



Where Family and Dance  Go Hand in Hand

EXPRESSION DANCE COMPANY 2024-2025 COMPANY INFORMATION PACKET

AUDITIONS

Elite Company - Friday, June 14
Performance Company - Thursday, June 13
Star Performer Company - Thursday, June 13
Hip Hop Company - Thursday, August 15

Register online @ expressiondancestudio.com
Questions? Email info@expressiondancestudio.com

Expression Dance Company's goal is to teach its team 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, expressing one's self through dance, and quality dance education and training taught by highly skilled dance instructors. Dancers will not only have excellent training, they will also become 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, Star Performers, and our **BRAND NEW** Hip Hop Company . Each company has something different to offer your dancer. Whether your child's main focus is dance, or if they are only looking to be committed 1-2 days per week, we have a place for everyone.

BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE COMPANY PACKET!

When deciding which company your child would like to be a part of, please consider the following:

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 for the days they are required to be there, and takes precedence over any other



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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 the fees associated with each company. Besides tuition, you need to consider all additional fees: i.e., costumes, makeup, warm up jackets, required shoes and tights, convention and 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 for your child to be considered for a company they are not prepared for. If your dancer has company experience, Elite and Performance company may be an option. If your dancer has only taken recreational tap, ballet, and jazz, 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 Star Performers and 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 throughout 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 maturity. A 16-year-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 in the online registration form. All company placements decisions will be final.
5. **Support:** When choosing to participate in Expression Dance Company, your job is to support your dancer and the studio. If you have concerns, please save them for a respectful discussion with the director. We do not tolerate gossip and teach love and support from the top of the studio down.



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ELITE COMPANY

Levels: Mini, Junior, Teen, Senior

Commitment: 4 days per week

Classes: 1 Ballet, 1 Jazz Progression Technique, 1 Contemporary Technique, 1 Contemporary, 1 Musical Theater, 1 Tap, 1 Jazz, 1 Hip Hop

Convention: They will attend 1 convention where they will compete solo/duo/trio/small groups & Lines (if selected for one of those routines).

Additional Convention: NEW optional conventions will be offered through Expression Dance Studio where students will be able to take class and compete in a solo, duo/trio or small group. (if all dancers attend in a group) Optional Conventions will be given in August with all of the additional important dates.

Competition routines: Minimum of 7. They will have 1 Jazz, 1 Contemporary, 1 Hip Hop, 1 Tap, 1 Musical Theater, 1 Line (Mini/Junior & Teen/Senior) and 1 Elite Production.

Additional routines: Dancers can be selected for an additional solo, duo, trio, or small group. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like to limit the number of additional dance opportunities*. These additional dances will require additional fees and time commitment outside their regular dance schedule.

*Please note that indicating that a dancer is interested in additional routines does not guarantee they will receive one.

OPTIONS FOR DANCERS ENTERING 9th GRADE OR ABOVE

We understand that it may be difficult for some high school students to commit to full company, so we want to offer the following 3 options for our advanced dancers:

Option A: Full company plus opportunities for additional solo/duo/trio/small groups

Option B: Full company, NO additional solo/duo/trio/small groups

Option C: Modified 3 days/week schedule



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- Dancers will be required to take all of the Elite Technique classes (Ballet, Jumps and Turns, Technique)
- Dancers will compete in the Elite competition routines that are on the days they have class as well as Production
- May be selected for ONE additional solo/duo/trio/small group

Performance Opportunities: They will compete at 5 regional competitions, one Regional convention, and they will perform at one Holiday Showcase. They will compete at an out-of-state Nationals after the 2025 recital. They will also have additional performance opportunities. All dates will be given in August. Competitions and Nationals are Mandatory Events.

Instructors:

Jazz, Lyrical, & Contemporary Choreography: Michelle Balsamo, Autumn Douglas, Angela Savaglio, Trevor Loritz, Amanda Dexl, Carrie Nicastro Ruiz, Ricky Ruiz

Hip Hop: Michelle Balsamo, Matt Pumanes, Jade Whaley

Tap: Star Dixon

Ballet: Daryl Barnes

Technique: Trevor Loritz, Carrie Ruiz, Melanie Dalaly-Slobodecki

PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Levels: Petite, Mini, Junior, Teen, Senior

Commitment: 2 days per week

Classes: 1 Ballet, 1 Jazz Progression Technique, 1 Tap, 1 Choreography

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

Competition routines: Minimum of 3 (Petite, Mini, Junior) or 4 (Teen, Senior).

They will have 1 Jazz, 1 Tap, and 1 Lyrical (Teen and Senior only). They will also perform in the Performance Company Production. The Production will require occasional additional weekend rehearsals (usually in the Jan-Feb time frame).



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Additional routines: Dancers can be selected for an additional solo, duo, trio, or small group. These additional dances will require additional fees and time commitment outside their regular dance schedule.

*Please note that indicating that a dancer is interested in additional routines does not guarantee they will receive one.

Performance Opportunities: They will compete at 4 regional competitions. These are mandatory events. They will also have additional performance opportunities. All dates will be given in August.

Additional Class options: Lyrical, Hip Hop, Jumps and Turns, Acrobatic Arts

Instructors:

Jazz and Choreography: Angela Savaglio, Michelle Balsamo, Emerald Whaley, Rachel Benzing

Tap: Rachel Benzing, Ella Fix

Ballet: Daryl Barnes

STAR PERFORMERS

Level: Dancers ages 3 and up

Commitment: 1 day per week

Classes: 1 Express Start and 1 Choreography (Petite Level)

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

Competition routines: 1 Jazz routine

Performance Opportunities: They will compete at 1 competition. This is a mandatory event. They will also have additional performance opportunities. All dates will be given in August.

Instructors:

Ballet: Michelle Balsamo

Jazz & Choreography: Angela Savaglio, Destiny Whaley, Emerald Whaley, Ashley Stortz, Karen Arreola, Judy Kostal

HIP HOP COMPANY



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Expression Dance Studio is excited to introduce our BRAND NEW Hip Hop Company! We think this is an amazing opportunity for our dancers to focus on their hip hop training and education. We are excited to welcome our NEW staff members Miss Karen Arreola, Mr. Christian Sosa and Mr Tony Wilder! Their talent and knowledge of hip hop is well known in the Chicagoland area and we are thrilled to have them join our EDS family and pioneer this new program at our studio! Please check out their bios on our website <https://www.expressiondancestudio.com/meet-our-faculty/> This will be a great opportunity for our Star Performers and Performance Company dancers that would like to add Hip Hop to their training and competing. All of the Hip Hop Company classes will take place on Thursdays. The Pre-Pro Program will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Pre-Pro program is geared toward older dancers whose main focus is hip hop.

Level: Dancers ages 6 and up

Commitment: 1 day per week / Pre Pro 2 Days Per Week

Mini Classes: 1 Hip Hop Rehearsal, 1 History and Foundations of Hip Hop

Junior Classes: 1 Hip Hop Rehearsal, 1 History and Foundations of Hip Hop, 1 Int/Adv Hip Hop

Teen/Senior Classes: 1 Hip Hop Rehearsal, 1 History and Foundations of Hip Hop, 1 Int/Adv Hip Hop Class / 1 Break Dancing

Pre-Pro: 4 Hip Hop Rehearsal, 1 History of Hip Hop

MINI/JUNIOR/TEEN/SENIOR

Competition routines: 1 Hip Hop Routine

Additional routines: Dancers can be selected for an additional solo, duo, trio, or small group. These additional dances will require additional fees and time commitment outside their regular dance schedule.

Performance Opportunities

Mini/Junior/Teen/Senior: They will compete at 4 regional competitions (same as Performance Company). These are mandatory events. They will also have additional performance opportunities. All dates will be given in August.

Additional Class/Company Options: Star Performers, Performance Company or additional Recreational Classes.

Instructors:

Hip Hop: Tony Wilder, Karen Arreola, Christian Sosa



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PRE-PRO

Competition routines: 1 Hip Hop Routine

Performance Opportunities: 2 Regional Competitions, 3 Hip Hop Monsters, World of Dance Chicago, Prelude Midwest, and possibilities for World of Dance Final or Prelude Las Vegas (pending qualifying)

Additional Class/Company Options: Star Performers, Performance Company or additional Recreational Classes.

Instructors:

Hip Hop: Tony Wilder, Karen Arreola, Christian Sosa

Commitment

All dancers commit to the Expression Dance Company for the entire dance year, July 2024 - June 2025. 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 that being part of Expression Dance Company requires a lot of additional time besides the dancers' weekly classes. Please be sure the time commitment works with your family's schedule.

Behavior Expectations

The team directors have expectations of how dancers conduct themselves both in and out of the studio. We have the same expectations of the parents - to support the team at all times. Parent attitudes and behaviors directly affect others, especially your own children. A child may not be consciously aware of all situations, but they absorb powerful messages from parents. Therefore, it is important that parents remain enthusiastic and supportive of the dancers, instructors, and 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 parents must model this behavior both in and out of the dance studio. Disappointments will inevitably occur as part of every team member's experience. If a parent has a strong reaction in these situations, so will the 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



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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 Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, and Tap - before a common group of judges. 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 students ranging in age from about 6 to 18 years old. Dance studios typically arrange for their classes to compete as groups. Advanced dance students often compete solo or in small groups (duo, trio, quad, etc.) in addition to competing with their dance class groups.

Competitive dancers must be physically fit, because even short dancers can be physically demanding. Also, dancers must continually train to maintain and improve their technique, balance skills, strength, and flexibility. Competitive dancing requires dedication, as many months may be spent developing and practicing dance routines.

Spirit of Competition

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

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

- ***Watch and learn** from other dancers. Dance studios often instruct their dancers to spend their free time at competitions watching other routines. Dancers are expected to conform to proper etiquette at competitions. They are expected to be courteous to each other, applaud other routines, not to exit or enter the auditorium during performances, etc.



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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 their 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 (i.e., music videos, films, commercials, concerts, Broadway, etc.) or have in the past. These professionals sometimes teach at well-known dance studios in Los Angeles or New York. Dance studios participate in dance conventions to learn from the professional dancers who host them. Conventions are a means for dance students and teachers to learn new technique and styles of dance without incurring the expense of traveling to distant cities.

Communication

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

Tuition and Fees

Annual registration fee: \$20 per dancer or \$25 per family

Monthly tuition: All members will be required to have a credit card or debit card on file. Automatic withdrawal of tuition and fees will occur on the first of every month. You will be invoiced on the 15th of the previous month. If you would like to pay with a different method, you need to do so before the first of the month.



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Star Performers \$210 / Star Performer Petite \$120 / Performance \$285 / Elite \$425 / High School Elite \$375 / Mini Hip Hop \$140 / Junior Hip Hop \$210 / Teen & Senior Hip Hop \$285 / Pre-Pro Hip Hop \$325

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

Costume Fees: \$125 per costume, per routine

Warm-up uniform: \$125

Makeup kit: \$50

Recital t-shirt: \$25

Choreography fee: If it is not an “additional” dance (done outside of regular classroom time), there is not a choreography fee *unless it is a guest choreographer*

Additional dances: Solo \$700 / Duo & Trio \$400 per dancer / Small group \$250 per dancer / Production \$50 per dancer

*This fee covers all choreography plus an additional 3 hours of cleaning rehearsals

Guest choreographer: If your dancer is selected for a piece with a guest choreographer, fees may vary based on the choreographer’s rate

Additional Dance rehearsal fees

*Every other week rehearsals for 30 minutes (solo/duo/trios): Solo \$60/month, Duo \$30 per dancer/month, Trio \$20 per dancer/month

*Every week for 30 minutes (small groups)
\$20/month

*Rehearsal fees will be pro rated if dancers do not have 2 rehearsals/month (4 for small groups) due to competitions or breaks

Convention fee: \$175-250 (estimated)

Photo shoot: \$85 per dancer

Competition fee: \$60 (estimated) per dancer per routine per competition

Travel fee: \$25 per dancer per competition/convention. This fee will be used for the faculty’s travel expenses, time and lodging at competitions/conventions.

Company Showcase tickets: \$18 per person

Attendance Policy



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Dancers must call in (630-968-5678) or email admin@expressiondancestudio.com. Excessive absences will not be tolerated. Each dancer must agree to adhere to the company absence policy, which will be detailed in the Company Contract.

There will be monthly records of students' absences. If dancers do not make up classes, there will be consequences. If your dancer exceeds the maximum number of absences allowed per month, there will be consequences.

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

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

***Additional Dances**

If your dancer is selected for an additional dance, those rehearsals are mandatory. These rehearsals are at times and sometimes days outside their regular company schedule. If your dancer is unable to attend these rehearsals, please consider saying no to the (optional) pieces.

***Dancers must always be in attendance the week of a competition/performance.** Please make those weeks a priority for the benefit of your dancer and their team.

The absence policy is for the benefit of our dancers. It is unfair and detrimental to the team when they are not fully committed to the company. They cannot improve as a whole company when they are missing dancers. Teachers have to repeatedly go over corrections when dancers miss and it is a waste of everyone's class time. When signing the company contract, you agree to make EDS Company your top priority on your required days.

Scheduled absences must be submitted by sending an email to admin@expressiondancestudio.com at least one week prior to missing. You must provide an acceptable reason for not attending, such as a school function,



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vacation, etc. It is the director's discretion whether or not to approve an absence request. Illnesses must be CALLED IN the day of the absence.

Team members must arrive to rehearsals and classes on time. Leaving class early must be excused by following the procedure above.

Summer Requirements (summer session June 24 - August 16)

Elite Company: 16 classes plus Company Intensive

Performance Company: 8 classes plus Company Intensive

Star Performers: 4 classes

Hip Hop Company: 4 classes

Options for fulfilling summer requirements:

-Jumps and Turns Camp - 5 classes

-Tap Intensive - 2 classes

-Acrobatic Arts Camp - 3 classes

*There is also a full schedule of summer classes for company. Please attend class for the age you are on the day of the class.

Expression Dance Company Intensive

Performance Company - July 29 - August 2

Elite Company- August 3* - 11

The mandatory company intensive will focus on Team Building, Technique, and Choreography. If your dancer cannot attend the company intensive, please be aware that if choreography is completed that week, they may not be in that portion of the choreography. The Company Intensive schedule will be given out in June. Please set the entire week aside, however, dancers will only need to attend approximately 4 hours per day.

*Elite Company should leave August 3 & 4 and August 10 & 11 open for master classes and solo/duo/trio/small group choreography

Company Contracts



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All dancers will be required to turn in a signed company contract, as well as payment for the summer intensive, NO LATER THAN JULY 5th. The contract will be emailed after the company audition.