



Mid American Studio & Pom
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Please sign and return the bottom of this sheet at or before EDC Summer Intensive, August 24-25. Keep Handbook for future reference.

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

Mid American Studio Elite Dance Company

2020-21

Please sign below.

Dancer: _____

Parent: _____



**Team Handbook & Guidelines to
Frequently Asked Questions
2020-21 Competitive Season**

Written & Approved by

Mrs. Karen Blazaitis

& Miss 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 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 hope to give the students an opportunity to learn discipline and perseverance, as well as improving dance technique and skills, communication, preparedness, and self-confidence.

Performance has a huge impact on boosting young dancers' self-esteem and confidence.

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 audition only. Students are invited to auditions based on age (9 years & up) and dance ability. Auditions are a 2 day process wherein dancers will demonstrate their Ballet & Jazz technique. Dancers will need to perform a short combination, learned at auditions, in small groups in front of a panel of judges. Dancers are chosen based on technique, knowledge, skill, & attitude, displayed at auditions. Dancers need to understand that accepting a spot on the team will require great dedication to the sport and the team. Upon acceptance, dancers will be required to attend the EDC Summer Intensive for placement in the upcoming competitive routines.

Dancers will be chosen for routines based on the instructors vision, age, ability, etc. Dancers will have opportunities to perform in the styles of jazz, tap, lyrical, contemporary, and musical theater. Solos/Duets/Trios will be awarded based on teacher recommendations. Requests can be made through Miss Abbie.

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 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 these issues!

Parents- we want 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 competition season and it will be MANDATORY for all dancers and at least 1 parent to attend.



Tuition & Fees

Breakdown of the annual cost of being an Elite Dance Company member are *approximated* as follows:

A. Monthly Tuition:

1 hr. Ballet class: \$65.00 / month

1 hr. Company Technique class: \$45.00 / month

45 min. Competition Rehearsal: \$65.00 / month - *pricing varies*

45 min. Tap Technique class: \$40.00 / month - *class optional*

45 min. Recital class: \$46.00 / month - *class optional*

B. Fees:

Annual Commitment fee: \$100.00

Competition entry fees (per dancer/dance): \$55.00 (*may vary*)

Costume fees (per dance): Avg. \$50.00-75.00

C. Team Costs: *Estimated costs, not necessarily purchased every year.*

Team Gear: \$150.00

Shoes & Accessories: \$80.00-100.00

Team Makeup: \$60.00

D. Solos/Duets: **Optional, Not Required**

Choreography fee split between dancers: \$100.00

Solo: \$260.00 Competition entry fee: \$115.00 (avg.)

Duet/Trio: \$220.00 each Competition entry fee, \$75.00 each

Costume fee: *Price varies.* Selected with dancers, paid in full.

**Monthly Tuition payments due 1st of the month. All accounts must be current in order to register for competitions.

Training Continued

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

Excused absences will be accepted for illness, family emergencies, and graded school functions only (3 per year). All 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 – PLEASE CALL US!

Too many absences will require private lessons with the instructor, at your cost, to learn missed material.

Each dancer is expected to take the following weekly classes:

1 hour Ballet Class

1 hour Company Technique Class

1+ 45 minute Competition Rehearsal Class

**Final rehearsal schedule will be given out after dancers are selected for routines. Competition rehearsals begin 1 week after the start of the Fall Semester.

Additional technique and recital classes are available and highly recommended to continue building on 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 into a neat ponytail or bun, and completely off your face before the start of class. Please make sure hair is secure so you are not "fixing it" during class. Correct shoes must also be worn for all classes and rehearsals. 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 classes, rehearsals, and events. Dancers are expected to arrive (dressed & ready) at competition minimum of 1 hour before their scheduled performance time. 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.***

EDC members are not allowed to dance for another studio while competing with Mid American Studio.

EDC members are expected to treat their teachers, peers, and themselves with respect at all times. Dance is an opportunity to have fun, but unnecessary gossip, bullying, and drama will not be tolerated. Be nice to your teammates! Focus during class should be on dancing.

Enthusiasm, dedication, and passion for dance will drive us towards progress and greatness! Mid American Studio strives to develop good dancers, who are equally good teammates, and grow to become all-around good people!

Performances

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

Performances throughout the year will include:

Fall & Winter Recitals

Possible Holiday-time events

Regional or National Dance Competitions

Regional Dance 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

Summer Dance Intensive	August 24-25, 2020
Fall Recital	<i>December 11-12, 2020 Novi HS (Tentatively)</i>
StarQuest Dance Competition	Feb. 26-28, 2021 Detroit
Applause Dance Competition	March 12-14, 2021 Grand Rapids
KAR Dance Competition	April 23-25, 2021 Detroit
Winter Recital	TBD Novi HS Auditorium