



Competitive Dance Team

Informational Brochure

Expressions Dance Centre

Owner & Artistic Director - Amy Gillett

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Dance Factory

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Coldwater, MI 49036

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ABOUT -----

The Dance Trilogy Competitive Dance Team is housed at Expressions Dance Centre in Hastings, Michigan and at The Dance Factory in Coldwater, Michigan. The award-winning team travels and competes in regional and national competitions all over the United States. Becoming a member of the competitive dance team is an honor, but also comes with additional responsibilities and work. Dancers become stronger, more confident, and learn invaluable skills that are required to be a strong team member.

Becoming a member of the Dance Trilogy competitive dance team is an amazing opportunity for dancers to continue and dive deeper into their dance education. Dancers not only grow in their dance technique but also as an individual and a team member. Although being a member of the dance team provides dancers with numerous benefits, it also requires a lot of commitment and many additional responsibilities for the dancer and the dancer's family.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITIVE DANCE SEASON ---

- ★ Competitive classes start in September and run through June.
First Day of Dance: **Tuesday September 5th, 2023**
- ★ The competitive season starts with our 'Mock Competition' that occurs in late February/early March. Mock Competition is a dress rehearsal for our competitions. This gives dancers the opportunity to perform their dances in full hair, make-up, costumes and on-stage in front of an audience and a panel of judges before they compete. Mock Competition is **required** for all team dancers. The Mock Comp date will be emailed in the fall.
- ★ The competition team attends 3-4 regional competitions a year. Regional competitions take place on the weekends (Friday-Sunday) during March, April, and May. Dates and locations will be sent out in the fall. You must make the necessary arrangements to have the entire weekend available. Do NOT assume your dancer may not dance a certain day. We do not receive the detailed schedule for the competitions until approximately 2 weeks before the competition; therefore, we will not know the exact days and times dances will compete until 2 weeks before each competition. Regional competitions take place in surrounding areas such as Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Detroit, Ohio, and Indiana.
- ★ All competitive dancers will participate in the annual recital and team show held in June. Dress Rehearsal is **Friday June 7th**. Recital is **Saturday June 8th**.
- ★ If interest is shown, the competitive season will be extended into the summer to include Nationals. Nationals are held over the summer and are optional for dancers. Please note that additional practices will be scheduled in the summer to prepare for Nationals. Previous locations that the team has traveled to for Nationals include Indiana, Virginia, and South Carolina.
- ★ There are many dance conventions that team members are invited to attend throughout the summer and fall. Dance conventions and intensives are optional for dancers but are encouraged. Conventions are an amazing opportunity for dancers to take classes from the industry's best dance educators. Dancers are exposed to new teaching styles, dance genres, and learn many invaluable skills to succeed in the industry. In past years, the dance team has travelled to many cities including Lansing, Chicago and New York City for dance intensives and conventions.

PREREQUISITES NEEDED TO JOIN TEAM -----

Previous Dance Experience is required to join the competition team. Additionally, the dancer must have previous experience within a specific genre of dance in order to compete in that genre on the dance team. Dance team members are more than welcome to also take any of our recreational dance classes in addition to their team classes.

In addition to previous dance experience, dancers wishing to become a member of the Dance Trilogy team must also attend all 3 days of team auditions. See the audition section for more details.

TEAM PARENT MEETING -----

WHEN: WEDNESDAY JUNE 14TH @ 7:30PM

WHERE: EXPRESSIONS DANCE CENTRE

WHO: Parents of dancers planning on auditioning and joining the dance team are **required** to attend this meeting. There is a lot of information that parents need to be aware of before making the commitment of joining the team. We strongly encourage parents of current dance team members to attend this meeting. It is always great to get a refresher on information and current team parents are a great resource for new team families when it comes to answering questions or giving advice. Topics that will be covered in this meeting include the following:

- ★ Audition Process
- ★ Required Classes
- ★ Team Contract
- ★ Shoes/Costumes/Uniform
- ★ Time Commitment
- ★ Attendance Expectations
- ★ Competitive Season Schedule
- ★ Future Date Conflicts
- ★ Competition Entry Fees
- ★ Financial Requirements

2023 AUDITIONS -----

WHEN: JUNE 19th, 20th, & 21st

TIME: Mini Dancers (Ages 5-8): 5:00pm-6:30pm

Junior—Senior Dancers (Ages 8-18): 6:00pm-8:00pm

COST: \$50.00 per dancer

**Sign-up for auditions by enrolling
in the correct audition class via
your Parent Portal account.**

- ★ Dancers are required to be there all 3 days.
- ★ Dancers should come dressed in audition attire: leotard, tights, proper dancer shoes, and hair secured.
- ★ All current team dancers and any new dancers wishing to join the team are required to attend auditions.
- ★ Previous dance experience is required.
- ★ Auditions are a learning process. You are required to be present on all of your assigned days. Although placements will take place on the last day, instructors will be evaluating dancers throughout the entire audition. This includes dancers' performances and attitudes in all classes that precede the placement day.
- ★ Any dancer wishing to audition for a solo must prepare a short solo piece (approximately 30 to 45 seconds of the music of their choice) to perform on placement day. The style of your audition piece should match the solo style you wish to perform the following year. This is your opportunity to showcase and impress us with your strengths: technique, choreography, execution, and overall performance will all be considered. Please have your audition piece and music ready on your placement day.

TEAM CONTRACT -----

All team dancers and parents must sign our Team Contract. Our contract outlines in detail all of the rules and expectations dancers must follow to remain an active member of the dance team. The team contract will be emailed out by the end of the first day of auditions and is also available on the Dance Trilogy team page on the studio website.

Contracts must be signed and returned to the studio by **Wednesday June 19th** (last day of auditions) for dancers to be allowed to audition. Dancers will receive a copy of the signature page of the contract the first day of auditions.

REQUIRED CLASSES -----

- ★ **All team dancers currently in 3rd grade or above are required to take a ballet class in addition to their team classes.** Ballet is the foundation of all dance and is necessary for the proper development of all dance technique.

BALLET DRESS CODE— All team dancers must follow the ballet dress code during their ballet class. Dancers must wear tights and a leotard. Wearing fitted shorts over the leotard is allowed.

- ★ **Mini team members (ages 4-8) must take a jazz class.** This is the style of dance all team members start competing in. Anything more than their first group jazz class is optional.
- ★ Dancers must be enrolled in at least 2 group classes before they may add any solos, duets, or trios.
- ★ All members are encouraged to take a technique/production class in addition to the classes they compete in.
- ★ Team dancers are also more than welcome to take recreational classes in addition to their team classes.

ATTENDANCE -----

- ★ **All practices are mandatory.** Attendance is extremely important for all team dancers. Dancers can be excused for up to 5 absences throughout the year (not per class, overall). A 6th absence will disqualify you from being on the team. If you miss class, you must make the class up. Failure to meet the attendance requirement will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
- ★ Anyone missing the last week prior to a competition may not be able to participate in that competition. All competition payments are non-refundable.
- ★ Please do NOT schedule appointments during your dance time.
- ★ In addition to the regularly scheduled weekly classes, there are many times throughout the year additional practices and events, including competitions, will be scheduled on the weekends. We do our best to give you as much notice in advance as possible for extra practices. All competition dates are sent out at the beginning of the year. All dancers are expected to be present at all team practices, competitions, and events.
- ★ **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!** If attendance is ever a concern, you must contact us as soon as possible to let us know. We cannot stress enough how important it is to share schedule conflict concerns as early as possible. We often can work with your schedule if we know in advance of a potential conflict.
- ★ Any schedule conflicts that are known at the time of auditions must be written down on the dancer's audition form. This includes but not limited to sports/activities schedules, sports camps, family vacations, weddings, prom, drivers training, and school trips. The more information you can give us the better!
- ★ Please see the attendance section in the team contract for a comprehensive list of specific rules and guidelines regarding attendance.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

★ SHOES

Once your dancer has enrolled in classes for the new season, you will receive a list of the proper dance shoes needed for each class. Dancers may need more than one pair of lyrical shoes and/or jazz shoes throughout the year as they may get worn down with use. The following shoe prices are only best estimates and are subject to change.

Ballet Shoes: \$20.00	Jazz Shoes: \$30.00
Lyrical Shoes: \$25.00	Tap Shoes: \$20.00—\$60.00
Hip Hop Shoes: \$40.00—\$60.00	

★ COSTUMES

Each competition class and any recreational class where your dancer will be participating in recital with will have a costume ordered. Costume prices are only best estimates and are subject to change. Costumes average \$85.00—\$100.00 per costume.

★ TEAM UNIFORM

All team members are required to purchase the team uniform. The team uniform includes the team jacket, team t-shirt, and black leggings/pants. The cost of the team jacket is approximately \$110.00. Jackets can be gemmed for an addition \$30.00. Gemming is optional. The cost of the team t-shirt is approximately \$20.00. Any pair of all-black leggings/pants are acceptable.

★ ACCESSORIES & MAKE-UP

Once your dancer has enrolled in classes for the new season, you will receive a list of all the necessary competition make-up items and accessories that you will need for the season. The following item prices are only best estimates and are subject to change.

Hair Comb: \$15.00	Earrings: \$10.00
Eyelashes: \$10.00	Make-Up Kit: \$30.00
Extra Costume Accessories: \$15.00	Tights: \$11.00

★ COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are paid for each dancer per dance and per competition. On average, the team will attend 3 regional competitions. The following entry fees are only best estimates and are subject to change.

Solo: \$110—\$125
Duet/Trio: \$65-\$85 per dancer
Group: \$55-65 per dancer

★ TRAVEL FEES

Depending on the competition location and the dancer's schedule, some families choose to book a hotel room for the weekend. This is NOT required and we always suggest to do what works best with you and your dancer's schedule. Once the competition schedule is set in the fall, we will send out a list of hotels for each competition. Some competitions reserve a block of rooms at a discounted rate.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- ★ You will receive an estimated total cost of all your costumes, entry fees, an yearly class tuition by late August/early September once your dancer has enrolled in classes.
- ★ All shoe, costume, accessory, and entry fees will be added into your Parent Portal.
- ★ **PLEASE NOTE** that monthly tuition will be added at the beginning of each month. When looking at the balance on your Parent Portal please take into account it won't include your yearly tuition as tuition is added at the beginning of each month.
- ★ The number of payments you make throughout the year is up to you based on which payment plan you choose to follow.

OPTION #1: 9 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS

You will take your estimated grand total for the year and roll it into 9 monthly payments that will be paid at the beginning of each month.

OPTION #2: MONTHLY TUITION + 2 LARGE PAYMENTS

You will pay your monthly class tuition at the beginning of each month.

Payment #1: All shoes, costumes, and accessories must be paid for by December 1st, 2023.

Payment #2: All competition entry fees must be paid for by February 1st, 2024.

PAYMENT METHOD OPTIONS

★ CASH

★ CHECK

★ VENMO

Venmo Info: Amy Gillett @expressionsdancecentre

★ CREDIT CARD (+3.5% FEE)

★ PAYPAL (+ FEE)

PayPal Info: expressionsdancecentre96@gmail.com

★ If choosing to pay with a credit card or through PayPal, you are responsible for paying the transaction fees in addition to your total transaction amount. We do not cover the credit card or PayPal fees. There are no fees associated with cash or check.

★ There is currently NO option to pay online via your Parent Portal or our website.

ASSISTANT TEACHER PROGRAM

- ★ Any dancer entering 6th grade or above that is interested in assistant teaching must attend Assistant Teacher Training on **Tuesday August 15th from 8:00pm—8:45pm.**
- ★ Any dancer entering 6th grade or above is welcome to come to the training; however, attendance does not guarantee an offer to assist in classes.
- ★ Assistant teaching depends on both dancer and class availability.

CONVENTIONS/WORKSHOPS

- ★ Dance conventions are where dancers take classes from some of the industry's best dancers and choreographers. Attendance at dance conventions is optional but highly encouraged!

AXIOM DANCE CONVENTION

WHEN: November 18th 2023

WHERE: Lansing, MI Lansing Center

COST: \$90—\$165 per dancer (early bird rate due by 10/3

*Every dancer receives \$25 off their registration from the Studio Sportsmanship Scholarship we won at the Legacy competition.

THE NEXT STEP

WHEN: October 8th, 2023

WHERE: Grand Rapids, MI Amway Grand Plaza

COST: \$125 per dancer