

STARLIGHT STUDIOS STUDENT & PARENT WELCOME PACKET

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFO

Starlight Studios
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www.tracystars.com

STAYING INFORMED

We work hard to make your experience with Starlight Studios organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters, emails and other school information.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Parents and students are not allowed to enter the studio space without permission.
- We love babies and young children and appreciate the chance to meet our students' siblings. However, our priority is the safety of every child on the school premises. Children must be supervised at all times and are not free to run around the lobby, classroom areas, or left outside without supervision.
- Students and parents are restricted from contacting teachers by phone, email, text messages, etc. All communication with teachers or the director must go through the Starlight Studios office.
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other schools.
- Never recruit students from other schools.
- All students must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the school.
- The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child. Please respect our faculty and their experience/training when it comes to placing your child in the correct class/level.
- Our school provides a large viewing window for our younger dancers along with a closed-circuit television to view the classroom in the adjacent studio. We discourage parents from standing in front of the windows in our young dancer space the entire duration of class. Furthermore, we do not allow parents to watch class inside the classrooms. Both can be extremely distracting to your student and tear down their sense of independence. We will have periodic class observation days to get a sneak peek on what your student is learning.

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS

- Arriving late for group lessons (more than 10 minutes) will result in student sitting out.
- Missing two classes in a row may result in a need for an extra private lesson (paid for by the parent) to help the student catch up.
- Students that take private lessons will not get the time missed by tardiness due to how our scheduling is blocked and that it would take time from the next student's lesson.
- Group lessons will be marked absent after 20 minutes and private lessons will be marked absent after 15 minutes.
- After 4 absences or 6 tardies in a single semester, students will not be able to perform in end of semester performances.
- 3 makeup classes are allowed per semester as long as our office gets at least 24 hours' notice of the upcoming absence.
- Make up classes are available for those who give adequate notice of an absence, by request. We allow no more than 3 make-ups in a semester.

VISION & VALUES

We cannot reach for the stars without a firm foundation.

WHAT WE DO: Harmony: two distinct notes resonating with one another. We teach a love for music and dance to our surrounding community. We are "noncompetitive" which means we focus on peaceful class atmosphere, safe technique, artistic entertainment, and true teamwork.

HOW WE DO IT: Our classes and performances are always done with integrity and sincerity. We work hard to bring transparency in everything we say and do and we encourage our students to do the same. We believe in honesty and in doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

WHY WE DO IT: Love is why we do what we do. We show compassion to everyone that walks through our doors and we can't help but serve you the best we can. We believe that the world needs love and we are passionate about reaching out to all through the performing arts.

We take our roles as a mentors and teachers in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the arts in every child who passes through our doors. In the process, we strive to set the right example and help your child (and you) create memories that will last a lifetime.

UNDERSTANDING PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance, music and theater are all individual art forms and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Not all children will develop into professional dancers or musicians. One of the primary goals of our faculty is to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success. Performing arts education encompasses far more than the technique your children learn. We believe the discipline of performing arts training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in the arts.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

TIPS FOR GOOD CLASS ETTIQUETTE

- No chatting, whispering, or giggling while the teacher is teaching.
- Respect the equipment in the classroom, (no hanging on ballet barres, standing on chairs, playing with costumes/props/instruments that do not belong to you; do not touch the music system without permission; no leaving bags/clothing laying around/hanging on equipment).
- No texting or talking on the phone during class time (even during water breaks)
- No street shoes or street clothes during dance class.
- No entering class late or leaving class early. We encourage students to arrive 10 minutes before class starts. If you do need to leave class early, let the teacher know before class begins.
- Give you fellow students space. Keep your hands to yourself.
- Only water is allowed in the classrooms. No food, drinks, or gum.
- Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

DRESS CODE POLICIES

- Dress code is very important to Starlight Studios. In our choices, we promote modesty and encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness.
- Long hair should always be pulled back and secured neatly.
- No baggy sleeves, dangly jewelry, or hats during lessons.

- Clothing with offensive/vulgar words or print are not allowed.
- Dancers have a specific dress code by style and age.
- Students should carry their dancewear, shoes, books, instruments and other belongings in an appropriate bag. Please print your child's name on the bag as well as on all its contents.
- Boys age 10 and older must wear a dance belt to dance class.
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside.
- Piano and guitar students must have washed hands and trimmed nails.
- Students are expected to observe good personal hygiene habits. Deodorant is required for students age 10 and up.

TUITION & FEES

- Our classes run in 16-week semesters (8 weeks for Summer). Tuition can be paid per semester (which includes a 20% discount) or in 4 monthly installments.
- For the Spring 2020 Semester, full monthly installments are due by the 3rd of each month. Tuition is paid through automatic withdrawal from your credit or debit card account. Tuition will be charged directly to your specified credit card on the 3rd.
- We will accept cash for tuition payment if received by the 3rd of the month. Tuition not received by the 7th will be considered late and a \$15 late fee will be assessed.
- Tuition does not include the registration fee, dancewear, instruments, books, shoes, costumes, recital tickets, extra private lessons, or special events.
- Withdrawing from classes before the end of the semester requires written notice given to our front desk. If your written notice is received after April 1st, 2019, no refunds will be given for unused tuition (if paid in full) and all remaining monthly installments are still due.
- Starlight Studios does NOT issue refunds on any tuition, costumes, tickets, or other fees. We do offer to place your tuition as a credit on your account for future use in an emergency situation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

LINKS

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StarlightTracy

Facebook group: "Starlight Families"

Instagram: @Tracystars

Youtube: starlightstudios09

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/tracystars

POLICIES

Use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogging, and other online social-media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide Starlight Studios students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises Starlight Studios. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or Starlight Studios
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of Starlight Studios.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Starlight Studios.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; Starlight Studios owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the school.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as conventions and performances or about the directors of those events.

PERFORMANCES

A big part of training in the performing arts includes learning through performance. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in the arts, they also contribute to children's success in other activities. The experience helps build self-esteem and confidence, which can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong college and job interview skills. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best result.

SHOW HANDBOOK

Every show will include web page complete with information about practically every aspect of the performance (www.tracystars.com/performance)

PERFORMANCE FEES

- Costumes: \$65 per costume (includes costume, accessories, garment bag, and tights)
- Video: \$25 per family and covers a digital copy (\$5 for optional physical copies)
- Tickets: \$12-\$15 per ticket

VOLUNTEERS

To run a great show, parent volunteers are essential. From costumes to sets, and backstage to the front of the house, we cannot do it without you. Some classes, such as the Starlighters Theater Company require parent volunteer hours.