

Here's a rundown of our Sparkler Dance Company Program:

1. For our K-4th grade Sparklers: A 90 min weekly class (instead of an hour like our regular educational track), so they'll receive more instruction in class, meaning they'll progress faster. THIS YEAR THE PIXIES (K-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE) HAD CLASS ON TUESDAYS 4-5:30. I DON'T ANTICIPATE THIS CHANGING FOR NEXT SEASON.

2. Our entire company attends a dance convention in St Louis called Dupree. This next season the dates are February 2-4, 2024. It's super fun, and great for the kids to take classes from what I consider to be fabulous teachers.

3. Option to compete: Our competition team is drawn from our dance company but not a requirement to be in company. This year I had a little over half want that option. They competition team competes at the Dupree dance convention that the whole company attends, and that is free to watch if that is something you're interested in for the future. Our minimum age/grade to be in company is typically 2nd grade. We try to work around schedules and stay away from weekend rehearsals if at all possible. This year the comp kids had class on Tuesday and rehearsed on Thursday.

4. Throughout the season, if a community performance opportunity arises, I only offer those opportunities to my company kids. Those are optional and if they fit in your schedule, you just let me know and we make a go of it. The only thing I ask is that if you commit to an event you don't drop out so I don't have a lot of work to do with it. This year we danced in the MtV Christmas parade, and next month we have the opportunity to perform in a luau fundraiser for CASA. Other things we've done in the past and would like to do again is dance at nursing homes to brighten the residents' day.

5. In our annual recital, our last number is our Company Production with all 4 age groups (Pixies are the youngest, then Minis, Juniors and finally Teens). It's a massive number and this year involves lots of props. We practice for this in class since my Pixies are in their own class and not mixed with non-company kids. It means one additional costume besides the class combo costume (combo costumes are worn for tap/ballet/jazz and have two different skirts and are the most economical costume). We rehearse that number in our class time, hence the reason for the longer class time.

Total dances they'll have in the recital will be tap, ballet, jazz and company production. The production number is in all 4 shows, so it's a bit of a long day, but so worth it for the hard work they've put in to be able to show off that production 4 times.

6. When we offer dance trips, it's my company families that I offer that to. We danced at Disney July 2022 and we have future dreams of dancing in Nashville, New York, cruises, etc. Lots of opportunities on the horizon!

In a nutshell, our Sparklers are kids who want more of what we offer. They are no more talented than our regular educational track kiddos, but they are focused and hard-working.

On the mom side of things:

1. Our company moms are AMAZING. I am very spoiled in that these moms are not dramatic, they are helpful, and encouraging to their kids and each other. We promote that atmosphere and culture with our company families and they love it. In our studio family, our company families are a bit more tight knit. For instance, at the dance convention, we take care of each other's kiddos if something arises and you need to leave the room.

2. Optional Fundraising is available to help offset the additional cost!

3. The only thing I ask is that when we have events for company kids that the moms help out with those. I don't have the luxury of a lot of staff at my disposal, so I rely on helpful moms. Our first year moms I don't ask much of other than to be observant to what the more veteran moms are doing so that they can jump in the following year to help. I'm in the process now of organizing the production jobs and assigning tasks to each mom so no one has a very hard job. Most of it is herding dancers to where they need to be during the production number and prop handlers.

If joining company is something you'd like to consider, you are more than welcome to attend one of our classes in May. Our pixies practice their production number on Tuesdays at 5pm. Their class time is Tuesday 4-5pm, and most likely won't change next season. That may also be a factor in your decision FYI.

I do have a deadline to commit of June 15th so that I can make the necessary tech arrangements on our software so that when you register on July 1st the class you need shows up for you (it won't show up to every student, just the pre-arranged company kids). If you want to wait until you've seen that company production on stage, totally fine, but I think you'll love it this year. My creativity keeps flowing and I like to spoil these kids :)

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