



## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Élan Dance Company**

### **What is the Élan Dance Company?**

The Élan Dance Company provides a fundamental foundation in dance performance and essential experience participating in a dance company. The Company gives dancers the opportunity to improve their dance technique while learning important teamwork skills and having fun! We offer a competitive dance company and a performance-only company. Both companies will participate in several performances throughout the season. Please keep in mind that being a company member is not just another extracurricular activity; dancers will be regarded as a role model representing the Élan Dance program to the entire NPD Dance Academy.

### **What is the date/time of auditions for Élan Dance Company?**

Auditions are Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center, 305 W. Jackson Ave., in Community Hall. Registration is **required** to attend auditions. There is no cost to audition. Dancers will attend one audition regardless of the company/dance style they are auditioning for.

**Ages 7-10\*** · 4:30-5:45pm, Registration Code: 62630

**Ages 11-13** · 6:00-7:15pm, Registration Code: 62631

**Ages 14-18** · 7:30-8:45pm, Registration Code: 62632

\*Dancers must be 8 years old by January 1, 2022.

### **When will we receive audition results?**

Audition results will be communicated via email to the parent email address listed on the audition form. Results will be emailed by Monday, August 30, 2021.

### **What is the difference between the Competition Company and the Performance Company?**

Both the competition companies and the performance companies will perform at approximately four Chicagoland performances throughout the September-May season. The competition companies will also compete at 1-2 local competitions during February-May. The competition companies and the performance companies will focus on one specific dance style and each company will consist of 6-10 dancers. The number of dancers that audition and that are accepted will determine the number of competition and performance companies we will offer. Companies are created based on age, dance style preference and dancer skill level.

### **What is a Dance Competition?**

At a dance competition, students put their skills to the test by performing dance routines on a stage in front of a panel of judges. The judges then calculate scores based on technique, performance, and costume. The dancers are then able to come back to the studio and listen to the judge's critiques and use them as a learning tool to improve. The main focus for us during a competition is having fun and gaining the tools to become better dancers in the long run.

### **What will the dancers expect to perform for the audition?**

For the audition, we will be looking for how well the dancers are able to pick up the age appropriate movement and their performance quality in addition to technique at the audition. The dancers will be taught a short jazz combination, a short modern/contemporary combination, and a short ballet barre for the audition which will show us various technical skills. There will also be a portion of the audition where the dancers will have the chance to show us any other technical skills or dance movements that they didn't get a chance to showcase within the audition material.

### **How many days per week do the groups practice/what times?**

Each company will have a one hour choreography rehearsal class a week. You will receive the day/time with your acceptance letter. Most choreography rehearsals will take place during the weeknight Monday-Thursday.

### **If dancers are members of Élan Dance Company, are they also required to take other dance classes in the NPD Dance Academy?**

All Company members are required to take at least one technique class in the style that their choreography rehearsal class is in through the Naperville Dance Academy. Technique classes include jazz, modern/contemporary, musical theater, jazz/hip hop and/or ballet. The technique class is in addition to their company choreography rehearsal. It is ***strongly encouraged*** that all dancers are also enrolled in at least one extra ballet technique class for any style of choreography.

**Example:** If you are accepted and commit to a Jazz Competitive Company and a Modern Performance Company, you will then be required to take two technique classes a week in addition to company rehearsals, which would be four classes in total each week. Your weekly classes would be as follows: jazz technique class, modern technique class, jazz company rehearsal and modern company rehearsal.

### **How often do the Companies perform?**

During the September-May season there will be approximately four performance opportunities that both the competition and performance companies will participate in. The competition companies, in addition to the four performance opportunities, will also compete their dances in 1-2 dance competitions from February-May and attend one dance convention (optional for the performance company members to attend the convention). There may be additional opportunities that will be communicated in advance. **Performances are not optional for either company. Competitions are required for the competitive company. It is expected that dancers stay for the entire duration of performance/competition/event until dismissed.**

### **What are Élan Dance Outings?**

Élan Dance Outing events are fun gatherings we will have throughout the year that all company dancers will be invited to. We use these social events as a way for all our company members to get to know each other and create a lasting bond with each other as well as the choreographers.

### **When will we find out performance and competition dates/times?**

We are in the process of securing performance and competition dates for the 2021-2022 season. Due to COVID-19, many organizations have not confirmed event dates. We will communicate dates as soon as they become available.

### **What happens if the participation requirement for a certain Company is not met?**

The Élan Dance Company requires a minimum number of dancers for the program to run. The minimum for each individual company is six and the max is currently ten. An acceptance deadline will be emailed to you after auditions. If for some reason the participation requirement of six dancers is not met or changes by the first choreography rehearsal you will be contacted. We will attempt to combine groups, but we are not able to

guarantee this. While we don't anticipate this happening, there is always a chance that dancer schedules may change, or circumstances may prevent a participant from making the full commitment for the year. Any changes to choreography style, rehearsal times or any merging will be fully communicated and explained if need be.

**Will the Élan members perform in the spring dance recitals?**

All Élan companies will be featured in the recital in chosen repertoire from the season in addition to their Dance Academy technique class dances. Graduating dancers that prepare senior solos will perform their solos at the spring recitals. Due to dancers being in multiple dances along with their technique classes, they may be in more than one recital show.

**Senior Solo Information:** Private instruction for rehearsing senior solos will be available beginning in January 2022. The fee for senior solo private instruction is the direct cost of the instructor fee. Parents or the student will need to contact the Dance Coordinator to set up the private instruction. *Graduating High School Seniors that are on the competitive team and take a weekly solo private may choose to compete their solo.*

# Élan Dance Company Contract

## ❖ Absences:

- Anytime a dancer misses a rehearsal without communicating to the director, it is considered an unexcused absence.
- All dancers should inform the director of any scheduled conflicts (such as church retreats, college visits, vacations, etc.) as soon as the conflict is known. Known conflicts that are not reported at least **two weeks in advance** may be considered unexcused.
- Missing more than **two rehearsals** for any piece may result in the dancer being removed from the dance.
- Any last minute absences can be communicated by calling the studio or emailing the director.

## ❖ Attendance:

- **All Élan members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance.**
- Dedicated attendance will allow them to be very comfortable with their choreography, spacing, and everything they need to know to perform.
- Missing multiple rehearsals will result in a dancer being removed from the piece entirely.
- **Please avoid scheduling activities that may conflict with rehearsal times or performances on a regular basis.**
- Dancers should also attend their weekly Dance Academy classes at a **90% or better rate** to maintain their training and technique.
- Dancers who are unable to maintain a consistent attendance rate for rehearsals and classes will be removed from certain performance opportunities.

## ❖ Attire:

- Dancers are expected to be dressed in **dance clothes** and shoes for their rehearsals.
- All dancers should wear all black form fitting dancewear with their hair pulled back in a ponytail or bun at rehearsal. *\*\*\*Please note that the dress code is at the discretion of the choreographer\*\*\**
- Élan apparel is allowed and encouraged to be worn for rehearsals.
- All company members are expected to follow dress code for all technique classes as they are representing Élan Dance Company.
  - Ballet class: Black leotard, pink tights and hair in bun.
  - Jazz/Modern/Contemporary class: Any color leotard, tights, shorts, jazz pant/legging, correct shoes, and hair in a bun.

## ❖ Attitude and Behavior:

- All dancers are expected to put forth full effort during their rehearsals.
- All Company members should only talk about the Company, choreographers, fellow dancers, and any other related Company business in a positive manner at all times.

- Dancers are expected to be respectful of all choreographers and fellow dancers before, during, and after rehearsals.
- Please remember that all company dancers are role models for our NPD Dance Academy dancers.
- Older company dancers are encouraged to set a good example for our younger company members. They should lead stretches before performance and assist them with hair, make-up, and costume changes if needed at events.
- **Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Any problems or issues should be brought to the attention of the Director as soon as possible.**

#### ❖ **Cell Phones:**

- There are no cell phones allowed in rehearsal for any reason.
- Dancers may check their phones on breaks if necessary.
- If you would like to take a video of any performance material, please check-in with your choreographer to determine the best time to do so.
- Choreographers have the right to deny your request if it interferes with any plans or progress for the day.
- The director's cell phone should only be used in case of any last minute notifications or as a contact while off-site (performances, rehearsals, etc.). In non-urgent situations please use the director's email address [rmilan@napervilleparks.org](mailto:rmilan@napervilleparks.org) or NPD Dance Academy's phone number (630)848-3618.

#### ❖ **Class Registration:**

- All Élan Company members are required to take at least one technique class in the style of each company choreography class they are in through NPD Dance Academy in order to participate.
- To be fully prepared for all types of dance styles and movement vocabulary, it is highly encouraged to take both **Ballet and Jazz classes** in addition to Company rehearsals.
  - Dancers should attend classes regularly, and keep absences to a minimum for all technique classes. Please refer to the attendance policy for more details.

#### ❖ **Choreography Opportunities:**

- Graduating high school seniors are able to choreograph a solo to be performed at the annual Dance Academy Recitals.

#### ❖ **Communication:**

- Information regarding the Company will be communicated **primarily through email** from the director at [rmilan@napervilleparks.org](mailto:rmilan@napervilleparks.org).
- Dancers should communicate with the Director via office phone or email with any issues or scheduling conflicts as soon as possible.

❖ **Costumes:**

- All Company members are responsible for knowing what costumes are needed for each piece and transporting them to each performance.
- It is the dancer's responsibility to know what items they need to bring for each event, including dance shoes and tights.
- Each dancer should have different styles and color of tights and shoes depending on the pieces being performed.
- While we try to provide costumes from our inventory as often as possible, new costumes will need to be purchased.
- All company members are required to return all costumes borrowed from our costume inventory at the end of the dance season. All costumes not returned by the deadline will be billed to the dancer's family.

❖ **Élan Apparel:**

- Apparel items will be available for purchase in early fall only.
- Dancers can choose from tank tops, v-neck t-shirts, leggings and warm-up jackets (required for competitive dancers).
- Apparel orders are not mandatory, but encouraged to proudly represent the Company at different events and may be used in place of costumes for some opportunities.

❖ **Garment Bags:**

- All first year Élan Company members will need to purchase a garment bag for their costumes for ease in transporting items to and from performances.

❖ **Punctuality:**

- Dancers are expected to be at the studio, dressed and ready to begin rehearsal at the scheduled time.

❖ **Tech Rehearsals:**

- **All Tech and Dress rehearsals are mandatory for anyone participating in a performance.**
- Dancers should arrive on time, with all necessary costumes and shoes ready to dance at the scheduled start time.
- Any conflicts with tech or dress rehearsal times must be addressed immediately with the director to determine if the dancer is able to participate in the performance.
- Please do not schedule any activities that may result in tech rehearsal conflicts.

❖ **Performance Etiquette:**

- We only ever change in assigned dressing areas. Please always arrive in street clothing to all performance venues and keep this rule in mind when coming to and from the studio on a regular basis.
- Always take good care of your costumes by keeping them organized and wrinkle-free.

- Keep all scented lotions, fragrances and sprays to a minimum and only use hairspray in approved areas.
- Always bring make-up, hair supplies (brush, bobby-pins, hair ties etc.), make-up remover and extra tights to every performance, just in case!
- Jewelry, aside from small stud earrings, is not permitted for any reason aside from costume jewelry or accessories for a piece.
- Nail polish is not allowed for any performances on fingers or toes (if barefoot).
- The use of undergarments under costumes is not recommended. We strongly encourage dancers to buy a nude camisole leotard to wear in place of undergarments. This will also be helpful for quick changes.
- Parents are not allowed back stage during performances. Dancers should learn how to prepare themselves for performance, or ask a choreographer or the director for assistance in getting ready.

## Élan Dance Company Parent Expectations

- **Communication:** Parents will be receiving the majority of the information about their dancer's rehearsals via e-mail. We ask that parents carefully read through the information and note important dates, such as performances, competitions, or deadlines, on their calendars in a timely manner. Parents with general questions about any of the information should contact the Director. All absences due to sickness or family emergencies need to be reported to the *director* as soon as possible. Please encourage your **dancer** to communicate with the director in these instances.
- **Emergency Contact Information:** We will need current emergency contact information for each Company member. Due to the number of performances scheduled in the community, we need to be able to reach the appropriate parent or guardian in case of an emergency. In the event of the parent(s) being out of town, we will need to have alternate emergency information. Please let us know the best way to contact you in an emergency.
- **Rehearsal Conflicts and Scheduling:** Please encourage your dancers to report all known conflicts as soon as possible. Any absence that goes unreported will be considered unexcused. It is also important to help your dancer understand that timeliness and punctuality are important for all rehearsals.
- **Respectful and Courteous:** Parents are asked to please be respectful of all NPD Dance Academy staff. While the director and choreographers wish to be helpful in addressing any questions or concerns that parents may have, they cannot take time away from other classes and rehearsals to talk with parents. Parents should schedule a time outside of rehearsals to speak with the appropriate staff member about any questions or concerns they may have. This allows all students to get their full class and rehearsal time. All meeting inquiries can be scheduled through the Director if necessary.

# élan

DANCE COMPANY

## Élan Dance Company Auditions 2021

(please complete this form via the Google Docs link)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Grade for Fall 2021: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Style(s) of dance your auditioning for (Please circle):

**Performance Jazz**

**Performance Contemporary/Modern**

**Performance Ballet**

**Performance Hip Hop**

**Competitive Jazz**

**Competitive Contemporary/Modern**

In order, please list your top two preferred styles: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle which company you are auditioning for:

**Élan Performance Company**

**Élan Competitive Company**

**Both**

Maximum number of company choreography classes the dancer would be able accept: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*This number does not include the required technique classes per style of dance you accept\*\*\*

If the style of dance you selected does not meet the minimum requirements are you be willing to be placed in a different style not selected (Please Circle)? **Yes** **No**

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer's Cell Phone (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Email (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Dance Experience-Different Styles, and for how long:

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Please list all other activities, commitments, and hobbies that may conflict with Company participation:

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Attendance is very important and critical to learning choreography. Is there a day of the week or time that you would not be able to attend rehearsals?

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All company dancers are required to take an additional (Élan choreography classes do not count) technique class for each style of dance they accept on either of the companies. (Please Circle)

**I Agree**

**I Disagree**

## **Parent Contact Information**

Primary Parent Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(All future Élan Dance Company correspondence will be sent to the primary parent contact email.)

Secondary Parent Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicable)

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(All future Élan Dance Company correspondence will only be sent to the primary parent contact unless otherwise specified)

### **Additional Emergency Contact information**

(Will only be used if parents are unavailable for any reason)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Dancer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Dancer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any of the dancer's allergies:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Élan Company Dancer Contract 2021-2022 Season

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Company Contract and understand it is a binding contract holding me responsible for adhering to the above verbiage until the season ends in June 2022. I understand my responsibilities if I am accepted into the Élan Performance Company.

I agree to:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals and will communicate any known conflicts at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Have a 90% or better attendance rate in all of my Dance Academy classes.
- Meet the technique class requirements for my Company participation.
- Attend all performances unless communicated in advance with the director. I understand that Company performances are not optional.
- Give my full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2021-2022 season.
- Not say anything negative or hurtful about any of the Élan Dance Companies, The Naperville Park District Dance Academy, or any company members on any form of social media.
- Arrive to each rehearsal prepared to learn, in a positive attitude and ready to give it my all.

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Dancer's Name (Printed)

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Dancer's Signature

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Date

# élan

DANCE COMPANY

## Élan Company Parent Contract 2021-2022 Season

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Company Contract and Company Parent Expectations and understand it is a binding contract holding me responsible for adhering to the above verbiage until the season ends in June 2022. I understand my responsibilities as a parent if my dancer is accepted into the Élan Performance Company and will follow to the best of my abilities.

I agree to:

- Support and encourage my dancer as well as all other dancers in the company.
- Communicate any known conflicts at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Ensure my dancer can maintain a 90% or better attendance rate in all of Dance Academy classes.
- Make sure my dancer meets the technique class requirements for my Company participation.
- Ensure dancer attends all performances unless communicated in advance with the director. I understand that Company performances are not optional.
- Encourage my dancer to give his/her full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2021-2022 season.
- Not say anything negative or hurtful about any of the Élan Dance Companies, the Naperville Park District Dance Academy, or any company members/choreographers on any form of social media.
- Trust the expertise of the Élan Dance Company choreographers and understand they will always have my dancer's best interest at heart.
- Address all concerns I may have directly with the director and choreographers.
- I understand and accept the payment plan and refund policy for Élan Dance Company.

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Parent's Name (Printed)

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Parent's Signature

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Date



## **Dates & Fee Structure for 2021-2022 Élan Dance Company**

### **Refund Policy**

Élan Dance Company is a time and financial commitment. Once a dancer accepts a spot in a company it is expected they participate for the entire season. We understand that dancer's circumstances may change during the season and offer the following refund policy:

- Refund requests must be made by contacting Brittany Malatt by email at [bmalatt@napervilleparks.org](mailto:bmalatt@napervilleparks.org) or by phone at 630-848-3619.
- Refunds are only processed for weekly rehearsals that have not taken place. Refunds will only be given until December 1, 2021. After December 1, 2021, no refunds or prorations will be provided.
- Refunds are not given for past rehearsal time, costumes, competition/performance fees, Élan outing fees, dance convention fees, costume bag and apparel.

### **How do I register and pay for Recital Dance Programs?**

Company class registration codes will be emailed to you with your acceptance letter. You must register prior to the first rehearsal in September.

There are two payment options:

- Pay in full for the 9 month Élan Dance Company Program.
- The first payment is due at the time of registration and then enroll in the automatic payment plan where an additional two equal payments will be charged to a credit/debit card. These payments will occur on December 1, 2021 and March 1, 2022. Each class payment will be withdrawn individually. Please call 630-848-5000 to notify us of any credit card changes. Credit/debit cards that are declined will be charged a \$25 service fee by the Naperville Park District and may result in the forfeiture of this payment option.

Fall Session: Monday, September 13 - Saturday, December 11, No Class: November 22-27 (12 weeks)

Winter Session: Monday, January 10 - Saturday, May 28, No Class: March 28 - April 2 (19 weeks)

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2021 and March 1, 2022.
Competition Company	\$750(R)/\$780(NR)	\$250(R)/\$260(NR)

**Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2021-2022 Season.** A costume/performance bill will emailed in November 2021 and April 2022.

- **Performance/Competition Costumes**: Approximately up to \$150 in costume fees for costumes purchased and kept by the dancer
- **Dancewear items & Make-up**: These items you will purchase directly through a link that will be provided to you
- **Performance/Competition Fees**: Approximately up to \$150 for performance and competition fees
- **Élan Social Outings\***: Approximately up to \$50
- **Dance Convention Fee\***: Approximately up to \$125
- **Costume Bag (required)\***: \$30
- **Company apparel\***: (company jacket is required, all other apparel is optional): \$66 or \$76 for the company jacket

\*If student is in multiple companies this fee will be paid one-time only.

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Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2021 and March 1, 2022.
Performance-Only	\$690(R)/\$720 (NR)	\$230(R)/\$240(NR)

**Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2021-2022 Season.** A costume/performance bill will emailed in November 2021 and April 2022.

- **Performance Costumes**: Approximately up to \$150 in costume fees for costumes purchased and kept by the dancer
- **Dancewear items & Make-up**: These items you will purchase directly through a link that will be provided to you
- **Performance Fees**: Approximately up to \$50 for performance fees
- **Élan Social Outings\***: Approximately up to \$50
- **Dance Convention Fee\* (optional)**: Approximately up to \$125
- **Costume Bag (required)\***: \$30
- **Company apparel\***: (company jacket is required, all other apparel is optional): \$66 or \$76 for the company jacket

\*If student is in multiple companies this fee will be paid one-time only.