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2024 - 2025
PERFORMANCE TEAM
SEASON INFORMATION

WEST MICHIGAN ELITE



Our Program and its Benefits

While studying in our Performance Team; classes will provide a much higher level of dance training as well as the opportunity to perform at competitions and get feedback from other professionals in the industry on their craft, here's what makes WME different.

Our goals are to provide them with a place to call "second home" where they develop lifelong relationships with both peers and mentors, and to work closely with our Competition kids to help them become strong, appropriately independent, responsible people in society no matter where life takes them. Here are just a few of the things you'll see develop in your dancer.

Friendships

You'll never have a closer friend than those you make in dance class. There's something about going through the experiences of getting praises and criticisms together as well as changing in tight spaces, climbing on top of each other in choreography, lifting one another, and hanging out for long rehearsals that has been proven in studies to bond kids tighter than other activities.

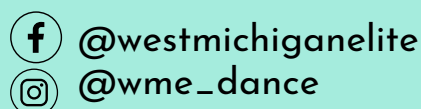
Problem Solving Skills

Dancers know how to think on their feet. It could be a costume piece falling off, a prop falling down on stage, or just plain forgetting the steps. They have to know how to cope on the spot with so many different situations. These skills push forward into any career they choose in the future.

Teamwork

We spend a great amount of time stressing the importance of the team. We have good days and bad days as a team. It takes the whole team to do well or not so well. We spend time bonding as a team from our 6 year olds mixing with our 17 year olds. We are 1 Team that works together.

Follow Us On Social Media



EMAIL:

wmepdance@gmail.com

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The Ability To Accept Criticism As Well As Praise

We always praise the kids for a job well done. But nothing gets better if they don't know to fix it. Our dancers learn to accept criticism as a good thing that leads to improvements and makes them stronger in the end. A great life skill to have in any given career choice.

The Value of Hard Work and Dedication

Everything takes practice. Nothing is just handed to anyone in life. Dancers learn this in Competition classes when it takes practice, rehearsals, and 100% all the time to get where they wanna go. They'll find they want to push themselves to get that next jump or trick which will translate to a great work ethic in everything they do.

Responsibility & Discipline

Our Competition classes have rules and more structure than our recreational classes. This helps the kids grow faster in their craft. They learn to discipline themselves to these rules and think nothing of it in no time. Along with that, we will give them responsibilities at appropriate ages that alleviate them from parents. Dancers will be responsible to be dressed correctly, have their shoes, and even begin to prepare for a performance without mom or dad's help as they get older.

Counseling And Mentoring

Our job doesn't stop at, "point your toes!" Many times, we dance instructors find ourselves taking on the roll of "bartender for teens". They love to talk to us about things. And that is what we are there for in the end. It is not unusual to take 5 to address a school problem or a boyfriend issue, or just to have a group hug because someone had a bad day.





WHAT'S INSIDE

1 DANCER REQUIREMENTS

What is expected of each dancer such as how many classes, what technique is required, and what events they are required.

2 DANCER REQUIREMENTS

How to prepare for the season ahead

3 COMMITMENT

Time commitments, Financial commitments, etc.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

What is expected of each dancer in and out of class.

5 PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

What is expected of the parents.

Meet Our Teachers



CONTACT DETAILS

Email: wmepdance@gmail.com

Call/Text: 616-466-4408



CONTACT DETAILS

Email: abby.westmichiganelite@gmail.com

Text: 616-320-4274



CONTACT DETAILS

Email: abby.westmichiganelite@gmail.com

Text: 616-320-4274



DANCER REQUIREMENTS

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Auditions are not required to be on the Performance Team. They are required for the Competitive Team.

SUMMER REQUIREMENTS

- It is recommended but not required that students enroll in our Performance Team Prep class over the summer. Enrolling in this class will also give you access to all of the other summer classes in their age group.
- It is also recommended that students attend bootcamp along with our competitive team.

SEASON REQUIREMENTS

- Dancers will sign up for their Performance Dance of choice. This year we are offering Jazz and Tap for our Mini Members, and Jazz and Hip-Hop for our Jr. Members.
- Along with signing up for their Performance Dance Class, they are required to sign up for Strength & Flexibility as well as the technique class that pairs with their dance. (Jazz dance would sign up for Jazz Technique and Tap dance would sign up for a Tap Technique Class, Hip-Hop class has the option to sign up for Jazz Technique and/or Acro)

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IF YOU HAD FUN, YOU WON!

Time Commitment

COMPETITIONS

All Dancers are required to participate in all competitions. Competitions take place in the late winter and spring.

All Competitions dates will be set in early fall once dates come out. Competition info will not be shared, only competition dates and locations.

Be On-Time

Students MUST arrive on time to their "CALL TIME" for competitions, DO NOT BE LATE!

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- In addition to the dancer's performance dances all Performance Dancers are required to take a the technique class that relates with their dance, and a strength & flexibility class.
- Dancers are required to arrive 5-10 minutes early to prepare for class. Change, warm-up, fully stretch, and ready to go to get the most out of their class time.
- Dress Code: Our Performance and Competitive Teams do follow a dress code. We need dancers to be in dress code for different reasons. First, it unifies the group so when dancers are dancing in a group, the teacher can see everyone as a whole. Secondly, for technical purposes it allows teachers to make proper corrections for posture, body placement, and proper alignment while executing technique. Our team dress code is as follows: Proper shoes for class (tap shoes during tap, ballet shoes during ballet, jazz shoes during jazz, ect.), all black tight fitted clothing (black sports bra, black spandex shorts, black leotard, black leggings, ect.), and hair must be secured back in a bun. Keeping the hair out of the face is necessary as dancers often will fix their hair during class, or in a ponytail it will come around to whip them in the face. For Ballet Classes, dancers must be in a black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes. If dancers fail to follow the dress code, their teacher may send home a reminder. If this continues the dancer will be asked to sit out of class until this can be resolved.
- 6 excused/unexcused absences per class are allowed throughout the year – including technique classes. We understand dancers do have other things going on, and we are happy to help work around them, however we do need them in each class to make our competition season a success.
- Dancers may be excluded from sections of the dance if they miss choreography. It is up to them to catch up, practice at home, get with a team member, or schedule a private lesson. If they can prove to their teacher that they are up to speed with the rest of the team, the teacher will choreograph them back in to the dance.
- Surpassing 6 absences will mean removal from the class/dance.
- PLEASE PUT IN AN ABSENCE REQUEST IN YOUR PORTAL, ALWAYS INFORM US OF ANY ABSENCES. Last minute texts are only accepted at the studio number: 616-466-4408
- Dancers may be choreographed out of certain sections of a dance due to absence. This is not a punishment for missing but rather out of necessity to continue forward progress.
- Competition attendance is ABSOLUTELY MANDATORY.
- ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NO: school trips, school plays, vacations, birthday parties, etc. on competition week/weekend that you intend to miss for.
- It is mandatory for students to be in all classes the week before competition. If a student misses the last class before a competition, he/she will NOT be allowed to compete and the entry fees will be forfeited. Illness with a fever will be excused by parental phone call ONLY.

Time Commitment

continued

CONVENTIONS

- Conventions are not required but recommended.
- Conventions are in October/November and will have a set fee (*approx. \$150 - \$400*)
- Opportunity to learn something new from different instructors from around the USA!
- We have learned that our dancers focus better without parents in the room, so during convention, we have a strict “hands-off” policy, meaning if you decide to come to watch, you are only there to watch.

DROP POLICY - PERFORMANCE TEAM

Any dancer who wants to drop the performance team will need to do so by October 31. All dancers who drop the performance team after October 31 will result in a penalty fee (the next months tuition) and a drop fee of \$100/dance. Please understand that choreographing and teaching/learning the dance and formations take time and a lot of commitment from both student and teacher. Any changes to the dances set result in more time, which means extra practices.

Summer Commitment

SUMMER COSTS

Summer Prep Class

\$175

**Optional by highly recommended*

Bootcamp

\$275

**Optional but highly recommended*

July 29 - August 9

Monday - Friday; 9am - Noon

Financial Commitment

NEW THIS YEAR!

We are introducing a more streamlined and easy VIP All-Inclusive Membership!

This membership gives you access to early bird knowledge of all upcoming classes, camps, events and more! It gives you the ability to have an all inclusive payment plan. Performance Team Members are required to sign up for this VIP All Inclusive Membership when you enroll in classes. This ensures that your child get's placed in the correct classes and fees are distributed correctly.

How much is the membership?

VIP Membership is a seasonal payment of \$25

What does it all include?

When you sign up for the Performance Team VIP Membership in your portal you are getting all the bases covered. Earrings, Team Photos by Kat Sherman, Recital Package (Video, medal, t-shirt and 2 recital tickets) and Competition Media divided out by 9 months.

TUITION ~ COSTUMES ~ COMPETITIONS

Along with the VIP All-Inclusive Membership all of the fees are already added to the class. So when signing up for the Performance Team, all costumes, shoes, tights and competition fees are all included and broken up over a 9-month payment.

What is all included already in signing up for the performance team?

- Monthly Tuition
- Costumes
- Competition Fees
- Shoes & Tights

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Performance Team Class | \$97.89/month |
| Technique Class | \$60.67/month |
| Strength & Flexibility | \$49.00/month |
| VIP All-Inclusive Package | \$38.89/month |

WHAT WILL MY TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENT BE?

If your dancer is doing 1 Performance Team (Mini Jazz or Tap OR Jr. Jazz or Hip-Hop)

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Performance Team Class | \$97.89/month |
| (1) Technique Class | \$60.67/month |
| (1) Strength & Flexibility Class | \$49/month |
| (1) VIP Package | \$38.89/month |
| TOTAL | \$246.45/month |

Adding on the second Performance Team

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Performance Team Class | \$97.89/month |
| (1) Technique Class | \$60.67/month |
| TOTAL | \$405.01/month |

WME TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT



OBSERVING DRESS CODE

- Students are expected to set an example for our recreational dancers.
- Black leotard, shorts, pink/skin tone tights pending class. Very fitted black tanks allowed.
- We do allow special WME comp wear as an alternative for all classes except ballet.
- Dancers should always have proper shoes for the right class.
- Ballet Class Dress Code is strictly Pink Tights/Black Leotard/Ballet Shoes/hair in bun.
- NO T-SHIRTS ALLOWED. NO SOCKS ALLOWED.
- Performance dancers are expected to be an example for all other students to follow by setting the standard for them to follow. If students break the dress code, they will perform 25 push-ups at the beginning of class.

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CODE OF CONDUCT CONT.

CLASSROOM & EVENT BEHAVIOR

- Attend class ready to work.
- Socialize before and after class only. NO SOCIALIZING DURING CLASS. Students may be asked to leave class if it gets out of hand, as this is disrespectful behavior and takes away from others who want to be there to learn.
- Always be respectful to their instructors. Instructors will alert the parents if any issues persist that aren't manageable in class.
- Dancers should always be kind to one another as well as other dance teams at competitions. You never talk bad about ANY OTHER dancer!
- Dancers should follow their competition etiquette rules handed out at all times.
- Dancers are responsible for getting dressed at competitions on their own. When quick changes arise, we may only need 2-3 moms to help. The more moms, the more stress we create for our dancers. Our younger dancers will need their mom's backstage to help.
- WME has a zero-tolerance policy for any bullying or mean-girl activity on the team. Meaning talking bad about another dancer, rude looks, rude comments, etc. inside the studio and outside the studio. They will get two warnings, and if the behavior persists, they will be removed from the team.
- Performance Team dancers should be positive representatives of our studio at all times whether in our building, in public venues, and on social media. Our staff will correct any dancer that fails to do so at all times. Parents are expected to support this as well as follow these rules to show their dancers how we treat others.
- Working together as a team
- Gossip is forbidden
- Displaying good sportsmanship at all times to everyone
- Keeping positive attitudes regardless of awards
- Showing team spirit by wearing a WME team jacket at awards.
- ALWAYS respecting WME staff and other adults in charge.
- Staying with your team at events
- Any problem persists, the student will be reminded twice, then removed from our team.

CODE OF CONDUCT CONT.

MAINTAINING PERFORMANCE DANCER STATUS AND THE “EVERYONE GETS A TROPHY SYNDROME”

Society today has done a disservice to the younger generations by taking away differentiation and declaring that everyone is always a winner; that everyone is equally special. In life, we know that this is not true. Someone is always more qualified for the job. Not everyone can be an NBA All-Star or a Pop Superstar. The same is true in any art, including dance. We do not operate under, nor do we promote the “everyone gets a trophy” standard. This does not mean that a group cannot have dancers with different strengths in it. We frequently have groups with some who are better at jumping, others who are more flexible, and some who are better turners amongst the class. And they all blend together beautifully. But it also means that every group member must work hard to maintain their spot in the group. And if they don't, they could lose it.

If at any time during the year, an instructor feels that a student is not keeping up with the rest of the class (whether it be falling behind in technique, failing to practice choreography, attendance, or behavioral issues), they have the authority to remove said student from that class. All students and parents will be notified ahead of time if the dancer is not working up to par and given a fair amount of time to change their habits assuming this is the student's desire. Sometimes students just change their mind – especially at a young age. And we want them to enjoy what they're doing. If that means doing dance at the recreational level again, we want to move them there so they still love dance.

Performance dancers are positive representatives of WME and our team. Dancers are expected to be on good behavior in and outside of the studio. This includes: positive social media activity, maintain friendly relationships, maintain good grades, be respectful to school teachers, parents, dance teachers, and any adult figure, absolutely no alcohol, smoking, or drug use of any kind. Failure to adhere to any of these rules will result in termination from the team.

OBSERVING OFFICE HOURS

At West Michigan Elite, effective communication is essential for maintaining a harmonious dance environment. To streamline inquiries, please utilize our main studio line at 616-466-4408 or email us at wmepdance@gmail.com during office hours, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Rest assured, if we're unable to respond immediately, we'll get back to you promptly. For a quick reply, text is easiest.

Furthermore, please respect our teachers' personal time by refraining from contacting them directly on their personal lines. The phone numbers listed on page 5 are for studio-related matters. This contact information is reserved for professional use during their designated working hours, including teaching schedules, competitions, and other studio events. If a teacher cannot respond immediately, they will strive to reply within 72 hours during their working hours. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a positive and efficient communication system within our dance community.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Performance dance requires a positive atmosphere from all involved. Cooperation between parents is expected at all times. Please show respect for our teaching staff, the other parents, and all of our dancers, as well as, our competitors. A positive and enthusiastic outlook extends to your child. Negative comments and feedback can be harmful to the progress and education of our students, and will not be tolerated.

- Parents, dancers, and families will be committed and loyal to this team. This means no sharing information with other studios or dancers, staying with your team at events, etc.
- Parents must support all Performance dancers and make sure their kids support each other. We do not condone unhealthy rivalry between our own dancers or jealousy amongst our parents both in and out of the studio.
- All Performance parents must volunteer once during the season. Help with lunch planning, help with event planning, help in coordinating fundraising, help at recital.
- Performance parents are also expected to set an example for other parents just as Performance dancers set the example for other dancers. This means stepping up and volunteering at other times we need help throughout the year if you're available, being our spokesperson if other parents are being negative about something, or simply following studio policy.
- For our younger dancers, parents should encourage and remind dancers to practice at home regularly and extra whenever necessary.
- Parents must learn to trust us as the dance professionals with ALL things dance just as you trust your doctor with all things medicinal. Please do not offer dance corrections to your child or anyone else's child. Let the instructors handle that and be the cheerleader we need you to be for our dancers.
- Parents agree to put in the extra time when needed by driving their students to and from extra practices, performances, and activities.
- Parents must keep their accounts up to date with auto pay information. It is studio policy that accounts all have a card on file. If payments are not paid on the 5th of the month, your card will then be charged. If you are in need of a payment plan, please contact Miss. Jessica to set that up wmepdance@gmail.com
- Parents are NEVER to contact a competition directly unless Miss Jessica has given specific instructions to do so. All necessary communication happens with the studio owner to competition.
- Be kind and say positive things to ALL DANCERS FROM ALL STUDIOS at competition. It makes a huge difference to any kid. NEVER TALK BAD ABOUT ANOTHER DANCER OR DANCE! You never know who is listening!
- Please clean up after yourselves and teach your children to do the same both in our studio and at events. It shows great disrespect to throw trash around and leave it there. We don't want to be "that studio".
- *No "DANCE MOMS" allowed. Constant complaining or negativity towards the studio or our instructors will get your child removed from the program.

- If what you're about to say isn't nice, don't say anything at all. We don't build up our own kid by tearing someone else's down.
- If there is a misunderstanding and feelings are hurt between your student and an instructor, go immediately to that instructor to talk it out. DO NOT discuss with other parents.
- It is not acceptable to gossip about others in or out of the studio. Miss Jessica has super ninja skills and is usually right there listening without being noticed. She'll find out. Don't do it.
- It's never okay to post negative comments about our studio, our dancers, or other studio's dancers on Social Media.
- Dances and any Choreography MAY NOT BE POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA. This opens the door for others to steal choreography. You can post videos of your dances only after the season is finished.
- Moms are not allowed in the dance room. Please congregate into the office to watch on the TV. Being in the room is a distraction for our dancers and takes away from the learning.
- Competition dances may not be performed outside of studio events. The previous years dances may be.
- A dancer who dances at WME, will only dance at WME and no other dance school. A Ballet-only Company is allowed.
- All questions go directly to Miss Jessica: wmepdance@gmail.com
- **ALWAYS READ YOUR EMAILS THOROUGHLY BEFORE EMAILING A QUESTION BACK.**

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WINS AND LOSSES TODAY WON'T DETERMINE HER CHARACTER WHEN SHE'S AN ADULT. BUT LEARNING HOW TO HANDLE THEM WILL.



FINAL NOTE

From Miss. Jes

This performance team is something I am passionate about. I love not only teaching kids dances and choreography and seeing their faces when they achieve something they have been working on for weeks or months. But I love teaching them how to be hard working, respectful young people. I know it cannot be done alone and you need people in your corner to help. We are there for you every step of the way. I believe we are all a second family, and that's how it truly feels.

Dance is an extra-curricular activity. Being on the performance team involves more dedication, not just with the commitment, but also with their heart and soul. Being a good dancer takes hard work, dedication, and passion. We give them the tools to practice, but it is up to them if they do the work.

Our three goals as a dance family is to work hard, try your best, and have fun. If they checked every single one of those in a performance, then they have succeeded in my book. Myself and the other teachers are always proud of our dancers and try our best to let them know, just how proud we are.

I'm excited to begin a new season with you!

Miss. Jessica

