Summer Intensive Tips from a Peer Parent

The following tips may come in handy while navigating the world of auditions and program registration. This list was compiled by Susan Santoro, Joffrey Academy Parents’ Association Lead Ambassador and Level V Parent.

Plan early. If you want to pre-register, some online audition registrations close before January. However, you can register for most programs a few weeks or even days before the audition.

Pre-register when you can. It’s less stressful for you and your student and you may even save money. However, you can usually register in person on the day of the audition.

Be selective. Your student does not have to audition for every intensive program. There will be schedule conflicts.

Read audition requirements carefully online. Some require photos, some require proof of age, and some require printed forms or email receipts. A new trend for several programs is to submit digital photos and documents in advance during the online registration process, so be sure you have what you need before you sit down to register your student.

Photos do not need to be professional. However, give them EXACTLY what they are asking for – size, format, position, etc.

Have a plan and a preference as you may have to make a decision before you hear from every program. Be aware of costs, logistics and housing options in advance.

Register promptly for your first choice program as they fill quickly.

Check your selected program’s orientation materials carefully and be sure to complete payment deadlines/preferences and any additional forms such as medical, release/permission, activities, housing, etc. by the required deadlines.

Make travel arrangements in advance for best pricing and availability.

Carefully check over the suggested packing list and required uniform/supplies for class. Purchase/order any required items in advance of departure, especially pointe shoes (see other side).

Practice doing laundry at home so your dancer can manage this task easily once they are away from home.

(See other side for Pointe Shoe Pointers)
Pointe Shoe Pointers

If this is your first time preparing for a 4-6 week summer intensive program, be aware that you will need several pairs of pointe shoes (one pair per week on average) and to order your shoes well in advance. Allegro Dance Boutique (in Evanston and Barrington), only stocks one pair in each brand/style/size combination and it can take several weeks via special order to get the rest of your pairs.

Take advantage of your discount at Allegro (Joffrey students receive 10% off) as well as their annual summer intensive 5-pack special and remember to use your loyalty card. (You can contact Allegro for more information).

When your order arrives, have your student try on every pair of shoes to make sure they are all correct and fit well.

Tell your dancer to sew before she goes! She won’t want to miss out on social time or activities because she has to sew pointe shoes. If she can’t manage this, at least have one pair that is ready to go along with all of the supplies to complete the other pairs (elastic, ribbons, sewing kit, etc.)

Recommended Dancewear Stores

**Allegro Dance Boutique**
www.allegrodanceboutique.com
2114 Central Street
Evanston, IL 60201
847-733-8460

104 South Cook Street
Barrington, IL 60010
847-277-1009

**Motion Unlimited Dancewear**
www.motionunlimiteddancewear.com
218 S. Wabash Avenue, Suite 270
Chicago, IL 60601
312-922-3330

**Discount Dance Supply**
www.discountdance.com
Online retailer