

Address: 211 Danforth Ave.
Toronto, ON
Phone: (647) 344-3011
Website: www.ThisWayToBroadway.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/thiswaytobroadway/

This Way To Broadway Performing Arts Handbook

WELCOME TO THIS WAY TO BROADWAY PERFORMING ARTS!

We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the school.

This handbook will serve as your guide to This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB) and its philosophy of dance and musical theatre education.

As a condition of enrollment at This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB), students and their parents or guardians are expected to abide by all the policies set forth by TWTB, its director, faculty, and staff. TWTB reserves the right to terminate any student's enrollment at any time for misconduct or inappropriate actions by either the student or his or her parent(s).

PHILOSOPHY

This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB) is committed to providing high-quality dance and musical theatre performance classes in a safe and child-centered environment. To provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage the students to explore dance and musical performance with qualified, nurturing teachers. We believe that Musical Theatre is a fascinating art form which promotes discipline, exercise and confidence. Our mission is to offer correct classical technique in a wholesome and nurturing environment. We offer small class sizes, individualized instruction, in a thrilling and positive learning environment. We believe that dance and performance training encourages young people to develop a positive self-image as they increase awareness of their physical being. Along with improving coordination skills and developing muscular awareness, dance classes give children the freedom to express themselves through movement. The highest educational standards are expected from all TWTB faculty members. They are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through certification programs, teacher-training schools, conferences, and other learning opportunities. We take our role as mentor and teacher in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance and performance 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.

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FOR OUR STUDENTS

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to attend all your dance classes. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and to focus on yourself. True progress is made when you look at each class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class. Respect for the teachers is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed at you or another dancer. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

FOR THE PARENTS: "WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER"

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents and families. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, I encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education. TWTB's programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting. Your child's presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of TWTB's educational process. Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning 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. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Separation From the Parent

The process of separating from the parent as the child attends dance class is an important accomplishment of preschool children. As children mature, they begin to identify themselves as independent personalities. In separating from you, the parent, your child is learning

- * to develop an interest in the activities of the dance class;
- * to feel comfortable with other children in the class;
- * to understand that his/her parent will come back and pick him/her up;
- * to understand that all parents leave their children and come back for them.

It is important to know that at times young children will explore the limits of attending dance class and say they don't want to go. This period may occur anytime, but it is usually short-lived. Here are some suggestions that might help you handle the situation:

- Emphasize what the child is doing in the dance class rather than what you do while he/she is in class.
- Before you leave, see that the child is involved in an activity or is in the hands of a teacher.
- Avoid prolonged good-byes.
- Ask the teacher for help in separation. We expect the crying (and usually the tears are for the parent's benefit).

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It May Not Be the Right Time

If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. If we push children and create more stress than they are already experiencing, they may come to perceive dance class as a bad experience. That kind of negativity could make them apprehensive about dance for a long time, which isn't good for anyone involved. Never force your child into the classroom. We recommend that children be encouraged to practice at home but not forced to do so. Repetition is one of the key elements for success with dance students; the more they practice, the more confident they will feel. Practicing with your child allows you to join in the dance experience.

Understanding Dance 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 is an individual art form 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. One of the primary goals of TWTB is to teach life lessons and a work ethic & skills that offer children the best chance for success whether they choose to continue to dance or not. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance 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 dance.

Class Placement

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching and professional dance experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

Medical Information

Parents must notify the director/and or teachers regarding children who use an inhaler or who may require medications during their time at This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB). It is also important to inform the director and/or teachers about your child's existing medical conditions or learning disabilities at the time of registration and throughout the school year. Our teachers are trained professionals who are excited to work with all children and personalities, and the more we know about your child, the better the dance experience will be for all involved. All information about our students is confidential.

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Dos and Don'ts

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.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Please email your teacher to set up an appointment.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

Staying Informed

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read ALL emails and other school information.

Important updates are emailed to you and posted on the This Way To Broadway Performing Arts website and Social Media pages.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the studio at 647-344-3011 between the hours of 1 pm and 7 pm Monday through Friday.

We answer emails on a daily basis. Feel free to email any questions to: contacttwtb@gmail.com

Website - www.ThisWayToBroadway.ca

The website is updated constantly. News, important parent and student information, contact information and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/thiswaytobroadway/

“Like” the This Way To Broadway Performing Arts page on Facebook to receive daily updates on studio events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” our studio.

Twitter – Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/Tw2Bway/

Instagram – Enjoy fun pictures of our TWTB stars on Instagram
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Weather Cancellations

Studio closures due to severe weather conditions will be announced by noon on that day. Notifications of weather cancellations will be emailed, posted on the website and on all the social media pages listed above (please follow us), and announced on the studio's outgoing voicemail message.

Dress Code Requirements

This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB) maintains a dress code to encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness (variations in attire can be distracting). Uniformity in dancewear allows the teachers to assess how well the students are implementing the technique being taught, problems with alignment, and other important aspects of dance training.

- Students should carry their dancewear, shoes, and other belongings in a dance bag. Please print your child's name on the bag as well as on all of its contents.
- Dancewear is to be kept in good repair and laundered on a regular basis.
- Watches, jewelry, and safety pins should not be worn in class.
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside.
- Female students should wear their hair tightly secured and styled away from the face; a neat bun is preferred.

General Policies

- Parents and students should not interrupt a class in session.
- Only water (in proper water bottles) is allowed in the studios. No food, drinks, or gum.
- 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 in the waiting area or studio areas.
- Please do not dispose of dirty diapers inside the school. Large trashcans outside the studio are better suited for such disposal.
- No cell phone calls as they can be disruptive.
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other schools.
- All students must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the school.

Tuition and Expense Policy

Full tuition (September-June) is due prior to or at the first class. There is an option to pay by term in September and January. We will accept cash, checks, or credit cards (online) for tuition payment. Please write your child's name in the memo portion of the check. If you pay with cash, please ask for a receipt. A 20% discount is offered to any early full year enrollments. We offer family discounts. Please ask for more details.

***Private lessons available upon request.**

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Termination of Enrollment

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of a student, it may be necessary for the studio director to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Inability of TWTB to meet the child's needs

Arrival & Departure

Encourage students to arrive 10 minutes before class begins. For their safety, children under age 10 should be picked up immediately after class. Students ages 10 and older must be picked up no more than 10 minutes after their class is completed.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Each class offers a step forward in the educational process. A missed class could leave a child one step behind the other students.

Tardiness

Dance is a physical activity that requires the body to be warmed up in order to execute movement safely. Late students miss the proper warm-up and/or barre and therefore may sustain injury. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late may be asked to observe class that day for reasons of personal safety.

Lost & Found

Please mark all dancewear, shoes, and personal items with your child's name. I will make every effort to locate and return lost items; however, I cannot be responsible for any items that your child brings to class.

Illness

Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases occur frequently and spread easily among children. To help protect your own child's health and to minimize the possibility of contagion at school, please keep your child at home if you observe any of the following symptoms:

- Complaints of ear pain
- Consistent cough
- Severe sore throat
- Eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever

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Student & Parent Use of Social Media

Use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, blogging, and other online social-media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB) 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 TWTB. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, faculty, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or This Way To Broadway Performing Arts (TWTB).
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of This Way To Broadway Performing Arts.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend TWTB.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; This Way To Broadway Performing Arts 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 competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.
- Ensure that your social networking conduct is consistent with all of the policies contained in this handbook.

Additional Information and Activities

Performance Opportunities

The Studio puts on at least 2 Shows a year – A Holiday show and an end of the year Recital in June as well as other performances throughout the community. All are voluntary and wonderful fun! Performances are a great way for kids to grow their self-esteem and confidence. As well as create life long memories.

A FINAL NOTE

Welcome To This Way To Broadway Performing Arts! We look forward to an exciting & rewarding season!