

# **MDU Performing Groups**

*Creating strong teams, performers, and connections while building well-rounded students.*

## ***The benefits of being on a team:***

- *Learn responsibility, time management, and accountability*
- *Grow in confidence, technique, and artistry*
- *Make connections through friendships & mentorships*
- *Give dancers a place to belong & give back to their community*
- *Travel opportunities for performances, competitions, and trips*
- *Through their dedication and time invested at the studio, they will build deeper connections to MDU teachers and staff.*

**Community Performing Groups** - *non-competitive groups that focus on community performances and accelerated training for young dancers.*

**Littlest Performing Group** *For dancers ages 5–6 in Kidlets, Kidance, Beginning Jazz and Ballet, Mini Dance Team, Musical Theater, or Hippy Hop classes.*

The Littlest Performing Group offers a fun and low-pressure way for young dancers to experience performing and being on a dance team. Each year this group is based off of a kid appropriate theme. This season, they will be our PRIDELAND PALS (Lions). Open to all Kindergarten-1st Grade students (no audition required), this group meets weekly during regular class time to rehearse and prepare for performances.

Dancers will:

- Receive a themed costume
- Perform locally throughout the year
- Shine on stage at our annual Christmas Social, Winter Showcase and Recital

It's a great way to build confidence, make friends, and enjoy the magic of performing — all in a playful and supportive setting.

**Dancin' Kids Performing Group** *For dancers ages 7–10 in Building Levels through Level 1*

Dancin' Kids is perfect for young dancers who are ready for more! This performing group is designed for students who want extra training, love learning choreography, and are excited to be on stage more often.

Dancers can audition for one or multiple groups in 2–3 different styles. Once placed, they'll:

- Rehearse weekly outside of class

- Perform locally throughout the year
- Take the stage at our annual Christmas Social, Winter Showcase and Recital
- Build skills and experience for future competition teams

Dancin' Kids is a fun, focused next step for dancers who are passionate about performing and ready for a little more commitment.

**Competition Teams** - *competitive groups that offer year-round training for our most committed dancers. Our Competition Teams are offered in various style groups. Each member of the competition teams will:*

- Attend 2 competitions and receive valuable feedback from industry professionals
- Perform locally throughout the year
- Perform in our Christmas Social, Winter Showcase and annual Recital
- Experience travel opportunities every few years
- Work with guest artists and choreographers
- Build leadership skills, teamwork, and confidence
- Be eligible for scholarship and recognition opportunities

**Performance Company** *For dancers ages 8+ in Level 1 and above*

Performance Company is designed for committed dancers who are ready to take their training, performance, and artistry to the next level. Dancers in this company compete in styles such as Jazz, Musical Theater, Lyrical, and Contemporary, and are selected through auditions. This group is ideal for dancers who are training at a high level and looking for growth, community, and preparation for success both within and beyond MDU.

Members of the Performance Company will:

- Train in multiple styles and learn choreography
- Experience travel opportunities every few years
- Take part in our large group production that either opens or closes the Recital shows each year.

**Traveling Teams** *Elite dancers selected from Performance Company*

Our most advanced dancers may be chosen to join a Traveling Team, an elite extension of Performance Company. These dancers rehearse twice a week and attend 2 additional convention events (competition + weekend classes). They represent MDU at a higher level of commitment and excellence.

**Crew, Crew Jr., and Guys Competition Team** *Hip Hop Competition Teams*

**Crew Jr.** (ages 9–12), **Crew** (ages 13+), **Guys** (ages 8+) are high-energy Hip Hop teams for dancers who love to perform, train hard, and bring serious style to the stage. These audition-based groups focus exclusively on Hip Hop technique and choreography.

Dancers on these teams will:

- Train weekly in Hip Hop and performance skills
- Grow in precision, performance quality, and stage presence

### **Footworks & Footworks Jr. Tap Competition Teams**

**Footworks Jr.** (ages 9–12) and **Footworks** (ages 13+) are dynamic Tap teams for dancers who love rhythm, musicality, and the challenge of tap! These audition-based groups focus on developing strong tap technique and performance skills in a competitive setting.

Dancers on these teams will:

- Train weekly in Tap and choreography
- Build clarity, speed, and musical precision

### **Solos, Duets & Trios Opportunities for Competitive Team dancers only**

Select dancers in our competition teams may prepare and compete with a solo, duet, or trio. This is a unique opportunity to grow artistically, receive individualized coaching, and gain stage experience in a more personal format. Dancers must be placed on a competition team to be eligible. Limited number of spots are given each year.

## **Ballet Programs** -

### ***Ballet La Crosse Semi-Professional Ballet Company | Ages 7+***

Ballet La Crosse is a semi-professional ballet company dedicated to enriching our community through high-quality classical performances and providing serious ballet students with professional-caliber training and stage experience.

This audition-based program offers:

- Participation in full-length **story ballets** and **mixed repertory** productions
- Professional-style rehearsals and performance opportunities
- Training that reflects the **expectations of the professional ballet world**
- A chance to work with **experienced choreographers and directors**
- Performances for local audiences, inspiring a deeper appreciation for the classical arts

### ***Pre-Professional Ballet Program (Pre-Pro) Advanced Ballet Training & Mentorship | Completed Level 3+***

The **Pre-Pro Ballet Program** is designed for dedicated ballet students who are serious about their future in dance. This audition-based program offers advanced

training, personalized mentorship, and valuable performance opportunities to help dancers prepare for auditions, summer intensives, and potential careers in the professional ballet world.

Dancers in Pre-Pro will:

- Train at an advanced level with increased focus on technique, artistry, and versatility
- Receive **individual mentorship** from experienced instructors
- Spend more hours in the studio
- Build a strong foundation for **college, conservatory, or professional audition success**

### **Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) *Elite Ballet Opportunity | By Invitation & Inquiry Only***

**YAGP** is the world's largest global network of dance, offering advanced ballet students a unique opportunity to compete, connect, and grow on an international stage. Through Youth America Grand Prix, dancers gain access to elite training and exposure that can shape their future in the professional dance world. This opportunity is ideal for highly motivated ballet students seeking an elevated training and performance experience. Dancers interested in YAGP must inquire directly to be considered.

Dancers participating in YAGP will:

- Compete at 1–2 YAGP events
- Receive private coaching to prepare for competition
- Take part in master classes, scholarship auditions, and educational opportunities
- Connect with leading schools, companies, choreographers, and fellow dancers
- Be seen by directors and faculty from major international dance institutions

# Competition Team Track

Ages 5+

