



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

EXPRESSION DANCE COMPANY 2020-2021 INFORMATION PACKET

AUDITIONS

All Boys Hip Hop / June 15th

Elite Company / June 11-12

Performance Company / June 13-14

Star Performers / June 15th

Ages 5 and up

Register online @ expressiondancestudio.com

Questions?

Email info@expressiondancestudio.com

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 focuses on technique, performance opportunities, expressing one's self



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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 4 separate companies that are then divided into appropriate dance groups. Elite Company, Performance Company, All Boys' Hip Hop and 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 one or two 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.

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 taken 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

expression

DANCE • STUDIO

Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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. 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, Tween, Teen and Senior

Commitment: Four days per week

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

Convention: They will attend 1 convention where they compete solo/duo/trios/small groups (if selected for one of these dances.)

Competition Routines: They will have 1 Jazz, 1 Lyrical, 1 Hip Hop, 1 Tap Routine, 1 Contemporary routine, and one additional combined large group for the Elite Tweens, Teens and Seniors that will be completed over the summer. They will perform in the Full Company Production routine and dancers *can* be selected for an additional solo, duo, trio or small group. Please indicate on your audition registration form if you would like to limit the amount of additional dance opportunities. *These additional dances will require additional fees and time commitment outside their regular dance schedule.*

expression

DANCE • STUDIO

Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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 company dancers will perform at a Nationals (out of state) directly following the 2021 recital (end of June/beginning of July). Dates will be given in August 2020. Nationals will be within a driving distance so no flights will be required.

Instructors:

Technique and Jazz Progression: Amanda Dexl

Jazz, Lyrical & Contemporary Choreography: Autumn Douglas, Angela Savaglio, Amanda Dexl

Hip Hop: Luke Douglas & Michelle Balsamo

Tap: Star Dixon, Rachel Benzing, Amber Saraceno

Ballet: Autumn Douglas, Maggie Fox & Anna Fox

additional outside choreographers for small groups

PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Levels: Petite, 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: Petite, Mini & Junior Company will have 1 Jazz, 1 Tap dance and perform the Full Company Production. Performance Teen and Senior Company will have 1 Jazz, 1 Tap, 1 Lyrical and the Full Company Production. The Full Company Production will require occasional Saturday rehearsals. Performance Company members will also have the opportunity to be selected for a solo, duo, trio or small group.

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 2020. These are all mandatory events.

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

Instructors:

Jazz and Choreography: Lizzy Bensfield & Angela Savaglio

Tap and Choreography: Samantha Nickleski & Amber Saraceno

Ballet: Maggie Fox & Anna Fox



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

ALL BOYS HIP HOP

Commitment: 1 day per week

Classes: 1 Hip Hop/Choreography Class

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 an Elite dance.

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: All Boys Hip Hop company dancers will perform at a Nationals (out of state) directly following the 2021 recital (end of June/beginning of July). Dates will be given in August 2020.

Instructors:

Hip Hop and Choreography: Luke Douglas, Angela Savaglio & Michelle Balsamo

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: Angela Savaglio

Ballet: Maggie Fox & Anna Fox

Commitment

All dancers commit to Expression Dance Company for the entire dance year (August 2020 – June 2021). 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'



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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 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.



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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.

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.



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

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 invoiced 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 \$65 / 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 routine

Warm-Up Uniform: \$125

Make-Up Kit: \$40

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/ Production \$50 per dancer

*Monthly rehearsal fee of \$10 per routine or \$15 for 2 or more routines after choreography is completed

Convention Fee: \$175-\$250 Estimated

Photo Shoot: \$85 per dancer

Competition Fee: \$45 (estimated) per dancer per routine per competition – so if your dancer competes in 3 routines, it would be approx. \$135 per competition

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

Company Showcase Tickets: \$15 per person

***A note regarding costume fees:** While we are optimistic about the competition season beginning as scheduled, given the uncertainty this year there is going to be a diligent effort to keep costume costs as low as possible. Some options include reusing previous years' costumes, using different vendors, etc. \$100 will still be the fee for a new costume with accessories and alterations included, but the goal is to keep everything under this amount.

Attendance and Absence Policy

expression

DANCE • STUDIO

Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

Dancers must call in (630-968-5678) or email all absences to info@expressiondancestudio.com. Excessive absences will not be tolerated. The absence policy is as follows:

*Please remember every company has a different commitment level so their requirements are different.

The first number is how many classes they can miss before they make them up.

The 2nd number is how many classes total they can miss per month before consequences will be given for their absences.

(Please keep in mind that most companies have 2 classes on a given day. So if they miss a full day, that counts for 2 classes/absences)

Elite

4 missed classes per month allowed

8 missed classes per month limit (this is one full week of class) so they must make up 4 classes.

Performance

2 missed classes per month allowed

4 missed classes per month limit (this is one full week of class) so they must make up 2 classes

Star Performers

2 missed classes per month allowed

3 missed classes per month (this is one full week of class) so they must make up 1 class

All Boys

2 missed classes per month allowed

3 missed classes per month limit (This is 1 full week of class) so they must make up 1 class

***Making classes up will now require a make-up form they will get at the front desk.** It will be filled out by the dancer and signed by the teacher during the make-up class. The form will then be turned in to the front desk to be recorded.

*There will be monthly records of students' absences

*If your dancer does NOT make up their classes, there will be consequences

*If your dancer exceeds the maximum number of absences per month there will be consequences



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

***Consequences for exceeding the allowed absences could be as follows:**

- removal from a section of a dance
- removal from an entire dance
- loss of additional small group, solo, duo, trio, etc.
- removal from company

***Additional Dances**

-If you your dancer is selected for an additional dance they must attend those additional rehearsals. These rehearsals are often on days outside their regular company schedule, or would require them coming earlier or staying later on one of their regular days. If your dancer is unable to attend extra rehearsals, please consider saying no to the additional (optional) pieces.

****Lastly, dancers must always be in attendance the week of a competition/performance weekend.** Please make those weeks a priority for the benefits of your dancer's company.

The reason for this absence policy is for the benefit of our dancers. It is unfair and detrimental to their team when they are not fully committed to their companies. They cannot improve as a whole company when they are missing dancers. As teachers we have to repetitively go over corrections when dancers consistently miss and it is a waste of everyone's class time. When signing the company contract you agree to make EDS Company (outside of school work) your top priority on your required days.

Scheduled absences must be submitted by sending an email to the director at least one week prior to missing. You must provide an acceptable reason for not attending to be excused, such as family function, vacation, etc. It is the director's discretion whether or not to approve an absence request. Illness must be called in (not emailed) to the director the day of practice.

Team members must arrive to practice and classes on time. Leaving a practice early must be excused by following the procedure in number 2 above.

Summer Requirements (Summer Session June 29th – August 15th)

Elite Company: 16 Classes and Company Intensive

Performance Company: 8 Classes and Company Intensive

All Boys Hip Hop: 8 Classes



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

Star Performers: 4 classes

Options for fulfilling summer requirements:

- Hip Hop Intensive (counts for 2 classes)
- Tap Intensive (counts for 2 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 Intensives

Elite Company – August 3-7

Performance Company – July 27-31

The **mandatory** company intensive will focus on team building, class and choreography. ****Elite Company dancers are required to attend their intensive as much of their choreography will be completed at this time. There is not a makeup option**.**

If a Performance Company dancer cannot attend their intensive, they may attend the Technique Intensive (August 10-14) as a makeup. The Company Intensive schedule will be given out in June. Please set the attire week aside until we are able to give out specific times.

All Boys Hip Hop intensive: The All Boys Hip Hop group should plan to attend the Hip Hop workshop on Saturday, August 8 as their Company Intensive.

Star Performers are not required to attend a summer intensive.

Company Contracts

All company members will be required to sign and turn in a company contract plus your Company Intensive tuition NO LATER THAN JUNE 29th. All dancers and parents will be held accountable to this contract and it will be given out to the families after the company audition.