



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

EXPRESSION DANCE COMPANY 2018-2019 INFORMATION PACKET

AUDITIONS

All Boys Hip Hop / June 11TH
AGE 7+ / 6:45-7:45

Elite Company / June 15TH
AGE 5-7 / 9:00-11:00
AGE 8-10 / 11:00-1:00
AGE 11-12 / 1:00-3:00
AGE 13+ / 3:00-5:00

Performance Company / June 16TH
Age 5-7 / 9:00-10:30
Age 8-10 / 10:30-12:00
Age 11+ / 12:00-1:30

High School Company / June 16th
Age 13+ / 12:00-1:30

Star Performers / June 16th
Age 5-7 / 1:30-2:15
Age 8-10 / 2:15-3:00
Age 11+ / 3:00-3:45

Register online @ expressiondancestudio.com

Questions?

Email info@expressiondancestudio.com



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Expression Dance Company's goal is to teach its members valuable lessons about teamwork, responsibility, and commitment in a fun-filled and energetic atmosphere. They will perform at local events, competitions and conventions. Expression Dance

Company's goal is to focus on technique, performance opportunities, expressing one's self through dance, and quality dance education and training taught by highly qualified dance instructors. Dancers will not only have excellent training but they will become a part of our dance family and make great friendships that will last a lifetime!

Expression Dance Company is divided into 5 separate companies that are then divided into appropriate dance groups. Elite Company, Performance Company, High School Company, All Boys' Hip Hop and The Star Performers. Each company has something different to offer your dancer. Whether your dancer's main focus is dance or they are only looking to be committed a few days a week, we have a place for every child.

PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE COMPANY PACKET!

When considering which company your child would like to be a part of please remember a few things:

1. Time Commitment: If your child is unable to fully commit to the required schedule and dates please do not consider that particular company. Committing to each company means that dance is your child's first priority and takes precedence over any additional activities your child may participate in. This means your child should not be missing dance for other sport practices, play rehearsals, etc. Make sure the schedule works for you and your family before committing to the company. Absences will not be tolerated.

2. Financial Commitment: There is a big financial commitment when joining Expression Dance Company. Everything is spelled out for you for each group. Remember to thoroughly go over all fees associated with each company. Besides tuition you need to consider all additional fees; i.e. costumes, make-up, warm-up outfits, required shoes and tights, photo shoot, competition fees, choreography fees and t-shirt fees. We do our absolute best to give you all of the information before the auditions. Make sure that company is something your family can financially commit to.

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3. Experience: Please do not ask that your child be considered for a company your child is not prepared for. If your dancer has company experience, Elite and Performance Companies may be an option. If your dancer has only take recreational tap, jazz and ballet then Performance Company or Star Performers should be a goal. If your dancer has not taken ballet, tap and jazz they will only be considered for the Star Performers or will be asked to take a full year of those styles of dance to prepare them for the audition the following year.

4. Placement: Each dancer is continually evaluated during the year in their regular classes and during all rehearsal and performance opportunities. Every dancer matures at a different rate and the primary reason for placing students in different groups is to bring together dancers who form a cohesive group with similar skill level and dancing maturity. A 16 yr old dancer is very different from an 11 year old dancer in most cases, but if a young dancer shows extraordinary skill and maturity for their age, they may be asked to dance with a different group than their normal peer age group. You must respect and understand this going into the dance team commitment. Each individual is considered on his or her own merits and all decisions by the directors must be respected. If you would like your dancer to only be considered for one particular level (i.e. Performance or Elite) please mark accordingly on their online registration form, which can be found at <http://www.expressiondancestudio.com/company-audition/>. All company placement decisions will be final.

5. Support: When choosing to participate in Expression Dance Companies your job is to support your dancer and the studio. If you disagree with any of our policies then this is not the company for you. We do not tolerate gossip and teach love and support from the top of the studio down.

ELITE COMPANY

Levels: Mini, Junior, Teen and Senior

Commitment: Four days per week

Classes: 2 Ballet, 1 Technique, 1 Jazz Progression Technique, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Tap and Choreography.

Convention: They will attend 1 convention where they will only take class

Competition Routine: They will have 1 Jazz, 1 Lyrical, 1 Hip Hop and 1 Tap Routine. They will have the opportunity to perform in the Tap or Jazz Production

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routine and dancers have the opportunity to be selected for a solo, duo, trio or small group. These additional dances will require additional fees.

Performance Opportunities: They will compete at 5 competitions. They will have additional performance opportunities including, Brookfield Zoo Holiday Lights, Taste of Westmont, local school events, etc. All dates will be given in August. These are all mandatory events.

Nationals: Elite dancers will perform at a LOCAL Nationals (Chicagoland area) directly following the 2019 recital (end of June/beginning of July). Dates will be given in August.

Instructors:

Technique and Jazz Progression: Autumn Douglas & Lizzy Bensfield

Jazz and Lyrical Choreography: Autumn Douglas, Angela Savaglio, Anna Fox & Maggie Fox

Hip Hop: Luke Douglas, Angela Savaglio & Jen Laino

Tap: Amber Saraceno, Michelle Broviak & Annie Jo Ermel

Ballet and Pointe: Kate Rowan, Maggie Fox & Anna Fox

PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Levels: Mini, Junior, Teen and Senior

Commitment: Two days per week

Classes: 1 Ballet, 1 Tap, 1 Jazz and 1 Choreography

Convention: They will attend 1 convention where they will only take class.

Competition Routine: They will have 1 Jazz and 1 Tap dance and will have the opportunity to perform in the Tap Production if they are in Performance Junior, Performance Teen or Performance Senior Company. They will also have the opportunity to be selected for a solo, duo, trio or small group.

Performance Opportunities: They will compete 4 competitions. They will have additional performance opportunities including, Brookfield Zoo Holiday Lights, Taste of Westmont, local school events, etc. All dates will be given in August. These are all mandatory events.

Additional class options: Lyrical, Hip Hop, Pointe (ages 12 and up, with an additional ballet class), Tumbling

Instructors:

Jazz and Choreography: Lizzy Bensfield & Angela Savaglio

Tap and Choreography: Amber Saraceno & Michelle Broviak

Ballet: Kate Rowan



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HIGH SCHOOL COMPANY

Level: Must be in High School to participate

Commitment: Two days per week

Classes: 1 Jazz Progressions, 1 Choreography, 1 additional ballet or technique class of your choosing.

Convention: They will attend 1 convention where they will only take class.

Competition Routine: They will have 1 Jazz and 1 Lyrical routine. They will have the opportunity to perform in the tap production and will also have the opportunity to be selected for a solo, duo or trio.

Performance Opportunities: They will compete 4 competitions. They will have additional performance opportunities including, Brookfield Zoo Holiday Lights, Taste of Westmont, local school events, etc. All dates will be given in August. These are all mandatory events.

Instructors:

Jazz Progression, Jazz and Lyrical Choreography: Angela Savaglio

Ballet: Brianne Krause

ALL BOYS HIP HOP

Commitment: 1 day per week

Classes: 1 Hip Hop Class and 1 Choreography (They will have a few options for their hip hop class this year)

Convention: They will attend 1 convention (Monsters of Hip Hop)

Competition Routines: They will have 1 All boys hip hop dance. They will also have the opportunity to be selected for a solo, duo, or trio and a Elite dance.

Performance Opportunities: They will compete at 4 competitions. They will have additional performance opportunities including, Brookfield Zoo Holiday Lights, Taste of Westmont, Local School Events, etc. All dates will be given in August. These are all mandatory events.

Instructors:

Hip Hop and Choreography: Luke Douglas & Angela Savaglio



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THE STAR PERFORMERS

Level: Dancers ages 5 and up

Commitment: 1 day per week

Classes: 1 Recreational Jazz, 1 Recreational Ballet, 1 Choreography Class

Routine: 1 Jazz

Performance Opportunities: Brookfield Zoo Lights, Taste of Westmont and compete at 1 competition. All dates will be given in August. These events will be mandatory events.

Instructor:

Jazz and Choreography: Lizzy Bensfield

Ballet: Maggie Fox & Anna Fox

Commitment

All dancers commit to Expression Dance Company for the entire dance year September 2017–June 2018. Expression Dance Company members are not allowed to compete for any other dance studio or company. Furthermore, company members are not allowed to dance under the independent title at any competitive events. Dancers may perform at school functions. Please remember being a part of Expression Dance Company requires much additional time besides the dancers' weekly classes. Please be sure that the time commitment works with your entire family's schedule.

Behavior Expectations

The team directors have expectations of how the team members conduct themselves both in and outside of the dance studio. We have the same expectations of the parents, to support the team at all times. Parent attitude and behaviors directly affect others, especially your own children. A child may not be consciously aware of all situations, but absorb powerful messages about his or her parent's desires. Therefore, it is important that parents remain enthusiastic and supportive of the dancers, instructors, directors and respect other dancers and parents at all times. One of our main goals is to teach dancers to respect themselves and others, so the parents both in and out of the dance studio must model this behavior. Disappointments will inevitably occur as a part of every team member's experience. If a parent has a strong reaction in these situations, so will your child. It is up to you



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to teach your child how to experience and overcome disappointment. This will prepare them to be a strong, self confident adult. If you have concerns, please save them for a respectful discussion with the team director, not in front of others.

Competitive Dance

Competitive dance is a popular, widespread activity in which competitors perform dances in any of several permitted dance styles—such as [acro](#), [ballet](#), [jazz](#), [hip-hop](#), [lyrical](#), [modern](#), and [tap](#)—before a common group of judges. This is in contrast with other activities that involve competition among dancers based on purpose, or specific dance style, such as [pom squad](#) and [dancesport](#).

The competitive dance industry largely consists of *competition production companies*—also sometimes called *dance competition companies*—that conduct regional competitions at stops along their annual, nationwide tours. Dancers who compete at these regional competitions are usually dance students ranging in age from about six to eighteen years old. Dance schools typically arrange for their classes to compete as groups. Advanced dance students often compete solo or in small groups (e.g., duo, trio, quad) in addition to competing with their dance class groups. Competitive dancers must be physically fit because even short dances can be physically demanding. Also, dancers must continuously train to maintain and improve their technique, balance skills, strength and flexibility. Competitive dancing requires dedication as many months may be spent practicing dance and developing dance routines.

Spirit of Competition

Although the highest scoring dancers are ranked according to their overall scores, dance schools and competition production companies emphasize that dancers are primarily competing against themselves, and thus competitive dance is not so much about competing, but rather is an opportunity to:

***Receive valuable critiques** from dance professionals. Competition companies provide original judges' scoresheets and critiques and, in some cases, audio recordings of judges' comments to dancers, to help them improve their technique and routines.

***Watch and learn** from other dancers. Dance schools often instruct their dancer to spend their free time watching other routines.

Dancers are expected to conform to proper etiquette at competitions. They are expected to be courteous to each other, to applaud other routines, to not enter or exit the auditorium during a performance, etc.



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Communication

Communication is one of the most important aspects of team. There is continual need for communication both ways. We communicate with you by e-mail so it is important to check regularly. Jana Fix is the Communications Coordinator for Expression Dance Company, her email is info@expressiondancestudio.com.

Dance Conventions

Dance conventions are regional educational events hosted by professional dancers. They are held on weekends in large cities nationwide—typically in hotel ballrooms—with a stage for instructors to teach from. Many conventions also hold competitions so that attendees can have their routines critiqued by dance professionals. Instructors at dance conventions are usually experts in the field of dance and are either currently working in the industry (e.g., music videos, films, commercials, industrials, concerts, Broadway) or have in the past. These professionals sometimes teach at well-known dance studios in Los Angeles or New York, such as *The Edge*, *The Millennium*, [*Broadway Dance Center*](#), and *Steps on Broadway*. [Dance schools](#) participate in dance conventions to learn from the professional dancers who host them. Conventions are a means for dance teachers and students to learn new technique, and styles of dance from New York City and Los Angeles, without incurring the expense of traveling to distant cities.

Tuition & Fees

Annual Registration Fee: \$15 per dancer or \$20 per family

Monthly Tuition: All members will be required to have a credit card or debit card on file. Automatic monthly tuition withdrawal will occur on the 1st of every month. You will be billed on 15th of the previous month. If you would like to pay with a different payment option you must inform the office before the 1st of every month

*All Boys Hip Hop \$130 / High School Company \$195 / Star Performers \$180
Performance \$245 / Elite \$350

Late Fees: A \$15 late fee will be applied after the 5th of every month

Costume Fee: \$100 per costume, per dance

Warm-Up Uniform: \$125 (this uniform changes every 2 years)

Star Performers Uniform: \$50 (this uniform changes every 2 years)

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Make-Up Kit: \$30

End of Year Recital T-Shirt: \$15

Choreography Fee: If it is not an “additional” dance there is no choreography fee for your dancer.

Additional Dances: Solo \$500 / Duo & Trio \$300 per dancer / Small Groups \$250 per dancer / Large Groups \$100 per dancer / Production \$50 per dancer

Convention Fee: \$175-\$250 Estimated

Photo Shoot: \$85 per dancer

Competition Fee: \$40(estimated) per dancer per routine per competition

Travel Fee: \$10 per competition/convention. This fee will be used for the faculties travel expenses at competitions

Company Showcase Tickets: \$15 per person

Attendance and Absence Policy NEW THIS YEAR

Making the commitment to one of Expression Dance Company's is very time consuming. We work hard to create companies that work for all families and all commitment levels. When you are deciding which company you want your dancer to audition for please consider all of your additional commitments. If your dancer is involved in another team or activity that practices or meets on the days when there is dance class, dance should take priority. Please take this in to consideration when deciding which level of company you can commit to, as we will no longer be allowing more than **2 absences per month (4 classes total)**. Any absences over the 2 days (4 classes) allowed will then need to be made up. If your dancer does not make-up their absence or exceeds their allotted amount per month they will face new consequences.

- 1) Removed from a routine
- 2) Loss of an additional dance (solo, duo, trio, etc.)
- 3) Removed from Company

This NEW policy is for the good of the ENTIRE company and growth of the individual dancers. Class requirements are for the improvement of individual dancers and the growth of the team as a whole.

There will be a DETAILED absence policy in the NEW company contract this year.



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Summer Requirements (Summer Session June 26th-August 19th)

Elite Company: 16 Classes and Company Intensive

Performance Company: 8 Classes and Company Intensive

High School Company: 8 Classes and Technique Intensive or Ballet Intensive

All Boys Hip Hop: 8 Classes

Options for fulfilling summer requirements:

-Ballet Intensive (counts for 6 classes)

-Technique Intensive (counts for 5 classes if not used as company intensive)

-Jumps and Turns Camp (counts for 3 classes)

There is also a full schedule of summer classes for company.

Expression Dance Company Intensive (August 6th-10th)

The mandatory company intensive will focus on team building, class and choreography. If you dancer cannot attend the company intensive they will be required to attend the Technique Intensive (August 14th-18th) The Company Intensive schedule will be given out in June. Please set the attire week aside, however the dancers will only be required to attend 4 hours per day.

Technique Intensive (August 13th-18th)

This five day technique intensive will get your dancer focused on their dance development. They will be working on jazz technique, stretch exercises, across the floor, jumps and turns, pirouettes, as well as turn sequences and cardio.

Company Contracts

All company members will be required to sign and turn in a company contract plus your Company Intensive tuition NO LATER THAN JULY 9th. All dancers and parents will be held accountable to this contract and it will be given out to the families after the company audition.