

Footlights Dance Studio

# Student Handbook

# 2011-12

Welcome to your first day of DANCE

We are so glad you chose Footlights and want your dance experience to be its best! Please reacquaint yourself with the following important points. For further clarification, see your registration paperwork, the office staff, or our website.

We will be keeping you reminded and informed by way of email and our website each month at [www.footlightsdancestudio.com](http://www.footlightsdancestudio.com) . We also post most information/reminders at the studio.

Have a GREAT dance year and God Bless!  
- Footlights' Staff

## All students/parents:

- **Being on time to class is essential!** (In order to properly warm-up, learn new choreography and not disrupt your fellow classmates, please make every effort to be ready to go on time!)
- **Please have all necessary shoes/supplies!**
- **PLEASE HAVE HAIR UP!** Ponytails are acceptable in hip hop/musical theater and on short hair that does not “swing.” Hair for ballet, tap, and jazz (all combination classes!) should be secured in a bun or other hairstyle in which the hair does not swing free.
- **No jewelry, please.** (Especially beads – they break and roll!)
- **No food and drink** in the dance rooms...this includes water.
- **No gum** in the studio, please.
- **No street shoes** on the dance floors. **DO NOT WEAR DANCE SHOES OUTSIDE THE STUDIO!** Change into dance shoes once inside the studio before class begins.
- **Please write YOUR NAME** in all supplies and shoes. It is easy to mix up shoes and a name or initial can be a “quick solve.”
- **PARENTS: Please closely supervise your student’s siblings.** We have had numerous problems in the past with noise levels, vandalism, and children in dance rooms. We try to provide a nice space for you to wait with a child area, however, we still need to maintain a safe and professional atmosphere. Please make sure your children stay with you until or during class and maintain an “inside voice.” If you bring snacks, etc for your children, please put all trash in trash cans and utilize the picnic tables. We have games and puzzles your child can check out from the office—just ask!
- **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR STUDENT TO WEAR HIS/HER DANCE SHOES OUTSIDE!** Students oftentimes walk up to the studio in ballet/tap/jazz shoes and this brings dirt and grime onto our specialized surfaces. This also ruins your dancer’s shoes. Please put on and take off dance shoes in our waiting areas.
- Please note: Most often, instructors must leave one class and go directly into another. If you have a question about your child’s class, it may be necessary to have the instructor call you at a later time. The office staff is trained to answer MOST questions that you have. Try us first! ~ We’re here for you! ☺

## If you are a parent of a younger dance student:

- **Please make sure that your child visits the restroom BEFORE CLASS!** (even if they don’t need to!☺) Although occasionally inevitable, restroom breaks disrupt a class – especially of younger children. When one says they need to go, they all do.
- **IMPORTANT!!!** It is tempting as a parent, to want to discipline your child when you observe them misbehave in dance class. **PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR AND DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILD** or any other interjection to the class. It is disruptive to the other students and actually TAKES AWAY authority from the teacher. Our instructors all use warnings and “time-out.” If inappropriate behavior continues after these consequences, or the child refuses to dance, it may be then necessary to ask the child to leave class in order to continue to serve the other students.

SOME examples of behavior warranting warnings and/or “time-outs”:

- Refusal to participate
- Ignoring/not following instructions
- Inappropriate verbal or physical behavior towards another student or teacher
- Constant talking, yelling or anything else hindering another student’s ability to learn
- Any other behavior that instructor feels is distracting to classmates and inhibits learning.

# Dress Codes/Rules for All Ages

*If you need clarification, please inquire in the office.*

## Combo classes (ages 3 – 7):

- Solid color leotards (Skirts should be attached for 3&4 yr students.) Small dance skirts ok for 4&5/K-1<sup>st</sup> Students will need a solid black leotard for the Christmas show.
- Pink tights (Bloch pink is what we all wear at recital!)
- Black tap shoes w/elastic not laces. Laces take time away from class time. Please make sure your dancer enters class with their dance shoes already on.
- Pink ballet shoes with elastic across the ankle (not the “house slipper” kind with the satin top, please!)
  
- Hair secured, please! (In order to observe the neckline, learn how to “spot”, and teach proper dance etiquette, even our youngsters need proper grooming.)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN LONG TUTUS, DRESS UPS, OR OLD DANCE COSTUMES.

## Ballet/Pointe classes, students 6 ½ and up:

- solid color leotards (2 tones, fine. Occasional pattern ok.) Students will need a solid black leotard for the Christmas show in December.
- pink, tan, or black tights (Bloch pink is what we all wear at recital!)
- pink split soled ballet shoes / pointe shoes approved by instructor
- Hair in bun or secured similarly. Bangs should be secured or where they will not distract the dancer. (Need help? Let us teach you!)

## Tap/Jazz/Drill & Pom classes:

- leotards or dance tops that meet the pants (no belly baring tops, please). It is recommended to have at least one black leotard. Dance attire for the Christmas show will include a solid black leotard.
- tights or jazz pants / jazz or cheer skirts (w/tights – no bare legs)
- shorts or snug fitting tanks/tops ok over leotard
- black tap or jazz shoes
- Hair secured/not swinging. Bangs secured so as not to distract.

## Hip Hop classes:

- jazz pants, loose dance pants, tights all ok
- leotards, dance tops that meet the pants (no belly baring tops, please)
- hair back out of face. Ponytails, pigtails, doo rags, etc all ok
- **NO JEANS!**
- Jazz shoes or sneakers may be worn, but **ONLY IN THE STUDIO**. Do not wear tennis shoes that you wear outside, please!

## Musical Theater classes:

- Any clothes appropriate for another dance class that you may have
- Any clothes in which you can move freely, and allow you to sit on the floor as well.
- Hair back out of face.
- Jazz shoes suggested but any dance shoes except tap are ok (no bare feet, or street shoes please!)

**Toddler play area rules need to be followed at all times.**