

# FAQ ABOUT



## **Is En Avant a Recreational Program?**

No. En Avant is a preparatory, preprofessional program which helps dancers learn the in's and out's of dancing with a professional ballet company. It is designed to meet the needs of dancers who have a specific love for ballet and want to foster a growth in technique and performance ability.

## **How is Placement on the En Avant Youth Ballet Company Determined?**

- All dancers are required to audition at MDM for the En Avant Youth Ballet Company; either in person on the scheduled day in May or by video submission.
- Placement on En Avant is based on performance quality, ability and technique as determined by the En Avant faculty.
- Dancers must audition each year; placement is not transferred from year to year.

## **Who is Eligible to Audition for the En Avant Youth Ballet Company?**

- Dancers aged 9 through dancers aged 18 as of January 1, 2026.
- In general, dancers must be skilled at a Ballet Level 4 in order to audition. Some exceptions may be made by faculty approval. Dancers must have a minimum of three years of ballet training.
- Dancers must be committed to taking classes at MDM and are not allowed to take ANY technique classes at other studios unless approved by Miss Trudy or Miss Jana.
- Dancers must have a zero account balance in order to audition for En Avant Youth Ballet Company.

## **What are the Performance Opportunities for En Avant Members?**

- En Avant members may have an opportunity to participate in the following performances/competitions:
  - Group and/or Solo performance at a Fall/Winter out of town convention
  - MDM Short & Suite Nutcracker (December)
  - Group and/or Solo performance at Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) in Spring (Feb.)
  - Local Dance Competitions with our Competition Company (March/April)

## **What are the Class Requirements?**

- Dancers ages 9 -13 and under: 2 ballet classes & 1 contemporary class per week at MDM
- Dancers ages 14+: 3 ballet classes & 1 contemporary class per week at MDM
- For Dancers En Pointe: 2 ballet classes per week en pointe (1 must be a technique class and the other can be a technique class or a specialty class such as Partnering or Variations)

## **What is the Additional Rehearsal Time Commitment?**

- In addition to the weekly class requirements, En Avant members are required to attend weekly rehearsals during the duration of the En Avant season. These are mandatory and only a few absences per year will be allowed.

## **What is the Financial Commitment?**

- The cost to participate in the En Avant Youth Ballet Company varies depending on the number of group dances a dancer is cast in as well as whether or not a dancer participates in YAGP. In general, a dancer who participates in one group dance, Nutcracker and 1 group dance will incur fees approximating \$1,000 — \$3,000. These fees are payable in 7-8 monthly installments and include choreography fees, rehearsal fees, competition entry fees, costumes, performance fees and administrative costs.