



## **Élan Information Packet 2025-2026**

### **What is the Élan Dance Company?**

The Élan Dance Company provides a foundation in dance performance and an introduction into the world of dance competition. The Company gives dancers the opportunity to improve their dance technique while learning important teamwork skills and having fun! Teams will participate in two performances and two dance competitions. Please keep in mind that being a company member is not just another extracurricular activity; dancers will be regarded as role models representing the Élan Dance program to the entire NPD Dance Academy.

### **What is the date/time of auditions for Élan Dance Company?**

Auditions are Tuesday, May 27 at the Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center, 305 W. Jackson Ave., in Community Hall. Registration is **required** to attend auditions and there is a \$10 audition fee. Please register no later than Monday, May 19 at Noon. Please complete the audition form no later than Monday, May 19 at Noon at: [Élan Dance Company Audition Form](#)

**Please register your child for the age they will be on September 1, 2025.**

**Ages 6-9\*** · 4:30-5:30pm, Registration Code: 101671

**Ages 10-13** · 5:45-6:45pm, Registration Code: 102734

**Ages 14-18** · 7:00-8:00pm, Registration Code: 102735

\*Dancers must be 6 years old by September 1, 2025 to audition.

### **When will we receive audition results?**

Audition results will be communicated via email to the parent email address listed on the audition form. Results will be emailed by Friday, June 20, 2025.

### **What will the dancers expect to perform for the audition?**

For the audition, we will be looking for how well the dancers are able to pick up the age-appropriate movement and their performance quality in addition to technique at the audition. The dancers may be taught a short jazz combination, a short modern/contemporary combination, and across the floor skills to demonstrate various techniques. There will also be an improv portion of the audition where the dancers will have the chance to show us any other technical skills or dance movements that they didn't get a chance to showcase within the audition material.

### **What performances and competitions will the teams attend?**

Teams will perform at one performance in October or November, at two competitions during February-May and at our annual Élan Dance Company Showcase in May. The teams may focus on jazz, contemporary, lyrical, musical theater or other various styles. Companies are created based on age and dancer skill level.

### **What is a Dance Competition?**

At a dance competition, students put their skills to the test by performing a dance routine on a stage in front of a panel of judges. The judges then calculate scores based on technique, performance, and costume. The dancers are then able to come back to the studio and listen to the judge's critiques and use them as a learning tool to improve. The focus for us during a competition is having fun and gaining the tools to become better dancers in the long run. Teams will register at the novice (beginner) level for both competitions.

### **How many days per week do the teams practice/what times?**

Each team will have a 60 or 90-minute team choreography class a week. This is the class they will work solely on their choreography for performances and competitions. You will receive the day/time with your acceptance email. Most team choreography classes will take place during a weeknight Monday-Thursday at one of our five dance studios that are located throughout Naperville.

### **If dancers are members of Élan Dance Company, are they also required to take other dance classes in the NPD Dance Academy?**

All Company members are required to take **at least one** recital class. Students can choose from jazz, lyrical, modern/contemporary, or ballet and classes must be taken through the Naperville Dance Academy. The recital class is in addition to their company choreography class. It is ***strongly encouraged*** that all dancers are also enrolled in at least one ballet recital class.

**Example:** If your dancer is accepted, your dancer will meet once a week for the team choreography class and once a week for the recital dance class.

### **How often do the Companies perform?**

Teams will perform at one performance in October or November, at two competitions during February-May and at our annual Elan Dance Company Showcase in May. Students may also attend one dance convention (additional cost) as part of a competition weekend (this will be determined when the season begins). There may be additional opportunities that will be communicated in advance. **The schedule is subject to change based on performance and competition availability and any changes will be communicated via email with an updated schedule.** **Performances are not optional. Attending both competitions is a requirement of accepting a spot in the company. It is expected that dancers stay for the entire duration of performance/competition/event until dismissed.**

We try our best to keep performance and competition locations within one hour of Naperville, however, depending on the opportunities available, we may have to travel slightly further.

### **When will we find out performance and competition dates/times?**

The schedule for the September 2025-May 2026 season will be released at the end of August 2025. Please know there still will be updates to this schedule throughout the year, but we will make our best effort to provide the most completed schedule possible available in August. We will kick off the season with a mandatory parent/dancer meeting at the end of August.

We will have weekends secured for the two dance competitions by late August, however, **we are not provided the exact day/time our teams will compete until approximately seven days prior to the competition weekend.**

**Competitions may be a full weekend commitment which could include Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We highly suggest keeping those weekends completely open until the schedule is released.**

Once the dance competition weekends have been selected and the schedule has been reviewed at the end of August, if your dancer is unable to commit to both competition weekends, you may request a refund and withdraw from the program. Refund requests must be submitted **before** the first Elan Dance Company class the week of September 8th.

### **What is an Élan Dance Outing?**

The Élan Dance Outing is a fun gathering we will have during the season that all company dancers are invited to. The event is a way for our company members to get to know each other and create fun memories.

### **What happens if the participation requirement for a certain Team is not met?**

The Élan Dance Company requires a minimum number of dancers for the program to run. The minimum for each individual team is eight dancers. An acceptance/registration deadline will be emailed to you after auditions. If for some reason the participation requirement of eight dancers is not met or changes by the first company choreography class, you will be contacted. We will attempt to combine teams, but we are not able to guarantee this. While we don't anticipate this happening, there is always a chance that a dancer's schedule may change, or circumstances may prevent a participant from making the full commitment for the year, which could lead to a team not meeting its minimum any longer. Any changes to rehearsal times or any merging of teams will be communicated. There is a chance that a competition team is cancelled due to the minimum number not being met.

### **Will the Élan members perform at the spring dance recitals?**

Dancers will not perform their Elan team dances at the annual spring dance recital, but dancers will perform at the spring dance recital with their recital class(es).

**Senior Solo Information:** Dance Academy high school seniors will have an opportunity to perform a senior solo. The solo will be performed at either the Elan Dance Company Showcase or the annual spring dance recital, this is at the discretion of the Dance Coordinator. Dancers that decide to do a solo will create their own choreography and provide a costume and music (both must be approved by the Dance Coordinator). Dancers must select a teacher to work with and schedule at least one private solo lesson. Private instruction for rehearsing senior solos will be available beginning in January 2026. The fee for senior solo private instruction is \$15 per 30 minutes. Parents will need to contact the Program Manager at least one week in advance to set up the private instruction.

# Élan Dance Company Contract

## ❖ Absences:

- **Dancer absences should NOT be reported on the Band app.**
- Anytime a dancer misses a rehearsal without communicating to the Dance Coordinator, it is considered an unexcused absence.
- All dancers should inform the Dance Coordinator of any scheduled conflicts (such as church retreats, college visits, vacations, etc.) as soon as the conflict is known. Known conflicts that are not reported at least **two weeks in advance** may be considered unexcused.
- Missing more than **two rehearsals** for any piece may result in the dancer being removed from the dance.
- Any last-minute absences can be communicated by emailing the Dance Coordinator.

## ❖ Attendance:

- **All Élan members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance.**
- Dedicated attendance will allow dancers to be very comfortable with their choreography, spacing, and everything they need to know to perform.
- Missing multiple rehearsals will result in a dancer being removed from the piece entirely.
- **Please avoid scheduling activities that may conflict with rehearsal times or performances on a regular basis.**
- Dancers should also attend their weekly Dance Academy recital classes at a **90% or better rate** to maintain their training and technique.
- Dancers who are unable to maintain a consistent attendance rate for rehearsals and classes will be removed from certain performance opportunities.
- Both competitions are mandatory for dancers to attend.

## ❖ Attire:

- Dancers are expected to be dressed in **dance clothes** and proper shoes for their rehearsals.
- All dancers should wear **all black form fitting dancewear with their hair pulled back in a ponytail or bun at their company choreography class.** *\*\*\*Please note that the dress code is at the discretion of the choreographer\*\*\**
- Élan apparel is allowed and encouraged to be worn for company choreography classes.
- All company members are expected to follow the dress code for their recital class as they are representing Élan Dance Company.

## ❖ Attitude and Behavior:

- All dancers are expected to put forth full effort during their rehearsals.
- All Company members should only talk about the Company, choreographers, fellow dancers, and any other related Company business in a positive manner at all times.
- Dancers are expected to be respectful of all choreographers and fellow dancers before, during, and after rehearsals.

- Please remember that all company dancers are role models for our NPD Dance Academy dancers.
- Older company dancers are encouraged to set a good example for our younger company members. They should lead stretches before performances and assist them with hair, make-up, and costume changes if needed at events.
- **Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Any problems or issues should be brought to the attention of the Dance Coordinator as soon as possible.**

#### ❖ **Cell Phones:**

- There are no cell phones allowed in class for any reason.
- Dancers may check their phones on breaks if necessary.
- If you would like to take a video of any performance material, please check-in with your instructor to determine the best time to do so.
- Instructors have the right to deny your request if it interferes with any plans or progress for the day.
- Please communicate in the Band app while the company is off-site (performances, rehearsals, etc.). In non-urgent situations please use the Dance Coordinator's email address [tlight@napervilleparks.org](mailto:tlight@napervilleparks.org) or NPD Dance Academy's phone number (630)848-3618. **Questions outside of being at a performance should not be asked in the Band app.**

#### ❖ **Class Registration:**

- All Élan Company members are required to take at least one recital dance class through NPD Dance Academy in order to participate.
- To be fully prepared for all types of dance styles and movement vocabulary, it is highly encouraged to take a ballet class.

#### ❖ **Choreography Opportunities:**

- Graduating high school seniors can choreograph a solo to be performed at the annual Dance Academy Recitals or Elan Dance Company Showcase.

#### ❖ **Communication:**

- Information regarding the Company will be communicated **primarily through email** from the Dance Coordinator at [tlight@napervilleparks.org](mailto:tlight@napervilleparks.org).
- Please add [tlight@napervilleparks.org](mailto:tlight@napervilleparks.org) and [bmalatt@napervilleparks.org](mailto:bmalatt@napervilleparks.org) to your contacts so emails don't go into spam or junk folders.
- Parents and dancers will be invited to use the Band app during the dance season. Videos of rehearsals will be uploaded to this app as well as photos from performance weekends.

#### ❖ **Costumes:**

- All Company members are responsible for knowing what costumes are needed for each piece and transporting them to each performance.
- Tights with rips and holes will not be allowed on stage.

- It is the dancer's responsibility to know what items they need to bring for each event, including dance shoes and tights.
- Some dances will require dancers to provide clothing or accessories from home.
- All company members are required to return all costumes borrowed from our costume inventory at the end of the dance season. Costumes not returned by the deadline will be billed to the dancer's family.

❖ **Élan Apparel:**

- Apparel items will be available for purchase in early fall only.
- Company jackets are required for all company dancers.
- Jackets may be used in place of costumes for some opportunities.

❖ **Punctuality:**

- Dancers are expected to be at the studio, dressed and ready to begin class at the scheduled time.

❖ **Tech Rehearsals:**

- **All Tech and Dress rehearsals are mandatory for anyone participating in a performance.**
- Dancers should arrive on time, with all necessary costumes and shoes ready to dance at the scheduled start time.
- Any conflicts with tech or dress rehearsal times must be addressed immediately with the Dance Coordinator to determine if the dancer is able to participate in the performance.
- Please do not schedule any activities that may result in tech rehearsal conflicts.

❖ **Performance Etiquette:**

- We only ever change in assigned dressing areas.
- Always take good care of your costumes by keeping them organized and wrinkle-free.
- Keep all scented lotions, fragrances and sprays to a minimum and only use hairspray in approved areas.
- Always bring make-up, hair supplies, make-up remover and extra tights to every performance, just in case!
- Jewelry, aside from small stud earrings, is not permitted for any reason aside from costume jewelry or accessories for a piece.
- Nail polish is not allowed for any performances on fingers or toes (if barefoot).
- Any undergarments worn with a costume will need to be skin tone with clear straps. We strongly encourage dancers to buy a nude camisole also. This will be helpful for quick changes.
- Parents are not allowed back stage during performances. Dancers should learn how to prepare themselves for performance, or ask a choreographer or the Dance Coordinator for assistance in getting ready.

## Élan Company Dancer Contract 2025-2026 Season

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Company Contract and understand it is a binding contract holding me responsible for adhering to the above verbiage until the season ends in June 2026. I understand my responsibilities if I am accepted into the Élan Dance Company.

I agree to:

- Attend all scheduled classes and will communicate any known conflicts at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Have a 90% or better attendance rate in all my Dance Academy classes.
- Meet the dance recital class requirement for my Company participation.
- Attend all performances unless communicated in advance with the Dance Coordinator. I understand that Company performances are not optional.
- Attend the two mandatory competitions.
- Give my full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2025-2026 season.
- Not say anything negative or hurtful about any of the Élan Dance Companies, The Naperville Park District Dance Academy, or any company members on any form of social media.
- Arrive at each company choreography class prepared to learn, with a positive attitude and ready to give it my all.

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Dancer's Name (Printed)

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Dancer's Signature

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Date

## Élan Dance Company Parent Expectations

- **Communication:** Parents will receive the majority of the information about Élan Dance Company via e-mail. Parents and dancers will be invited to use the Band app during the dance season to view rehearsal videos and to communicate during performance weekends only. We ask that parents carefully read through the information and note important dates, such as performances, competitions, or deadlines, on their calendars in a timely manner. Parents with general questions about any of the information should contact the Dance Coordinator via email only, not through the Band app. All absences due to sickness or family emergencies need to be reported to the Dance Coordinator as soon as possible.
- **Emergency Contact Information:** We will need current emergency contact information for each Company member. Due to the number of performances scheduled in the community, we need to be able to reach the appropriate parent or guardian in case of an emergency. In the event of the parent(s) being out of town, we will need to have alternate emergency information. Please let us know the best way to contact you in an emergency.
- **Company Choreography Class Conflicts and Scheduling:** Please report all known conflicts as soon as possible via email to [tlight@napervilleparks.org](mailto:tlight@napervilleparks.org). Any absence that goes unreported will be considered unexcused. It is also important to help your dancer understand that timeliness and punctuality are important for all rehearsals.
- **Respectful and Courteous:** Parents are asked to please be respectful of all NPD Dance Academy staff. While the Dance Coordinator and choreographers wish to be helpful in addressing any questions or concerns that parents may have, they cannot take time away from classes to talk with parents. Parents should schedule a time outside of class to speak with the appropriate staff member about any questions or concerns they may have. This allows all students to get their full class time. All meeting inquiries can be scheduled through the Dance Coordinator if necessary.

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DANCE COMPANY

## Élan Company Parent Contract 2025-2026 Season

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Company Contract and Company Parent Expectations and understand it is a binding contract holding me responsible for adhering to the above verbiage until the season ends in June 2026. I understand my responsibilities as a parent if my dancer is accepted into the Élan Performance Company and will follow to the best of my abilities.

I agree to:

- Support and encourage my dancer as well as all other dancers in the company.
- Communicate any known conflicts at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Ensure my dancer can maintain a 90% or better attendance rate in all of Dance Academy classes.
- Make sure my dancer meets the recital dance class requirements for their Company participation.
- Ensure dancer attends all performances unless communicated in advance with the Dance Coordinator. I understand that Company performances are not optional and competitions are mandatory for dancers to be part of the Company.
- Encourage my dancer to give his/her full commitment to the Élan Dance Company for the entire 2025-2026 season.
- Not say anything negative or hurtful about any of the Élan Dance Companies, the Naperville Park District Dance Academy, or any company members/choreographers on any form of social media.
- Trust the expertise of the Élan Dance Company choreographers and understand they will always have my dancer's best interest at heart.
- Address concerns I may have directly with the Dance Coordinator and choreographers.
- I understand and accept the payment plan and refund policy for Élan Dance Company.

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Parent's Name (Printed)

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Parent's Signature

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Date



## **Dates & Fees for 2025-2026 Élan Dance Company**

### **Refund Policy**

Élan Dance Company is a time and financial commitment. Once a dancer accepts a spot in a company it is expected they will participate for the entire season. We understand that dancer's circumstances may change during the season, and we offer the following refund policy:

- Refund requests must be made by contacting Brittany Malatt, Program Manager, by email at [bmalatt@napervilleparks.org](mailto:bmalatt@napervilleparks.org) or by phone at 630-848-3619.
- Refunds are only processed for weekly rehearsals that have not taken place. Refunds will only be given until December 1, 2025. After December 1, 2025, no refunds or prorations will be provided.
- Refunds are not given for past rehearsal time, costumes, competition/performance fees, Élan outing fees, dance convention fees, and apparel.

### **How do I register and pay for Élan Dance Company?**

Registration information for Company choreography classes will be emailed to you with your acceptance letter. You must register by the deadline given with your acceptance letter. You will also register for your dancer's recital class at the same time.

There are two payment options:

- Pay in full for the 9-month Élan Dance Company Program.
- The first payment is due at the time of registration and then enroll in the automatic payment plan where an additional two equal payments will be charged to a credit/debit card. These payments will occur on December 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. Each class payment will be withdrawn individually. Please call 630-848-5000 to notify us of any credit card changes. Credit/debit cards that are declined will be charged a \$25 service fee by the Naperville Park District and may result in the forfeiture of this payment option.

Fall Session: Monday, September 8 – Saturday, December 6 & Friday, December 12, 2025

No Class: October 31 and November 24-November 29 (12 weeks)

Winter Session: Monday, January 5 - Saturday, May 23, 2026

No Class: Mon. March 30-April 4 (19 weeks)

Company	9 months in Full	Payment Plan 3 payments: At time of registration, December 1, 2025 and March 1, 2026.
Competition Company: Green, Purple, Yellow & Orange Teams	\$1,063(R)/\$1,093(NR)	\$354.33(R)/\$364.33(NR)
Competition Company: Red Team	\$1,135(R)/\$1,165(NR)	\$378.33(R)/\$388.33(NR)
<b>Fee includes:</b> 31 weeks of 60-minute company choreography classes (or 90-minute company choreography class for the Red team), two costumes, two dance performances, two dance competition, and photos from company photoshoot.		

**Additional Fees Paid Separately for the 2025-2026 Season.**

- **Dancewear items:** Tights and shoes as needed for specific styles of dance. A list of specific items needed will be given in late August at the mandatory Elan Dance Preseason Meeting.
- **Elan Outing:** Approximately \$15, paid through Activenet
- **Company apparel:** (company jacket is required, other apparel is optional): \$75 or \$85 for the company jacket, paid through the Plie Promotions team store webpage.
- **Convention:** Cost if we attend a convention or classes as part of a competition, approximately \$60 paid through Activenet.