



Steppers Dance Team

2026-27 Handbook

A guide for first year team members

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Eligibility

Audition Eligibility

- *Dancers who are invited OR*
- *Dancers that are 6 years old and entering 1st grade in September 2026*
- *Dancers enrolled at LeRoux for the 2026-27 season**
- *Dancers with an excellent attendance history*
- *Dancers who want to perform **more***

*See class enrollment requirements provided below with rules and regulations.

Rules of eligibility are established to create an equal opportunity for all dancers, as well as to promote the commitment required for successful team membership. Exceptions are extremely rare; when appropriate, exceptions are made at the sole discretion of the studio owner.

Rules & Regulations

Dancers must

- enroll in technique classes
 - Dancers age 6-7 at the time of the audition
 - Mini Combo class enrollment required (first graders)
 - Mini ballet/tap and jazz/lyrical enrollment required (second graders)
 - Mini level hip hop optional
 - Mini level dancers can add any Mini combo class without permission
 - Dancers age 8-11 at the time of the audition
 - Jr level ballet/tap and jazz/lyrical required
 - Jr level hip hop optional
 - Jr level dancers can add Mini level classes without permission
 - Open level classes within your age range, recommended
- attend the audition to be considered for the team
- follow all rules, regulations and code of conduct established for membership
- be a good member, show support and encouragement to teammates and classmates
- maintain excellent attendance for all classes
 - excellent means: *perfect, superior, exceptional, of the highest standard*
 - less than excellent can make you **ineligible for future auditions**
- perform in **all** studio productions (*this includes community and studio performances, and parades*)
- attend two competitions assigned for your dances through June 2027
- attend the spring in-house convention in 2027
- attend team photoshoot
- provide sizing for required team gear
- purchase required makeup, false eyelashes and earrings
- enroll year-round and attend dance intensives (*when offered and age appropriate*)

Rules & Regulations *(continued)*

Dancers must

- attend **all** team classes or rehearsals throughout the competition season
 - class will meet on Saturdays starting in September
 - enrollment is automatic with a successful audition
 - an additional rehearsal may be added on Saturday afternoon for full team choreography in January
 - three rehearsal absences will **make you ineligible for re-audition**
 - absence from any performance will **make you ineligible for re-audition**
 - more than one absence during choreography (small group or full team) makes a dancer ineligible for participation, without refund
 - there are no excused absences

These rules and regulations are established to create an equal opportunity for all dancers, to promote and build a team atmosphere, and foster personal growth and understanding of commitment, both to one's self and to others. We believe that these characteristics are essential for success and that they will assist your dancer throughout their lifetime, regardless of career path.

Team Financial Policies

- Families will pay tuition, performance and costume fees as paid before membership
- Additional financial responsibilities for members rest solely on the member and his/her guardian
- Expenses include, but are not limited to:
 - audition, membership, choreography, rehearsal, costumes
 - summer intensive, team gear, headshots and bio
 - conventions, parades, and competitions
- All tuition, studio performance and costume fees must be paid in full prior to payments being applied to team related expenses
 - **10% late fee** will be applied to all competition fees if not paid on the due date
 - \$15 fee will be applied when autopay is declined for any reason
- Financial policies of LeRoux School of Dance apply to monies due for the dance team
- Competition Fees are non-refundable
- Payment of the audition fee is due with your application and is non refundable
- Suspended or dismissed dancers are not eligible for refund of any team fees

Fundraising opportunities can be considered to offset competition expenses when team families organize and host a fundraising event. Suggestions for consideration should be submitted to the team coordinator at team@lerouxdance.com.

Team Financial Policies *(continued)*

Monthly Team Payment: **\$120.00** *due on 10th of the month June - May* (no sibling discount)

This payment covers the following expenses

- team membership
- One group dance (rehearsal, choreography and costume)
- two local parades
- annual benefit showcase
- in-house convention
- team gear
- headshot & bio for the website
- banquet (up to 3 tickets)
- 2 social events

This budget information does not include tuition and fees paid for studio performance experiences. These additional expenses are associated with team participation.

- Most dancers choose the team experience in order to have **more** performing opportunities, including the desire to experience dance competitions and conventions.
- Hotel stays are not required. If your family wants to stay in a hotel for competitions or conventions, you should consider those expenses in your budget.
- Travel expenses are provided only when the studio owner is coordinating an event that requires travel and chaperones.
 - These would be national competitions or parades outside of our local community, and are optional for team dancers.
 - This type of travel opportunity is generally reserved for dancers in 8th grade and above.

Additional Expenses *(most amounts are **estimated**)*

- **Audition Fee:** \$60.00 *due with application* (no sibling discount / non-refundable)
- **Optional Conventions:** \$185-\$350 per dancer (no sibling discount/ non-refundable)
Price varies depending on the length of the event. Doesn't include a pass or wristband for parent observation.
- **Summer Dance: \$410**
 - Team dancers age 10 - 18 are required to enroll for 2026
 - Team dancers under age 10 are *encouraged* to enroll for 2026, must enroll after first year
- **Rework: \$100**
 - Team dancers age 10-18 may be considered to compete in a rework; that is a recital dance re-staged and rehearsed for competition without the need for a new costume and is not optional.

Performance and Competition Appearance

Hair and Cosmetic Requirements

Dancers will wear their hair in a left parted, low bun complete with a hair net. This is the requirement for all team dancers, at all performance opportunities including competition. When a choreographer requests an alternate hairstyle for an individual dance, the team coordinator will make the final decision based on the lineup/schedule for each event.

Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay Day to Night	CoverGirl Instant Cheekbones	Revlon Colorstay	Ardell	Revlon Colorstay	Revlon Colorstay
(appropriate shade will vary for dancers)	505 Decadent	230 Refined Rose	201 (crayon) Black	105 Black	655 Rose	005 Infinite Raspberry
Top & Bottom						

This is the required make up for the **Mini Stepper Dance Team** (*first year members*)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

Before applying any makeup, be sure the face is clean. Use a moisturizer to begin. The skin wants to soak up anything it can, so feed it moisturizer so it doesn't soak up the foundation.

Foundation: This should be one shade darker than YOUR skin tone. YOUR Skin tone is the color of your NECK - NOT YOUR HAND!! This should be spread all over the face and part of the neck to blend in (after you apply moisturizer). All over the face means eyelids and lips, too.

Eye Shadow: The lightest color should be applied to the top lid generously. Then blow off the excess. The medium color should be applied between the crease and the eyebrow generously and then blow away excess. This widens the eyes. The darkest color should be applied to the crease, thin but dark.

Eyeliner: EVERYONE MUST wear eyeliner on top and bottom. If you prefer the liquid route, buy Revlon Colorstay Liquid Eye Pen (001). For those of you who prefer pencil be sure to keep it thin and close to (above/below) the lashes. DO NOT extend the line beyond the lashes.

Blush: Apply the medium color on the cheek from the cheekbone toward the top of the ear (TOWARD, NOT INCLUDING). Apply the darkest color beneath the first color to give a shadowy texture. Apply the lightest color above the first color, under the eyes, moving toward the nose.

Lipstick/Lip Liner: Lip liner is applied to the outer ridge of the lips. ALL THE WAY AROUND. This keeps the lipstick from bleeding into the skin outside of the lips. You will need 2 coats of lipstick. But do them fast, the colorstay dries quickly and gets tacky. The shine should be applied JUST BEFORE the performance. You may apply the shine multiple times.

Stepper's Competition Checklist

Costumes:

- ☐ #1 _____
- ☐ #2 _____
- ☐ #3 _____
- ☐ #4 _____
- ☐ #5 _____

Shoes:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Tights:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Optional Extras:

- ☐ Nude Bodysuit with clear straps
- ☐ Suntan / Black / Pink / White Tights
- ☐ Back Up Tights
- ☐ Adhesive Body Bra (For A/B cup)
- ☐ Ultra-Lift Seamless Bustier (For C+ cup) or strapless support sewn into costumes

Props:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Hair Accessories

- ☐ Ponytail Holders
- ☐ Hairspray & Gel
- ☐ Hairnets
- ☐ Bobbie Pins/Hair Pins
- ☐ Brush & Comb
- ☐ Flat/Curling Iron
- ☐ Headpiece(s)
- ☐ _____

Make-up

- ☐ Foundation/Powder
- ☐ Blush
- ☐ Eye shadow
- ☐ Mascara & Eyeliner
- ☐ Lipstick/liner
- ☐ Eyelashes
- ☐ Glue & Toothpicks
- ☐ Makeup Remover
- ☐ Tissues
- ☐ Makeup Sponges
- ☐ Q-Tips & Cotton Balls
- ☐ Vaseline

Extras:

- ☐ Team Warm Up/Tank/Shorts
- ☐ Water & Snack
- ☐ Screw driver (taps)
- ☐ iPod/Phone & earbuds
- ☐ Nail Polish (Clear)
- ☐ Polish Remover
- ☐ Lint Brush
- ☐ Safety Pins
- ☐ Flip Flops or Slippers
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Clear Gel Deodorant
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ Nail Clippers & File
- ☐ Tide to Go Pen
- ☐ Team Garment Bag
- ☐ Wardrobe & Shoe Rack
- ☐ Double Sided Fabric Tape
- ☐ Earrings
- ☐ Costume Jewelry
- ☐ Steamer

Team Spirit:

- ☐ Stuffed Animal w/ Award Ribbons
- ☐ Posters to support Big/Little Sister
- ☐ Blanket & Pillow
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Book or Magazine
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Pen/Highlighter
- ☐ Travel Size Games
- ☐ Autograph Book
- ☐ Spirit Stick
- ☐ Portable Chair

Experiences & Opportunities

Team Siblings

Each dancer is paired with another! Siblings are assigned with age and years on the team in mind. This experience is intended to build a cooperative environment and foster friendship for new team families as they navigate this new experience. The 'oldest' sibling and their parents can provide support, information and a unique point of view to new member families. The dancers benefit from the sibling experience during events/activities, rehearsals and competition award ceremonies. Although it is not a requirement, small 'gifts' are often exchanged during events as a show of encouragement or congratulations between siblings.

Volunteer Opportunities

Prop Committee - help transport props to weekly rehearsals and competitions

Showcase Committee - help with selecting a local charity, and the planning of our annual event

Fundraising Committee - Create, organize, coordinate and submit details to the team coordinator (some ideas to consider: bingo / pools for sporting events)

Makeup and Hair Class

Prior to the team headshot photo session, new team members will attend a makeup and hair class. Senior team dancers will share best practices for applying makeup and creating professional hair. Parents must purchase and bring required items (see page 6).

Competition Dress Rehearsal

Each December, in preparation for the upcoming competitive season, the team hosts an in-studio dress rehearsal. The date of this event will be confirmed in September to ensure that each team member has the required gear, makeup and accessories, shoes, and tights, understands the hair requirements and is ready for the upcoming season. Parents are invited to attend and photograph!

Annual Benefit Showcase

An opportunity for family and friends to view current year competition dances without travel and competition weekend schedules. This performance will:

- Contain **only** dances that competed in the current season
- Contain **only** dances that never performed in an annual recital
- Provide a program detailing achievements for each performance with an opportunity to purchase ads and messages for your dancer
- Offer unlimited, free tickets
- Benefit a preselected, local non-profit organization
 - raffle basket donations
 - sponsorships
 - Kiss the Cast messages
 - 50/50
- Provide a red carpet student experience for each member

Other Opportunities may include a team member holiday party, hay ride, bowling, pool party, and possibly an adult social or two.

Expectations

Dancers are expected to:

- be on time with hair appropriately secured for each class/rehearsal (*consult your dress code requirements for clothing and hair*)
- not chew gum or have any food in our classrooms or studio lobby
- refrain from using cell phones or texting devices in class and rehearsals
 - parents should not expect dancers to respond to text messaging while they are in the studio classroom
- **always** dress in appropriate dress code, including required leotard, tights, and all dance shoes of appropriate color (*violations could prevent class/rehearsal participation*)
- **always** dress in team gear at competition/performance/event when representing the team, not only for awards but for the duration of the event
- **always** wear team approved makeup beginning with December dress rehearsal
- **always** wear hair in a left parted low bun for competition/performance/event unless otherwise instructed, in writing during costume distribution (NOT FOR RECITALS)
- **always** have required tights and **shoes for class and performances** that are in very good condition (*clean and without holes*)
- **display a positive attitude** (*be humble, be proud, be kind and encouraging, and be able to share the success of others appropriately*)
- accept and apply corrections or directives for improvement (*willingness to learn*)
- set and achieve measurable, appropriate personal goals (*self-motivation*)
- maintain excellent attendance in all weekly technique classes, rehearsals and events throughout the season (*failure will result in suspension or dismissal from the team without refund*)
 - Dancers that miss two of any class or rehearsal will receive an email reminder
 - Dancers that miss three of any class / rehearsal will be required to attend a parent meeting with the studio owner
 - Dancers that miss five of any class / rehearsal will be dismissed from the team

Team Families are expected to:

- abide and follow the Code of Conduct
- provide all **required** dress code items
 - monitor dress code requirements for all classes and rehearsals
- provide all **required** shoes
- provide all **required** makeup items, false eyelashes and earrings
 - monitor make up application for all performances
- deliver missing items to the studio when your dancer is not prepared

Expectations *(continued)*

Team Families are expected to: *(continued)*

- monitor attendance of all classes and rehearsals
- **Be supportive** of the dance team, its members' parents and personnel at all times.
 - **Gossip or negative and unsupportive communication or action** of any kind undermines the success of our dancers, and therefore can not be tolerated.
 - Speaking negatively to your dancer or other team families about the opportunities provided by LeRoux and its staff is considered unsupportive gossip
 - Sharing information about any other local studios, their pricing, their class schedules, etc with families on this team is considered unsupportive
 - Enrollment in any non-LeRoux dance opportunity requires written approval in advance, from the studio owner.
 - Be mindful of these rules when utilizing social media
 - Our team is in place to **promote inclusion**, acts of exclusion will result in dismissal.
- **Be loyal and honest**
 - Avoid behavior that is detrimental to the team
 - Avoid behavior that presents a conflict of interest for team members and families
- Apply the **10/10/10 Rule** when difficult situations arise
 - Will this conflict matter in 10 days? If not, you can resolve this situation without the assistance of studio personnel.
 - Will this conflict matter in 10 months? 10 years? If yes to either, [schedule a call](#) with a studio representative to discuss resolutions
- **Be respectful and supportive** of the decisions made at the discretion of the team coordinator and studio owner.
 - Selection of dancers to compete re-works
 - Removal of dances from our repertoire
 - Selection of dancers for invitationals, duo/trio and solo competition choreography
 - Class level recommendations and competition performance level selection
- **Dancers are never excused from class, rehearsal, choreography, performance or competition**
 - Team members, parents, guardians cannot expect team personnel to consider their personal schedule requests.
 - Religious education obligation conflicts for the team member will only be considered when provided on the audition application.
 - if a dancer misses any event or rehearsal, it is not excused
 - in years when there is no audition, conflicts must be shared by July 1
- be aware of dancer's average score and personal goals
- respect competitive level selection, and discuss concerns **before** the season begins
- remit payments on their due dates

Team Families are expected to: *(continued)*

- maintain all costumes and accessories for your dancer
 - costumes should be stored in garment bags
 - **press or steam costumes** for all performances/events/competitions
 - replace lost pieces at your own expense
 - purchase a garment rack (or similar tool) to organize costumes
- support fundraising efforts, when organized by parent volunteers
- Need to discuss any concerns?
 - [Schedule a call](#) with a studio representative
 - Provides 24 hours for preparation for the studio representative
 - Provide possible solutions for consideration, or the desired outcome **prior to the call**
 - Written approval is required, following a conversation with the studio owner for any exception to what is set forth in this document.

These expectations are essential for the success and safety of the team, its chaperones, teachers, choreographers and coaches. Violations by a dancer or family member may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or dismissal from the dance team.

Code of Conduct

Members of the Steppers Dance Team and their families must conduct themselves in a respectful manner. This means, as a member of the team or parent of a team member, you must conduct yourself like responsible, polite humans in accordance with the following:

- **Follow all instructions/directives** from the staff; this includes choreographers, teachers, parent volunteers (chaperones) and office personnel.
- **Maintain a sportsman-like attitude** toward dancers, families and coaches you encounter, either at events or performances.
- **Be ready** for all functions on time and always arrive *performance ready*.
- **Personal appearance** must be clean, neat and professional when representing the team. Must have clean neat hair, be shower fresh, and dressed in team gear.
- Dancers and parents (*family members*) **will not communicate directly** with any employee or contracted choreographer **via text, cell phone, social media** or vice versa.
 - Direct communication can **blur the professional boundaries** that are required in teacher/student relationships
 - Direct communication is a **violation of contract and policy** for LeRoux employees
 - Direct communication could **result in disciplinary action**, including dismissal of your dancer and the instructor.
 - Direct communication with the wrong personnel could **result in misinformation**
- **Parents may communicate directly** with the team coordinator utilizing the team parent's group that has been established **using the Band app** for quick and easy notifications.
- The team coordinator is also available via email at: team@lerouxdance.com
- **Dancers and parents (family members) will not communicate directly** with any competition, convention or performance director at any time for any reason.

Calendar of Payment Due Dates

The 10th of EVERY month beginning June 10

Monthly Team Installment

June 20	Invitational Choreography Fees Session dates July 6 - September 4 (no lessons August 23-27)
July 20	Invitational Costume Deposit (\$79/costume)
August 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates September 8 - October 24 (no lessons Sept. 12, 21 and October 10)
September 20	Invitational Costume Balances (estimated at \$59/costume) Fall Convention Fees due (<i>optional for all</i>) Turn It Up
October 20	Winter Convention & Performance / Invitational & Rework Rehearsal Fees Session dates October 25 - December 5 (no lessons December 5) Excel in Motion / DMAD Benefit / West Chester Alumni
November 20	Winter Competition & Performance Fees Phila Youth Dance Reverb
January 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates January 2 - February 20 (no lessons February 12-15) Breakout
February 20	April Competition Fees Starpower
March 20	Early May Competition / Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates February 21 - May 1
April 20	Invitational and Rework Rehearsals Fees Session dates: May 2 - 8 and May 21 - 27 ONLY

Approved Calendar of Events *(these are **team specific events**, not all events for the studio)*

June 2026

- Team Interviews ~ June 11 and June 13 (link for scheduling will be shared upon receipt of application)
- Team Audition ~ June 13
- Team Rework ~ June 13
- Team Break 1 ~ June 14 to July 5
- Invitational Announcements ~ June 25-26

July 2026

- Team Session 1 begins on July 6 - September 1 *(invitational choreography only)*

August 2026

- Pool Party ~ August 8 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Nutcracker Audition: Sunday, August 9 at 10:30am
- Team Hair & Make-Up Class ~ August 15 at 9:00am (how to apply team make up and create a bun)
- Team Photo Shoot ~ Tuesday, August 25 at 5:00pm *(details will be in the band group)*
- Team Break 2 ~ August 23 - 27
- Team Parent Meeting ~ Saturday, August 29 - 10:00am

September 2026

- Team Session 2 ~ September 8 - October 24 *(no lessons 9/12 after 12:30, no lessons 9/21)*
- Halloween Parade Rehearsals ~ September 26 *(5:30-7:00pm)*

October 2026

- No Team Rehearsals ~ Saturday, October 10
- Turn it Up Convention ~ October 18
- Halloween Parade ~ anticipated date is October 26

November 2026

- Team Session 3 ~ October 25 - December 5
- Holiday Parade Rehearsals ~ TBD

December 2026

- Limerick Tree Lighting - December 4
- Hillcrest Holiday Parade & Community Performance ~ December 5
- Team Holiday Celebration ~ TBD *(details will be in the band group)*
- Invitational Make Up "Week" ~ December 6 - 18 *(must be scheduled with the office)*
- Team Break 4 ~ December 20 - January 1

January 2027

- Team Session 4 ~ January 2 - February 20
- Team Dress Rehearsal ~ January 2 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Winter Performances - January 9 & 23
- Excel in Motion ~ January 29 - 31 *in Lancaster, PA*

February 2027

- Team Parent Meeting - Date and Time TBA *(details will be in the band group)*
- **Steppers Annual Showcase** - tentative date: Friday, February 19 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Team Session 5 ~ February 21 - May 1
- No Team Rehearsals ~ February 27

March 2027

- Reverb ~ March 5 - 7* *in Boyertown, PA*
- Phila Youth DanceFest - March 19 - 21 *at Drexel University*

April 2027

- Team In-House Convention ~ April 10 *(details will be in the band group)*
- Breakout ~ April 16 -18 *in Voorhees, NJ*

May 2027

- Lehigh Valley Youth Dance Fest ~ May 14 - 16 *at Muhlenberg*
- Final Day for Team Rehearsals, Saturday Classes, and Invitationals
- Starpower Competition ~ May 28 - 30* *in Lancaster, PA*

June 2027

- Team Banquet
- Team Audition, Interviews and Rework Day

*Petite Steppers Included

FAQs for New Families

Are there any weekends without rehearsals?

For the 2026-27 season, we will select weekend dates that will be blocked from booking team rehearsals or choreography. Please use these dates to plan family outings so that your dancer does not miss rehearsal. These dates will be provided annually by July 1st. The studio is always closed for three weeks between the recital and the beginning of the new season.

What are the minimum technique classes required for team placement?

Dancers age 7 or younger at the time of the audition

- Mini Combo or Mini ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical

Dancers age 8-9 at the time of the audition

- Jr level ballet/tap **and** jazz/lyrical

Dancers over age 10 should schedule a call to get requirements prior to the audition.

NOTE: Repetition of curriculum technique increases the strength of a dancer. Each dancer should have a **schedule of technique classes that provide reinforcement of skills, as well as new challenges** that will inspire growth.

What is a Competition Costume?

Any costume purchased for a new dance. New dances are choreographed in your team class.

What is an Optional Convention?

New or young team dancers may consider attending optional conventions. These are dance classes offered by industry professionals at a one or two day event. Conventions are a great opportunity to expose your dancer to unknown instructors and dance styles. Conventions will also be a key indicator of your child's natural ability to both learn and perform choreography quickly. These events can also increase your dancer's stamina.

How will additional classes benefit my dancer?

The greatest success is achieved by those who **commit to excellence in basic technique**. In every sport, this is where muscle memory is created. Those who perfect their basic skills make their talent look easy. For dancers, ballet classes are the foundation for skill building. Experts recommend that **all growing athletes** study a **variety** of techniques. Just like running, swimming and basketball require unique skill development, so do ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical. Providing a variety of dance growth opportunities is proven to help protect growing athletes from burnout and injury.

All dancers can enroll in classes they have already taken. Repetition is the best way of building skills. Dancers who enroll in more than one class a week of the same genre, can be recommended for classes above their current level. When these recommendations occur, dancers **may select** a recommended class **in addition to** their required technique classes, **not in place of** their required technique class.

Enrollment in all classes can assist dancers with **choreography retention, stamina and overall conditioning** of their body. All of these skills are **essential** for competitive success.

We realize the sacrifice your family will make in order to provide an opportunity for success. We have a great team of professionals dedicated to the success of your child, and we strive to exceed your expectations!

What additional technique classes are available?

Ballet Classes / Pointe

Jazz Classes

Lyrical (jazz, acro, ballet) / **Contemporary** (ballet, modern)

Musical Theater

Tap Classes

Hip Hop

Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) / Progressing Contemporary Technique (PCT)

Conditioning / Turns & Leaps

This list is informational as all of these options are not available to dancers under age 10.

