the privacy of our students.

Class Placement: Students in our First Steps program are placed by their age on the first day of classes for the season. For this year, the date is September 11, 2023. This is because students in this age range vary dramatically in social, emotional, and physical growth in just a matter of a couple months. It is necessary for the quality of education to keep students grouped by age.

Emergencies: In the event of a medical emergency and we are unable to contact a parent/guardian, or if time does not permit, we will utilize New York City emergency services.