



Élan Information Packet 2024-2025

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 and one dance convention. Please keep in mind that being a company member is not just another extracurricular activity; dancers will be regarded as role models 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 28 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 27 at Noon. Please complete the audition form no later than Monday, May 27 at Noon at: <https://forms.gle/cNDmL6U4FMUFxcr9>

Ages 6-9* · 4:30-5:30pm, Registration Code: 91113

Ages 10-12 · 5:45-6:45pm, Registration Code: 91115

Ages 13-18 · 7:00-8:00pm, Registration Code: 91114

*Dancers must be 6 years old by September 1, 2024 to audition.

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 10, 2024.

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 may 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 an improv 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.

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

Both the competition company and the performance company will perform at approximately two to four Chicagoland performances throughout the September-May season. The competition company also attends one convention and competes at two competitions during February-May. The competition company will focus

on jazz, 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 focus for us during a competition is having fun and gaining the tools to become better dancers in the long run.

How many days per week do the teams practice/what times?

Each team will have a 45-, 60-, 75- or 90-minute team choreography class a week. You will receive the day/time with your acceptance email. Most team choreography classes will take place during the weeknight Monday-Thursday at one of our five dance studios that are located throughout Naperville.

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** jazz, lyrical, modern/contemporary, or ballet recital class through the Naperville Dance Academy. 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 on the Competitive Company, you will meet once a week for your team choreography class and once a week for your recital dance class.

How often do the Companies perform?

During the September-May season there will be approximately two to four performance opportunities that both the competition and performance companies will participate in. The competition teams, in addition to the two to four performance opportunities, will also compete a dance at two dance competitions from February-May and attend one dance convention (additional cost). There may be additional opportunities that will be communicated in advance. **The schedule is subject to change based on performance and competition availability and any changes will be communicated via email with an updated schedule. 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.**

We try our best to keep performance and competition locations within one hour of Naperville, however, depending on the opportunities available, we may have to travel slightly further.

What is an Élan Dance Outing?

The Élan Dance Outing is a fun gathering we will have during the season that all company dancers are invited to. These events are 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 2024-May 2025 season will be released at the end of August 2024. Please know there still will be updates to this schedule throughout the year, but we will make our best effort to provide the most completed schedule possible available in August. We will 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 teams will compete until approximately seven days prior to the competition weekend.**

Conventions and competitions may be a full weekend commitment which could include Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We highly suggest keeping those weekends completely open until the schedule is released.

What happens if the participation requirement for a certain Team is not met?

The Élan Dance Company requires a minimum number of dancers for the program to run. The minimum for each individual team 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 teams, 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, which could lead to a team not meeting its minimum any longer. Any changes to rehearsal times or any merging of teams 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, unless we hold an Elan Dance Company Showcase. If we hold a Showcase, then Elan pieces will not be in the recital shows and will only be performed during the Elan Showcase.

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 2025. The fee for senior solo private instruction is the direct cost of the instructor fee. Parents or the student will need to contact the Program Manager to set up the private instruction. Elan seniors will have the opportunity to compete their solo during their senior year. All Elan seniors that would like to compete their solo will need to contact the Dance Coordinator to set up a time over the summer to learn their solo choreography and pick out a costume.

Élan Dance Company Contract

❖ Absences:

- **Dancer absences should NOT be reported on the Band app.**
- 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 emailing the Dance Coordinator.

❖ Attendance:

- **All Élan members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance.**
- Dedicated attendance will allow dancers 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 proper 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 performances 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 instructor to determine the best time to do so.
- Instructors have the right to deny your request if it interferes with any plans or progress for the day.
- Please communicate in the Band app while the company is 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 can 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.
- Please add rmilan@napervilleparks.org and bmalatt@napervilleparks.org to your contacts so emails don't go into spam or junk folders.
- Parents and dancers will be invited to use the Band app during the dance season. The most up-to-date information, as well as pictures and videos, will be on this app.

❖ **Costumes:**

- All Company members are responsible for knowing what costumes are needed for each piece and transporting them to each performance.
- Tights with rips and holes will not be allowed on stage.

- 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.
- Some dances will require dancers to provide clothing or accessories from home.
- All company members are required to return all costumes borrowed from our costume inventory at the end of the dance season. 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.
- Company jackets are 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.
- 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 2024-2025 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 2025. 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 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 2024-2025 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 at each company choreography class prepared to learn, with 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. Parents and dancers will be invited to use the Band app during the dance season. The most up-to-date information, as well as pictures and videos, will be on this app. 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 via email. 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 report all known conflicts as soon as possible via email to rmilan@napervilleparks.org. 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 2024-2025 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 2025. 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 and competitions are not optional.
- Encourage my dancer to give his/her full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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 will 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, Program Manager, 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, 2024. After December 1, 2024, 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, and apparel.

How do I register and pay for Élan Dance Company?

Registration information for Company choreography classes will be emailed to you with your acceptance letter. You must register by the deadline given with your acceptance letter.

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, 2024, and March 1, 2025. 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 9 – Saturday, December 7 & Thursday, December 12, 2024

No Class: October 31 and November 25-November 30 (12 weeks)

Winter Session: Monday, January 6 - Saturday, May 24, 2025

No Class: Mon. March 31-April 5 (19 weeks)

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025.
Competition Company: Purple, Yellow & Orange Teams	\$1,104(R)/\$1,134(NR)	\$368(R)/\$378(NR)
Competition Company: Red Team	\$1,166(R)/\$1,196(NR)	\$388.67(R)/\$398.67(NR)
Fee includes: 31 weeks of 60-minute company choreography classes (or 90-minute company choreography class for the Red team), two costumes, one pair of tights, one pair of shoes, two to four dance performance fees, two dance competition fees, and photos from company photoshoot.		

Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2024-2025 Season.

- **Dancewear items:** As needed for specific styles of dance.
- **Performance fees:** Only if additional performances are added during the year, approximately \$0-\$50, paid through Activenet.
- **Make-up kits:** Approximately \$25-\$35, paid through Activenet.
- **Elan Social Outing*:** Approximately up to \$15, paid through Activenet.
- **Dance Convention Fee*:** Approximately \$250, paid through Activenet
- **Company apparel*:** (company jacket is required, other apparel is optional): \$75-\$85 for the company jacket, paid through Activenet.

*If a student is on multiple teams this fee will be paid one-time only.

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025.
Performance-Only: Green & Blue Teams	\$960(R)/\$990 (NR)	\$320 (R)/\$330(NR)
Fee includes: 31 weeks of 75-minute company choreography classes, two costumes, one pair of tights, one pair of shoes, three to four dance performance fees, and photos from company photoshoot.		

Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2024-2025 Season.

- **Dancewear items:** As needed for specific styles of dance.
- **Performance fees:** Only if additional performances are added during the year, approximately \$0-\$50, paid through Activenet.
- **Make-up kits (optional):** Approximately \$25-\$35, paid through Activenet.
- **Elan Social Outing*:** Approximately up to \$15, paid through Activenet.
- **Company apparel*:** (company jacket is required, other apparel is optional): \$75-\$85 for the company jacket, paid through Activenet.

*If a student is on multiple teams this fee will be paid one-time only.

Elan Small Group Teams:

Small groups are an optional opportunity that dancers can audition for as part of the regular audition on Tuesday, May 28. Small groups are for **competitive dancers only** and being in a small group is **in addition** to being on a regular/large competitive Elan Dance Company Team (**Red, Orange, Yellow** and **Purple** teams). Small group teams will consist of 5-7 dancers. Each team will have one 45-minute choreography class each week and will learn one dance to bring to the two competitions that Elan Dance Company participates in. Dancers will also learn a second dance for the Showcase or Recital. These teams will compete at a higher level than their large group team.

Due to the small group being a more advanced group, small group dancers will be required to take an additional recital class requirement **in addition** to their large group requirement of one recital class (ballet, jazz or modern) and their large group choreography class.

Scarlet & Coral Teams will be required to take a jazz or modern class **in addition** to their large group requirement of one recital class (ballet, jazz or modern) and their large group choreography class. Specific style requirements will be sent with the acceptance email.

Pink Team members will be required to take a tap class **in addition** to their large group requirement of one recital class (ballet, jazz or modern) and their large group choreography class.

This opportunity, including the dancers, style of dance, and choreographer, are at the discretion of the Naperville Dance Academy. Dancers may not know who their choreographer is when they register for the small group.

Example: Dancers in a small group would be enrolled on two dance teams (large and small) and two recital classes. An example of a weekly class schedule is: Elan **Purple** Team rehearsal, Elan **Pink** Team rehearsal, tap recital class and a ballet, jazz, or modern recital class.

There is an additional cost to be part of an Elan Small Group Team. This program follows the Elan Dance Company refund policy. Please see the fees below:

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025.
Competition Company: Pink, Coral, & Scarlet Teams	\$606(R)/\$636(NR)	\$202(R)/\$212(NR)
Fee includes: 31 weeks of 45-minute company choreography classes, one costume, and two dance competition fees.		