



The Ultimate Dance Experience!

Dancer's Handbook

Welcome to Michigan Dance Company!

Whether you enroll in dance for fun, to stay in shape, to strengthen technique, or for a pre-professional dance career, Michigan Dance Company has something for everyone! MDC offers a variety of classes to dancers of all ages. MDC strives to bring the best quality of dance to the Lapeer area at an affordable price!

Our goal at MDC is to give our students the highest quality of dance education. We understand that dance is just a small aspect of life, so we hope to not only build strong dancers, but also provide them with other life skills. Skills like discipline, respect, dedication, and accountability. In order to do so, we ask that you abide by our rules. Please read through the handbook carefully and sign and return the last page prior to registration. Should you have any questions throughout the season, please contact the office. We look forward to an exciting year with you and your child.

It is the mission of our company to build character in our dancers. Positive attitude, commitment, discipline and sacrifice will be practiced to build a successful dance community.

The studio is our classroom and acts as our vehicle to teach lifelong lessons, to create memorable experiences and to have fun!

Our goal is to expose our students to a family atmosphere in the hopes that they will build on this tradition.

Lastly, our mission is to continuously pursue excellence and overcome adversity. We will always prepare, practice and compete to win not only on the stage, but also in the game of life!

Basic Rules:

- Students respect staff, staff respects students, students respect each other and the studio
 - No rude or disrespectful comments (constructive criticism is the only criticism tolerated in class)
- Arrive to class on time, you are expected to come in dressed and ready to dance
- No street shoes allowed in any studio room
- Get permission from the instructor before leaving the room for any reason
- NO food, drinks, candy or gum in class (**bottled water** is the only exception)
- NO hats, **cell phones**, headphones, or grooming in class
- Do not touch the CD/iPod player without permission from the instructor
- Students are expected to pick up after themselves. There should not be empty water bottles, wrappers, bobby pins, etc. left on the floors. A clean up schedule will be utilized with company members to make sure dancers are keeping the studio clean.
- With the exception of “Bring your Friend to Dance Day” friends of dancers are not allowed to just hang out at the studio.

Tuition Policy

Michigan Dance Company's season runs from September to June, with payments due the **first week** of each month. Payment **MUST** be submitted at this time in order to participate. **Payments will be accepted in the form of cash, check and credit card.** Additional fees apply to credit card purchases (4%). If more than one check bounces in a single account, future payments will be expected in cash. In addition to dance class fees, an annual \$30

registration fee and \$25 performance fee will be charged to the account (families will pay a \$60 registration fee and \$50 performance fee). Registration fees must be paid when registering for classes. Performance fees can be paid at any point throughout the year, but must be paid in full by the first week of April. Weekly and bi-weekly payment plans for tuition must be discussed with/approved by the studio director. Payments received after the due date, but dated before will not be accepted as on time payments. For example, if your child has classes on Tuesdays, your tuition is due the first Tuesday of the month. A payment not received prior to the second Tuesday of the month will be considered late. Checks cannot be postdated to avoid a late fee. A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed to all payments not received by the due date. **A fee of \$50 will be charged to any account with a bounced check.** A student whose tuition is in arrears will not be permitted to attend class. This will be strictly enforced. The mailbox in the lobby is where payments are to be made. No credits, refunds or discounts will be given for missed lessons. **If you decide to quit the dance program you will not be eligible for any refunds on tuition, fees or costumes. All fees including registration and performance fees are nonrefundable. As with any private school, tuition is non-refundable. There are also no student-to-student transfers.**

Attitude

Michigan Dance Company strives to bring the highest quality dance education in a positive and fun learning environment. In order to do so, respect is expected as well as required from dancers and parents at all times. Being prompt to class and being courteous to instructors and other dancers is mandatory. Instructors may remove a student from class if he or she feels the dancer is being disrespectful. Dancers and parents may not interrupt a teacher's class for any reason, this is disrespectful to both the teacher and students. Talking negatively about any staff or students will not be tolerated. **If a student or parent has any concerns or is unhappy for any reason please seek out the studio director in private to discuss your concerns.** Backtalk and negative attitude from students or parents will not be tolerated. One verbal warning will be given and if problems persist, students may be asked to leave class and/or may be removed from the program.

MDC is committed to being a drama free zone! Staff members are here to share their knowledge and love of dance with students. Any problems between staff, students or parents remains the privacy of those involved. Gossiping will not be tolerated, if students are involved, they will be removed from the program. **Students:** If you are upset during or at the end of a class, please pull staff aside immediately. We care deeply for each of our students, and you should never be afraid to address something with us! Also, this helps to avoid any miscommunication. Unsportsmanlike conduct and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Always remember: **We are a team and it only takes one person to affect an entire team!** MDC will protect their staff and students, should a situation arise that makes any staff member or student uncomfortable, the person at fault WILL be asked to leave the building. The following is NOT acceptable by parents or students:

- Profanity in front of students, parents, staff or in the building.
- Arguments with staff in front of other parents and students
- Verbal threats
- Physical threats

Failure to follow the aforementioned may result in an immediate escort out of the building by Lapeer County Police and may result in dancers removal from the team. Parents will not be given any refunds and will lose all rights to costumes. This has never been a problem, but we need to make sure everyone understands the expectations. We do this for the safety of all students and staff!

Please refrain from approaching teachers and making casting or instructional comments. It is inappropriate and disrespectful to our very qualified staff. Although some parents may find this helpful, it may cause friction or

tension in a teacher/student relationship. We ask that you support our studio's teachers in whatever decisions they feel necessary to their choreography and betterment of the team as well as support your child and their commitment to dance. Our studio is very friendly, positive and upbeat. Please do not take advantage of this "feel at home" environment. If you feel the need to discuss an issue regarding your child, please contact the studio director to set up an appointment. Do not spread gossip in the lobby, parking lot, competition, etc. We believe in communication and encourage you to contact us, as most the time issues can be resolved.

Everyone has different opinions on the way a studio should be ran. We appreciate suggestions, but this is the studio of Natasha Colwell (studio director). Final decisions are made by her and are expected to be followed.

MDC News

Parents are responsible for checking the studio bulletin board for updates and information regarding classes. Important information, including inclement weather closings, will also be posted on Facebook. Monthly newsletters will be sent through email, so it is imperative that the studio has at least one parent email on file. Company members and parents will have a group remind to keep them posted on competition information.

Attendance

Continued absences will not be tolerated at Michigan Dance Company. By signing MDC's contract you are entering an agreement that the dancer will present at all classes unless excused. Absences will only be excused due to illness or if approved prior arrangements were made. All absences require notification to the studio. If you are not at **80%** of the classes you will not be given the option to perform at recital. Students who arrive 15 minutes after the scheduled class time are welcome to observe the class; however, they will not be permitted to participate since the first part of class is committed to a warm up and stretch to prevent injury. It is not the responsibility of instructors to re-teach any choreography that was missed because of student's absences. If a student misses a day when choreography was given, they will be removed from that section.

Closings

Michigan Dance Company will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve. MDC follows Lapeer Community School closings in the event of inclement weather. If inclement weather begins after the school day, MDC will make the call on whether classes will commence that night. Closings will always be posted on Facebook. Tuition will not be adjusted for studio closings or absences. If multiple closings occur on the same day in the same month, classes may be rescheduled.

Technique Classes

All classes at MDC are considered technique classes. This means that most of the time spent in class will solely be focused on strengthening technique and learning new skills. Students will learn production routines during the last part of class. **Mandatory Saturday rehearsals will be held towards the end of the year.** The end of the year is the most critical time, as instructors are still finishing and cleaning choreography. If your child misses class, they may be removed for the section of the production that was learned or cleaned that day. Attendance is 100% mandatory the last 30 days of the dance season (typically the month of June).

Front Lobby

Parents dropping off, or waiting for students are welcome to lounge in the lobby. Payments should always be made at the front desk; there will be a drop box located on the front desk. Please sign and date an envelope before

depositing. Water will be available to purchase at the front desk in the lobby. The lobby is for use of waiting parents and students. Student belongings, **including food** need to be taken to the student waiting room.

Student Waiting Room

The student waiting room is for students waiting in between classes. It is located at the end of the basement hallway. This will be a place where students may study or do homework, eat, watch TV, and change. We ask that students are mindful of the classes going on when walking down to the waiting room, as well as while they are in the room itself. Students are responsible for picking up after themselves.

Dress Code

*Students are expected to come **prepared** to every class in proper attire with their hair off the face and pulled back into a bun. Ponytails are NOT allowed unless instructor has given special permission. Headbands and any loose accessories are not permitted. Dress code for each class is as follows:*

Princess Dance: Black Leotard, Pink Tights, Pink Ballet Shoes.

Ballet: Black leotard, Pink Tights, Pink Canvas Shoes. Students may wear black spandex shorts.

Pointè: Black leotard, Pink Tights, Pink Pointè Shoes.

Modern/Contemporary: Black leotard. Students may wear black spandex shorts. No Shoes.

Lyrical: Black leotard. Black dance skirts or spandex shorts may be worn over the leotard.

To ensure that everyone is matching, shoes must be purchased through the studio for this class.

Hip Hop: Black leotard (tank top and shorts or sweatpants may be worn overtop).

Michigan Dance Company t-shirts are also allowed. Black slip on jazz shoes will be needed for this class.

Musical Theatre/Jazz: Black leotard. Black dance skirts or spandex shorts may be worn over the leotard. Black slip on jazz shoes will be needed for this class.

Tap: Black leotard. Dance skirts or shorts may be worn over the leotard. Black slip on tap shoes will also be needed for this class. Split sole recommended for experienced tap dancers..

Acro Dance: Black leotard. Students may wear spandex shorts. No shoes. Sports bras and shorts may sometimes be permitted.

Pom Pon: Black leotard, black spandex shorts and black slip on jazz shoes. MDC t-shirts are also allowed.

Tumble Bears/Gymnastics: Black leotard preferred, but may wear athletic apparel and tennis shoes.

Adult Classes & Work Out Classes: Athletic apparel and tennis shoes.

*****All performers should have at least one black thin strap leotard*****

Costumes

Students enrolled in Company will primarily be using the same costumes as production numbers, with a few exceptions. Michigan Dance Company may choose to purchase costumes for certain productions, should that be the case, students would be borrowing the costumes from MDC. When costumes are borrowed they are to be returned in the same condition or else dancer will be responsible for purchasing the costume. Costume prices will automatically be added to student's tuition statement starting in September and ending in November. **Parents may choose how payment is made as long as all costumes are paid in full before Thanksgiving Break.** Students will

try on costumes as they come in. The costumes will stay at the studio to ensure that they are where they need to be for picture day, competitions, recital, etc. It usually takes months to receive costume orders as they are generally made to order. If a dancer loses a costume, it will be highly unlikely to get a replacement in a timely manner, which is why we keep them at the studio until the last day of recital. **Refunds will not be given for costumes under any circumstances.**

Any additional embellishments or accessories purchased for a costume will be included with the original costume fees. Students are not guaranteed any certain color or style of costume. If MDC needs to make a switch in costumes, they have the right to do so. MDC cannot guarantee that each costume will fit. Sizing charts will be used by MDC staff when selecting a size. Should costumes need to be exchanged for a different size due to student growth, parents will be responsible for any additional charges, such as shipping. Costume orders will be placed during Thanksgiving Break. If payment has not been received, your costume will not be ordered. On average it takes 2-4 months for costumes to ship. The only notification MDC is given is when costumes have shipped. No need to ask when costumes come in. We are just as excited as you, so we will tell you when they have arrived. There will be a late fee if costumes are not paid for on time (you will have to pay the shipping and handling as well). If your costumes are not purchased when we place our studio order there is no guarantee that you will get it in time for competition, pictures, performances, etc.

Costume balances can often be hefty, especially if you are in many classes. The average company dancer can expect to pay several hundreds of dollars. We suggest breaking the balance up into 3 payments, \$200.00 in the months of September and October, with the remaining balance due before Thanksgiving break. Any credits can be applied towards tuition or competition fees. **Should a student choose to withdraw from MDC's dance program, any costumes purchased will become the property of Michigan Dance Company. If students or parents would like to keep the purchased costumes, they will be charged for the remaining year's tuition.**

Recital

The Annual Showcase will consist of on rehearsal (Friday) and two performances (Saturday & Sunday). **It is absolutely mandatory for all performance and competitive students to be present at Friday night dress rehearsal, as well as Saturday and Sunday Performances.** If a student has a conflict, immediate notice is needed and will be handled on a case by case basis. The studio director will have sole authority to determine if there is an extenuating circumstance for missing rehearsal. On Friday, we will have a closed rehearsal and hope that parents will respect this and wait until the actual performances to watch the show. Friday's rehearsal is for all the last minute tweaking, and not intended for an audience. During rehearsal and recital, no one other than students, staff of MDC and staff of the venue are allowed backstage or in the dressing room areas! This means no friends, parents, or family. We will have all of the back stage help we need. We do this to benefit everyone. We want students focused, and after a year of life around dance we want loved ones to simply enjoy the show! Thank you for your understanding. Pre Sale tickets will be available for purchase at \$12.00 each. Tickets the day of recital will be available for purchase at \$15.00 each. **2018 Annual Showcase: June 22nd (rehearsal) June 23rd (first show) June 24th (second show).**

Class Fees

30-45 Minute Class \$40/Month

Ballet Class \$45/Month

Unlimited Classes \$185

Discounts

- Early Registration Discount: If you register and pay for September classes before August 19th, you will receive \$10 off.

- Upfront Discount: Pay entire years tuition in full before the first week of classes are up and save 10% off of the entire year.
- Refer a Friend Discount: Receive \$5 X number of classes friend enrolls in off of next month's tuition (friend must pay in full).
- Family Discount: First person (one with the most classes) is full price, every person in the same family after that is half off! (Must have at least two classes/dancer.
- Free Class: Sign up for 3 or more classes, receive one class free!
- All-Inclusive Discount: Any dancer may enroll in all classes (except drop in) for \$185/month.

Certain discounts cannot be combined.

Questions

Please contact the office if you have any questions about this contract. 810-258-0001 or michigandancecompany@gmail.com

ACCEPTANCE OF MDC RULES & REGULATIONS

DANCER

I, _____, have read and understand the rules and regulations of Michigan Dance Company as set forth in the MDC Handbook. I agree to abide by these rules and regulations. I understand that failure to abide by these rules and regulations are possible grounds for suspension or termination from the studio.

Dancer's Signature

Date

PARENT

I, _____, legal guardian for the above child, have read and understand the rules and regulations of Michigan Dance Company as set forth in the MDC Handbook. **I understand that I am entering into a legal contract that runs from September through the month of June (July for company dancers). I agree to pay for tuition during these stated dates. Should for whatever reason, I choose to withdraw my child/children from the program, I will either forfeit costumes paid for or agree to payout the remaining year's tuition.** I agree to support and enforce rules and regulations set in MDC's Handbook. I understand that my family's failure to abide by these rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action and are possible grounds for suspension or termination from the studio. I also understand that photographs may be taken of my child and used for the studio's advertisement and I give my permission to do so. I also understand that there is a cost associated with my child being a student at MDC and agree to pay monthly, the amount deemed upon registration. **Any nonpayment will result in removal from classes until full payment is made.**

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE OWNER, STAFF AND FACULTY OF THE MDC HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE LESSONS TO ANY CHILD WHOSE TUITION IS DELINQUENT.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Email Address

Phone Number

Please review handbook with your child and return this signed contract in its entirety by the first week of classes.

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Michigan Dance Company Handbook - Addition for Competitive Dancers

Michigan Dance Company's mission is to provide the best environment possible to study and learn the discipline of dance, and to provide a quality level of teaching so each company member is able to achieve the very best level of his/her availability. This dance agreement will help guide each dancer to achieve the very best level of dance possible. Please read the following, sign it and return it upon registration. If you have any questions, please ask before you sign. Our receipt of your signed copy will remain on file and indicates that you understand this signed agreement so no excuses will be accepted regarding the clarity of this dance agreement. Failure to return the signed document will negate your status as a company dancer with Michigan Dance Company. This document must be signed and returned prior to each new dance season. This agreement will be reviewed and discussed with dancers the first week of classes. It is the responsibility of the parent to make sure their child(ren) understand what is contained in the dance agreement before this discussion.

Students wishing to participate on the Michigan Dance Company's competition team must participate in a placement audition. Company auditions will begin during the summer class session leading up to final day auditions, so company students will need to enroll in that summer session. There will be an audition fee of \$30 due at auditions which will take the place of the dancers registration fee. After auditioning, students will be placed in routines based on the instructor's discretion.

Company dancers are carefully selected through an audition process and are expected to be present at all company classes. Since company dancers will be competing in several numbers, **students should be present at every rehearsal and rehearsal warm up, failure to do so may result in a replacement with an understudy, without refund. Competitive dancers are not to miss more than four company rehearsal days. Absolutely NO absences will be tolerated the week prior to competitions, failure to be at rehearsal will result in removal from the competition, without refund. Company dancers are to be at each competition, regardless whether or not they are performing or not, unless otherwise stated by the studio director, so please plan ahead. Students are NOT allowed to miss any rehearsal unless extremely ill or approved prior arrangements are made with the studio director (of course we understand there may be extenuating circumstances that will be handled on a case by case basis).** Students may be asked to bring in a doctor's note.

Occasionally, extra rehearsals will be called on short notice and/or on the weekends. We will keep you posted if this is needed. Please plan to attend all rehearsals once competitions are underway. Extenuating circumstances need to be brought to the studio director's attention immediately and consideration will be given, but is not guaranteed to be an allowable miss. If you miss a rehearsal and it is unexcused, or you have repeated absences, even if excused, one or all of the following may take place: you could be pulled out of the dance, you could be asked to make up missed time in another class, you could be suspended for up to two weeks, you could be placed on probation, you could lose company status. Repeated tardiness will also not be tolerated and could lead to removal from class and/or removal from company. All of these cases will be without refund. Extenuating circumstances will be handled on an individual basis.

Company students must be willing to travel across the state for competitions, though we are trying to keep our competitions as local as possible to save on cost! Company dancers are to be at **EVERY** competition, whether they are performing or not. We are a team and teams travel together. Students can plan on attending up to five regional competitions and one national dance competition this dance season. In order for Company dancers to perform at nationals, they will need to continue rehearsing until the week of nationals. They will have the week of the 4th of July off, but must be at practices the week after recital and the week before nationals. All team members will be required to participate in the selected competitions. Competition schedule will be sent home to parents and will be posted at the studio. Some conventions and workshops may be added to the schedule and made mandatory.

Dancers may not enroll in any classes at another dance school while dancing as a part of our company team as it conflicts training methods. We do encourage attendance at select conventions, master classes and workshops (KAR Convention, Nationals Master Classes- must attend two, Workshops hosted at MDC, etc.). To participate in any outside dance education you must first seek approval from the studio director.

During Competitions

Students are expected to be on time at all competitions. **They are to arrive with their hair done and makeup already applied AT LEAST two hours prior to performance time.** Parents: We appreciate the help that you offer, but for all competitions, **only students and teachers are to be in the practice areas and backstage.** Once your child is set up and ready to go, please take a seat in the auditorium and enjoy the show! This is nothing personal, we request this to ensure that students are in the right mindset and are ready to perform at their best!

Competition Schedules: As soon as competition schedules become available to MDC, we will notify the parents. Often, schedules are not given to studios until one week prior. We understand that this can be frustrating, but we share the same frustration with you. MDC is not responsible for times and days that dancers are placed on, competitions make their own schedules.

Studios are often judged on the behavior of students and staff. Dancers are to be respectful of competition staff and other studios there. Please support other studios by saying something positive as they exit the stage (or give them a compliment card). Remember to thank anyone helping backstage.

Dancers are required to be on stage for any awards presentation that includes a dance that they are in. Dancers are expected to stay on the stage for the entire duration of the awards ceremony. All winnings whether they be trophies, plaques, ribbons, credits or cash prizes are property of MDC. Group ribbons and pins, as well as solo trophies are property of the individual. Parents may also purchase trophies at many of the competitions.

Company Costumes

MDC will try to limit the amount of costumes needed to be purchased, but no guarantee can be made for the amount of costumes that are needed. All costume costs are the responsibility of the dancer/family. Once costumes have been ordered, they are yours and you are required to pay for them in full by the posted deadlines. Occasionally, for certain dances, extra costumes or articles of costumes may be needed beyond the original costume (i.e. different shoes or hosiery, jewelry, hair pieces, gloves, etc.). There will be no refunds on costumes. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Company Team Soloist

Soloist will be chosen by the studio director and **MUST** be a Michigan Dance Company member. Dancers interested in a solo may inform their instructor, but solo pieces will be determined by the studio director only. Not all company dancers will be asked to do a solo. Should the studio director desire for a dancer to perform a solo, the director will talk with the dancer and the dancer's parents to discuss the details. **In order to even be considered for a solo, the dancer must have both their right and left splits and a perfect pirouette.** Solo's will be taught in one to three hours (possibly outside of company time) and will be practiced during company class times. Students and parents are not allowed to choose the style of dance, costumes or music for solos. Most first year competitive dancers will not be given a solo. Solos are charged a onetime choreography fee of \$100.00. **This fee must be paid prior to the first solo rehearsal. Changing of choreography is not permitted. If there is a problem with your child's routine, please consult the studio director.**

Company Team Understudies

An understudy is a student who will study or know a role well enough to replace the regular performer in an event that the role needs to be replaced. Understudies are required to be at all rehearsals that they are understudying. Should an understudy be casted last minute for a competition, parents may be responsible for the competition fee. The person being replaced by an understudy will be expected to let the understudy borrow their costume(s).

Company Team Requirements

Since your child is a competitive dancer at Michigan Dance Company, they are representing the most prestigious dancers within the studio. These dancers are the face of our company, they must be enrolled in the required core classes (ballet, jazz, and lyrical). Attendance is absolutely mandatory to all company classes. Students will be evaluated on an ongoing basis through classroom observation, conduct and performance. A student can be removed from the team at any time. Remember that competition requires a great deal of dedication and commitment; students involved in numerous activities may want to reconsider before becoming a competition member as we will expect that dance takes precedence over all other clubs, sports and activities.

Ballet- Ballet classes will follow the Cecchetti method. A student's class is determined by their placement test. Students will be tested throughout the year for the opportunity to advance levels. Tests are very thorough and not subjective. This promotes excellent technique in our company dancers.

Rehearsal Attire- No street clothes, jewelry, or writing on body allowed in class. Black leotard, black dance shorts and hair MUST be in a secured bun. Dancers should bring all shoes to company rehearsal. Occasionally sports bras and shorts will be permitted. Students who do not follow the dress code will be asked to sit out of class. Students should have multiple black leotards. Not having one in class is unacceptable. A dancer's attire needs to be clean and in good condition. Do not come to class in tights with holes in them.

Additional Note: Dancers should try their best to take regular ballet as well as the comp ballet classes. Ballet provides the foundation and necessary technique to be successful in all areas of dance. Gymnastics is also recommended for all company members. If you are not in the gymnastics class, you will not be considered for routines where those skills are involved. No dancers will compete in a tap routine without taking a tap technique class at the studio. When casting dancers, consideration will first be given to dancers who participate in all classes, performances and genres. This also includes the stretch and strengthen class (it is recommended that all competitive dancers attend). ANY COMPETITION DANCER LACKING IN FLEXIBILITY (i.e. DOES NOT HAVE RIGHT AND LEFT SPLITS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE STRETCH AND STRENGTHEN CLASS).

Please keep in mind that the dance director has the sole authority to move a dancer temporarily or permanently to another group or level. If we feel that you are not performing up to the level of your teammates, performance may not be an option. Instead, you will be considered the alternate or understudy until we feel the level of performance is that of the rest of the team. There will be no guarantee of performing. Exceptions and final decisions will be made by the studio director.

Competition Fees

Company dancers will have additional fees to pay to compete at each competition. MDC will do the best they can to charge for one competition at a time to help make it as economical as possible. Fees must be paid by posted deadlines in order for the dancer to participate. Entry fees will vary from one competition to another and according

to the number of entries a dancer is in. All competition and entry fees are nonrefundable even if your child is removed from a number based on attendance or performance or quits.

Soloists will not be registered to compete at any competition when their account is in arrears.

Recasting Fees: Failure to recognize any company rules can result in the dancer being replaced. If a dancer needs to be replaced for any reason, a fee may be applied. Fees can range up to \$50 per routine depending on the length of time the choreographer must spend to reconstructure. Fees are applied because a new dancer will need to be trained and the choreographer will have to take extra time to reconstructure the number.

All company members will be required to purchase a team jacket that must be worn when instructed (i.e. during awards presentations at competitions).

Fundraisers

We know that it is not cheap paying for quality classes. For this reason, we will do several team and individual fundraisers to help make this ultimate dance experience provided to you by MDC more affordable! There will be SEVERAL fundraising opportunities throughout the season to help offset the cost of competition. Dancers on a payments plan MUST participate in fundraising. **Tentative 2018 Fundraisers- Little Caesars Pizza Kits (August-September), Adult Raffle Wagon (October-December), Hungry Howie's Cards (February), Pancake Breakfast (June), and Car Wash (July).**

Awards Banquet

All company members and at least one parent (if child is not in high school) will be required to attend the awards banquet at the end of the dance season.

Company Teams

We have three options for company dancers...

Michigan Dance Company Team

These dancers will have company rehearsal once a week, along with their three required core classes.

Michigan Dance Company Team + Unlimited Classes

These dancers will have company rehearsal once a week, their three required core classes, and any other classes they wish to take.

Michigan Dance Company Elite Team

These dancers will have company rehearsal twice a week, their three required core classes, and any other classes they wish to take.

What's the difference between MDC and MDC Elite?

MDC is for dancers who want to compete, but do not want to spend several days a week at the studio. MDC Elite is for dancers who wish to take competition to another level. They want to rehearse more hours so that they excel faster and have more routine opportunities. The technical level of the dancer does not determine whether or not they make one team or another. It is based solely off of the dancers desire to spend more or less time at the

studio. ELITE MEMBERS WILL COMPETE IN MORE DANCES THAN REGULAR COMPANY MEMBERS (unless discussed otherwise).

When company members have rehearsal, the first part of class will be warm up/technique (all dancers are expected to be there). The remaining time will consist of competition dance rehearsals. The dancers that are expected to stay will vary every week depending on the pieces being worked on. All dancers are welcome to stay during this time and work on strengthening technique, practicing routines, or understudying any part that is not assigned to them. Michigan Dance Company Members will automatically be enrolled in the annual spring performance. Company students are expected to be present and on time for all classes. **Students must be present for every warm up class and will not be allowed to rehearse if the warm up is missed. Dancers MUST be present at rehearsals the week of competition.** Extenuating circumstances may apply, but generally, there are no exceptions to this rule.

Once again, ALL students and parents will be held accountable for their sportsmanship. Everyone should be courteous and considerate to all individuals (including those outside of our studio). Please do not speak negatively about any dancer, decision or result. We strive to teach our dancers respect and sportsmanship! Anyone who behaves inappropriately in our studio or at a competition/performance may be removed from the team, suspended from the studio or expelled altogether. We want a positive learning environment for our dancers!

Company members will get more opportunities to not only perform, but grow as dancers and people. It is an opportunity to be a part of a team that competes against others and perform in front of large crowds. MDC members must maintain a high standard for being an excellent teammate so that everyone develops self esteem, confidence, accountability and leadership. It is our goal to encourage each other to do their best and improve from competition to competition. We hope that you will join us next season!

Please check the company team you wish to be a part of:

_____MDC Basic

_____MDC + Unlimited Classes

_____MDC Elite

Once we register dancers at a competition, we will not be given any refunds from the competition company. Because of this, if a student is to withdraw as a company member for any reason, you will still be financially responsible for fees applicable to every competition that they were registered to attend.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Dancer Signature

Date

