

Family Museum Dance Company Guidelines 2026–2027

- **Membership:**

- Dancers must be at least 10 years old by September 1, 2026.
- Dancers must be enrolled in a Ballet 4 or higher level ballet class, plus at least two additional classes of ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop or modern.
- Dancers may choose to enroll in individual sessions, or participate in both.
 - Fall/Winter: September 8 – December 15
 - Spring: January 12 – May 25
- **Deadline to register for BOTH the Fall/Winter and/or Spring Session is August 16. Please register by completing the Google Form that will be emailed out after the audition.**
- Each session that a dancer is enrolled in will have a non-refundable \$250 fee. This fee helps cover the cost of studio space, rehearsal and choreography time, staff administrative time, costuming and production elements, guest teachers, and extra social events throughout the year.
- \$250 Fee is due by the first day of each session in which the dancer is participating.
- Family Museum Dance Company rehearsals will be held Tuesdays, 7:30–9:00pm. Walking in the door at 7:30pm is late. Please do not be late.
- FMDC is not a competition team. We view dance as a performing art, and we will have opportunities to perform as a company at the Museum and throughout the community.
- Tuition payments for all dance classes must be kept up to date.

- **Attendance Policy:**

- Must commit to the entire session of rehearsals. **Dancers may not be absent on dress rehearsals or performance dates.**
- Absences that conflict with FMDC rehearsals must be submitted with **written notice one month before the conflict will occur.**
- Absences due to illness or injury must be communicated via email or phone call by a parent or dancer before rehearsal begins.
- Dancers who have more than 2 schedule conflicts within a session are encouraged not to participate in the company for that session.
- Dancers who miss 2 rehearsals for a performance due to schedule conflicts, illness or injury may be replaced by an understudy or removed from the dance.
- Attendance and participation in your 3 technique classes per week is extremely important. Inconsistent attendance or lack of participation due to injury in your regular classes may affect casting decisions and/or your participation in FMDC.

- **Costumes:**

- All costumes will be provided by the Family Museum and are property of the Family Museum. Please return all costumes after each performance. Dancers are responsible for providing their own shoes, tights, and undergarments.
- Please notify Ms. Jessica immediately if your costume has become damaged.
- Dancers who do not return costumes may be charged a costume replacement fee.

- **Dancer Responsibilities:**

- Dancers are responsible for knowing their rehearsal schedule and communicating absences or conflicts with their choreographer. Please ask your choreographer if you are unsure about your schedule.
- Dancers should come to rehearsals focused and ready to work. Though we will most definitely have fun, remember that we have extremely limited time to put together choreography! Good attention in rehearsal is necessary. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and dancers who consistently display this type of behavior will be asked to leave the company.
- Dancers are required to keep a notebook with their choreography written down and bring it to rehearsal every Tuesday. Dancers are responsible for reviewing choreography on their own time before their next rehearsal.
- All casting decisions are final. Dancers are welcome and encouraged to learn any part as an understudy. If you have questions or concerns about casting, please make an appointment to visit with us privately.
- Negativity will not be tolerated. Please refrain from any negative gossip or attitudes. Dancers displaying negativity may be asked to leave the company. If an issue arises, please make an appointment to visit with us privately.

- **Parent and Dancer information:**

- Please bookmark our FMDC webpage for access to the most up-to-date information including schedules, casting, music and rehearsal videos: www.familymuseum.org/fmdc

- **Contact info:**

- Jessica Halfhill: 563-344-4151 or jhalfhill@bettendorf.org
- Chelsea Nicholson: 563-344-4163 or cnicholson@bettendorf.org
- Caitlyn Smyth: 563-344-4109 or csmyth@bettendorf.org
- Claudia Hoogerwerf: 563-344-4155 or choogerwerf@bettendorf.org