Welcome to the Joffrey Academy of Dance from the Joffrey Parents’ Association.
Joffrey Academy Parents’ Association Mission

The Joffrey Academy Parents’ Association aims to create a more meaningful connection to The Joffrey Ballet by creating events and activities that energize and educate the Joffrey Academy community while enhancing the student and family experience. The Parents’ Association is focused on supporting the mission and goals of The Joffrey Ballet while developing a sense of community.

Academy Staff

We have a wonderful staff at the Joffrey Academy of Dance and you can learn more about them and read individual biographies in the Academy Faculty section of the web site joffrey.org/academy/faculty. The Academy is under the artistic leadership of Joffrey Ballet Artistic Director Ashley Wheater. The Academy has an administrative and reception team along with a full roster of dance faculty and accompanists.

The Joffrey Academy Parents’ Association

We encourage you to take part in the Parents’ Association as much or as little as your schedule permits. Specifically, we are looking for event volunteers, new ways to market classes and Joffrey Academy functions, and ideas for dancer activities that augment their Academy experience. Please contact reception@joffrey.org if you are interested in becoming more involved.

On behalf of the Parents’ Association of the Joffrey Academy of Dance, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Joffrey Academy family. We hope this guide will be a great resource throughout the year to understand the ins and outs of the Academy.
Q: What are the different class levels?
A: For a complete listing of programs and descriptions, please visit the Programs section on the website.
• Childrens' Division (Age: Approximately 3-9)
• Youth Division (Age: Approximately 9-16)
• Pre-Professional Program (Age: Approximately 10-18)
• Conservatory Program (Age: Approximately 14-18)
• Trainee Program (Age: Approximately 17-21)
• Joffrey Studio Company (Age: Approximately 17-21)
• Adult Open Division (Age: 15 and up)

Q: How often do classes change?
A: The academic year has two semesters running from September-January and January-June. Additionally, summer programs and classes are offered June-August, depending on the age of your student. Consult the website for Summer Intensive and Summer Camp information.

Q: If my student attends the Academy, will they be automatically placed in a Summer Intensive?
A: No. Current students are encouraged to audition for all Summer Intensive programs they are interested in attending. Placement in the academic year does not guarantee acceptance into the summer programs.

Q: What is the holiday schedule and is there an Academy calendar?
A: In general, the Academy has breaks for Thanksgiving, Winter Break, and Spring Break. A calendar of Academy Important Dates is available on the website in the About Us section.
Q: Who do I call or contact when I have questions?

A: Start with Joffrey Academy Reception for your questions and concerns. The reception team will most likely be able to answer your question or will be able to assist you in getting an answer. If you are calling in an absence for your student, please call the Attendance Hotline.

- Joffrey Reception: (312) 784-4600
- Email: reception@joffrey.org
- Attendance Hotline: (312) 784-4698

Q: Where is the best place to park?

A: Parking is available in the InterPark Self-Parking lot at 20 East Randolph Street (corner of Randolph and Wabash.) Discounted parking passes are available at Academy Reception for single use or in prepaid packages.

Q: Can I observe my student’s class?

A: Typically there is at least one opportunity for parents to observe a class at the end of each semester. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. Please do not observe class from the window in the studio door, as it is distracting to both the students and the teacher.
Q Who do I call if my child is going to miss class, is sick or late?

A If your child is going to miss class, please call the Attendance Hotline (312) 784-4698 with the reason for the absence. If your child is going to be late, you can notify Reception at (312) 784-4600.

Q My student is coming from school, is there a place to change for class?

A When possible, it is best to have your student already in the appropriate uniform for their level when they arrive at Joffrey Tower for class. However, if they are coming from school or another activity and need to change, there is a locker room adjacent to the restrooms for this purpose. Students should not change in the restroom stalls, the hallways or the parent lounge.

Q How can my child audition for The Joffrey Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker*?

A The Joffrey Ballet holds auditions in September for the Nutcracker Children’s Cast. Details about the audition are posted on joffrey.org/nutauditions. The audition is open to both Academy students and non-Academy students. Taking classes at Joffrey Academy does not guarantee the opportunity to audition.
Q. Will my child receive a performance evaluation? What if I have a question about an end of session evaluation?

A. There is a performance review conducted by the teacher at the end of each semester. There are no evaluations for summer programs or classes.

For teacher inquiries including evaluation or placement of a student, please ask Reception for a Student/Parent Inquiry form. Fill out and submit the form with your question. The appropriate person will then contact you to answer your inquiry or schedule a time to discuss.

Q. Are there performances throughout the year?

A. There are no recitals at the Joffrey Academy. Depending on your child’s level, you will either have an additional observation class or your student will participate in Academy performances during the Fall and Spring Semesters. Some performances require ticket reservations through Eventbrite. If this is the case, you will receive an email invitation with instructions on how to reserve your tickets. Please note there are a limited number of tickets available in order to accommodate all of the families of the students performing.

Productions require an additional fee per student, a mandatory costume fitting and a separate schedule.

Families of students performing in Academy productions are able to purchase priority tickets, however all Academy students and their families are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Q: What are some options to purchase dance attire?

A: There are many stores but some of our favorites are listed below. Many have rewards programs which come in handy.

Local
- Allegro Dance Boutique
  2114 Central St, Evanston IL
  (847) 733-8460
  104 S. Cook St, Barrington IL
  (847) 277-1009
  allegrodanceboutique.com
- Motion Unlimited Dancewear
  218 S. Wabash Ave, Suite 270
  Chicago, IL
  (312) 922-3330
dancewears.com
- Chicago Dance Supply
  5301 N. Clark St, Chicago IL
  (773) 728-5344
  chicagodancesupply.com

Online
- Discount Dance Supply
discountdance.com
- All About Dance
allaboutdance.com
We encourage you to share our "Ballet" message with your student and extended family.

**Be on time for class.**
Plan to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes prior to class to ensure adequate preparation.

**Always be prepared.**
Come to class with everything you need to fully participate.

**Lead by example.**
All students should conduct themselves as professional dancers at the Academy.

**Look after your belongings.**
Keep your dance bag with you and store any necessary shoes, boots, coats, backpacks, etc. neatly in the cubbies in the studios. The Joffrey Academy of Dance is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

**Eat healthy meals and snacks.**
Dancing takes energy, so fuel your body with nutritious food – especially before class.

**Take pride in your surroundings.**
The Academy is a wonderful community. Be proud to be a part of it and be respectful of the people, studios, locker rooms, hallways and all of the facilities at Joffrey Tower.
Special Thanks to:
The Joffrey Academy Parents’ Association
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