



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 and the competition company will also participate in two dance competitions. 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 Tuesday, May 31 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 they are auditioning for. Please register no later than Monday, May 30 at Noon. Please complete the audition form by Monday, May 30 at Noon at: <https://forms.gle/cNDmL6U4FMUFxfcr9>

Ages 7-11* · 4:30-5:45pm, Registration Code: 72714

Ages 12-18 · 6:00-7:15pm, Registration Code: 72715

*Dancers must be 7 years old to audition for the performance-only company by September 1, 2022 and 8 years old by January 1, 2023 to audition for the competition company.

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, June 13, 2022.

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

Both the competition company and the performance company will perform at approximately four Chicagoland performances throughout the September-May season. The competition company also competes at two local competitions during February-May. The competition company will focus on hip hop, jazz and modern or lyrical. The performance company will perform multiple styles of dance. The number of dancers that audition will determine how many competition and performance companies are offered. Companies are created based on age and dancer skill level.

What is a Dance Competition?

At a dance competition, students put their skills to the test by performing a dance routine 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 combination 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 company choreography class a week. You will receive the day/time with your acceptance email. Most company choreography classes 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** recital class through the Naperville Dance Academy. Recital classes include jazz, lyrical, modern/contemporary, musical theater, jazz/hip hop and ballet. The recital class is in addition to their company choreography class. It is **strongly encouraged** that all dancers are also enrolled in at least one ballet recital class.

Example: If you are accepted to the Competitive Company, you will meet once a week for the company choreography class and once a week for the recital dance class.

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 a dance at two dance competitions from February-May and attend one dance 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?

The Élan Dance Outing is a fun gathering we will have in the Fall that all company dancers are invited to. This event is a way for 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?

The schedule for the September 2022-May 2023 season will be released in August 2022. We will also kick off the season with a mandatory parent/dancer meeting at the end of August.

We will have weekends secured for the two dance competitions by early Fall, however, **we are not provided the exact day/time our company will compete until approximately seven days prior to the competition weekend.**

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 eight dancers. An acceptance deadline will be emailed to you after auditions. If for some reason the participation requirement of eight dancers is not met or changes by the first company choreography class, 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 a dancer's schedule may change, or circumstances may prevent a participant from making the full commitment for the year. Any changes rehearsal times or any merging of companies will be communicated.

Will the Élan members perform at the spring dance recitals?

All Élan companies will be featured in at least one dance at the recital in chosen repertoire from the season in addition to their Dance Academy recital dance class. Graduating dancers that prepare senior solos will perform their solos at the spring recitals. Due to dancers being in multiple 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 2023. 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.

Élan Dance Company Contract

❖ Absences:

- Anytime a dancer misses a rehearsal without communicating to the Dance Coordinator, it is considered an unexcused absence.
- All dancers should inform the Dance Coordinator 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 Dance Coordinator.

❖ 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 recital 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 their company choreography class. ****Please note that the dress code is at the discretion of the choreographer****
- Élan apparel is allowed and encouraged to be worn for company choreography classes.
- All company members are expected to follow the dress code for their recital class as they are representing Élan Dance Company.

❖ 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 Dance Coordinator as soon as possible.**

❖ **Cell Phones:**

- There are no cell phones allowed in class 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 Dance Coordinator's cell phone should only be used as a contact while off-site (performances, rehearsals, etc.). In non-urgent situations please use the Dance Coordinator's email address 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 recital dance class 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 a ballet class.

❖ **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 Dance Coordinator at rmilan@napervilleparks.org.
- Dancers should communicate with the Dance Coordinator 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 a v-neck t-shirt and warm-up jacket (required for all company dancers).
- Jackets may be used in place of costumes for some opportunities.

❖ **Punctuality:**

- Dancers are expected to be at the studio, dressed and ready to begin class 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 Dance Coordinator 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.
- 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, hairnet, 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).
- Any undergarments worn with a costume will need to be skin tone with clear straps. We strongly encourage dancers to buy a nude camisole also. This will 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 Dance Coordinator for assistance in getting ready.

Élan Company Dancer Contract 2022-2023 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 2023. I understand my responsibilities if I am accepted into the Élan Dance Company.

I agree to:

- Attend all scheduled classes 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 dance recital class requirement for my Company participation.
- Attend all performances unless communicated in advance with the Dance Coordinator. I understand that Company performances are not optional.
- Give my full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2022-2023 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 company choreography class prepared to learn, in a positive attitude and ready to give it my all.

Dancer's Name (Printed)

Dancer's Signature

Date

Élan Dance Company Parent Expectations

- **Communication:** Parents will receive the majority of the information about Élan Dance Company 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 Dance Coordinator. All absences due to sickness or family emergencies need to be reported to the Dance Coordinator as soon as possible.
- **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.
- **Company Choreography Class 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 Dance Coordinator and choreographers wish to be helpful in addressing any questions or concerns that parents may have, they cannot take time away from classes to talk with parents. Parents should schedule a time outside of class to speak with the appropriate staff member about any questions or concerns they may have. This allows all students to get their full class time. All meeting inquiries can be scheduled through the Dance Coordinator if necessary.

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Élan Company Parent Contract 2022-2023 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 2023. 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 recital dance class requirements for their Company participation.
- Ensure dancer attends all performances unless communicated in advance with the Dance Coordinator. 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 2022-2023 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 Dance Coordinator and choreographers.
- I understand and accept the payment plan and refund policy for Élan Dance Company.

Parent's Name (Printed)

Parent's Signature

Date



Dates & Fee Structure for 2022-2023 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 we offer the following refund policy:

- Refund requests must be made by contacting Brittany Malatt by email at 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, 2022. After December 1, 2022, no refunds or prorations will be provided.
- Refunds are not given for past rehearsal time, costumes, competition/performance fees, Élan outing fees, make-up kits, dance convention fees, costume bag and apparel.

How do I register and pay for Élan Dance Company?

Company choreography classes 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, 2022 and March 1, 2023. 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 12 – Monday, December 12, No Class: October 31 and November 21-26 (12 weeks)

Winter Session: Monday, January 9 - Saturday, May 27, No Class: March 27-April 1 (19 weeks)

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2022 and March 1, 2023.
Competition Company	\$1,004(R)/\$1,034(NR)	\$334.67(R)/\$344.67(NR)
Fee includes: 31 weeks of 60 minute company choreography classes, two costumes, 1 pair of tights, 1 pair of shoes, four dance performance fees, two dance competition fees, and photos from company photoshoot.		

Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2022-2023 Season. A bill, if needed, will be emailed in November 2022 and April 2023.

- **Dancewear items:** As needed for specific styles of dance.
- **Performance fees:** Only if additional performances are added during the year, approximately \$0-\$50, paid by check.
- **Make-up kits:** Order form, approximately, \$25-\$35, paid by check or cash.
- **Elan Social Outing*:** Approximately up to \$15, paid by check or cash.
- **Dance Convention Fee*:** Approximately up to \$125, paid by check.
- **Company apparel*:** (company jacket is required, other apparel is optional): \$66 or \$76 for the company jacket, paid via website link.

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

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2021 and March 1, 2022.
Performance-Only	\$934(R)/\$964 (NR)	\$311.33(R)/\$321.33(NR)
Fee includes: 31 weeks of 75 minute company choreography classes, two costumes, 1 pair of tights, 1 pair of shoes, four dance performance fees, and photos from company photoshoot.		

Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2022-2023 Season. A bill, if needed, will be emailed in November 2022 and April 2023.

- **Dancewear items:** As needed for specific styles of dance.
- **Performance fees:** Only if additional performances are added during the year, approximately \$0-\$50, paid by check.
- **Make-up kits:** Order form, approximately, \$25-\$35, paid by check or cash.
- **Elan Social Outing*:** Approximately up to \$15, paid by check or cash.
- **Company apparel*:** (company jacket is required, other apparel is optional): \$66 or \$76 for the company jacket, paid via website link.

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

Parent Contact Information

Please write clearly

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: _____

Please list any of the dancer's allergies:



Élan Dance Company Auditions 2022
(Please complete this form via the Google Docs link)

Name: _____ School Grade for Fall 2022: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date and Year: _____

Address: _____

Please Circle which company you are auditioning for:

Élan Performance Company

Élan Competitive Company

Home Phone: _____ Dancer's Cell Phone (if applicable): _____

Dancer's Email (if applicable): _____

Dance Experience-Different Styles, and for how long:

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

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?

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