



Junior Tap Parent Information

The Hoffman Estates Park District is excited that your dancer is interested in trying out for Junior Tap. Included in this handbook is important information regarding the 2025-2026 dance season. Please read all the information in its entirety to fully understand the commitment and requirements expected of Junior Tap dancers and families.

Junior Tap is for dancers 5-7 years old. Dancers must be 5 by January 1st, 2026

Try-out information:

Try-Outs will take place at Triphahn Center Dance Studio on Monday, June 16th 4:45-5:15pm.

Dancers: Dancers should wear black leotards or solid black fitted top and black pants/leggings, with black tap shoes, and have hair pulled up out of their face.

Parents: Parents are not allowed to watch try-outs.

Try-out assessments: Dancers are evaluated on and placed in levels by skills, performance quality and attitude.

Dancers will be notified via their parent's email on Friday, June 27th if they have been invited to be a member of Junior Tap for the 2025-2026 season.

2025-2026 Junior Tap Information:

Classes:

Day of the Week	Time	Class
Monday	5:00-5:30p	Junior Tap – at Willow Recreation Center

Expectations:

Attendance: All dancers are expected to attend each weekly class. Junior Tap relies on the strength of the entire team. Dancers should also always bring a writing utensil notebook and closed lid water bottle to class each week.

- If you are going to be absent, the instructors must be notified at least 1 weeks prior unless for illness. If multiple classes are missed, it may affect participation in dance performances/competitions.
- We understand Junior Tap dancers are involved in other activities but please keep in mind that missing a dance class impacts not only the dancer that is absent but their fellow dancers as well! Exceptions can be made for school events if notified at least a week in advance.
- Dancers are expected to be in all choreography classes and dress rehearsals the week of a competition/performance. Failure to attend choreography classes and dress rehearsal the week of a competition could result in not dancing at that weekend's competition/performance.
- Dancers should be arriving at least 5 minutes before class time to get dressed and stretched in the hallway before class/rehearsal.
- Each company has their own rehearsal time, dancers may not come in during another company's rehearsal time unless invited in early by the teacher to view dances.
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- If classes are missed, it is the responsibility of the dancer to learn any new choreography.
- If dancer is more than 10 minutes late dancer must stretch on their own in class before being invited to join in on the class.
- Arriving more than 15 minutes late to class or leaving 15 minutes early from class counts as half an absence.

Accountability:

- All dancers are expected to have respect for peers and teachers during classes, rehearsals and performances. Consequences can arise if being disrespectful.
- All Junior Tap dancers are expected to behave in a professional manner in all classes, rehearsals and performances.
- Dancers are expected to keep talking to a minimum and stay focused on what is being taught in class. If a dancer is asked to stop talking more than 2 times in class, the dancer will be asked to leave class and will be invited back in by the teacher.
- Junior Tap dancers should act as role models for younger dancers.
- Dancers are expected to show good sportsmanship in all classes, rehearsal and performances. Dancers should keep negativity out of the classroom and be encouraged by teammates.
- Dancers are expected to learn choreography quickly. If a class is missed it is the responsibility of the dancer to learn the new choreography before the next class.
- Dancers are expected to stretch and practice dances weekly.
- Junior Tap dancers must be able to accept and apply teacher corrections. Dancers should not be giving their peers corrections.

Dress Code:

- Solid black leotard or solid black fitted short sleeve shirt or Stars shirt, form-fitting plain black capris/pants, black sports bra (if applicable), clean ponytail, braids, or bun and tap shoes.
- Stars Days: dancers and parents will be notified of what to wear before each Stars Day.
- Sweatshirts and warm up must be removed after 5 minutes of class/rehearsal.

- Strikes will be given per occurrence, if dress code is not followed. After 3 strikes parents will be notified.
- Dancers are required to maintain personal hygiene. Dancers at age of puberty and beyond are required to wear deodorant to class, rehearsals, and performances. Be sure to wash dance attire regularly.
- No jewelry – stud earrings okay. No watches in specialty dances.
 - Not responsible for any lost items, these should be left at home.
- Spirit weeks – 1st week after a competition. Teachers will decide themes for the week. Dancer suggestions welcome.

Injuries:

- If a dancer is injured, a doctor's note must be submitted prior to resuming participation. Dancers are required to attend class and observe and take notes to remain part of the team.

Technology:

- Cell phones and smart watches are not allowed to be used during class. Cell phones should be off or on silent and placed aside in bag during class. Smartwatches should be silenced during class.
- If taken out/used during class a verbal warning will be given, if continued then cell phone/smartwatch will need to be placed on teacher's table and parents will be notified.

Team Support:

- All Junior Tap dancers are part of one big team. Although dancers will be split up between different levels, dancers should be attending competitions to support one another.
- We are one large company/family, we need to support one another and no negative comments about each other, teachers, or the company.
- We all aren't best friends, but we are all teammates doing what we love.
- Attendance will be taken at all competitions whether performing that day or not. Carpooling is highly recommended for parents who cannot attend all times.

Disclaimer:

- Junior Tap and its teachers is an all-inclusive dance community. Discrimination in any form is not tolerated.
- Dancers can be asked at any time by teachers to resign their spot on the team if company rules are not being followed.

Competitions:

Junior Tap will compete in two competitions throughout the season. The group dance competition fees are included in Junior Tap tuition. Competition times are not released until a week or two before the competition, please keep Friday-Sunday open for each competition weekend.

If we do not compete the Friday of competition weekend we will have a dress rehearsal in the dance room. In the event we compete on the Friday then we will have dress rehearsal instead of normally scheduled Wednesday classes the week of competition.

Tentative Performance Schedule:

December 6 th 10-1:30p	Winter Fest – Performance
February – May	Competition 1
February - May	Competition 2
Mid/End of May	Dance Recital
July	Hoffman 4 th of July Parade

Possible extra performances not included in company tuition:

- Possible National/Championship invites
- Current 2025 dancers that were invited to NY to attend in summer of 2026
- Any other performances we are invited to participate in

STARS Days:

We will be having 4, 2 hour sessions throughout the season for the dancers to interact with one another and have group dance classes together.

Friday, November 14 th 5:30-7:30pm	Friendsgiving
Friday, December 12 th 5-7:30pm	Holiday Party
TBD	Large Group Rehearsal for Opening/Closing Dances
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Pre-Season Parent & Dancer Potluck:

We will have a meeting with all new parents and dancers for the 2025-2026 season. Followed by a potluck with all 2025-2026 company dancers and parents. The potluck and parent meeting will be Wednesday, August 27th.

Meeting for new parents will be 5:30-6:00pm

Potluck 6:00-8:00pm

Parent Involvement:

Throughout the year, we will be looking for our JuniorTap parents to support the dancers with additional duties at competitions, performances and recital.

Junior Tap Tuition:

What's included?

All Junior Tap dancers will need to pay the following:

Fall Junior Tap (30-minute class)	13 weeks	\$127
Winter/Spring Junior Tap (30-minute class)	19 weeks	\$185
1 Group dance costume	1 costume	\$80
1 Group competition fees	2 competitions	\$140-158***
		\$532-550

Resident fee

****These are estimated fees and will be confirmed when competitions are selected.*

Dancers who are NOT part of company, but are part of Junior Tap will need to pay for the following (a separate registration fee):

STARS Days (4 – 2 hour sessions)		\$32
Opening/Closing costumes	2 costumes	\$130
Competition media fees	4 competitions	\$47-74***
Recital video		\$22

End of year banquet for dancer		\$30
		\$261-288

***These are estimated fees and will be confirmed when competitions are selected.

Payment options:

1. Pay in Full
2. Junior Tap Dancer's Payment Plan: 9 monthly payments on the 15th of month (August 2025 – April 2026)
3. Junior Tap Apprentice Payment Plan: 9 monthly payments on the 15th of month (August 2025 – April 2026).

Additional fees will be charged for:

Competition Line:

The 2025-2026 Stars Dance Company will compete opening and/or closing dance(s) from the previous season. There will be some rehearsals throughout the fall session and into the new year. These dates and competition fees will be distributed at our parent potluck meeting in August. This will be a 1 time fee to cover the competition fees and rehearsal time.

What is not included in tuition? What are parents responsible for?

- Attire for classes
- Black tap shoes
- Any other specialty shoes for opening/closing dances
- Tights for competitions (will finalize all colors once costumes are ordered)
- Nude under suit
- Personal hygiene products
- Competition earrings
- Dance bag
- Makeup for competition (an email list will be provided with links)
- Company/competition jacket – will be worn at every competition and at our Winter Fest performance.
- Travel/lodging for any competitions

Possible extra performances not included in company tuition:

- Possible National/Championship invites
- Current 2025 dancers that were invited to NY to attend in summer of 2026
- Any other performances we are invited to participate in

Refunds:

Competitions, conventions, workshops, costumes are non-refundable. If a dancer decides they do not want to continue with Junior Tap, you can submit a refund request. Refunds will only be issued for all classes that were not attended from the time the refund request is submitted.

Junior Tap Handbook Acknowledgement:

Dancers and parents will need to sign a Junior Tap handbook acknowledgement when accepting a spot for the season. Forms will be provided at the dancer/parent meeting in August.

