

STEP STUDENT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

2026-2027 S.T.E.P. HANDBOOK

Maranatha's Student Teacher Education Program (S.T.E.P.) is a highly distinguished in-studio education program that aims to promote the love of dance and knowledge of instructional methods to current leveled students in 5th grade or older. As a member, you are guided through the dance education process using in-class training, hands-on practice, instructor mentoring, and research-based activities that are designed to give our students an opportunity to participate in the educational process of being a student teacher. The S.T.E.P. program provides the stepping stones towards building life skills such as confidence, high work ethics, problem solving, and leadership skills for the future. Discipline, respect, responsibility, enthusiasm, and patience are qualities we want to see in you!

All RETURNING and NEW applicants are invited to submit an application **HERE!**



5TH-8TH GRADERS

Students at this age level will have the opportunity for four gatherings for training throughout the year and may be offered to assist in a class where space is available. Within our year together we will learn the flow and management of the classroom, how to demonstrate skills, how to connect with students, as well as developing discipline, responsibility, problem solving, and time management. Teacher assistants in 8 grade or older are also highly encouraged to take the STAR Leadership Class.

Time Commitment: Weekly helper class(es) as space is available for the length of the dance year, two mandatory training gatherings (2 additional optional trainings), and volunteer at our Children's Program recital. Participants must be enrolled in all required classes for the leveled program.

Dress Code: Assistants should wear a black leotard, tights, and proper footwear for the class you are assisting with. Genres other than ballet may also wear black leggings and Maranatha attire (with the logo). Hair must be worn in a slick, clean bun (with the exception of hip hop). No sweatpants, sweatshirts, jackets, t-shirts, jewelry (with the exception of stud earrings), gum, or inappropriate footwear/socks is allowed.

Absences: If you need to miss a class, you are responsible for informing the instructor prior to class using the Team App. It is your responsibility to attend all classes. If you are unable to assist due to illness or unavoidable circumstances, it is your responsibility to try and obtain another S.T.E.P. member as a substitute through the TEAM App. Reliable attendance is a key element of the S.T.E.P. program. Excessive absence or tardiness will result in removal from the S.T.E.P. program.



9TH GRADERS +

Our older teacher assistants act as a source of positive energy in the classroom and keep students focused on the instructor. They may be asked to lead warm-ups, assist with choreography, lead in the month memory verse, in addition to other responsibilities that promote leadership skills. Teacher assistants in 8 grade or older are also highly encouraged to take the STAR Leadership Class.

Time Commitment: Weekly helper class(es) as space is available for the length of the dance year, two mandatory training gatherings (2 additional optional trainings), and volunteer at our Children's Program recital.

Applicants must be enrolled in all required classes in the leveled program, or a minimum of two teen classes, unless otherwise approved by the director.

Dress Code: Assistants should wear a black leotard, tights, and proper footwear for the class you are assisting with. Genres other than ballet may also wear black leggings and Maranatha attire (with the logo). Hair must be worn in a slick, clean bun (with the exception of hip hop). No sweatpants, sweatshirts, jackets, t-shirts, jewelry (with the exception of stud earrings), gum, or inappropriate footwear/socks is allowed.

Absences: If you need to miss a class, you are responsible for informing the instructor prior to class using the Team App. It is your responsibility to attend all classes. If you are unable to assist due to illness or unavoidable circumstances, it is your responsibility to try and obtain another S.T.E.P. member as a substitute through the TEAM App. Reliable attendance is a key element of the S.T.E.P. program. Excessive absence or tardiness will result in removal from the S.T.E.P. program.



STAR LEADERSHIP CLASS (8TH+)

Any Maranatha student in 8th grade or above wanting to develop their leadership skills and deepen their character is invited! The goal of this weekly class is to create a culture of servant leadership so that our students are equipped to make a positive impact in our community and our world. The *Taking Shape™ Star Leadership* class is a curriculum used in dance and youth programs internationally, empowering the next generation through structured, engaging, and collaborative sessions. Students taking the class are also expected to complete weekly assignments and participate in several volunteer projects throughout the year.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Be responsible for knowing/following your schedule, balancing school work and extracurriculars, knowing choreography, showing up on time to all classes and events and keeping up with all STEP program assignments and requirements.
- Be professional at all times. Come to all classes prepared, abide by the dress code, treat yourself and all dancers and teachers with respect to their face and behind their back.
- Behave as a role model for the younger students and carry a positive, helpful and humble attitude. Little eyes are always watching in hopes of being just like you one day.
- Maintain good grades (3.0 gpa or higher) and a positive presence on social media. •Know each child by name in classes you assist.
- Keep current with studio events, schedules, and information. Stay informed!
- NEVER have cell phones out at any time in a classroom (during classes you assist or classes you take). Be present in the moment!
- You will need to purchase a S.T.E.P. T-shirt (\$10) if you do not already have one.
- Please note that assisting in classrooms is a volunteer role.



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Arrive 15 minutes early to assist.
- Help students find their spot as they arrive to class.
- After class ends, help the instructor ensure each dancer gets safely to their parents.
- Keep the class' focus on the instructor.
- NEVER sit while assisting a class. Our goal is to present a positive model for the students to follow.
- Finish every exercise or movement “full-out” with the students so the instructor can give corrections when needed.
- Follow what your teacher asks is helpful to do. Ask questions like “How can I help?”
- If the instructor is interrupted or has to leave the room, keep the class going by repeating the current exercise or coming up with another appropriate exercise.
- Encourage children quietly and gently while helping them to remember that they need to be listening and paying attention to the instructor.
Please remember that it is the instructors job to give corrections and lead the class.
- Help clean and organize the studio before and after class. If you see something that needs to be done – do it! Props organized, lobby tidy, garbage off the floor, floors swept, acro mats cleaned, fingerprints wiped off the mirrors and glass, etc. Every little task that you do to help out around the studio is always noticed and appreciated! :)

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