



**Mid American Studio & Pom**  
**24425 Indoplex Circle**  
**Farmington Hills, MI 48335**  
**248-477-5248**

Please sign and return the bottom of this sheet before  
July 19, 2019.

If you are able to commit to the following rules and  
guidelines, and wish to become a member of the

***Mid American Studio Elite Dance Company***

2019-2020

Please sign & date below.

Dancer: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_



## **Team Handbook & Guidelines to Frequently Asked Questions**

**2019-2020 Competitive Season**

**Written & Approved by**  
**Karen Blazaitis**  
**& Abbie Richardson**

## **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the Elite Dance Company is first and foremost to help our dancers excel at something they are passionate about. It is not about performing solos or winning big trophies. It is about motivating young people to be a part of a team that strives to do their best, for themselves as individuals and for the team as a whole. We encourage teamwork and dedication to the sport and to each other. We are giving the students the opportunity to learn discipline and perseverance, as well as improving communication skills, preparedness, and self-confidence. Performance has such a vast influence on boosting self-esteem and confidence in their craft.

The Elite Dance Company aims not only to train highly qualified young dancers, but to teach lessons that will last a lifetime. It is about dedication, determination, and the realization that hard work pays off.

## **Eligibility & Training**

Eligibility for the Elite Dance Company is by invitation only, and students are selected based on age and ability. If you do not love to dance, and are not willing to display great dedication to this team, then EDC is simply not for you, and that is perfectly okay. Invitations are sent based on teacher recommendations for technique, knowledge/skill, attitude, and stage presence.

Dancers will be chosen for routines based on the instructors vision, age, ability, etc. Within these groups, the dancers will have chances to perform in the styles of jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and will be grouped in large groups, small groups, duets/trios, and/or solos (if accepted).

## **Parental Involvement & Communication**

Communication is the key to success! The preferred method of communication between parents and teachers will be email. It will not be unusual for multiple emails to come through each week during and leading up to competition season, and will be very important that parents check email frequently.

It is pertinent to keep the lines of communication open between all dancers, instructors, and parents. If there is ever an issue of miscommunication, in person meetings or phone calls are the best way to resolve issues!

Parents– we want you to be as involved in your dancer's education as you possibly can. However, rehearsals will be closed to parents and guests, unless special arrangements have been made ahead of time.

**\*\***There will be a pre-competition informational meeting held at the beginning of each competition season and it will be mandatory for all dancers and at least 1 parent to attend.

## Tuition & Fees

A breakdown of the annual cost of being an Elite Dance Company member are approximated as follows:

Tuition: Ballet class, \$609.00

Company Technique class, \$455.00

Company Rehearsal (Per dance), \$411.30

Fees: One-time, upfront commitment fee, \$100.00

Choreography fee (per dance), \$20.00

Competition entry fee (per dance), \$50.00 (x2 comps)

Convention entry fee, \$200.00

Costume fee (per dance), \$65.00

Team Gear (Approximately), \$120.00

Shoes & Accessories, \$80.00

Solos/Duets: \*Not Required\*

Choreography & Tuition, \$260.00 (solo)

Competition entry fee, \$115.00 (on average)

Costume fee- your choice, but must be paid in full to order.

Choreography & Tuition, \$220.00 each (Duet)

Competition entry fee, \$75-100.00 each.

## Training Continued

Excellent attendance is required to overall team improvement, and therefore attendance is mandatory to all classes, rehearsals, and performances. When just one dancer is not there or fails to give their all, it effects the whole group. If all students give 100% at every class, rehearsal, and performance that is when our potential will be maximized.

Excused absences will be accepted for illness, family emergencies, and graded school functions only. All other absences will be at the instructor's discretion, and must be communicated before the class or event. The student and/or parents are expected to communicate all absences with the studio staff/teachers in advance. This includes being late-CALL US!

Each dancer is expected to take the following classes year round (September through May):

1 60 min. Ballet Class

1 60 min. Company Technique Class

45 min. Rehearsal Class for the routine(s) you are chosen for. Final rehearsal schedule will be given out after dancers are selected for routines.

Additional recital classes are at your discretion, but highly recommended to continue building technique, performance skills, etc. It is expected that all EDC members take their training seriously, and make practice a part of their daily-routine. After all, Practice makes Perfect!

## Class Attire & Expectations

EDC members are expected to follow the dress code as described. Dancers are to wear a leotard and tights (any color and style) to all classes and rehearsals. Dance shorts, leggings, tank tops, and warm-ups are also acceptable over top of your leotard, but not in place of. Hair must be pulled back and completely off your face before the start of class. Please make sure it is secure so that you are not “fixing it” during class. Correct shoes must also be worn for all classes and rehearsals (i.e. do not show up to jazz class in hip-hop sneakers). You will be considered a role model in the studio, and the younger dancers will be looking up to you.

All EDC members are expected to be prompt and prepared for all classes, rehearsals, and events. A good rule to follow is if you are not 5 minutes early, you are LATE!

All EDC members are expected to take full advantage of their classes by making the most of their time and paying full attention to the class. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN CLASS. This rule is non-negotiable.

Dancers will treat their teachers and peers with respect at all times. Dance is fun, but unnecessary gossip, bullying, and drama will not be tolerated. Simply be nice to each other! The focus during class should be on dancing, and dancing alone. Enthusiasm, dedication, and passion for dance will drive us towards progress and greatness!

## Performances

All EDC members are asked to participate in every scheduled performance and event. You will be the leaders of the studio, and therefore your presence is important!

Performances throughout the year will include:

Fall & Winter Recitals

Possible Christmas-time events

Regional Dance Competitions

Regional Conventions

Other performance opportunities that arise

**\*\*Calendar dates are subject to change, but the schedule will be adhered to as closely as possible.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

<b>Oakland Dance Festival</b>	November
<b>Fall Recital</b>	December 7, 2019
<b>Rainbow Dance Competition (Detroit)</b>	February 28-March 1, 2020
<b>Starquest Dance Competition (Detroit)</b>	March 13-15, 2020
<b>Winter Recital</b>	May 9, 2020