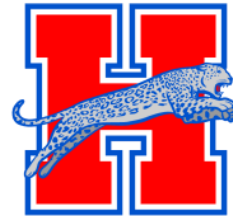


Midlothian ISD
Drill Team Constitution
2023-2024



Purpose

The purpose of the Midlothian ISD Drill Teams is to provide young dancers with the opportunity to develop and promote school spirit as a group, throughout the entire school year; and to strive for excellence in dance through quality training and performances.

Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role and will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior and academic achievement both on and off campus than that of their peers.

Objectives

Drill Team members are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering routines. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performances.

Drill Team Year

The rules and procedures outlined in this handbook are in effect for one (1) Drill Team Year. High School Drill Team year is from End of Year Banquet to End of Year Banquet. Middle School Drill Team year is from Tryout date to Spring Show.

Middle School Drill Team

Participation in the Middle School Drill Team is intended to be a preparation for High School dance and drill team while serving as a learning experience for future dance involvement. Current 6th and 7th grade Dancers interested in Drill Team must audition for the team at their respective school. If a 7th or 8th grader does not make any team, they have the option to take the dance class for more experience.

High School Junior Varsity

Participation in Junior Varsity Drill team is intended to be a preparation for Varsity dance and drill while serving as a learning experience for future dance involvement. Students wishing to participate in JV Drill Team are required to tryout. The deadline for enrollment and/or tryouts is established at each campus.

High School Varsity

Tryouts for Varsity Drill team are open to all 8-11th grade students in good standing. Varsity Drill Team is a year long commitment, and is intended to build campus leaders, promote school spirit and prepare students for future dance involvement.

Commitment

Students selected to be a member of the Drill Team are expected to make a commitment to the activity for a full Drill Team Year. Members are expected to attend camps, and scheduled rehearsals and remain in good standing. Good standing is defined as a member who has passed all classes the current school year, and received less than ten (10) demerits. Any Drill Team member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the Drill Team year will not be eligible to tryout for the next year.

The guidelines set forth are designed to ensure program standards for all Drill Team members. The Directors reserve the right to make accommodations and adjustments based on extenuating circumstances that are in the best interest of the team. In addition, all Drill Team members will abide by these guidelines , any changes to these guidelines will be put into immediate effect with proper notice to all Drill Team members.

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DRILL TEAM TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

Middle School Line Member Selection

1. Drill Team hopefuls may try out at the conclusion of their 6th and 7th grade year. All new hopefuls and returning veterans will go through an audition process.
2. Candidates that are removed from any campus Drill Team or Cheerleading Squad for disciplinary reasons, or voluntarily quit for any reason during the Drill Team year will not be eligible to try out for any MISD Drill Team.
3. Candidates must reside in the zone of the school they are trying out for, and the candidate must currently be an MISD student. Candidates enrolled in MISD schools must try out on the designated tryout date. No late tryouts will be accepted.
4. An individual wishing to be a member of the Drill Team at a particular school who did not meet the residency requirements at the time of tryouts may still audition for the team under the following conditions:
 - a. This tryout process must be completed by August 1st of the upcoming school year. Students that move in after the above date will be encouraged to try out in the Spring for the next school year.
 - b. Proof of residency or approved transfer must be approved prior to the individual's tryout date.
 - c. The individual must have been a drill team member in good standing at the previous school. A letter of recommendation from the previous director must be provided.
 - d. Audition process will include:
 - i. Trying out in front of Director and Varsity Officer Line
 - ii. The Director will assign a tryout routine, either the current team tryout routine or the tryout routine from their previous school
 - iii. Display of High Kicks, leaps, turns, splits, and other various dance techniques.
 - e. If the candidate makes the team, they will be considered a first year Drill Team member.

Middle School Squad Leader Selection

1. The dance team will have squad leaders and the number of squad leaders will be based on the scores and the needs of the team.
2. Individuals who wish to try out for a squad leader position must have been a member of the Middle School competition dance team for one year at the campus at which they are auditioning.
3. Squad leader tryouts are held after Line tryouts, and may be held in conjunction with team tryouts, at the discretion of the Director.
4. All selected Squad leaders will become active Squad Leaders immediately following the conclusion of the Middle School Season.
5. Squad leaders must be in good standing at tryouts and are to remain in good standing throughout the entirety of the school year.

Squad Leader Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

1. Accept the decisions of the director
2. Be a servant leader and role model for the team
3. Know the rules and advise members accordingly
4. Aid, when asked, in handling uniform, jacket and prop distribution
5. Report any problems to the director
6. Assist in any teaching or leading additional practices
7. Inform the director of their squad, including absences and demerits
8. Assist the director in choreographing dance routines
9. Attend additional rehearsals called by the director

High School JV / Varsity Line Member Selection

5. Drill Team hopefuls may tryout for at the conclusion of their Eighth grade, Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior year for the drill team. All new hopefuls and returning veterans will go through an audition process.
6. Candidates that are removed from any campus Drill Team or Cheerleading Squad for disciplinary reasons, or voluntarily quit for any reason during the Drill Team year will not be eligible to try out for any MISD Drill Team.
7. Candidates must reside in the zone of the school they are trying out for, and the candidate must currently be an MISD student. Candidates enrolled in MISD schools must try out on the designated tryout date. No late tryouts will be accepted.
8. An individual wishing to be a member of the Drill Team at a particular school who did not meet the residency requirements at the time of tryouts may still audition for the team under the following conditions:
 - a. This tryout process must be completed by August 1st of the upcoming school year. Students that move in after the above date will be encouraged to try out in the Spring for the next school year.
 - b. Proof of residency or approved transfer must be approved prior to the individual's tryout date.
 - c. The individual must have been a drill team member in good standing at the previous school. A letter of recommendation from the previous director must be provided.
 - d. Audition process will include:
 - i. Trying out in front of Director and Varsity Officer Line
 - ii. The Director will assign a tryout routine, either the current team tryout routine or the tryout routine from their previous school
 - iii. Display of High Kicks, leaps, turns, splits, and other various dance techniques.
 - e. If the candidate makes the team, they will be considered a first year Drill Team member.
9. Becoming academically ineligible three times in a school year will constitute dismissal from a **High School** team. Line members that are removed due to failing grades, prior to tryouts, may participate in line member tryouts for the following drill team year. If a team member is removed from the team more than once due to grades, they may be ineligible to try out again. *This does not pertain to Middle School Teams.*
10. A consecutive three year High School VARSITY member in good standing with the team can be "grandfathered" onto the team for their Senior Year. Those members that are grandfathered will be required to participate in tryouts at the discretion of the director.

High School JV Leadership Selection

JV sergeants are varsity drill team members who assist the JV team. JV Squad leaders will be chosen by the director through a process of dance technique, teaching, interview and team vote. The number of Sergeants and Squad Leaders will be based on the needs of the team.

High School Varsity Officer Selection and Retention

1. The number of officers selected will be based on scores and the needs of the team.
2. Individuals interested in trying out for an officer position must have been a Varsity Drill Team member for a minimum of one year at the campus for which they are auditioning. Officer Tryouts are held after line tryouts, and can be held in conjunction with line tryouts, at the discretion of the Director.
3. The officer candidate with the highest score shall become Captain. The officer candidate with the second highest score will become 1st Lieutenant. All other officers will be named Lieutenants.
4. Candidates trying out for officer positions must have been academically eligible in all classes for each grading period of the current school year.
5. All selected Officers will become "officers in waiting" immediately after officer results are announced. "Officers in waiting" become "active officers" immediately following the banquet for the following Drill Team Year.
6. Selected officers can be an "active officer" and an "officer in waiting" simultaneously.
7. Any "active officer" that fails **ANY** class* will immediately be demoted to a line member for the remainder of that Drill Team Year. (ANY class* - includes all scheduled courses including Advanced Academics)
8. Any "officer in waiting" that fails **ANY** class* will immediately be demoted to a line member for the upcoming Drill Team Year.(ANY class* - includes all scheduled courses including Advanced Academics)
9. Any payments made after demotion, that cannot be refunded, will be lost.
10. Officer vacancies will be reviewed and at the discretion of the Director may be filled with the next highest score from the most previous officer tryout.

Officer Responsibilities include but are not limited to

1. Accept the decisions of the director
2. Be a servant leader and role model for the team
3. Accept the Captain as the head officer
4. Accept the First Lieutenant as the second commanding officer
5. Know the rules and advise members accordingly
6. Aid, when asked, in handling uniform, jacket and prop distribution
7. Report any problems to the Director
8. Assist in any teaching or workshop sessions
9. Inform the director of their squad, including absences and demerits
10. Assist the director in choreographing dance routines
11. Attend additional practices as called by the director
12. All other duties as assigned by the director

High School Council and Retention

1. The council is an elected group of team members whose purpose is to represent, support, and promote spirit within the organization. The number of council members will be based on team votes and the needs of the team as defined by the Director.

2. Any Council member who becomes academically ineligible will be immediately demoted to line member for the remainder of that Drill Team Year.
3. Any payments made after demotion, that cannot be refunded from a vendor, will be lost.

Council Member Responsibilities include but are not limited to

1. Cleaning & Decorating of the locker room
2. Planning outside social activities
3. Organize Teacher of the Week
4. Planning and making football gifts for opposing team's drill team
5. Planning spirit gifts for other school organizations on behalf of the team
6. Planning winter retreat & banquet
7. Work with and support the dance officers in everything they do
8. Attend council camp at their own expense
9. Meet at least once a month to plan and organize
10. Organize community Service events

High School Sergeants

The High School Sergeants are High School Varsity Drill Team Members who sign up and are selected by the Directors. These students have shown an interest in leadership positions and will be assigned to assist with the High School JV Drill Team. Assigned duties will change based on the strengths and needs of the JV team.

Drill Team Member Requirements

General Rules

1. Members must be free to spend the necessary time, as determined by the Director, both during the summer and during the school year.
2. Members are required to attend summer camp, determined by the Director, at their own expense.
3. High School officers (Varsity, JV and sergeants) and Middle School Squad leaders may be required to attend more than one camp.
4. Compliance with all school rules is required at all times. The student handbook is available on the MISD website.
5. Members must ride the bus to and from games, contests, and other performances. Students may be released to their parents for emergencies at the discretion of the Director with written documentation.
6. Members may not hold jobs, which may interfere with practices, performances, or other scheduled activities of the Drill Team.
7. If a Member chooses to participate in other school activities that may conflict with Drill Team requirements, they must be in constant communication with the Drill Team Director and get prior approval for missing any required activities. They must fulfill all Drill Team requirements to perform.
8. All fundraising must be for the Drill Team as a whole and approved by the Director and Administration. No Drill Team member may participate in any fundraising on their own. Each Drill Team member and parent/guardians are expected to participate in all fundraising events.
9. Any concerns from Drill Team members or parent/guardians should be initially addressed by the Director in an attempt to resolve the concern prior to requesting a meeting with Campus Administration.

Tardies & Absences

1. If a member is tardy to practice/class, they need to notify the Director as soon as possible. The Director has the option of excusing the tardy and reserves the right to ensure that the excuse is valid. The Director's decision is final.
2. Reasonable efforts should be made in scheduling any and all appointments so that they do not conflict with Drill Team activities. Excused absences from practice include verified and documented personal illness or death in the family. If you anticipate needing to miss practice, it must be reported one week in advance. The director will determine if the absence will be excused, the Directors decision is final.
3. When a member is going to be absent the Director must be notified. If a member is too ill to attend school and will miss practice the Director must be notified by phone or email before practice/class. Failure to comply with these attendance requirements may trigger a disciplinary response.
4. Only in extreme circumstances should a member miss practice, or not participate, while preparing for performances. Any member who is absent, or does not participate, during

any practice the week of performance is not eligible to perform at the game, pep rally, or any other performance of the week unless approved by the director.

5. Absence from a performance, unless approved in advance by the director, may constitute immediate dismissal from the Drill Team or a Probationary period issued by the Director. If a Drill Team member knows in advance of a conflict that exists that may prevent them from participating in a performance they must ask permission to be excused from the performance as soon as the conflict arises. Excusal from a performance is at the discretion of the Director.
6. If a member is absent from school on the day of a performance, the member will not participate in the performance unless previously excused by the Director.

Practice

1. Practice begins and ends at the time designated by the director. Set practice times will be established and will be common knowledge to all drill team members.
2. Weekend practices will occur on a limited basis during Contest and Spring Show season.
3. Members must be on time. This is defined as, in place, wearing designated attire, and ready for warm up when practice time is set.
4. Members must wear designated attire. No gum chewing, eating, or wearing jewelry during practice. Hair must be out of the face. Only water is allowed during practice.
5. Members who are unable to dance due to an injury or recurring illness must still attend all team practices and events, dress out and follow drill team rules. Any Officer unable to dance due to an injury or recurring illness must continue to fulfill their officer duties and attend all practices and events.
6. Members present at school are expected to attend practice, even if excused from participating by the director.
7. No outside visitors are allowed to attend practice sessions, unless approved by the director.

Performance Participation Full Year (Football, Contest, Spring Show, Camps)

1. All members must participate in and attend all scheduled drill team activities. Appropriate dress and punctuality are required.
2. Members will be asked to purchase required items. Payment in full must be rendered prior to initial use. Payment plans may be discussed individually with the director.
3. Uniforms and Props purchased by the district that are assigned to a member must be maintained and stored appropriately. Any district property damaged or lost must be replaced by the member.
4. Auditions will be held for every performance. **High School Members** must be present on audition day to be eligible for performance. Any member who does not perform satisfactorily or is absent at the audition may be considered as a possible alternate for the designated performance as determined by the director. Middle school dancers will be able to make up their missed audition at a time agreed on by the director. All decisions are final.

5. At times alternates may be used at the discretion of the Director and based on the needs of the team.
6. Drill team members are required to abide by Texas No Pass No Play.
7. All ineligible members must attend and participate in all practices.

Football Game Performance Participation

1. During the football game, and at all times, team members are to conduct themselves in a responsible, respectable manner.
 - a. Non Members are not allowed to sit in the Drill Team section of the stands at any time.
 - b. Members will have the beginning of the third quarter during assigned games to visit with family and friends at the top of the drill team section of the stands.
 - c. Drill team members may not leave the designated third quarter gathering area unless given permission by the director.
 - d. All drill team members must return to their specified seating in the stands at the end of the third quarter, Failure to do so will constitute disciplinary action.
 - e. Only water, and Director approved snacks are allowed while in uniform.
 - f. All members are required to participate in stand routines, spirit line drills, and cheerleaders' yells as instructed by the director, captain and next officer or designated line member in charge.
 - g. Members are to remain in squad formation in the stands, as well as going to and from performances.
 - h. **High School** members who are not performing (Example: did not make the performance line, excess absences, injured, etc.) must still attend the performances, sit with the team in uniform, participate in Spirit line and yells and follow all Drill Team rules.
 - i. Any member on suspension, or who is ineligible due to grades, cannot travel with the team, wear the uniform or sit with the team.

Performance Appearance

1. All Spirit Wear/Uniforms/Costumes must be approved by the Director.
2. Gum Chewing, eating or drinking are prohibited while members are in uniform, with the exception of water
3. It is recommended that students wear Director approved, neutral colored eyewear during performances if needed
4. A complete uniform check will be made by the director and/or officers prior to game time or performance. Makeup and Hairstyle are part of the uniform and will be subject to correction and is the discretion of the Director. Those not passing final inspection will not perform until corrected and approved by the Director.
5. Pride in appearance and the wearing of the proper and complete uniform is mandatory. Appropriate undergarments are mandatory.

6. The uniform and poms will be kept clean and in good repair at all times and ready for a performance.
7. When wearing any drill team attire, including t-shirts, a member will look presentable and will not partake in any form of PDA
8. Drill team members will keep their hair a natural color. Any unnatural coloring could result in the loss of a performance.

Conduct

1. Upon making the team, members will be required to sign and adhere to the *District Substance Abuse Policy, Drill Team Constitution and the Drill Team Social Media Contract*. Officer and Council leaders will be required to sign and adhere to a contract listing expectations for the leadership on the team.
2. Members are expected to respect one another at all times. Line members are expected to cooperate with the officers at all times. Members are expected to report any problems immediately to an officer or the director.
3. A drill team member will be loyal to fellow team members. The member will also support and work pleasantly with all school organizations.
4. Members will be conscious of all actions knowing that drill team members should always conduct themselves in a respectable manner in and out of drill team attire. Members are representing MISD at all times.
5. If a member is assigned to OSS, the member will be suspended from the drill team.
6. A team member that is assigned to DAEP will be removed from the team immediately. If tryouts have already occurred, and the student made the team, the member will lose their eligibility for the following Drill team year.

Awards

A high school drill team member is eligible to letter if the member has successfully completed one Varsity Drill Team Year in good standing. The drill team member is responsible for all costs associated with the jacket. Minimally, the jacket will have a sailor collar and school emblem.

Demerits

All disciplinary action is determined and finalized by the director and campus principal. Demerits can be assigned, but are not limited to the following lists. Demerits may be assigned for actions not listed as determined by the director.

One Demerit:

- Late to practice, performance, the bus or any other activity or event
- Wearing incorrect practice attire
- Wearing jewelry during practice, event, competition and/or performance
- Wearing fingernail and/or toenail polish during event, competition and/or performance
- Hair is not out of the face during practice
- Forgetting a designated item for practice, performance, competition or event
- Not returning required paperwork or money on due date
- Not returning uniform/costume/prop pieces on the required day

- Drill team bag not properly packed for Games/events/competition/performance
- Leaving a uniform/costume in the dressing room/locker room
- Leaving a designated area at games, events, competition and/or performance without director approval and a parent escort
- Being late after 3rd quarter break
- A piece of uniform/costume falling off during performance due to not having properly pinned/secured for performance
- Officers/council/leaders not following through on assigned duties
- Talking during Spirit lines and/or during a performance

FIVE Demerits

- Absence from service shift/school/practice/event/performance without director approval
- PDA (public display of affection) during performance activities and/or while wearing ANY drill team attire (this includes uniform, t-shirts, costume, etc.)
- Disrespectful verbal and/or nonverbal actions towards the director and/or team members
- Office referral or teacher feedback of poor classroom behavior
- Assigned to detention for any reason

FIFTEEN Demerits - **will result in automatic suspension (4 calendar weeks)**

- Serious behavior that results in ISS/CHOICES for 2 or more days
- Serious behavior breach as determined by the director and campus administration (such as, but not limited to, an obscene post on social media, alcohol/tobacco, drug use and/or in possession)

(a Suspension will last four calendar weeks. While suspended, the member does not participate in any public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, team social activities, trips, and or activities but is still required to participate in all drill team practices. Any payments made for activities the member can no longer participate in due to suspension that cannot be refunded from a vendor will be lost.)

For every 5 demerits received the Member will sit out one performance, chosen by the Director.

If a member accumulates fifteen demerits they will be suspended.

If a member accumulates twenty demerits, the member will be removed from the drill team and prohibited from trying out the following drill team year.

Dismissal

Dismissal is defined as being removed from the drill team immediately without the opportunity to tryout the following drill team year. Dismissal can occur for the following reasons.

- Becoming Academically Ineligible three times in a drill team year (students can tryout for the following drill team year)
- Assignment to DAEP

- Any other severe action that the director, and campus administrations, feel does not represent the drill team organization in a positive way.