



Mid American Studio & Pom
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Please sign and return the bottom of this sheet on or before Tuesday,
August 1st, 2023. Keep Handbook for future reference.



**Team Handbook & Guidelines to
Frequently Asked Questions
2023-24 Competitive Season**

Written & Approved by
Abbie Baublitz, Director

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

Mid American Studio Elite Dance Company

2023-24

Please sign below.

Dancer: _____

Parent: _____

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 their team. 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 also helps boost 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. EDC is about dedication, determination, and passion for dance.

Eligibility & Training

Eligibility for the Elite Dance Company is by audition only. Students are invited to audition based on experience and staff recommendation. Auditions are a 3-day process wherein dancers will demonstrate their Ballet, Jazz, and Tap 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, and attitude displayed at auditions. Dancers need to understand that accepting a spot on the team will require great dedication. Upon acceptance, dancers will be required to attend Summer Dance classes and EDC Summer Intensive for placement in 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, hip hop and musical theater. Solos/Duets/Trios will be awarded after the audition process. Dancers interested in performing must attend Solo/Duo/Trio auditions with their own prepared choreography (1-2 minutes) to present to the panel of judges.

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, especially 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. Jazz Technique class: \$65.00 / month

45 min. Tap Technique class: \$55.00 / month

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

45 min. Recital class: \$50.00 / month - *class optional*

**EDC Mini Dancers :*

1 hr. Jazz/Competition class: \$65.00 / month

45 min. Ballet class: \$50.00 / month

Elite Tap Class: \$50.00 / month

B. Fees:

Annual Team Commitment fee: \$125.00

Competition entry fees (per dancer/dance): \$65.00-\$80.00

Costume fees (per dance): Avg. \$75.00-\$100.00

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

Team Gear: \$150.00

Shoes & Accessories: \$80.00-\$100.00

Team Makeup: \$65.00+

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

Choreography fee split between dancers: \$100.00

Solo: \$550.00, Competition entry fee: \$125.00 (avg.)

Duet/Trio: \$350.00 each, Competition entry fee: \$90.00/dancer

****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, then our potential will be maximized!

Excused absences will be accepted for illness, family emergency, and graded school functions only (3 per year). All absences will be at the Director's discretion, and must be communicated before the class or event. The student and/or parent is expected to communicate all absences with the studio staff/teachers in advance. *Too many absences will require private lessons with the instructor, at your cost, to learn missed material.*

Each dancer is required to take the following weekly classes:

1 hour Ballet Class

1 hour Jazz Technique Class

45 minute Tap Technique Class

1(+) 45 minute Competition Rehearsal Class

**Monthly Production Rehearsals (1 Fri/Sat per month)*

EDC Mini Dancers will participate in 1 hour Jazz/Competition Rehearsal and 45 minute Ballet class weekly. Tap and Hip Hop classes also highly encouraged!

****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.

All EDC members are expected to be prompt and prepared for class, rehearsals, and events. Dancers are expected to arrive (dressed & ready) at competition minimum of 2 hours before their scheduled performance time. *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. The focus during class should be on dancing, not chatting. **NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN CLASS.** *This rule is non-negotiable.*

EDC members are not allowed to dance/compete for another studio while competing with Mid American Studio. Dancers **MUST** be present in all classes the week leading up to a performance/competition.

EDC members are expected to treat their teachers, peers, and themselves with respect at all times. Dance is an opportunity to have fun, and unnecessary gossip, bullying, inappropriate use of social media and other drama will not be tolerated! Please be kind to your teammates!

Enthusiasm, dedication, and passion for dance will drive us toward 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 our studio, and therefore your presence is very important!

Performances throughout the year will include:

Annual Dance Recitals

Holiday-time events

Regional & National Dance Competitions

Regional Dance Conventions

Other performance opportunities that arise!

*****Calendar and Competition dates are subject to change, but this schedule will be adhered to as closely as possible.***

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Summer Intensive	August 14-19, 2023
Revel Dance Convention	Fall/Winter
Beyond the Stars Dance Competition	February Detroit or Ohio
StarQuest Dance Competition	March/April Detroit or Grand Rapids
Applause Talent Competition	March/April Detroit or Grand Rapids
Spring Dance Recital	May 10-11, 2024 Novi High School
StarQuest Dance World Finals	TBD