

LEDPC
22-23

mini



JOIN THE 2022-23 TEAM!

CULTURE

Learn about LEDPC amazing community and team culture, Be part of the MAGIC!

TEAM INFO

Explore class and performance team options and LEDPC requirements!

NEXT STEPS

Time to get started! Reserve your spot for auditions and you're on your way!

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WELCOME

Starting a new program or competitive team for your child can be overwhelming. You want to be certain your child will enjoy the experience and grow from it. You want to be sure your child takes advantage of every opportunity and that you don't miss a thing.

That's why we created this Parent's Guide to LEDPC. We want you to know all of the wonderful possibilities that await your child and your family here.

Before we begin, we would like to share some of our core beliefs with you. These will help you understand more about why we exist and what we aim to accomplish with students as well as lay the foundation for much of what you'll find in this handbook.

At LED we pride ourselves on teaching great technique and training, but we work equally as hard to help kids achieve their full potential in life by creating a positive environment where they develop character traits like kindness, teamwork and confidence just to name a few. As you become more involved in our studio, you'll find tangible ways that we work to fulfill this goal.

YOUR CHILD'S DANCE JOURNEY

Just as each child is unique, so will be their dance journey. Some will dance with us through early childhood, some through middle school and some through their senior year. Some will dance for fun and friendship; others will find it to be their career. LED has something for each dancer. Whatever the case for your child, they will have LED support and guidance available to them throughout their journey— guidance that will gradually lead them to take over their own reins as they approach adulthood.

At LED our mission is help kids achieve their full potential in life and in dance by creating a positive environment where they can thrive! We strive to provide excellence in education, mentorship and great service with a smile! We continue to be a leader in dance education. We believe that when everyone works together, we can exceed expectations, encourage creativity, contribute to our community, become positive role models, and be "More Than Just Great Dancing".

The LED Culture of being "More Than Just Great Dancing" is our most important mission and we appreciate being positive partners with you in helping your child grow and reach their full potential. This competition handbook provides dancers and families with clear knowledge of the responsibilities and commitments involved in participating in LED's competitive performance company.

We believe that DANCE lessons teach LIFE lessons! We teach dance to not only create wonderful dancers but to use dance to teach life lessons that are invaluable to them at any time in their life. Understanding what being committed means, responsibility, respecting instructors and peers, the ability to manage their time and make wise decisions, learning adaptability and being prepared for their commitments are just a few of the values that we are instilling in our dancers.

Parent we thank YOU for supporting us in teaching these values to your dancers. We know they will go FAR!



PROGRAM WITH PURPOSE



LED's Performance Company Program (LEDPC) is designed to provide students with a well-rounded, fun, exciting and professional dance experience! That experience includes 4 key elements:

ACCELERATED TRAINING

LEDPC dancers learn skills earlier, at an accelerated pace, and with higher standards of perfection. Technique classes and an environment focused on growth give dancers the opportunity to develop their skills and technique while learning and perfecting their performance strength.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LEDPC dancers gain insight from the judges comments and critiques after each competition. These critiques and the high standards of competitive dance give our dancers the impetus to work hard, dream big and be the BEST they can be!

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

LEDPC Dancers perform at two competitions per season, two college performances, as well as our annual spring recital.

A FAMILY LIKE COMMUNITY

Our mission is for our studio to be a second home for our students and a positive, encouraging community where they can develop life long friendships. We love our dance family!

Throughout the year dancers have opportunities to connect with others on the team through our LEDPC's fun activities and of course the memories made performing, competing and learning and growing together in the classroom!

AT LED WE ARE A DANCE FAMILY AND AS A FAMILY WE VALUE, ENCOURAGE AND EXPECT DANCERS TO DEVELOP IN THESE CHARACTER TRAITS:



01

COMMITMENT

Regular attendance is vital to student progress and group choreography, so please make every effort to attend each class. If your dancer will miss a class, please report it to the office.

02

FORGIVENESS

We all make mistakes and we all have misunderstandings. Forgiveness requires a conscious choice to be empathetic and compassionate.

03

HONESTY

Honesty is about more than telling the truth. It's about being true to ourselves in what we do, how we live and how we relate to others. Let's keep it real with each other.

04

HUMILITY

No one is perfect. Corrections give us a chance to improve ourselves and become better dancers. Outside of dance corrections, when we make a mistake (we all do!), we own it and do what we can to make it right.

05

PATIENCE

Learning new skills takes time and effort, and different movements will come to you at different times. That means we may not advance to the next graded level as quickly as we'd hoped or at the same time as our friends. We need to trust the instructors to know when we're developmentally ready to advance.

06

RESPECT

Dancers must show respect for teachers, choreographers, directors and other students at all times. We ask dancers and parents not to speak negatively about one another or the teachers. We want our language with one another to build each other up and encourage each other to grow into our best selves at all times.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dancers who commit to LEDPC are committed to working hard, giving their best in class for themselves and for their teammates, doing whatever it takes to be prepared for competitions and performances, supporting their teammates, respecting their teachers and taking constructive corrections and applying them.

Dancers are expected to make their class times a priority. Be well rested, prepared and give yourself the best chance to succeed!

Dancers, please speak to your instructor if there is a reason that you are not able to fully participate in class! We understand that everyone has days with difficult circumstances :). We are here for you and we care!

Parents, by supporting your dancer in becoming a member of LEDPC you entrust us with your dancer's education, a role that each instructor at LED takes very seriously. We are committed to giving every dancer our best instruction, energy and experience!

We thank you for allowing us to be a part of YOUR dancers life!!

RESPECT/BEHAVIOR

Dancers must show respect for teachers, staff, teammates and other students and families at all times. Inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the program.

POSITIVE COMMUNICATION

Our most important mission is to create a positive, healthy, happy environment for our dance moms, dads, students and our staff team. We view all dancers and families as a part of our big LED family. Our language should be used to build one another up and encourage each other. We embrace open communication to address any concerns you or your dancer may have and we ask that all communication or concerns be directed directly to the person or our leadership team.



SCIENCE REVEALS THE BENEFITS OF DANCE!

The benefits of dance have been the subject of much research in the past 20 years, and that research has unveiled a wealth of benefits, from intellectual and social to mental and physical. If you're looking to boost your child's confidence, fitness level and mental well-being (and possibly to save the world), consider what the research has shown.

Dance Improves Academic Performance

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, students who regularly participate in dance lessons:

- Earn higher GPAs overall over their nonparticipating peers
- Are more likely to complete calculus
- Enjoy higher test scores on SATs and particularly in science and writing
- Perform better in math and science
- Enroll in 4-year colleges, earn mostly A's in college and complete bachelor degrees
- Additional research from the National Assembly of State
- Arts Agencies show that "Arts participation and SAT scores co-vary—that is, they tend to increase linearly: the more arts classes, the higher the scores.



Dance Improves Physical Fitness

The National Dance Education Organization reports that regular dance classes:

- Involve a greater range of motion, coordination, strength and endurance than most other physical activities.
- Increase a child's flexibility, range of motion, physical strength, stamina, improve posture, balance, coordination and overall cardiovascular health.

Dance Improves Social and Mental Well-being

Dance also offers a host of social and emotional benefits, especially helpful in adolescent years:

- According to a study published in the International Journal of Neuroscience, dance significantly changes serotonin and dopamine levels (feel-good hormones), improving depression, anxiety and mood while reducing interpersonal sensitivity, relieving tension and improving self-esteem.
- Dance also fosters social encounters, interaction, cooperation and communication.

As research continues, so too does the evidence for dance's singular benefits for the whole child: mind, body and spirit



LAKE EFFECT DANCE PERFORMANCE COMPANY

MINI MENU

CLASSES

MINI TECHNIQUE

REQUIRED

MINIMUM 30 MINUTE BALLET FOR
JAZZ/LYRICAL GROUP AND
45 MINUTE SKILLS & CONDITIONING
**HIP HOP GROUP NOT REQUIRED*

CHOREOGRAPHY CLASSES

REQUIRED

30 MINUTE CLASSES
FOR BOTH JAZZ/LYRICAL AND HIP
HOP

ACRO TECHNIQUE

OPTIONAL & RECOMMENDED
45 MINUTE CLASS

OPTIONS

PRIVATE LESSONS

Accelerate your training with a solo, duo or trio class! These classes are offered for choreography as well as technique. Individual attention & lesson plans just for you!

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Grow by leaps and bounds by adding additional studio or competitive classes to your schedule. Classes are offered in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, acro and hip-hop. Watch your skills soar!

TECHNIQUE

MINI TECHNIQUE

Students grow their skills, technique, flexibility and strength in ballet technique + skills & conditioning classes.

**Not required for dancers competing in hip-hop alone*

TUITION

30 MINUTE CLASSES

Regular Classes: \$36/month

45 MINUTE CLASSES

Regular Classes: \$49/month

MINI PROGRAM

ABOUT

- Mini Team Jazz dancers accelerate their training through focused, exciting classes while building lasting friendships.
- LEDPC Mini Team dancers attend (2) dance competitions each season. Gems February 25th weekend and Ovation on April 15th weekend
- Mini Jazz dancers enroll in a minimum of (1) 30 minute or more ballet class, minimum of (1) 45 minute skills and conditioning class plus your selected styles of choreography classes (the dances that they perform in) Additional studio classes in acro, ballet, tap, hip-hop, or jazz are optional and encouraged.
- Hip Hop is not required to take any additional classes outside choreography.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- Jazz (1) Ballet Technique Class + (1) Mini Skills & Conditioning class + your selected choreography classes
- Hip Hop (1) selected choreography class

JUNIOR COMPANY FEES

- *Solo/Duo/Trio competition fees vary.
- Mini Jazz \$180
- Mini Hip Hop \$180
- This is for Gems on February 25th weekend and Ovation on April 15th weekend

DRESS CODE

- Mini **CHOREOGRAPHY & TECHNIQUE CLASSES:**
Black Leotard and Black bottoms or LED Logo Wear and specific shoes. Hair pulled back in ponytail or bun.
- **COMPETITIONS:**
LED Team Jacket (through shirts unlimited starting September 1st),

SUMMER

- No Summer courses are required for mini's. Only **STRONGLY** encouraged!

PAYMENT & FEE SCHEDULE

FEE SCHEDULE

- **JUNE:** Registration (September) is due at enrollment week of May 28th or autopay on June 1st
- **MONTHLY:** Tuition is due on the first of each month via auto pay or via check or cash before the 1st of each month (October-May tuition).
- **SEPTEMBER:** Competition Fees are due September 1st (Competition fees are \$180 per class).

2022 - 23 TUITION

GROUP CLASSES

- 30 MINUTE CLASS \$36/month
- 45 MINUTE CLASS \$49/month

PRIVATE & SEMI PRIVATE CLASSES

- 30 MINUTE PRIVATE LESSON \$35/once a month

PAYMENTS POLICIES

- Tuition rates are for the whole season (September-June). Tuition fees are paid monthly or annually. Monthly fees include holiday and studio breaks.
- After registering (paying September tuition & registration fee), monthly tuition (October-May) must be paid by automatic bank account or automatic credit card payment.
- Tuition will be debited for your account (or charged to your credit card) on the first of each month.
- Competition Fees & Competition Media Fees will be paid via auto pay on September 1st.
- **Please note: There is a 3.5% Credit and Debit Card Processing Fee. There is no fee for automatic checking withdrawal or cash.**
- Late Payments: A 5% monthly finance charge will be applied to overdue accounts on the 2nd of each month.

STUDIO POLICIES



TUITION FEES AND PAYMENTS

Tuition rates are for the full season (September-June, including studio holidays & breaks), not by the number of classes in the month. Tuition fees are paid monthly or annually. After registering (paying September and June lessons and your registration fee), monthly tuition (October-May) must be paid by automatic bank debit account or automatic credit card payment. Tuition will be debited for your account (or charged to your credit card) on the 1st day of each month (October-May).

Please note: There is a 3.5% fee for credit and debit card payments to cover the fee's charged by those companies.

NSF PAYMENTS

NSF on paper checks, auto-debit, or auto charge payments will incur a \$20 NSF fee.

LATE PAYMENTS

A 5% monthly finance charge will be applied to overdue accounts on the 10th of each month.

CHANGES TO ENROLLMENT

Life is all about changes. We recognize that at LED and we offer options for making class changes once the dance year is underway. There is a two-month minimum for all lessons. One-month notice from the first of the month is required to discontinue any payments. To withdraw a parent must: 1) inform the studio in person and 2) complete and sign a withdrawal form. Automatic bank debiting or credit card charges will stop after the one-month notice period.

RESCHEDULING AND SUBSTITUTION

LED reserves the right to provide a substitute teacher if a regular teacher is ill or is otherwise unavailable to teach. LED reserves the right to re-schedule or combine classes.

REFUNDS

Refunds are only issued when LED cancels a class due to low enrollment.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is vital to student progress and group choreography. Please make every effort to attend each class. Students may make up missed classes if a class of similar level is available.

ROLLOVER REGISTRATION

For your convenience, and to reserve a space for the following season, annual membership fees will be automatically renewed and applied to your account on June 1, 2023 unless a withdrawal form is completed in the office before that date.

COMMUNICATION

At LED we take great lengths to keep you informed and up to date. Email will be sent throughout the year as well as posted in the studio with updates and important information. Join us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and contests! Check out: www.lakeeffectdance.com for studio information. Questions - We are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your dancer and our program. Let us know if we can help in any way!

OBSERVATION

Parents are encouraged to view classes through our viewing windows. Other observation is at the teacher's discretion. It is imperative that distractions be kept to a minimum for our dancers therefore parents and other students are not allowed in the studio during class.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, an email will be sent out to notify parents. Please note that we do not necessarily follow the school closings as roads are often cleared by the time studio classes begin.

COSTUME ORDERS

All choreography classes have a costume unless otherwise noted. There are no refunds or returns for costumes once they have been ordered.

Student Removal

LED has a zero bullying and harassment policy. This includes towards Staff. LED has the right to remove any dancer from the season due to dancers behavior in the studio, outside the studio, online, and do to parent actions.

LET'S TALK!

COMMUNICATIONS



Communication is a high priority here at LED, especially with so many opportunities and constant activity, so we take great care to keep you informed.

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER AND MORE

We are moving to monthly newsletters. Our number one tool for staying up to date with everything at LED is your monthly newsletter. You will receive a copy via email each month during the regular season that will offer details on new classes, upcoming events and more. (Hint: It's especially helpful during recital season!) We will also email you with important reminders and time-sensitive information. Beyond that we offer several other communication vehicles:

Q & A SESSIONS

During auditions & prior to our first competition we hold a parent Q & A session to answer any questions you might have. Our team is also available via email, phone or by stopping at the front desk during our office hours.

FACEBOOK

LED's Private Facebook page "Lake Effect Performance Company" is great for tracking new classes & programs, as well as other general news about studio happenings. To be sure you don't miss a thing, like the page and be sure to pin it to the top of your feed.

DANCE PATHWAYS CONFERENCES

This is a new feature. Come sit with Anna have some coffee at the studio and discuss your dancers future plans and how we can help him/her reach it! These conferences are a perfect time to learn how your dancer is doing in class. Be sure to take advantage of these conferences. Anna will let you know what skills still need to be mastered before your child is ready to advance, areas for growth, help planning their next steps and answering any questions specific to your dancer.

QUESTIONS

We are always here and happy to answer your questions about LED.

If you have a question or concern about what's happening in your child's class, please don't hesitate to ask. Our friendly team will be happy to assist you!



THE SEASON

YOUR SEASON OVERVIEW

The full LEDPC season calendar, complete with competition dates is released the first week of class in the fall

- September 1st LEDPC Team Fees Due
- September 11 - Classes Begin!
- September 25th - Parents Night Out
- October 2nd - Team Pumpkin Painting!
- October 31st - No Dance
- November 21-25 Thanksgiving Break
- December 3rd - Tree Lighting
- December 26-January 1st - No Dance
- January 16th-23rd - We still have dance!
- February 6th-12th - No dance Mid Winter Break
- February 25th Weekend - Gems Competition
- March 13-16th - No dance Spring Break
- April 15th weekend - Ovation Dance
- May 14th OR June 4th - Recital

Because commitment is so important on any successful team, dancers who are members of LEDPC must make their class time a priority. Please read over the commitment requirements detailed below.

All rehearsals & performances are mandatory. Every member counts at every performance! In the event of an emergency an understudy may be used.

Participants are allowed no more than (2) absences for each class per semester.

Please let your teacher know of any circumstances affecting your attendance.

The following reasons WILL NOT be counted as an absence: Family emergency, Sickness, Required school band/choir concerts and school awards ceremonies.

The following WILL be counted as an absence: Homework, vacations.

NOTE: In the event of injury, dancers should attend rehearsals and classes to observe and make note to any changes to choreography whenever possible.



AUDITIONS

HAVING A GREAT AUDITION

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE AUDITION

- 1) Auditions are much like class. Wear fitted black dance attire and your hair in a neat bun.
- 2) You will learn a short routine and perform each routine multiple times in small groups.
- 3) Auditions are fun and friendly! Every dancer will be encouraged to do their best and to enjoy the experience.

HAVING A GREAT AUDITION

- 1) Plan ahead. Plan your ride, outfit, hair and arrival to leave plenty of time to arrive without stress.
- 2) Relax and have fun! This is a friendly, positive experience and a GREAT preparation for other audition experiences, such as show choirs, dance teams, and theater. An amazing opportunity to "learn the ropes" about auditioning in a safe environment!

PLACEMENTS

The directors may place dancers outside of a group they auditioned for, or combine groups based on the overall best interest of the teams.

WHAT IF I DON'T "MAKE IT" OR "MAKE THE GROUP I WANTED"?

A NOTE TO PARENTS: Not everyone who auditions will be placed in the classes or levels they are hoping for. If you feel that you, or your dancer, are not prepared to be turned down, please wait another year before auditioning.

There is something to be learned from any audition, regardless of the outcome.

Dancers who are not selected should be encouraged to keep dancing and try again next season! Dancers who are selected should be humbled by the opportunity and gracious towards others.

Attitudes at the end of auditions sometimes reveal more than the actual audition itself and make a lasting impression... make yours a good one! :)

Audition results are final. Students are welcome to ask for feedback for improvement after auditions, however, requests for re-evaluation of placement by either students, or parents, will not be accepted.

If we need to make any adjustments to groupings, we will do so based on what we see developmentally at the end of summer. Keep working. We are preparing dancers for real world experiences.

PLACEMENTS



Faculty and staff meet regularly to discuss students' progress and/or placement and recommendations are based on many years of teaching experience. Placement of students class levels or choreography is highly individual and based on many complex factors such as age, experience, physical/technical ability, concentration, skills, ability to take and apply corrections, ability to work well within a group, attitude & behavior etc. We ask that our dancers and families respect the thought, consideration and care that goes into selecting the best placement for each dancer.

As a reminder, audition results are final. Students are welcome to ask their instructor for feedback for improvement after auditioning, however, requests for re-evaluation of placement by either students, or parents, will not be accepted. If we need to make any adjustments to groupings, we will do so based on what we see developmentally at the end of summer. Keep working hard

PLACEMENT AND LEVELS

Our levels are designed for dancers to be in a few years before they are ready to progress to the next level! You will see three types of dancers in each level:

EMERGING DANCERS are new to a level, and will be working hard to learn the skills, technique and artistry that level is focused on!

PROGRESSING DANCERS most likely have been in the level before, and are working on consistency, confidence, and muscle memory!

PROFICIENT DANCERS have been in the level a couple years and are working on mastering the skills, artistry, and focusing on the small technical details needed to move on!

COMPETITION Q&A

What additional clothing/accessories does my dancer need?

- ALL dancers need the LED Warm-Up Jacket which is required for participation in the awards ceremonies. Go to shirts unlimited to purchase your jacket starting September 1st!
- Extra pair of each style of tight your dancer will need. Recommended. Available for purchase at Studio.
- The correct dance shoe for the style of dance.

When will we receive our dancers competition schedule?

- We will issue Competitions for the 22-23 Season by July 1st. Please note we normally always have a competition either going into or coming out of Northwesterns Spring Break. We ask you plan appropriately.
- The competition sends out a schedule one week prior to the competition therefore it is important to reserve the entire weekend for competition. This means Friday-Sunday

What does a competition day look like?

Once you've received the schedule for competition weekend you can begin planning out your dancers day! Your dancer will need to be ready to perform on stage (warmed up, in full costume and make-up) when they arrive at the theater. We request dancers to be ready to take the stage one hour prior to their scheduled time.

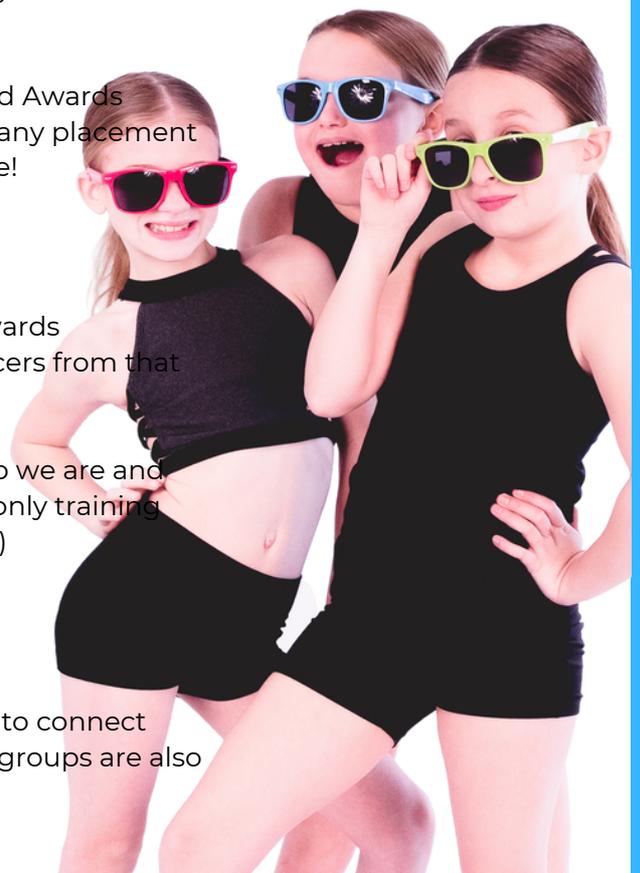
After your dancer performs they'll return for the scheduled Awards Ceremony where they will receive their adjudicated and any placement (high point) awards. This is always an exciting experience!

Awards Ceremony

Awards ceremonies are a fun and exciting experience! Awards ceremonies are held throughout the day with all the dancers from that particular block of time on stage for awards together.

Great sportsmanship is so important to the culture of who we are and what we are instilling in our students at LED. We are not only training dancers for the stage but for success in every area of life! :)

Our LEDPC Facebook groups is an EXCELLENT resource to connect with your dancers classmates and parents. Our facebook groups are also a great place to share photos and exciting moments!



WELCOME TO LEDPC!

