



STUDIO MDC

DANCER HANDBOOK

2026–2027

Movement.



Community.

WELCOME TO STUDIO MDC

Welcome to the Studio MDC Handbook! We're thrilled to include you and your dancer in our studio family this season. This handbook provides essential information on dress code, class etiquette, studio policies, and communication. We believe that clear communication and shared expectations enhance everyone's experience, and we look forward to a collaborative and creative season ahead.





OUR PROMISE

We're so glad you've joined us!

At Studio MDC, we are committed to creating a supportive and inspiring environment where dancers are challenged to grow in technique, confidence, artistry, and character while fostering a positive and connected studio culture.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a thoughtfully curated, boutique-style environment where technique, strength, and movement come together to develop confident, disciplined individuals. Through dance, fitness, performance, and community, we foster growth, connection, artistry, and a deeper understanding of the mind-body relationship while inspiring dancers to discover how movement can become a meaningful part of their lives.



STUDIO MDC

Registration & Tuition



Where do I register?

We use an online registration system that can be found **HERE**, or by scanning the QR code above. If you encounter any problems, please reach out to us via email: info@studio-mdc.com

How does it work?

Online Registration *Checklist*

- ☒ create an account on Studio Pro Portal
- ☒ select classes for the season
- ☒ sign liability waiver & release
- ☒ sign payment/tuition wavier
- ☒ sign privacy & media release
- ☒ pay registration fee

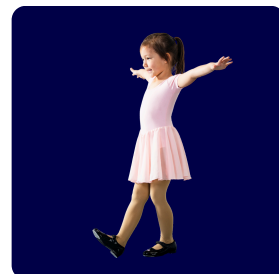
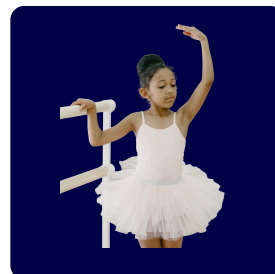
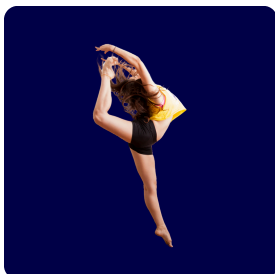
NEW **AND RETURNING**
STUDENTS MUST
COMPLETE THESE ITEMS



When your dancer is registered for Fall Session classes, it is assumed they are committed for the full dance season running from September through May, culminating with our recital in June. Upon registration, the first month's tuition and a yearly registration fee will be charged. Monthly payments will then be collected through automatic payment collection on the 1st of every month unless an alternative payment arrangement has been made. Those wishing to pay the session in full, before classes begin, will be given a 5% discount. Contact us to make this arrangement. **Unless written notice is provided to the studio, it is assumed that dancers enrolled in the Fall session will continue in the same classes for the Spring session.*

In addition to tuition, costume fees apply for Spring recital participation and are due in January. Company and team dancers should also anticipate additional fees throughout the season related to costumes, conventions, competitions, workshops, and performances.

Classes registered for during the Fall or Spring season do not automatically carry over into Summer programming. Summer camps, intensives, master classes, and workshops are registered for separately and are typically announced and opened for registration during the Spring months.



Tuition & Payment Policies

- A yearly \$10 registration fee, with a max of \$20 per family, is due at the time of fall registration.
- AutoPay is required for all monthly tuition plans.
- Monthly payments are due on the 1st of each month.
- Session fees can be paid in full with a 5% discount if made before classes begin. Please contact the studio to arrange this!
- A \$20 late fee will be applied after the 15th of the month.
- Returned payments are subject to a \$25 fee.
- Tuition is non-refundable and reserves your dancer's place in class.
- Monthly tuition will vary and is based on the number of classes in a given month.

Withdrawal Policy

- Written notice is required to withdraw from any class.
- Verbal notification to an instructor does not constitute withdrawal.
- Tuition charges will continue until written notice is received.
- No refunds will be issued for missed classes or withdrawals after payment has been processed.

Attendance/Make-up Class Policy

- Consistent attendance is essential for dancer growth and class progression.
- Please notify the studio of anticipated absences.
- Excessive absences may impact participation in performances, competitions, or recital routines. During recital season, more than 4 absences can result in removal from a routine.
- Company dancers are expected to maintain strong attendance throughout the season.
- Dancers may attend another age-appropriate class with instructor approval.
- Make-up classes must be completed within the current session.
- No refunds or credits are given for missed classes.

Liability Waiver

- Participation in dance involves physical activity and inherent risk.
- Parents assume responsibility for their child's participation and agree to the Studio MDC Liability Waiver signed during registration.

Privacy & Media Release

- Studio MDC may photograph or record classes, performances, competitions, and events for promotional purposes.
- Families wishing to opt out must notify the studio in writing.
- Personal information is kept confidential and used solely for studio operations.

COMMUNICATION

AT STUDIO MDC

To reach the studio during our studio hours, please call **847.836.5678** or email **info@studio-mdc.com**

The preferred choice of contact for communication to the director is by email at **chelsea@studio-mdc.com**
(Please allow 48 hours for a reply)

Where to find what you need to know:

- Studio communication will be distributed through email, the Dance Studio Pro registration site, social media, monthly newsletters, and the Studio MDC website.
- Families are responsible for reviewing communications regularly and ensuring their contact info is up to date.
- Updates regarding schedules, events, costumes, and performances will be communicated through these channels.

Health & Safety:

- Dancers are athletes and need adequate rest and nutrition!
- Dancers should remain home if experiencing fever, contagious illness, or symptoms that may impact others.
- Parents should notify the studio of injuries or medical concerns.
- Studio MDC reserves the right to restrict participation if a dancer's health or safety may be compromised.





FOR OUR NEW STUDENTS

Starting dance classes is an exciting adventure, but it can also feel a little overwhelming at first. New faces, new routines, dress code requirements, and learning how classes work can bring both excitement and nerves. Along the way, dancers may encounter challenges, frustrations, and moments where things don't come easily—and that's okay. Growth happens through trying new things, making mistakes, and continuing to show up.

At Studio MDC, we are committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment where dancers and families feel encouraged, informed, and confident as they begin their dance journey.

A few tried-and-true tips:

Please label your dancer's items, such as shoes, water bottles, and costumes.

Remind younger dancers to use the bathroom before class begins.

Celebrate effort, growth, and the courage to try something new.

Trust the process—confidence, technique, and artistry develop over time.

Understand some students do well when parents observe, and others flourish more when they do not. We can help you navigate this!

Help us foster a positive studio culture by supporting all dancers and celebrating one another's successes.

Arrive on time and give your dancer a moment to get ready and acclimate to the studio environment.

DRESS CODE

BALLET

Leotard (any color), tights (nude, black, or pink), ballet shoes, and hair in a bun.

CONTEMPORARY

Form fitting clothing and hair pulled back.

Half soles or dance socks.

JAZZ

Form fitting clothing and hair pulled back.

Tan split sole jazz shoe.

HIP HOP/ JAZZ FUNK

T-shirts are ok
Leggings or joggers

Clean sneakers for indoor use only.

TAP

Form fitting clothing.

Tan tap shoes with no heel.

BOYS

T-shirt with black athletic pants, joggers, or shorts.

Appropriate dance shoes.

Shop our studio storefront for Revolution shoes & dancewear here:

www.shopnimbly.com/studiomdc

DANCER EXPECTATIONS

RESPECT

Dancers will treat all peers, instructors, and choreographers with respect and use their words to uplift and encourage each other. We will address unkind words and any potential bullying that comes to our attention directly.



In every performance opportunity, convention, and competition, dancers will conduct themselves with self-control and treat facilities and venues with respect, leaving them in the same condition, if not better than when we arrived.

Dancers will be in the studio on time for class. We are mindful that “life happens,” and dancers cannot always control when they arrive late, but we encourage them not to make it a habit.

Dancers will listen while their instructor is talking. Listen first and then ask relevant questions. Cheer on the other dancers in class.

Please label dance bags, shoes, and accessories with a first and last name or initials.

Above all else, we hope dancers have fun in classes, keep practicing at home, and continue to spread the word about our studio!

COMPETITIVE TEAMS & COMPANIES



At Studio MDC, we offer multiple pathways for dancers based on their goals, interests, and level of commitment. Whether a dancer is looking for additional performance opportunities or a more intensive competitive experience, we want each dancer to grow and thrive.

Competitive Teams

Levels:

Tiny- Jazz/Tap combined (nationals optional, but encouraged)

Junior- Jazz, Lyrical or Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap

Teen- Jazz, Lyrical and/or Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap

Senior- Jazz, Lyrical and/or Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap

Commitment: Moderate; approximately 3-6 hrs per week

Requirements: 1 ballet class, foundational discipline leveled class (jazz, lyrical/contemporary, hip hop), weekly rehearsals.

Competitions: 2 regional competitions, 1 national competition (convention optional, but encouraged)

Companies

Levels:

RISING (Teen Co)- Jazz, Lyrical and/or Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap

ELITE (Senior Co)- Jazz, Lyrical and/or Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap

Commitment: High; approximately 4-10 hrs per week

Requirements: 1 ballet class, foundational discipline leveled class (jazz, lyrical/contemporary, hip hop), 1 technique/strength class, weekly rehearsals.

Competitions: 3 regional competitions, 1 convention, 1 nationals

A \$150 commitment deposit is required to reserve each competitive team's and company dancer's place for the season. This deposit will be applied as a credit to your account in May, provided your account remains in good standing and all tuition and fees have been paid in full.

AUDITIONS & CASTING

Casting and placement are determined by a group of instructors and each choreographer with great thought, and are discussed within the leadership. Many aspects are taken into consideration when placing a dancer on a team or company including their technique, class attendance, respect for other students/instructors, and effort. There may be times when dancers are invited or “cast” for certain specialty dances.

It is the dancer's responsibility to come to class to learn the material, review choreography on their own time in addition to rehearsal, and inform the choreographer if an absence will be taking place. It is the choreographer's right to withdraw a dancer from a piece or role if he or she does not attend classes/ rehearsals on a continuing basis or displays an attitude or behavior that is unbecoming of a young artist.

Casting is NOT determined by age or seniority alone.



SOLOS, DUETS, & TRIOS



To be eligible for a solo, dancers must be actively training as a Team or Company member and enrolled in all required technique classes to ensure they are physically and technically prepared for the additional demands of individual competition. Duet and trio opportunities are also based on instructor recommendation, compatibility, commitment level, and overall readiness.

Placement in a solo, duet, or trio is made at the discretion of the Studio Director and instructors and is based on what is in the best interest of each dancer's development.

Because competition registration fees, choreography costs, music licensing, rehearsal time, and administrative expenses continue to increase each season, pricing for solos, duets, and trios will reflect these rising costs. Studio MDC is committed to providing high-quality choreography, thoughtful coaching, and individualized attention throughout the preparation process, and fees will be communicated prior to the start of each competition season.

Our goal is to ensure that every dancer who participates in a solo, duet, or trio receives the training, preparation, and support needed for a positive and successful experience while upholding the standards and values of Studio MDC.

To learn more, or inquire, please email: info@studio-mdc.com



REHEARSALS & CHOREOGRAPHY

Regular attendance at rehearsals is crucial for dancers and their teams, as it influences choreography, spacing, formations, and overall performance quality. Missing rehearsals affects not only individual progress but also teammates and the group's success. **Additional rehearsals may be scheduled, and families will be informed in advance.** If these are done with an in-house instructor, there will be no additional charge. Studio MDC may also invite guest choreographers and professionals to provide diverse training, with associated fees communicated ahead of time.

To provide our dancers with diverse training opportunities, Studio MDC may also bring in guest choreographers and industry professionals throughout the season. These experiences expose dancers to new teaching styles, techniques, and artistic perspectives while enhancing their performance education. Fees associated with outside choreographers, master classes, conventions, or specialty rehearsals are not included in regular tuition and will be communicated in advance. These fees vary depending on the instructor, event, and choreography requirements.

We appreciate your commitment to these opportunities, which help create meaningful learning experiences and contribute to the continued growth and excellence of our dancers.

THANK YOU



Thank you for helping us launch our inaugural season at Studio MDC. We are mindful there may be questions or bumps in the road as we grow into our own and we appreciate your patience, support, and commitment. Thank you taking the time to read, understand, and accept our studio's policies and procedures. We can't wait to begin!

Phone: 847.836.5678

Email: info@studio-mdc.com

www.studio-mdc.com

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