



MARCH 2021

HIGH SCHOOL

DRILL TEAM

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HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM

INTRODUCTION

Dance is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many individuals. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have guidelines and procedures that everyone must follow so that each person may grow as an individual dancer and make a positive contribution to the entire group.

PHILOSOPHY OF DANCE EDUCATION

The study and performance of dance is an opportunity that our young people truly need. It is not our goal as teachers to make professional dancers of our students, but rather it is to enable them to enjoy fully the life-long benefits of learning to dance and expressing themselves through movement. The skills learned in our school dance program — self-discipline, increased self-esteem, group cooperation, commitment, responsibility to self and to a group, and teamwork — will be reflected in a successful adult life. Knowing that great performances are the fruits of a considerable investment in preparation, hard work, and lessons learned from failure, the opportunity to enjoy a new level of communication and self-expression is the goal for every dancer, young or old. Creativity is within us all, and dance serves as the perfect vehicle for this journey in personal growth and in the development of knowledge and skills.

PURPOSE

- To build character and develop positive traits such as school pride, good sportsmanship and a positive campus image at school activities
- To learn the value of teamwork through collaboration and working graciously with others
- To promote participation and competition through precision group dance team performance.
- To promote positive crowd involvement at school activities.

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM DIRECTORS

We the directors understand that your time is very valuable; therefore, we will communicate with you as far in advance as possible for any events, rehearsals, performances, and contests. We will communicate this with students and parents in a variety of ways. We will do our best to construct the calendar so that major dance events, such as dance shows, do not fall on school-sponsored events. Please keep in mind that performances take priority over a “practice” of any other activity. If or when conflicts arise, please understand the necessity of informing the directors well in advance. This will give time to resolve or work around conflicts in a timely manner. It is on rare occasions that conflicts cannot be resolved.

Communication is the key to resolution. In return, the directors pledge to you that we will do the same. We will also attempt to work around other campus activities, but cannot guarantee that there will be no conflicts. Please refer to the attendance expectations in this handbook for further information on attendance requirements.

In addition, we the directors will be transparent on an individual basis when the subjects of audition, discipline, grades, finances, commitment and communication arise.

WHAT THE PARENT BRINGS TO DANCE

Parents play an integral role in the success of our dance program as well. Parents can be sure that everyone understands the expectations and important dates by reading through the campus and district dance handbook, discussing it with your student, and reviewing it during the school year. Rehearsal and performance attendance is key to encouraging a student’s success. Your student enjoys showing off their

talents by performing for parents and friends. Parents enjoy attending performances and games where they can notice improvement and admire their child's hard work knowing that their time and efforts are beneficial.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

The involvement of dance parents is crucial to student success and that of the dance program. These suggestions to parents will help students be successful!

- Attend every performance that you can to see your child's progress. (The dance students love hearing parent applause!)
- Help your child arrive on time to all dance performances, rehearsals and events.
- Pick up your child at the stated end of all dance rehearsals, events and performances.
- Volunteer and assist with dance activities throughout the year.
- Regularly check our calendar and reminders for announcements and updates.
- Take time to read this along with the campus handbook, and any dance newsletters with your student(s) noting all events.
- Create a personal calendar, along with your child, that will help anticipate future events and avoid schedule problems.
- * Volunteering is a necessity

BOOSTER/PARENT GROUPS

The main objectives of the program's parent booster club is to support and enhance the instructional program and to provide program communication to students and parents. There are various expenses necessary to run a quality Fine Arts program, which may not be covered by the District. Such expenses include expert clinicians, contest fees and expenses, meals for students, student leadership conferences, student scholarships, etc. The vast majority of the booster club revenue and time is spent on educational activities. We encourage all parents and students to participate in booster club fundraising activities throughout the school year. The booster club does not take any role in determining program or educational decisions. Attendance at booster club meetings is encouraged.

The following links might be helpful when one has questions about booster groups:

- From Humble ISD Community Development:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13xmDP6V-P8pBhNB2X1e5KvoDsEaf2Pqp/view>
- From University Interscholastic League
<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/guidelines-for-booster-clubs>

AUDITION ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates must be a rising 8th grader, or in grades 9, 10 or 11.
- All students are allowed to try out regardless of grade eligibility at the time of tryouts. A student is eligible to try out for next year's membership even if they have failed a course during the previous grading period. This student is also eligible to participate in practice sessions prior to tryouts.
- Candidates must meet HISD residency requirements
- Candidates must meet campus requirements for discipline and conduct
- Candidates must meet campus requirements for parent/candidate meeting and pre-tryout clinics
- Each director will schedule the required practice sessions prior to tryouts
- For auditions there may be an audition fee.
- Returning members who have outstanding fees may be in jeopardy of not being able to try out.

- Prior to tryouts, each candidate must have on file with the director the following:
 - Candidates must have an up to date physical
 - Candidates and their parents will agree to the district and campus handbook requirements, as well as all financial commitments/ responsibilities. (Constitutions/Handbooks should be posted on the website. Include all forms that need parent signatures.)
 - Other, as determined by the campus director, might include: current report card; conduct report; recommendations; etc.

MOVE INTO SCHOOL AFTER AUDITION

Students new to the school that were placed on their previous school's dance team for the current school year may receive an audition at the time of their enrollment at the discretion of the director. Each campus will have a cut-off date for allowing students to audition/join for the upcoming school year.

Students new to the school and not previously on a dance team must wait until regularly scheduled tryouts are conducted as determined by the campus director.

TIME COMMITMENT

In general, there are three seasons for Drill Team members. These seasons usually begin shortly after tryouts/auditions. - Summer Season - Football Season - Contest and Spring Show Season. Each season has its own required amount of practice and rehearsal time. Dance team members are required to be at summer camp, all practices, games, outside school events, fundraisers, performances, competitions and other activities determined by the director. Events, practices and performances, with the exception of football playoff games, will be communicated in advance. Each campus team will have their own expectations for attendance, absentee, excused absences, unexcused absences, emergencies, etc.

Summer Season: Each campus director will have a schedule of rehearsals for the days when school is not in session during the months of June and/or July. In addition, there will be scheduled rehearsals/practices previous to the first day of school.

Football Season: A member who is not performing during a given week is still expected to attend practices and performances unless previous communication and approval by the director is given. Each campus will set attendance expectations, and this may cause a member to not be eligible for performance(s).

Contest and Spring Show Season: Each campus will set a practice schedule. The practice schedule may not be the same for each member due to group and ensemble practices. Each campus will set attendance expectations, and this may cause a member to not be eligible for performance(s).

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Each campus will set a fee and payment schedule. Depending on the scheduled activities during the upcoming year, fundraisers, contest costumes, and/or previous year membership, financial commitment may vary. There may be a yearly, supply/equipment, camp and/or travel fees. Parents should contact the head director for options in meeting financial obligations.

Fees are non-negotiable and non-refundable.. See specific campus program addenda for a detailed description of required fees. Any student who voluntarily or involuntarily withdraws from the program will forfeit all deposited funds.

In compliance with Internal Revenue Service mandates, all monies earned through fund raising activities belong to the organization's general fund and will be dispersed equally among all student members participating in the activities of the program. There are no refunds granted from fund raising activities.

Trip funds may be non-refundable depending on the specific trip payment agreement and date of request. Trip Insurance is available; however insurance does not cover ineligibility due to failing grades. Any student who voluntarily or involuntarily withdraws from the instructional program will forfeit all deposited monies. Any student's parent may appeal in writing the decision of the staff concerning refunds.

PHYSICAL

All drill team members (grades 7 - 12) must have a medical release form on file with the sponsors/directors before they may participate in any type of workout or summer camp. This includes pre-audition activities.

For pre-audition activities:

- If you are auditioning as a returning member, your physical form is already on file and entered into Rank One.
- If you are auditioning as a new member:
 - And you were on a middle school dance team or in athletics as an 8th grader, your physical form from the previous Summer is already on file and entered into Rank One.
 - And you were not on a middle school dance team nor in athletics as an 8th grader, you need to turn in a physical form to either the campus director or the campus athletic trainer previous to the first day of audition activities

Form for physicals may be obtained from your high school athletic trainer or online (see below). Note: The drill team physical form is identical to the athletic physical form. If a student is in drill team and athletics, they only need 1 form.

See the Athletics Department webpage: <https://www.humbleisd.net/Page/159>

If a student is selected to the middle school dance team or high school drill team, (grades 7 - 12) they must also have their 'Rank One' paperwork and forms filled out. www.rankonesport.com (right side of bar) "FILL OUT ELECTRONIC FORMS" select the state "tx" click the School District's Name "Humble ISD" click on "ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION FORMS" COMPLETE FORM AND "SUBMIT"

In addition, each campus program may have their own 'Medical Information' form.

TRAINERS/INJURIES

At any time if a dancer has an injury, they may visit the high school trainer. The high school trainer can help with expediting the injury. The goal is the physical safety of the dancer. Each high school campus has certified training staff that can assist with medical emergencies, injuries, referrals, treatment and treatment plans.

The trainers on staff provide service to both the athletic students, and the Fine Arts band and dance students.

SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Tryout Qualifications

- Candidates must meet HISD residency requirements
- Candidates are allowed to tryout regardless of grade eligibility at the time of tryouts

- Candidates must meet campus program requirements for parent/candidate agreement form, meeting and pre-tryout clinics.
- Candidates must have a physical on file with the campus (see Physicals in the previous section)
- Candidates and their parents must agree to all financial commitments and responsibilities.
- Candidates and their parents will agree to the district and campus handbook requirements.

Tryout Procedures

- Team sizes will be determined by the director and campus
- Tryouts will be held before a panel of judges. Judges may include the campus directors, administrators, or panel of judges.
- Tryouts are closed to observers
- Campuses will develop a scoring rubric that will be given to candidates prior to tryouts.
- Tryout scoring will be based on a method determined by the campus and may include an interview or classroom performance record (including discipline and/or grades), as well as skills evaluation.
- Procedures for officer tryouts will be determined by the campus director
- Audition procedures may involve call backs.

Post Tryout

- No score sheets will be distributed and all tallies will be kept on file at the school.
- Each campus program will provide their own method for posting audition results
- If you wish to speak with someone about the audition you will need to contact a campus director to set up an appointment for a conversation to take place at a later date.

MERITS - DEMERITS - DISCIPLINE

Merits

Each campus program can develop a standard of merits in order to award members for giving extra time, energy, effort and performance quality to the betterment of the organization and school. Approved actions and number of merits given will be campus based. Members are responsible for seeking out merit opportunities. Members are also responsible for recording and submitting merits at designated times.

Demerits

The demerit system keeps the standards of discipline and performance strong within the organization. Demerits will be given to members who fail to abide by organization rules and performance standards. Demerits can be assigned for something that occurs during school, at a school related event, and in a members 'free' time. Demerits will be exclusively assigned by the Directors. Officers can report infractions and incidents to the directors that warrant a demerit. Students receiving demerits, not the directors, are responsible for letting their parents know when they receive demerits.

Discipline

Although officers can report infractions and incidents to the directors, it is only the directors that can award demerits and/or administer discipline or disciplinary action. Directors may use discipline actions so students can work off demerits.

CONDUCT AND DUE PROCESS

Organizations with high performance standards also must have high disciplinary standards. Students represent themselves, their family, their program, their school, their District, and their community at every activity. All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Each campus program can create, and will make available, a listing of infractions which lead to demerits or further disciplinary actions.

In order to maintain consistency in our programs throughout the district, we have formulated a Fine Arts Council. The Fine Arts Council shall consist of the campus teacher, the campus Fine Arts department head, a campus administrator, and a Fine Arts Director.

Any behavior that is not conducive to good citizenship will subject the student to "Due Process" that may result in dismissal from the organization. "Due Process" shall be defined as a student's right to discuss with the instructor, and then a Fine Arts Director, any decision regarding action that would result in the student's loss of grade, suspension from activities, or expulsion from the organization.

Students and/or parents may discuss any item of concern with their respective directors at an appropriate time in the appropriate place. If a satisfactory resolution has not been reached, the students/parents may contact the Humble ISD Fine Arts Administration to discuss the matter further. If the concern has not been resolved either by the directors or by the Fine Arts Administration, the Fine Arts Administration may schedule a conference with the Fine Arts Council. The student and/or parent will be provided with an opportunity to address the Fine Arts Council.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academic Eligibility Rules

A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the three-week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class other than an identified eligibility-exempt high school course. This suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student's grade in each class, other than an identified eligibility-exempt high school course, is seventy or greater. A student may continue to practice or rehearse with other students for an extracurricular activity but may not participate in such an activity until the suspension is lifted. A suspended student may regain eligibility seven days after the grading period ends or seven days after a three-week evaluation period.

Additional Eligibility Rules For High School

A student must meet the following requirements in order to participate in extracurricular activities during the first six weeks of the fall semester.

- NINTH GRADE – PROMOTED from the eighth grade to the ninth grade
- TENTH GRADE – earned at least five (5) state approved credits toward graduation
- ELEVENTH GRADE – earned at least ten (10) state approved credits toward graduation, or during the preceding twelve months he/she must have earned five (5) state approved credits
- TWELFTH GRADE – earned at least fifteen (15) state approved credits toward graduation, or during the preceding twelve months, he/she must have earned five (5) state approved credit.

EXTRACURRICULAR

An activity is considered extracurricular if any one of the following criteria apply:

1. The activity is competitive;
2. The activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular;
3. The activity is held off campus, except in the case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;

4. The general public is invited; or

5. An admission is charged.

CO-CURRICULAR

A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) in a public performance, may participate in the performance subject to the following requirements and limitations:

1. Only the extracurricular criterion #4 listed above applies to the performance; and

2. The requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) of the course.

A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation, may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance.

MORE INFORMATION

TEA-UL Side-by-Side

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/policy/TEA_UL_Side_by_Side_20-21.pdf

GRADING / ATTENDANCE / CONDUCT / ATTITUDE

Grading/Attendance

Learning objectives are based on performance skills, responsibility, and participation. Therefore, students are expected to fulfill individual as well as group responsibilities. Since Fine Arts courses are performance-based team activities, all students are required to attend all performances and rehearsals (see Attendance above).

Conduct/Attitude

Conduct during drill team dance class is based upon a member's participation and willingness to work hard with the proper attitude. A member is expected to come to class exhibiting a willingness to do all that is required, with a respectful and courteous attitude. Having a positive attitude and a great work ethic is the director's primary focus when evaluating a member's conduct grade. Being responsible for personal items, turning things in on time, being on time to class, and wearing the proper attire are also considered when evaluating conduct grades.

All Humble ISD policies in the 'Student Code of Conduct' will be adhered to.

UNIFORMS / PROPS

Wearing your drill team uniform is a privilege and should be an object of pride. It bears the school colors. It needs to be kept in excellent condition. Drill Team members are financially responsible for all uniforms and equipment (props) that have been issued to them.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Being a member on an Humble ISD Drill Team is a privilege. Drill Team members in Humble ISD are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you but benefit the whole team.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Snapchat and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of students in one form or another. Drill Team members shall not engage in inappropriate or offensive behaviors in regards to social media as outlined below.

Drill Team members should be aware that third parties—including the media, faculty, future employees and universities could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posts. This can be detrimental to a Drill Team member's future employment options whether in dance or in other industries.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posts showing or promoting the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., holding cups, bottles, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Content on line that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school, taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No post should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling discrimination, fighting, vandalism, and academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of team, school and league rules (examples: Commenting publicly about a coach, teammate, opponent, official, school, staff member and school employees.)
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

Everything you post is public information-any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed on line even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it.

Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

Return this form to your campus program director

STUDENT

- I have read the HISD Fine Arts Dance Handbook and Campus Addenda.
- I have read the rules and expectations for the course and I agree to abide by them.
- I realize that my failure to abide by the regulations or to carry out my responsibilities may result in my suspension or immediate dismissal from the team.
- I also understand that by not signing the handbook, I am waiving my right to any and all participation with the dance team.

Student Name: _____

(Print)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I acknowledge receiving and reviewing the rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures governing my student's participation in the Fine Arts instructional program. I also realize that my student consequently will need my assistance in time management and scheduling. I hereby give consent for my student to participate in rehearsals, practices, and performances for the Humble ISD Fine Arts program, and I realize their behavior will be setting the example for their family, their school, our community.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

(Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOS FOR PROGRAM SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Sometimes we like to feature our student members participating in rehearsals, performances, and other activities on social Media sites for the purpose of promoting the program. This may include: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the program website. Signing this will give us your consent to use your student's photo on those particular sites:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____