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Madison Dance Academy

DANCE TEAM HANDBOOK



"Whatever we accomplish belongs to our entire team."



updated 05/27/25



We are excited your dancer is interested in the 2025-26 Dance Team. Our team dancers are dancing year-round and fully committing to their art and continual growth. All our team dancers are required to take a minimum of four classes per week (including ballet & jazz) in addition to their team classes. We strongly encourage dancers to take as many classes as they are able including workshops, technique classes, and other styles.

Dancers will commit to team in June, and then will be placed into groups throughout the summer session for the following season. Groups are based on ability, strength, age, style and concept. Our competitive teachers strive to place dancers where they will shine and are the strongest. Team members compete in a minimum of 3 dances in jazz, tap, lyrical, acro, contemporary and hip hop at 4 regional competitions.

In addition to competitions, our team dancers will have one mandatory convention per year where they learn from professional choreographers from all around the world. Throughout the year, we have team bonding events to make sure that we can be the best team we can be, together.

As a team, we have received many awards including high scores and top placements, creative choreography, entertainment as well as special judges' awards. We are incredibly proud that we have brought home many spirit awards as well.

REGISTER JUNE 1-2, 2025



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EXPECTATIONS



ATTENDANCE

Dancers are able to miss 4 weekday rehearsals per each day of classes (ie. if a dancer has classes on MWTh the dancer can miss 4 Monday's, 4 Wednesday's and 4 Thursday's per session). Ideally, we do not want dancers missing classes for any reason, but we understand that things can come up or dancers get sick. Please try to plan vacations and trips for weekends that we do not have dance team.

*****Session 2 absences will switch to 3 weekday classes per each day of classes.*****



TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Every dancer will compete in Production as a full team as well as 2 additional dances. The MINIMUM is 3 dances but dancers can request to compete in more than 3 routines. Depending on the team size, age groups, style preferences, etc will determine how many team dances we offer and have competing. There is no guaranteed amount of dances per dancer above the minimum requirement.



CLASS REQUIREMENTS

SUMMER: Ballet, Jazz, Strength & Technique, +2 additional classes. Summer / Camp Intensive is also required.

FALL / SPRING: Ballet, Jazz, +2 additional classes. We encourage dancers to take all styles with a range of teachers to become a well rounded dancer, even if not competing in that style.



ATTITUDE AND RESPECT

We expect all dancers to respect their teachers, parents and peers. We will not tolerate poor attitude anywhere at the studio. Many dancers at the studio look up to the team dancers, therefore they should all be good role models. Dancers who cannot abide by this will be dismissed from team.



HAVE FUN!!

This is our #1 goal!! We want all dancers to have fun in class, and at team. This team becomes a family every year, and we want to enjoy our time together. Encourage your teammates and lift each other up.

IMPORTANT DATES

**JUNE
01-02**

COMMITMENT DATES:

Dancers will register to be on the 2025-26 dance team. All dancers that register have a spot on the team. we will not accept any additional dance team members after June 01-02, 2025.

**AUGUST
01-02**

PLACEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will send out placements via email. All dancers will be in a mix of routines (minimum of 3, including production). Summer classes are used as a try-out process to help determine groupings.

**AUGUST
18-21**

CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK:

Dancers will come in at different days/times throughout the week to learn choreography for their competition routines.



TENTATIVE REHEARSAL DATES



August

Sunday 8/10

Cornfest Parade Rehearsal (9:00-10:30am)

Wednesday 8/13

Cornfest Parade (meeting time TBD)

Monday 8/18 - Thursday 8/21

Choreography Week!! (times TBD)

September

Sunday 9/7

MANDATORY Production Intensive (8:00am-3:00pm)

Saturday 9/13 - Sunday 9/14

DT KICKOFF: bonding, photoshoot & sleepover (2:30pm - 9:00am)

Sunday 9/21

DT Practice

Sunday 9/28

DT Practice

October

Sunday 10/12

DT Practice

Sunday 10/19

DT Practice

Sunday 10/26

DT Practice

November

Sunday 11/9

DT Practice

Sunday 11/16

DT Practice

Sunday 11/23

DT Practice

December

Sunday 12/7

DT Practice

Sunday 12/14

MANDATORY DT Practice

session 1

*All dates are subject to change, and we will add or cancel rehearsals as needed.
Competition dates are not 100% final, but tentative dates are listed.*

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL DATES

January

Sunday 1/11 MANDATORY DT Practice
Sunday 1/18 DT Practice
Saturday 1/31 MANDATORY Stage Rehearsal

February

Sunday 2/8 MANDATORY DT Practice
Friday 2/13 - Sunday 2/15 COMPETITION: Imagine Dance (Prairie du Sac, WI)
Sunday 2/22 MANDATORY DT Practice
Friday 2/27 - Sunday 3/1 OPTIONAL (solo, duet, trio only) COMPETITION: Amp (DeForest, WI)

March

Friday 3/6 - Sunday 3/8 COMPETITION & CONVENTION: Dupree Dance (Lake Geneva, WI)
Sunday 3/15 MANDATORY DT Practice
Friday 3/20 - Sunday 3/22 COMPETITION: PAC Collective - Moxie (Rockton, IL)

APRIL

Sunday 4/12 MANDATORY DT Practice
Friday 4/17 - Sunday 4/19 COMPETITION: Spotlight Dance Cup (Green Bay, WI)

May

Sunday 5/3 Recital Pictures @ the studio
Wednesday 5/6 - Saturday 5/9 TENTATIVE Recital Rehearsal & Show dates
Wednesday 5/13 - Saturday 5/16 TENTATIVE Recital Rehearsal & Show dates
DATE TBD will be determined once recital dates are confirmed

session 2

*All dates are subject to change, and we will add or cancel rehearsals as needed.
Competition dates are not 100% final, but tentative dates are listed.*



COMPETITION CALENDAR

competition dates

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

Imagine Dance | Prairie du Sac, WI

MARCH 6-8, 2026

Dupree Dance | Lake Geneva, WI

MARCH 20-22, 2026

PAC Collective - Moxie | Rockton, IL

APRIL 17-19, 2026

Spotlight Dance Cup | Green Bay, WI



OPTIONAL SOLO, DUET, TRIO ONLY!

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 2026

AMP | DeForest, WI



DANCE TEAM FEES

Competition Entry Fee <i>- per competition, per dance</i>	\$95
Competition Items <i>- tights & lipstick</i>	\$40 + tax
Convention Fee <i>- one time fee</i>	\$375
Costumes <i>- per competition, per dance</i>	\$95 + tax
Dance Team Commitment Fee <i>- one time upon sign up</i>	\$200
Dance Team Jacket <i>- new team dancers or if new size is needed</i>	\$135 + tax
Hip Hop Shoes <i>- only for hip hop group dancers</i>	TBD - <i>if needed</i>
Spirit Squad (team bonding) <i>- split into 2 payments, based on budet for the year</i>	TBD - approx \$175
Stage Rehearsal <i>- one time fee</i>	\$75
Unlimited Tuition <i>- due the 15th of each month</i>	\$360/month

FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON VENDOR FEES, ETC.

FEES NOT INCLUDED:

- *Recital Costumes*
- *Recital Hip Hop Shoes*
- *Solo, Duet, Trio Fees (comp fees & costume fees)*
- *Studio Merch*
- *Studio Registration Fee*



TEAM BONDING



TEAM SLEEPOVER

At the beginning of the season, we kick off the year with our annual dance team sleepover where we spend time bonding, getting to know each other and making memories.



TEAM PHOTOSHOOT

Dancers will get the chance to take to take individual pictures, big/little pictures, and entire team pictures. This is a fun time for dancers to be able to express themselves.



BIG / LITTLES

Our big and littles are like siblings to each other throughout the entire season. "Bigs" job is to take their "little" under their wing, and support them unconditionally.



ADDITIONAL EVENTS

We strive to add additional team bonding events throughout the season. These might include team dinner, going on an outing, or just additional time together.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPIRIT SQUAD

Spirit Squad is a parent volunteer organization that is directly beneficial for all. It is run by parents, for the benefit of dancers to enhance their team experience and the MDA community as a while. There will be fundraising opportunities to offset the costs of team bonding events.



BAND APP

We utilize the app called BAND. Parents and dancers are able to have access and we post ALL THINGS TEAM here. We will upload videos of the routines to practice, competition schedules, pictures throughout the year and more!



SOCIAL MEDIA

We work hard to showcase not only our team dancers, but our entire studio across a few forms of social media. We allow our high school dancers to help with managing our socials and posting fun and important information from week to week.



FUNDRAISING DETAILS

CONCESSIONS



- ◆ We partner with Lighthouse ministries (st. dennis) to work concessions at the alliant energy center, kohl center, camp randell and more!
- ◆ We have many dance families that will work concession events and pay most, if not all, of their dance bills. This is by far the best way to assist with the fees of being on a competition team.
- ◆ Dancers 14+ can work most events also! Get those dancers working.
- ◆ EXAMPLES OF EVENTS TO WORK: Bratfest, Taste of Madison, UW Football, UW Volleyball, Midwest Horse Fair

RAISERIGHT



- ◆ RaiseRight is the easiest, most practical fundraising program - no selling goods, planning events, or knocking on doors
- ◆ Buy a gift card for places that you already purchase from (ie. Amazon, Home Depot, Target, Visa, Walmart and so many more!) - each gift card purchase has an earning percentage that goes directly to your account
- ◆ Another easy way to earn towards your account. If you are diligent at purchasing gift cards (most are e-gift cards) for groceries, gas, and everyday items, you can earn a hefty amount towards your dance account.

TRADITIONAL FUNDRAISING



- ◆ We have a few more traditional fundraising events per year also if you prefer options like that.
- ◆ For the 2024-25 season, we worked a food booth and pumpkin painting station at Makers Market, sold Mrs. Fields cookie dough, and more!
- ◆ We are always looking for ways to earn and fundraise money for our families to be able to offset the costs. We are open to any new ideas you may have also!

Recital

Absences - weekday

- Increasing allowed absences per session to allow more flexibility for dancers and other sports, etc.
- OLD: 4 total absences per session.
- NEW: 4 absences per weekday per session (max 12 per session if dancing M-Th).
- Session 2 absences will go from 4 to 3 in prep for recital.

Absences - dance team Sunday's

- Increasing allowed absences for the year from 2 → 3 Sunday rehearsals. We will occasionally have specific mandatory Sunday's that no dancer can miss to ensure we are getting time to practice with the entire group there.

Competition + Convention

- Continuing 4 full team competitions for the season and bring back the requirement for attending a full team convention.
- We feel strongly the importance of attending conventions and learning from different leaders in the industry. It's a great experience for all to learn from, especially those that would like to dance beyond high school.
- We have two OPTIONS for team this year including our full commitment team as well as a new HIGH SCHOOL HIP HOP only competition team.

Solo, Duet, Trios

- Dancers that have left and are coming back to team for any reason other than medical, they will **not** be able to compete a solo their first year back. This year will be focused on reintegrating into the team and being the best teammate possible. Those dancers are still able to perform a solo at recital if desired.
- Those dancers that have left and come back are able to compete **ONE** duet or trio during the season.

options

new this year

WE ARE OFFERING TWO DIFFERENT TEAM OPTIONS THIS YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF THE LIFE / SCHOOL DEMANDS THAT EACH DANCER FACES INDIVIDUALLY.

FULL COMMITMENT COMPETITION TEAM

- MINIMUM CLASS REQUIREMENTS
jazz, ballet, plus 2 additional classes
(approx 3 hours of classes)
- MINIMUM TEAM REQUIREMENTS
(3) competition dances including: full team production, plus 2 additional competitive dances (solo, duet, trios do not count in this total)
- FULL TEAM CONVENTION
the entire dance team will attend convention and compete at Dupree Dance in March 2026
- FULL BONDING EXPERIENCE
while bonding events are not required, the full dance team will have many opportunities to bond as a team and experience our full program

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY HIP HOP TEAM

- MINIMUM CLASS REQUIREMENTS
weekly hip hop class
(45 min class)
- REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
twice per month on Sunday evenings between 5:00-8:00pm
(exact day/times TBD)
- REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
twice per month on Sunday evenings between 5:00-8:00pm
(exact day/times TBD)
- COMPETITIONS
the HH team will compete (1) dance at TWO competitions (competitions TBD once the team is formed)
- DANCERS
dancers on the full commitment dance team can also participate in this. This is completely separate from Dance Team and will not be held to team bonding events, etc.



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Photography