



**STAGE DOOR**  
SCHOOL OF DANCE

**SDSD** SELECT 

**DOWNTOWN • 2024-2025**

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# STAGE DOOR

## SCHOOL OF DANCE

## SDSD SELECT PROGRAM POLICIES

**Congratulations and welcome to Stage Door School of Dance's Select Program!** We are thrilled to have you join this distinguished group and hope you fully embrace the exciting opportunities ahead!

Please read all the information below very carefully in order to fully understand the components and policies of the Select Program!

### Our Mission

Stage Door School of Dance empowers individuals through Arts Education.

We provide a safe space where creative minds are free to be their whole self and thrive as members of our dance family.

Through our core values, we nurture a community of kindness, love, and respect that extends beyond our studio wall.

### Our Values:

**S**trength

**D**iligence

**T**rust

**O**pen-Mindedness

**A**gility

**O**ptimism

**G**ratITUDE

**R**espect

**E**mpowerment

This program is a hand selected group of dancers starting at age 5 who take part in a competitive & fast-paced curriculum. It is geared towards students who excel in all genres and can be challenged at a higher level.

# 2024-2025 Dance Season Requirements

**New Downtown Dancers will be required to take 3 Classes:** Tap, Ballet, & Jazz with options to add the Leap & Turn and/or the Competitive Electives within the Select Program.

**Returning Downtown Dancers will be required to take 4 Classes:** Tap, Ballet, Jazz, & a Competitive Elective within the Select Program with options to add the Leap & Turn and/or 2nd Competitive Elective.

**New & Returning Uptown Dancers will be required to take 5 classes:** Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Leap & Turn, & a Competitive Elective within the Select Program with options to add a 2nd Competitive Elective.

Select Dancers will also participate in our Holiday Parade, 4th of July Parade, & Community Performances.

This program is designed with the goal of preparing your dancer for acceptance into our SDSD Elite Company. While achieving this goal is a primary focus of our program, we cannot guarantee acceptance.

The SDSD Select Program operates on an annual invitation basis, with no guarantee that a dancer will continue in the program from year to year. An invitation is required for continued participation. By following our recommended classes, you are providing your dancer with every opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

# About this Handbook

For more than four decades, Stage Door School of Dance (SDSD) has been a leader in dance education. We believe our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service in an **inclusive** environment. We have created this handbook to offer our Select Program students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the SDSD Select Program.

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## SDSD Select Program Benefits

- ✓ Gain a sense of balance in life by managing their commitments to both dance AND academics.
- ✓ Participate in a physical activity that enhances their understanding of the value of a healthy body.
- ✓ Work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended **family** of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents/guardians.
- ✓ Discover the results of hard work and determination.
- ✓ Develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

## **For the Parents/Guardians: *We're in this together!***

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference and we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty, students, and families. Cooperation between all parties is expected. Showing respect for others makes an **important impression on the dancers**. You are a role model for your dancer and so many others. We must work together to teach them how to interact with others and conduct themselves in a professional setting.

Your dancer's presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the invaluable lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Parents/Guardians and teachers may look at a child's learning process from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: **to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally.**

## **Attendance Policy**

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to the scheduled weekend rehearsals. There will be two-2 hour rehearsals for each of their competition dances.

Every student will be **permitted 5 Excused Absences for all Classes (Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Leap & Turn, Lyrical/Hip Hop Elective, & Acro) during the entire Dance Season.** Upon the 5th absence, the primary guardian and dancer will receive an email from the director of the program which will serve as official notification that 5 classes have been missed. If a 6th class is missed the dancer will be on Attendance Probation for that specific class. At this time, the director of the program will call to communicate the attendance probation status. If a 7th class is missed your dancer will be dismissed from the SDS Select program regardless of the time of year. There will be no refunds for Rehearsal Fees, Competition Fees, or Costumes. Please use your absences wisely anticipating mandatory school & family functions.

If the dancer is sitting the class out, late or leaving early, this will count as **HALF AN ABSENCE (.5)** unless accompanied by a doctor's note, for a more serious illness or injury. If a student is injured for an extended amount of time, accompanied by a doctor's note, their status in that class will be up to the discretion of the SDS instructor. In certain situations, when a dancer misses weeks of class at a time, even if they are observing they may fall behind in their choreography and technical responsibilities. It is at the staff's discretion if they believe the student will be able to catch up. At that point, the instructor has the authority to take them out of sections of the dance or replace them entirely.

## Zoom

If a dancer is away or not feeling well, they are allowed to take class via Zoom. Please note this will count as a **HALF AN ABSENCE (.5)**.

## Image/Dress Code

Please encourage your dancer to be dressed appropriately in all dance classes.

CLASS	ATTIRE	TIGHTS & SHOES	HAIR
<b>Leap &amp; Turn, Jazz, Tap</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black leotard; Tan tights; Black fitted shorts are optional.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Tan Jazz shoes; Tan Tap shoes.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Jazz Shoes, Black Tap Shoes</p> <p><i>(Competition shoes may be a different color, which is communicated in November)</i></p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>
<b>Ballet</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black leotard; Pink Tights</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Pink Ballet shoes</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Ballet Shoes</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> In a Slick Bun.</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Slicked &amp; out of face.</p>
<b>Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theater, Stretch &amp; Flexibility, Acro</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black or Colored Leotard; Tan or Pink Tights; Black or Colored/Printed Shorts</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> White T-shirt, Black Pants or Shorts</p>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Tan Jazz shoes or Barefeet</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Black Jazz Shoes or Barefeet</p> <p><i>(Teacher will let you know)</i></p>	<p>In a Slick Ponytail or Bun.</p>
<b>Hip Hop, Urban Movement, Strength &amp; Conditioning</b>	<p><b>Girls:</b> Black Leotard; Tan tights; Can wear t-shirts of appropriate length; capri-length pants; Black or colored shorts</p> <p><b>Boys:</b> Any color T-Shirt/Pants/Shorts</p>	<p>Sneakers. (Please bring a pair that has not been worn outside.)</p>	<p>In a Slick Ponytail.</p>

**IMPORTANT:** The use of the Stage Door School of Dance logo and brand name (including the initials SDSD and Select Program Line Names – Uptown/Downtown) are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** for use on any attire, gift, merchandise, or designs without the written permission of Stage Door School of Dance and the Director, Branding and Communications.

## Parade Performances

### Holiday Parade Performance

We are excited to invite our Select Program members to perform in the Patchogue Holiday Parade alongside our Elite Company! This is another exciting performance opportunity granted to all our dancers who participate in the Select Program!

Below is the rehearsal and performance information for this event.

<b>SDSD SELECT HOLIDAY PARADE SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Parade Rehearsal</b>	<b>Saturday, November 23, 2024</b> <i>(3:30pm to 6:00pm)</i>
<b>Parade Performance</b>	<b>Saturday, November 30, 2024</b> <i>(Call time 4pm at the studio for rehearsal.)</i>  Meet at the studio in the early evening (4pm) for a short rehearsal before we head down to Main Street in Patchogue for the Parade. Meeting location & Parade Time will be determined at a later date.

### 4th of July Parade

We are excited to invite our SDDS Select Program members to perform in the Patchogue 4th of July Parade alongside our SDDS Crew Dancers! This is another exciting and optional performance opportunity! Each dancer will need to purchase a SDDS 2025 Recital T-Shirt. The other costume pieces needed are white shorts, white socks, & white sneakers. A themed accessory will be provided by SDDS (included in the fee).

<b>SDSD SELECT 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY PARADE SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Parade Rehearsal</b>	<b>Monday, June 30, 2025</b> <i>(6:30-8:30pm)</i>  <b>Wednesday, July 2, 2025</b> <i>(6:30-8:30pm)</i>
<b>Parade Performance</b>	<b>Friday, July 4, 2025</b> <i>(Call time 9:30am at the Parade Route)</i>  <b>Parade Start Time: 10:30am</b>

# SDSD Select Program Fees

It is important to know that due to the high caliber of training we wish to provide our dancers with, there will be additional fees associated with being a Select Program member.

[View SDSD Select Program Financial Expectations >>> here.](#)

*SDSD Select Dancers will be required to purchase a Select Jacket this 2024-2025 season! You can also purchase optional Select Program Shorts and/or Pants. There will be a sign up with Ms. Tara, Director of Merchandise, in September.*

## **Adjudication In-Studio Panel (Competition Dress Rehearsal)**

Every year Ms. Mary brings out some of Broadway's Best to be on a "panel" viewing all of SDSD's Large Group Competition Routines. We've found this to be very helpful and inspiring for our young dancers to meet REAL WORKING DANCERS and to hear their feedback, which is always very useful at this stage of the game!! One Grown Up per dancer is invited to be in the room when their dancer performs, to hear the valuable feedback provided by the panel. There will be a block of time when your dancer will need to be present.

# The Competition Experience

For dedicated dancers, the satisfaction of an excellent performance is all the motivation they need to work harder to continue improving.

## **The Focus Is Not Simply on Competition.**

It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. We believe the lessons learned through community performances and services are as valuable, if not **MORE**, than the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal is to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider students' participation in competitions not merely part of their dance training; it's also an important part of how we influence their growth as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about. Trophies and the pressure of "winning" become secondary. Being given the opportunity to perform is priceless.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. Our goal is not to compete against others but to inspire and motivate both students and faculty by showcasing top-tier talent. We believe that by exposing everyone to the highest caliber of skill, we can cultivate exceptional dancers and educators. For us, competition serves as a valuable educational experience that drives us all to become greater artists.

# Select Program Dates: *Downtown*

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	
<b>September 5, 2024</b>	Select Program Contract Due via DocuSign
<b>September 5, 2024</b>	First Day of Classes for 2024-2025!
<b>October 19, 2024</b>	3:30pm-5:30pm: Downtown/Uptown Lyrical Rehearsal #1 with Ms. Jessica
<b>October 26, 2024</b>	3:30pm-5:30pm: Downtown Tap Rehearsal #1 with Ms. Stephanie V-B
<b>November 23, 2024</b>	3:30-6:30pm: Holiday Parade Rehearsal
<b>November 26, 2024</b>	4:00-6:00pm: Downtown Jazz Rehearsal #1 with Ms. Chrissy
<b>November 30, 2024</b>	4:00pm: Meet at studio for rehearsal then head to Main St. in Patchogue
<b>January 2, 2025</b>	4:00-6:00pm: Downtown/Uptown Lyrical Rehearsal #2 with Ms. Jessica
<b>January 3, 2025</b>	4:00-6:00pm: Downtown Jazz Rehearsal #2 with Ms. Chrissy
<b>January 4, 2025</b>	12:15pm-2:15pm: Downtown Tap Rehearsal #1 with Ms. Stephanie V-B
<b>January 18, 2025</b>	3:30-5:30pm: Downtown/Uptown Hip Hop Rehearsal #1 with Ms. Steph P
<b>January 25, 2025</b>	5:45-7:45pm: Downtown/Uptown Hip Hop Rehearsal #2 with Ms. Steph P
<b>February 8-9, 2025</b>	Small Group Dress Rehearsal, Detailed Schedule closer to date
<b>March 2, 2025</b>	TIME TBD (In Afternoon) Dress Rehearsal with Adjudication Panel @ SDSD (Your Dancer will be in a block of time during this rehearsal, Specific Time TBD as we get closer to 3/2) One Grown Up may be present.
<b>March 14-16, 2025</b>	Competition #1: Long Island
<b>March 28-30, 2025</b>	Competition #2: Long Island
<b>April 4- April 6, 2025</b>	Competition #3: Long Island
<b>April 25- April 27, 2025</b>	Competition #4: Long Island
<b>May 10, 2025</b>	1pm: Select End of Year Party in Studio
<b>June 1, 2025</b>	SDSD Elite Company Auditions (Time TBA)
<b>June 30, 2025</b>	6:30-8:30pm: 4th of July Parade Rehearsal #1
<b>July 2, 2025</b>	6:30-8:30pm: 4th of July Parade Rehearsal #2
<b>July 4, 2025</b>	9:30am: Call Time, 10:30am: Parade Start
<b>July 26, 2025</b>	Bellport Days Outside Performance
<b>July 7-August 9, 2025</b>	Summer Classes
<b>August 9, 2025</b>	Bellport Dock Show (Bellport Marina)

<b>STUDIO CLOSURES</b>	
<b>October 3-4, 2024</b>	Rosh Hashanah
<b>October 12, 2024</b>	Yom Kippur
<b>October 14, 2024</b>	Indigenous People's/Columbus Day
<b>October 31, 2024</b>	Halloween
<b>November 5, 2024</b>	Election Day
<b>November 11, 2024</b>	Veteran's Day
<b>Nov. 26-Dec. 1, 2024</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 23, 2024 – January 5, 2025</b>	Winter Break
<b>January 20, 2025</b>	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
<b>January 29, 2025</b>	Lunar New Year
<b>February 17-23, 2025</b>	Mid-Winter Break
<b>March 15, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>March 19, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>March 28, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>April 14-20, 2025</b>	Spring Break
<b>April 29, 2025</b>	SDSD Administrative Day
<b>May 22-26, 2025</b>	Memorial Day Break

# Student and Parent Use of Social Media

We encourage all Select Program Students & Parents to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Threads, and Tik Tok, as well as download the SDSD Mobile App in order to stay current in last minute changes, news, and updates, in addition to really fun content. This is intended to provide SDSD students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- ✓ We encourage **POSITIVITY** when utilizing social media regarding SDSD. If you are excited about the dance season, parade, recital, competition, convention, etc. feel free encouraged to speak to your positive experiences at Stage Door openly on your personal social platforms. We will just ask that you please adhere to filming / photography requirements below.
  - Parents / Guardians / Students **ARE PERMITTED** to take photos / videos
    - in the lobby
    - in-studio during their private studio time / post class time / private lesson
    - in-studio during Grown-Up Observation Week
    - in-studio during Dress Rehearsal Week
    - Backstage During Recital
      - **INCLUDING:** Footage taken from the backstage wings or in any common areas for dancer's backstage. This also includes footage and photography taken by families from the recital theater house during dress rehearsal performances only.
      - **EXCLUDING:** This excludes photos and videos taken in the dressing rooms 30 minutes prior to a performance, during a performance, and 30 minutes post a performance. This rule is to protect the space, privacy, and safety of all SDSD Select Program dancers who must be provided the opportunity to change their costumes, prepare for their performances, and change out of their costumes in a secure space.
  - **When doing so:**
    - Please tag Stage Door School of Dance within your post, the comments, or within the post's location geotag.
    - Please consider the privacy and safety of your fellow SDSD Select Program dancers and families before tagging their personal handles in any of your posts or in the comment section of any Stage Door School of Dance post.
- Parents / Guardians / Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to take or post photos / videos
  - in-studio during regularly scheduled class times
  - of any other students faces during their regularly scheduled class times, and outside of the permitted parameters above.
  - while our communications team is in the process of filming / taking photos unless explicitly given permission.

## Recital

Your dancer will be performing in 2-3 performances depending on which classes they are taking. We do our best to only have you in two of the performances, but if a dancer is taking additional recreational classes or dancing outside of your Select classes, we cannot always guarantee 2 recitals.

If you wish to participate in a recreational class's recital, it CANNOT be in any of your Downtown or Uptown class recitals. You can still take the class as an additional technique class if the class is in the same recital as your above classes. The admin staff will make note that your dancer will not take part in the recital. [Please find the recreational & competitive 24-25 schedules for your reference >>> here.](#) There are NO exceptions. Thank you for your attention to this detail.

## Summer Commitments: *Intensive & Performances*

Our Five-Week summer intensive is **required** for all SDSA Select Program members in order to participate in the Select program for the following season. The summer intensive is a time to focus on technique and challenge oneself to develop new skills prior to the start of the new dance season. Each dancer is permitted one absence per class or a week's vacation. In addition to the mandatory intensive, you may be invited to the following summer performances: 4th of July Parade (New & Optional for our Select Dancers), Bellport Day Performance & Bellport Dock Show.

### Summer 2025 Session:

**Downtown Dancers will be required to take 4 Classes:** Tap, Ballet, Jazz, & Leap & Turn. You are welcome to add the optional Strength & Conditioning.

**Uptown Dancers will be required to take 5 classes:** Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Leap & Turn, & Strength & Conditioning.

**Monday, July 7– Saturday, August 9, 2025:** Summer Classes

## Staying Informed

We are working hard to make your dance experience organized and fun this year. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information on our website. Both parents and students should check their email regularly for up-to-date information regarding SDSA Select Program events.

- ✓ **Website:** [stagedoordancer.com](http://stagedoordancer.com)
- ✓ **#SDSAstrong Blog:** [stagedoordancer.com/news](http://stagedoordancer.com/news)
- ✓ **Studio Calendar:** [stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar](http://stagedoordancer.com/studio-calendar)
- ✓ **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer](http://www.facebook.com/stagedoordancer)
- ✓ **Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/](http://www.instagram.com/stagedoordancer/)
- ✓ **TikTok:** [www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny](http://www.tiktok.com/@stagedoordancerny)
- ✓ **YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance](http://www.youtube.com/c/StageDoorSchoolofDance)
- ✓ **SDSA Mobile App:** [www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsa-mobile-app/](http://www.stagedoordancer.com/sdsa-mobile-app/)

**We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent, and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.**

*May every step your dancer takes be full of grace and passion, and may each rehearsal and performance bring your dancer closer to his/her goals. Here's to pushing boundaries, embracing new challenges, and celebrating every achievement along the way. Dance with joy, inspire others, and let your hard work shine in the studio and on stage! Thank you for being part of our Stage Door School of Dance Select Program! Cheers to a great dance season!*