



2026-2027

TEPA Student Handbook

342 W COLFAX ST. PALATINE, IL

847-496-7337 CALL

847-572-8372 TEXT

WELCOME TO TEPA

Who We Are

We are a professional training ground in all areas of the performing arts, striving to create well-rounded and confident performers in a fun and positive environment! At TEPA, students will receive top-notch technical instruction from industry professionals, preparing them for the world of auditions, performances, competitions, and more! It is our goal to make every student feel welcomed, accepted, and valued. We strive to create an inclusive environment for all who walk through our doors!

Our Structure

The TEPA schedule is structured in two sessions: a nine-month session running September to May, and a two-month session running June and July. Students will enroll for the entire school year session, but may request account freezes or withdrawals should conflicts arise. Our first semester focuses on building technique while the second semester adds choreography and performance elements. Our summer session is designed for technique, enhancing skills, and fun classes and camps! Productions that are put on in our theatre throughout the year have separate rehearsal and performance schedules.



CONTACT INFO

Email

info@thatsentertainmentperformingarts.com

Phone

847-496-7337 call

847-572-8372 text

Address

342 W Colfax St. Palatine, IL 60067

Website

www.thatsentertainmentperformingarts.com

CUSTOMER PORTAL

Every customer has an online account that is created upon registration. To log in, click on the login link on our website. If you have forgotten your password or need to set one up, click on the password link.

The Customer Portal allows you to manage a variety of tasks from your online account including enrollment, payments, store purchases, and more!

For questions relating to the Customer Portal, please contact the TEPA office.

Enroll in Class

View real-time class and lesson schedules
Enroll in classes and drop-ins
View class suggestions

Manage Students

Add or edit each student info
View student schedules

Payments

Make payments online
View account history
Enroll in Auto Pay & edit payment info

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2026

First Day of Full Session: September 8th

October 2026

TEPA OPEN: October 12

November 2026

TEPA CLOSED: November 22-28

December 2026

TEPA CLOSED: December 13-January 3

January 2027

TEPA CLOSED: January 1-3

TEPA OPEN: January 18

February 2027

TEPA OPEN: February 15

March 2027

TEPA CLOSED: March 21-27

May 2027

Last Week of Session: May 17-22

Recital Dress Rehearsal: June 1

Recital: June 6

PERFORMANCE DATES

Holiday Show

Broadway Kids, Vocal Soloists

Dec 12th
5:00, 6:15, 7:30

Beetlejuice Jr

Fri, Nov 13 at 7:00pm
Sat, Nov 14 at 2pm & 6pm
Sun, Nov 15 at 11am & 2pm

Frozen Kids

Fri, Dec 11 at 6pm
Sat, Dec 12 at 12pm & 3pm
Sun, Dec 13 at 11am & 2pm

Spelling Bee

Fri, Mar 5 at 7pm
Sat, Mar 6 at 2pm & 7pm
Sun, Mar 7 at 12pm & 4pm

Descendants

Fri, May 14 at 7:00pm
Sat, May 15 at 2pm & 6:00pm
Sun, May 16 at 11am & 3pm

Barnyard Moosical

Fri, May 21 at 6pm
Sat, May 22 at 12:30pm & 2pm

TEPA Gala

Private Lesson Students, Competitive Solos/Duos/Trios

Sun May 23 2027, Prairie Center

Recital Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday June 1, 2027, Prairie Center

Recital

Sun, June 6, 2027, Prairie Center



GENERAL POLICIES

Registration

All students must be enrolled via an online account. An annual registration fee of \$25 per family will be due at the time of registration. This fee does not apply to the summer session or students only in theatre productions. Students who withdraw and re-enroll during the main session will be billed another registration fee upon re-enrollment.

Enrollment Deadlines

Students can enroll at any time. Students who do not wish to participate in the Recital should notify the office by January 20th to avoid additional performance fees.

Communication

TEPA utilizes primarily email and texts to communicate with parents and students. If you choose to opt out of email and/or text communication you may miss out on important notifications. Parents and students are also encouraged to join the studio Band app to keep up to date with all studio announcements.

Class Cancellations

One cancelled class per semester (two per session) is built into the regular tuition rate. If more than two cancellations occur during the course of the session, a makeup class will be scheduled. Classes cancelled due to weather or other acts outside of TEPA control will not be made up.

Photos/Videos

TEPA reserves the right to use all student photos and videos acquired during classes, lessons, or performances for promotional or marketing purposes. This may include postings on social media, our website, handbooks, and flyers. If you prefer you/your child not be photographed or videotaped, please opt out in your portal account.

Child Supervision

Non-enrolled students are not permitted in the studios or student lounge areas. Children should not be left unsupervised in the waiting room. Students waiting in the hallways, waiting room, or lounge should be respectful and non-disruptive or they will be asked to leave.

Parking

TEPA has four reserved parking spaces in front of the building during daytime business hours. Additional non-reserved parking is located on the north end of the building and at the back entrance. Daytime attendees may also park in the adjacent post office parking lot. Reserved parking does not apply to evening classes after 6:00pm.

Pickup/Dropoff

Parents should drop off students no more than 10 minutes prior to their class time and they must be retrieved promptly upon class ending. Parents should avoid lining up cars in front of the building and should utilize available parking spaces. Parents and students are to use the front door exclusively for pickups/dropoffs.

Parent/Student Behavior

Parents and students should address TEPA instructors and staff as "Ms." or "Mr." followed by their first name. Students should be prepared to accept constructive criticism from their instructors to aid in their development and progress. Any behavioral problems at the studio including disruptive behavior, inappropriate language, horseplay, or disrespect towards instructors or students will result in removal from class and may result in dismissal from the studio.



TUITION & PAYMENTS

Total tuition for the school-year session is divided evenly over 9 monthly installments. Each installment is the same regardless of the number of weeks in a particular month.

Tuition Installments

Tuition payments will be posted to the student's account on the 25th and payment is due on the 1st of each month. September's tuition payment will be due upon initial enrollment. Email reminders are sent each month when tuition is due. Monthly tuition does not include required clothing items, costumes, recital tickets, class supplies, additional private lessons, competition fees, or transportation.

Late Enrollments

Students who enroll after the start of the session will pay a pro-rated tuition amount based on the enrollment date for the first installment only. The pro-rated tuition and registration fee are due upon enrollment.

Summer Tuition

Tuition is due in full upon enrollment for the Summer session. There is no registration fee for these sessions.

Theatre Productions

Performance fees for shows are due in two installments. Fees must be paid in full in order for performers to continue in the production after the final due date.

Making Payments

Families must enroll in Auto Pay when registering. Accounts will be charged on the 1st of each month. Those who do not want their account charged must pay with a check, cash, or Zelle prior to the 1st of each month.

Rates

TEPA is a private organization and rates are subject to change.

Refunds

TEPA does not issue refunds except in the case of the 30 day withdrawal period or a billing error. Account credits will be applied in all other cases and can be used for tuition payments, team fees, merchandise, or any other studio fee.

Late Fees/Returned Checks

Return check fee: \$25

Late tuition fee: \$10 applied after 7 days of overdue tuition

Costume payment late fee for rush orders: \$40

Overdue Balances

If tuition becomes 7 days overdue, student attendance is suspended until tuition is paid. All missed classes/lessons count as an absence during this period. A \$10 late fee will be applied.

Students with a tuition payment that is overdue for 1 month will be dropped from the class/lesson and an invoice will be sent for the remaining balance due.

Tuition Freezes

Tuition may be frozen for students who are injured, have a long-term performance conflict, or have a significant financial hardship and are unable to attend for a time. To apply for a tuition freeze, please contact the front desk. Freezes take effect on the 1st of the month. Tuition freezes are not applicable for private lessons or summer session.

Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from a class or lesson at any time by completing a withdrawal form on the TEPA website before the 1st of the month when tuition is charged. Tuition will continue to be charged until a withdrawal form is received. No refunds or credits are given for costume or performance fees, or tuition that was already paid.

Withdrawals from theatre productions must be completed prior to the 2nd installment deadline. Prior to that date, any fees previously paid will be refunded, less a \$50 withdrawal fee.

30-Day Withdrawal Period

Students who choose to fully withdraw from all classes and lessons within 30 days of their initial enrollment date will receive a refund of their registration fee and any costume/recital fees. Costume/recital fees cannot be refunded after February 1st.



GROUP CLASS POLICIES

Class Levels

Students should enroll in the class that matches their grade level. For Dance Teams, auditions will determine placement. Students may be placed in a level different from their grade as determined by instructors, and classes may be combined depending on enrollment.

Pre-Approval

Instructor approval is required for enrollment in any level V class, or to move up a level in any technique class. Please contact the office for approval and/or to schedule an assessment. New students who are unsure which level best suits them should schedule an assessment.

Drop-in Classes

Several group classes will be designated as drop-in classes. Students do not need to enroll for a full session, but they can select the dates they choose to attend. Students must enroll in a drop-in class and submit a payment through the Customer Portal prior to attending class. Students who arrive and are not enrolled will be asked to go to the front desk to complete enrollment. Drop-in students will be eligible for the Recital as long as the office is aware by February 1st of their desire to participate and they pay the applicable fees.

Parent Viewing

Parents are not permitted to watch classes or lessons from the dance studios or lesson rooms. The waiting room will show a live feed of each studio for viewing. Parents may be allowed into the dance studios on specific viewing days throughout the year.

Class Procedures

Students should check in at the front desk prior to class. Studio doors will be closed once classes begin.

Students should wait quietly in the waiting room, hall, or student lounge areas for classes to start and should enter upon the doors being opened.

Attendance & Tardiness

Students who need to miss a class should notify the studio as early as possible via email, text, or phone call. Students who miss more than 2 classes per semester may be required to purchase a private lesson to catch up on material. Students who miss four consecutive classes will be dropped from the class.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late may be asked to observe class only for safety reasons. Excessive tardiness on a continual basis may result in removal from the class.

Makeup Classes

Students are able to make up missed classes by attending another class in their level or below within two weeks. To schedule a makeup class, please contact the office.

Injuries

Students who are injured and unable to attend classes for more than three weeks may have their tuition frozen by presenting a doctor's note. Tuition will be pro-rated for the weeks they were able to attend, and will be pro-rated when they resume classes. Students will need to produce an 'all clear' note from a doctor to resume classes.

Refunds will not be issued for costumes that are already ordered.

In Class Injuries

Students who are injured or become ill during class time will need to sit out and contact a parent. Students who request an ice pack will need to sign one out from the front desk.



DRESS CODE

The following section contains our studio Dress Code for all classes. Parents and students should review the Dress Code below to ensure that students are outfitted with the required apparel for all classes. Correct attire is essential for class to allow students to move properly and allow instructors to give proper corrections.

Students are allowed to be out of dress code for the first two weeks of class to have time to acquire all appropriate dress code items. After that time, students should arrive to class in Dress Code, including hair up and off the face.

Students who are not in Dress Code will have a notice sent via email. If they return to the next class without appropriate attire, they will be asked to observe class only or purchase items from the front desk.

Students should be prepared to purchase several pairs of dance shoes throughout the year. Jazz shoes, ballet shoes, and tights should be purchased in a color most closely resembling the student's skin tone. Students with sensitivities to certain required garments should contact the office for approval on alternate attire. Non-binary students should wear the attire that best suits them within our guidelines. Please contact us for alternative options.

Hair

Long hair should be secured away from the face in a bun or ponytail. Short hair should be clipped back as needed so it does not fall into the face or eyes.

Ballet



- Leotard & Tights
- Ballet skirts permitted at the barre
- T-shirt and sweat pants or shorts for boys
- Ballet Shoes

Tap



- Leotard, tight-fitting tank, sports bra top, or tight t-shirt
- Tights, leggings, or athletic shorts
- Tap shoes

Tutus Twirl & Tap



- Leotard & Tights
- Ballet skirts optional
- T-shirt and sweat pants or shorts for boys
- Ballet Shoes
- Tap shoes

Jazz, Lyrical, Leaps & Turns, Conditioning



- Leotard, tight-fitting tank/t-shirt, or sports bra top
- Tights, leggings, jazz pants, or athletic shorts
- Jazz shoes

Musical Theatre Dance



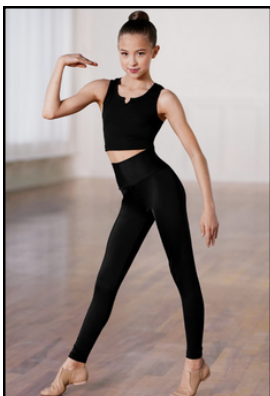
- Leotard, tight-fitting tank, or sports bra
- Tights, leggings, or athletic shorts (no jeans)
- Jazz shoes & black Tap shoes

Hip Hop Pop Hoppers



- T-shirt or tank top
- Sweatpants, leggings, or athletic shorts
- Clean sneakers (no street shoes)

Theatre Classes



- T-shirt, tank top, or athletic top
- Sweatpants, leggings, or athletic shorts
- Jazz shoes

Adult Jazz/Tap



- Leotard, T-shirt, tank top, or athletic top
- Tights, leggings, or athletic pants/shorts
- Tap shoes and Jazz Shoes



PRIVATE LESSON POLICIES

Absences

Absences must be reported to the office 24 hours prior to the scheduled lesson time. Without 24 hours notice, lessons will not be eligible for a makeup and no refunds will be issued. This also applies to drop-in lessons and scheduled makeup lessons. Students who have more than 3 absences per semester may not be eligible for performances without purchasing additional lessons. Students with four consecutive absences will be dropped from the lesson.

Makeup Lessons

In the event of an absence or instructor cancellation, makeup lessons will be held during the makeup week at the end of the session. Students are permitted two makeup lessons per semester. Absences that persist beyond that will not be made up. All makeup lessons must be scheduled by the office.

Withdrawals

Students who withdraw from recurring lessons must do so prior to the 1st of the next month. Credits will not be issued for mid-month withdrawals.

Enrollment

Students can enroll in a recurring weekly private lesson, meaning they have a reserved spot each week. Some lesson slots may be available for drop-in lessons. These will not be reserved each week, and students must continually enroll for drop-in lessons as needed. Both weekly and drop-in lessons must be scheduled in the online Customer Portal.

Drop-in Lessons

Drop-in lessons must be scheduled in the Customer Portal by selecting the desired lesson time and selecting the dates a student wishes to attend. Lessons must be scheduled 2 days in advance. The lesson will not be considered reserved until payment has been processed. There are no refunds for missed drop-in lessons, and no makeups. Drop-in students may participate in spring performances with instructor approval if the office is notified prior to February 1st.

Conflicts of Interest

Students enrolled in a weekly private lesson will not be permitted to take private lessons of the same discipline outside of TEPA. Teaching methods can vary greatly from studio to studio, and may hinder a student's development.



GALA & RECITAL

The Shows

TEPA Gala

Sun, May 23rd

-For all dance solos, duos, & trios (competitive & non-competitive) and private voice & piano students

Recital

Sunday June 6th

-All recreational classes, Dance Teams, and Senior competitive soloists

Participation

There is no registration deadline for recital participation, however costumes may not be available if it is very late in the season. Drop-in students can elect to participate as long as the office is notified by February 1st and the instructor approves. Students who wish to opt-out of the performances must do so by January 20th to avoid additional fees. Dance Team members are required to participate.

Recital Fees

Recital fees will be posted with February's tuition installment (Recital participants only). Unpaid fees will result in a student not being able to participate in the recital.

Costumes

Dance students participating in the Recital will be charged \$75-90 per costume, depending on the class. Most classes will require one recital costume, but there may be some classes that require two. Parents will be made aware prior to the fees being posted. Non-competitive soloists performing in the Gala may elect to order a costume and will be assessed the standard fee. Voice & piano students can discuss appropriate attire with their instructor for their performance.

Performance Fee

A performance fee of \$40 will be assessed per student for the Recital. This fee is not applicable for the Gala.

Photos & Videos

Photos and videos for the Gala & Recital will be distributed at no extra cost. Posed photos of our dance students will be available for purchase from our photographer.

Shoes & Tights

Shoes and tights will be specified per dance and must be purchased separately from the costume fee. Both can be purchased through the TEPA front desk store. Jazz shoes, ballet shoes, and tights should be purchased in colors that most closely resemble the student's skin tone.

Costume Fit & Tailoring

Costumes must be tried on immediately upon receipt. We are able to return costumes due to improper fit within 20 days. If a student is not in attendance and does not try on the costume within that time frame, a new costume will need to be purchased at the \$80 cost, plus a \$40 rush shipping charge, if the original costume does not fit.

Costumes that are slightly big may need to be tailored. Parents can take the costumes to the tailor of their choice, or utilize our Costume Mistress for tailoring needs. Tailoring jobs will be quoted in advance by the Costume Mistress.

Hair and Makeup

Students will be provided a hair and makeup guide for the recital and must wear full hair and makeup to all dress rehearsals and performances. Makeup and hair products are at the students' expense.



Attendance/ Rehearsals

Attendance in classes and lessons is mandatory the last week of the session prior to recital. Dress rehearsal is mandatory for all students participating in the recitals. Students with unexcused absences during that week of classes or the dress rehearsal will not be permitted to participate in the recital.

SAFETY & WAIVERS



Payment Information

Parent/guardian/student understands that it is his/her responsibility to provide accurate payment information, and to update credit card information and payment frequency preference via the Customer Portal. Questions and disputes regarding payments, refunds, or account accuracy should be directed to the office. Parents/students agree not to chargeback fees for tuition, costumes, class/lesson supplies, or competition fees.

Release of Liability

All parents and students of TEPA are aware that there are risks of physical injury or illness associated with activities at TEPA, performances, and/or rehearsals, and are willing to assume those risks. In recognition of this acknowledged risk, it is agreed that That's Entertainment Performing Arts, its officers, agents, employees, instructors, and associates are not responsible for personal injury/illness or personal loss. Students and parents have read and understand the studio policies and agree to abide by them at all times.

Medical Authorization

TEPA, its owners and operators have parent/guardian permission to seek medical treatment for a participant in the event they are not able to reach a parent/guardian. Parent/guardian declares any physical/mental problems, restrictions, or condition and/or declare the participant to be in good physical and mental health.