

# **Georgetown Independent School District Dance Team Handbook and Code of Ethics**

This document is designed for use as a guide to help students and parents become successful members of a GISD Dance Team. Good judgment and common sense will be used concerning issues that are not specifically addressed in the Constitution. A student's and parent's experiences in a Georgetown ISD Dance Team organization should be rewarding and long lasting. Personal qualities that are developed will be of benefit for a lifetime.

## **Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section 1: The official name of the East View High School Dance Team shall be the East View High School Sparkler Dance Team.

The official name of the Georgetown High School Dance Team shall be the Georgetown High School Georgette Dance Team.

The official name of the Wagner Middle School Dance Team shall be the Wagner Middle School Dazzler Dance Team.

Section 2: The purpose of this organization shall be to promote school spirit, strive for excellence in dance and to set an academic and behavioral example for fellow students. Dance team members will represent the middle/ high school at appropriate athletic events and school functions, as well as competitive dance events. Good sportsmanship and conduct will be stressed at all times. Further purpose includes developing character, leadership and individual responsibility in each member while maintaining high standards. Each team member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this constitution.

Section 3: The GISD Dance Teams have the option to create a Junior Varsity (JV) team after auditions using the scores from the judges. (High School)

Section 4: The Directors have the right to move a member on the JV team to the Varsity team after the first semester. (HS)

## **Article II: Commitment**

Section 1: Dance team is a year round activity. Student and family schedules will sometimes need to be adjusted to accommodate a commitment to the organization. A performance and activity calendar will be provided to each student in a timely fashion and will also be posted on the website.

Section 2: Dance team members practice every regular school day from August through May unless otherwise noted. (HS)

- Section 3: Dance team includes many summer commitments such as camp, rehearsals/practices and fundraisers that each member is required to attend.
- Section 4: Students must notify a director of any conflict with other activities prior to the day of the dance team event/practice. Failure to do so may result in loss of performance status. It is the responsibility of the student to understand the importance of always being a team player.
- Section 5: Attendance is required at all dance team activities. Should a conflict arise that is school related, every effort will be made to work through the conflict.

### **Article III: Team Membership Eligibility Requirements**

- Section 1: Student members must be full time students at the respective high school and be enrolled in the school's dance team class. (HS)
- Section 2: All dance team candidates must have and maintain a scholastic average of 80. Grade criterion for selection of members is based on the average of all nine week grading periods of the current school year, prior to auditions. (HS) All dance team candidates must have and maintain a scholastic average of 70. (MS)
- Section 3: Dance team candidates must have and maintain a conduct rating of Satisfactory or Excellent. A candidate for a line position may not have received more than one disciplinary referral during the current school year prior to auditions. Students who have been assigned to ISS/BIC or have been suspended will not be allowed to audition for the dance team. Exceptions can be made for offenses that director and campus level administrator determine to be of a minor nature.
- Section 4: Candidates must provide a copy of grades, parental consent form, physical waiver and expense sheet with all appropriate parent signatures. All documents must be submitted by an assigned date.
- Section 5: Any student transferring from another middle/ high school dance team may be accepted onto the team at the discretion of the director and campus level administration. Transfer students must have previous team membership verified by past director and administration. The student must meet the same standard of grades and verify grades upon completion of all school enrollment procedures.
- Section 6: All members must audition each year. Returning members are not guaranteed a position on the line in any subsequent year.
- Section 7: All candidates must audition for a panel of judges. The total number of student members is subject to change on a yearly basis.

- Section 8: Upon selection, all new members are considered trainees until the new semester. Trainees will participate in fundraisers, performances and all dance team activities assigned by the director. (HS)
- Section 9: Members are expected to participate in all dance team activities including all summer camps. Members are expected to attend camp from beginning to end and neither arrives late nor leaves early.
- Section 10: A dance team position cannot be relinquished without the permission of the director and campus level administration. Any outstanding fees must be paid in full before leaving the team. All school-owned equipment, costumes, etc. must be returned to the director in a timely manner and in an appropriate condition of repair. Students are responsible for the cost of repair to or replacement of any lost or damaged school-owned property.

#### **Article IV: Character Qualifications:**

- Section 1: Attitude must be enthusiastic and positive: “Team First”
- Section 2: The member must be willing to accept constructive criticism in a gracious manner. The member must have perfection as a goal.
- Section 3: The member must be reliable and dependable. The member must understand that the schedule and discipline of the dance team demands a high level of determination, hard work, strength, dedication, self-discipline and loyalty - again “Team First.”
- Section 4: The member must accept responsibility for loaned uniforms, props, costume pieces, fundraising items and all other articles belonging to the school. The member is expected to participate in all activities and fund raising events.
- Section 5: The member must be courteous and respectful of fellow team members, faculty members and other adults involved in the organization. The member must always converse respectfully with all adults involved with the organization.
- Section 6: The member’s reputation must be above reproach. All members must accept responsibility for all actions. Team members must abide by all rules and regulations as outlined in the Georgetown ISD Student Handbook and those pertaining to the respective school.
- Section 7: The member must understand that decisions made by the director(s) are in the best interest of the team and individual members.

#### **Article V: Auditions for Team Membership**

- Section 1: Auditions will be held at a date, time and site selected by the director.

- Section 2: Candidates for dance team auditions must register in advance for audition clinic session(s) with the director by a designated day. Upon registration, candidates must provide a copy of grades, parental consent form, physical waiver and expense sheet. All forms must be complete with parent signature.
- Section 3: Candidates who have previously been team members must be in good standing as determined by the director before being allowed to register for the new audition. Fees, forms, uniforms and other team properties must be cleared before the audition date.
- Section 4: Candidates must attend an informational meeting with a parent or guardian prior to the audition process on the date(s) specified by the director. Candidates must have parental consent and waivers on file to audition.
- Section 5: A candidate must be present and on time for all audition clinic sessions and tryout.
- Section 6: The audition process includes an evaluation by a panel of qualified and impartial judges.
- Section 7: Candidates will perform a dance routine and a high kick routine taught during the audition workshops in addition to a display of other dance skills.
- Section 8: Candidates will be evaluated by the judging panel in the following areas (HS)-
- a. grooming/appearance
  - b. projection/showmanship
  - c. placement/execution
  - d. dance technique
  - e. memory
  - f. kick technique
  - g. splits
  - h. potential
  - i. coordination/precision
  - j. timing/rhythm
- Section 9: Scoring for membership will be based on the following terms:
- a. 70% Judges scores (HS) 100% Judges Scores (MS)
  - b. 10% Grade Point Average (HS)
  - c. 20% Director/Administration Score (HS)
- Section 10: The number of dance team members may vary from year to year. The judges' scores and the recommendation of dance team director, teachers and administrators will determine the exact number of members that earn a position on the squad in relation to the total number of candidates that audition.

Section 11: The decision of the tryout panel is final.

## **Article VI: Eligibility for Officer Tryouts (HS ONLY)**

- Section 1: Officer Candidates must have been a member of the team during the entire school year prior to officer auditions. Candidates for Dance Officer must be classified as a junior or senior for the upcoming year. Candidates for Social Officer must be classified as a sophomore, junior or senior for the upcoming year. Candidates must sign the acknowledgment page in the officer audition packet.
- Section 2: An officer candidate may not have received more than one disciplinary referral for the current school year prior to auditions.
- Section 3: A candidate must have and maintain a scholastic average of 85 or above for all grading periods of the current school year prior to auditions.
- Section 4: Any dance officer placed on grade probation may be placed back into line position. This officer will not be eligible to audition for an officer position until the next officer audition the following year.
- Section 5: In the event an officer vacates the position during the school year, the director and campus administration may fill the vacancy with an eligible student from the line.
- Section 6: A minimum of two and a maximum of eight positions will be set for dance officers. A minimum of two and a maximum of seven positions will be set for social officers. Ranks and titles of both dance and social officers shall be at the discretion of the director and administration.
- Section 7: All officers and officer candidates must be willing and able to give extra time and effort for all team activities and events.
- Section 8: All officers and officer candidates must have and maintain a positive attitude towards team members and the director and demonstrate appropriate leadership skills for all members of the organization.
- Section 9: All dance officer candidates must be willing to rearrange class schedule in order to be enrolled in the dance officer class. There are no exceptions. All officers are to remain a team member and an officer for a full academic year and participate in all dance team member activities. Any officer unable or unwilling to meet this standard may be removed from the team.
- Section 10: Officers will be evaluated by qualified and impartial judges on the following material.  
Including but not limited to:  
Social Officers  
a. Notebooks

- b. Team Motivation
- c. Appearance
- d. Original Routine
- e. Interview
- f. Group Choreography Project
- g. Kick Routine
- h. Splits

Dance Officers

- a. Appearance
- b. Original routine
- c. Interview
- d. Group Choreography
- e. Kick routine
- f. On the spot
- g. Whistle commands/officer strut
- h. Splits

Section 11: Scoring for officer auditions will be based on the following terms:

- a. 60% Judges scores
- b. 10% Team Vote
- c. 10% Director Score
- d. 10% Teaching evaluation
- e. 10% GPA

**Article VII: Parent Permission and Responsibilities**

Section 1: Parents must sign appropriate permission forms after reviewing all guidelines. Parents are expected to attend an audition meeting in order to register their child for potential dance team membership.

Section 2: Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved as a parent of a dance team member. All members are expected to participate in fundraisers for team and booster club/parent association.

Section 3: Parents are expected to attend and participate in GPAA fundraisers. Each parent will be expected to assist with the GPAA on multiple occasions depending on the size of the booster club. (HS)

Section 4: All appropriate medical information forms and physical forms must be completed and returned to the Athletic Trainer by the appropriate date. Failure to do so makes the student ineligible to participate in any team activity. (Appropriate consequences will apply.) All injuries and illnesses over three days must be documented with a physician's note stating limitations and recovery time. Member will not resume participation without physicians note granting permission.

- Section 5: Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from all activities, performances and practices, except when transportation is provided by the school. Members must be picked up at the respective meeting area in a timely manner at the end of a rehearsal, performance or bus arrival from an event – certainly within 15 minutes. Disciplinary actions could result for those students who are picked up late.
- Section 6: Parents are expected to participate in the Booster Club/Parent Association. (HS)
- Section 7: Parents must be willing to cooperate with director and communicate with the director concerning important information about the student. Parents are expected to act professionally and in the best interest of the team at all times.

### **Article VIII: Physical Fitness**

- Section 1: A uniform may not be issued and the member may not participate until a physical examination form has been completed and returned to the athletic trainer.
- Section 2: Members must be willing to maintain endurance and stamina requirements while striving for outstanding physical fitness. Each member must consistently work to improve and elevate technique through team, individual and private avenues.
- Section 3: Members must pay specific attention to personal grooming and dress at all times. There is no set height or weight requirement for membership; however, students are expected to have an outstanding physical appearance in dance team outfits and uniforms. Members will be notified by the director if physical appearance is limiting dance ability.
- Section 4: All injuries and illnesses over three days must be documented with a physician's note stating limitations and recovery time. Participation will not resume without a physician's note granting permission.

### **Article IX: Summer Practices and Camps**

- Section 1: Summer line camp is mandatory. Students will be notified of the specific, required dates and times as quickly as possible. Members unable to attend summer camp will be dismissed from the team. Director has the authority to alter this requirement for emergency situations. Vacations, summer school and work should be planned so as to not conflict with practice or summer camp.
- Section 2: All line and social officers when required must attend an officer training/leadership camp to maintain their officer status.

### **Article X: Afterschool Practice Session Responsibilities**

- Section 1: Practice will be required each day during a specified time period. Students must meet specific requirements for any performance – evaluated by director.
- Section 2: Before school, after school and summer practice sessions are required. Time specifications for these times will be established as camp dates and school schedules become available to the director.
- Section 3: All dance and social officers when required must attend all officer practices, planning meetings and performances. Unexcused absences may result in loss of position.
- Section 4: Members must arrive on time to all practices and will be dismissed only by the director.
- Section 5: Members must attend school for at least half the day on the day of a performance.
- Section 6: It is the responsibility of each member to notify the director of absences before dance team class/practice. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action or loss of performance status.
- Section 7: Any member missing a practice for the week of performance may not be allowed to participate in performance that week and may be replaced by an alternate if one is available. School related excuses will only be accepted if communicated well in advance.
- Section 8: Competition practice schedule and Spring Show practice schedule is announced in advance, routine doctor and dental appointments need to be scheduled to avoid conflicts. Special circumstances will be ruled by the director. Unexcused absences from any of these practices may result in removal from a routine.
- Section 9: Transportation to and from all practices and some performances is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

### **Article XI: Routine Evaluation**

- Section 1: Routine evaluations will be held prior to each performance or whenever the director deems necessary. All members who are eligible to audition for a routine must do so. If a member misses the instruction of a routine, it is the student's responsibility to learn that routine and be prepared prior to the tryout.
- Section 2: Director will select the number of students to perform in any routine. Aspects of the dance will be judged by knowledge of routine, projection, overall impression, precision, and dance technique. The previous week's performance - during football season – will enter into the decision-making process as well.



- Section 3: Any member who misses evaluation day may be eliminated from that performance unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Section 4: Alternates
- a. Must attend all rehearsals and performances
  - b. May be placed in routine at the discretion of director.
  - c. An alternate should be prepared for any part of the dance and be prepared to learn all appropriate changes
  - d. If an alternate is placed in the routine the student replaced will be placed back in the performance only at the discretion of the director.

## **Article XII: Performances**

- Section 1: All members are expected to participate and attend all performances unless on academic or disciplinary probation.
- Section 2: Members are expected to conduct themselves with pride and discipline at all times. Rehearsals should be quiet, focused and well-disciplined. The use of profanity is inappropriate. The director may dismiss any member for inappropriate behaviors.
- Section 3: Students unable to perform due to illness, injury or grade probation must continue to dress in workout wear and uphold all responsibilities as an “alternate.”
- Section 4: Inspections - A complete uniform check will be held 30 minutes prior to the activity or performance. This includes:
- a. Uniforms and costumes clean
  - b. Dance shoes boots and accessories
  - c. No nail polish, no jewelry, no panties will be worn (unless otherwise designated)
  - d. Hair must be in style designated by director
  - e. Proper field or stage make up
  - f. Member must report to roll call at designated time
- Failure to meet these expectations may result in suspension from performance or other disciplinary action as assigned by the director.
- Section 5: Bus Transportation
- a. Members are expected to ride the bus to and from an event. Exceptions must be submitted in advance, in writing and receive director approval.
  - b. Bus transportation is provided for many performances. Buses leave from and return to campus.
  - c. Buses leave promptly and will not wait for late arriving students.
  - d. Roll call will be taken before the bus departs and again before it returns. For this reason students must ride assigned bus.

e. When riding a school bus, all members are expected to conduct themselves properly and abide by all school regulations governing the use of a school bus.

Section 6: Stand Regulations

- a. Dance team members have an assigned area in which to sit during a football game. Visitors (family members, boyfriends, friends, etc.) are not allowed in the dance team seating area unless the director has given permission. Nonperforming members must remain in an assigned area during the performance.
- b. Dance team members are there to support the football team and therefore expected to attend the entire game. Members must participate in all stand routines and cheers with enthusiasm and complete cooperation.
- c. Dance team members must stay in assigned seat/area.
- d. No part of the uniform may be removed without director permission.
- e. Only the official equipment will be carried into the stands. Personal items must be carried in a team bag. No thermo bottles will be allowed in the stands. Drinks will be provided. Food should not be eaten in the stands without director permission.
- f. Members will not communicate with parents, friends or family while at a team event without director permission.
- g. Trips to the restroom will be made prior to the game and before departing an event.
- h. All members are expected to participate and attend all performances unless on academic probation.

**Article XIII: Absences and Tardies**

Section 1: Calendars are given in advance so that all schedules can be arranged to avoid conflicts with dance team activities.

Section 2: All members must be present and on time for practices, games, camps, pep rallies and planned activities. Absence from any dance team activity is considered unexcused except in the following circumstances:

- a. Personal illness or accident
- b. Illness, death or funeral in the family
- c. Special school activities that are approved in advance by the director
- d. Only excuses approved by the director in advance will be accepted and each one will be evaluated individually. Parental grounding, work, bad weather and/or principal/teacher detention hall will not be considered an excused absence.

Section 3: Types of Absences -  
Excused Absences: Excused absences from a Dance Team function will include participation in another approved school function or observance of a religious holiday. All other excuses will be evaluated on an individual basis. Remember

only excused absences will not receive demerits. A phone call or email should be made to the director(s) immediately if the absence is due to illness or extreme emergency.

Unexcused Absences: An unexcused absence is an absence that is not approved by the director prior to the event and is not an emergency situation that director was made aware of. An unexcused absence will result in demerits. A student physically well enough to attend school is considered well enough to participate in dance team practice on that day.

Expected Absences: An expected absence is an absence for a doctor's appointment or and outside organization that was planned prior to an activity. For an expected absence, members must explain the absence in writing prior to the absence and have parent/guardian sign a note. These will be approved by the director on an individual basis. Students may have a maximum of two approved expected absences per grading period. This must be done at least two weeks in advanced in order not to receive demerits.

Section 4: Members missing any practice are missing valuable time learning, reviewing and polishing a performance. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each member to catch up on anything missed during a practice at times other than required rehearsal time.

Section 5: Members arriving tardy to practices may be moved to an alternate position at director discretion.

Section 6: Dance team members should attend tutorials at a time agreed to by student and director. Members that miss practice for tutorials or make up work should present a signed note from the tutorial teacher upon leaving and returning to practice. Director should be informed before practice about the required tutorial.

Section 7: Any member who misses a field practice or a band practice may not be allowed to perform at that game. Members must be present at school for at least half of the school day in order to participate in the performance.

## **Article XIV: Dues and Fees**

Section 1: Members must be willing to meet the financial obligations and expenses of the organization. Members and parents must indicate the ability to meet financial obligations in written form to the director and/or the booster club before tryouts.

Section 2: Members are expected to participate in all team fundraisers.

Section 3: All financial obligations for camp and clothing must be complete by Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. (HS) Failure to do so can result in performance suspension. Payments can be made in installments or in full. Payment due dates are assigned by the director.

- Section 4: Checks should be made to EVHS Sparklers/GHS Georgettes/WMS Dazzlers with student name in the memo. All money should be turned in to the director in an envelope with name, group, amount and what the payment goes towards. A written receipt will be given to the dance team member.
- Section 5: A member who is ineligible, dismissed or relinquishes membership is still responsible for outstanding fees and will not be reimbursed for payments made.

### **Article XV: Uniforms**

- Section 1: The field uniform is the property of the school. (HS)
- Section 2: All members are required to complete a uniform inventory contract when issued a uniform and upon its return. All pieces must be returned with a dry cleaners tag attached. Failure to return uniform in a timely manner may result in disciplinary action. (HS)
- Section 3: Uniforms must be maintained in a clean, well-maintained condition, ready for inspection. Members are responsible for the cost of any lost or damaged uniform items. Any problems with uniforms should be addressed with the director well in advance of scheduled performances to allow time for correction. (HS)
- Section 4: Team members will return all uniform parts at the time designated by the director.
- Section 5: Hat cover should remain on the hat at all times unless the hat is being worn. (HS)
- Section 6: Formal uniform should not be worn in public without permission of the director.
- Section 7: No part of the uniform should be removed unless the director or officer in charge gives this instruction.
- Section 8: The uniform shall be respected at all times. While wearing a uniform the members shall conduct themselves in an appropriate and respectful manner. Members may not eat or drink in uniform with the exception of water or with director permission.
- Section 9: All uniforms/costumes must have building principal's approval before being worn.

### **Article XVI: Merit-Demerit System**

- Section 1: Merit/Demerits will be based on a criteria established by director.  
a. The weight of each merit/demerit will be at the discretion of the director.

- b. Each member will receive and be responsible for knowing their team's merit/demerit system.
- c. Merits can remove demerits using the following ratio: 4 merits for every 1 demerit.
- d. Line members and officers alike are responsible for knowledge of merits and demerit points.

Section 2: Receiving Demerits

- a. Demerits may be given to dance team members or the director at any dance team function.
- b. Directors will award merits and assign demerits. No student is permitted to award or assign merits or demerits.
- c. Members will be notified as quickly as possible without interrupting practice when receiving demerit(s). Members will receive a full explanation of the demerits and should then sign for each demerit.
- d. Dance officers are to report an accumulation of three demerits to the director.
- e. If a member feels that a demerit has been received unjustly, the member should only make inquiry to the director.

Section 3: Demerit Probation

- a. Members will be placed on probation for one week upon accumulation of 8 demerits.
- b. Members will be placed on probation for three week upon accumulation of 12 demerits.
- c. Members will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the year upon accumulation of 16 demerits.
- d. During demerit probation the member will attend practices, performances and all team functions as an alternate – however, member is not allowed to perform.

**Article XVII: Probation and Loss of Team Membership**

A member can be placed on academic or disciplinary probation for the following reasons:

Section 1: Academic Probation

- a. Texas Education rules state that any student who fails any course for a six weeks grading period with a grade below 70 will be ineligible to participate in any dance team performance.
- b. However the student must attend, dress out and participate in all scheduled practices and mandatory booster club functions.
- c. Two 9-week academic probations in one school year may result in loss of membership in the organization. To regain membership, the student must be selected during the annual auditions.

Section 2: Disciplinary Probation

- a. A member may be placed on disciplinary probation for conduct or behavior in violation of school or district policies at the discretion of the director and campus administration. A member on probation must attend all dance team functions, including practices and performance in uniform, but will not perform for the length of the probationary period.
- c. Members placed on disciplinary probation twice other than demerit probation in one year may be removed from the team at director discretion with approval of campus administration.

- Section 3: The following list of circumstances may result in dismissal from the dance team:
- a. Two non-consecutive periods of academic probation
  - b. Excessive unexcused absences from dance team activities
  - c. Chronic failure or refusal to perform duties and/or participate in assigned activities
  - d. Personal behaviors in violation of school or district policies that negatively effect the reputation of the dance team.
  - e. Multiple campus discipline referrals to school administrators.
  - f. Possession or use of alcohol, non-prescribed/illegal drugs or tobacco products
  - g. Fighting in or out of uniform
  - h. Truancy from any class
  - i. Violations of rules and regulations governing out of town trips/team functions
  - j. Suspension from school
  - k. Multiple BIC assignments
  - l. Other inappropriate actions or behaviors as determined by the director

Section 4: Students dismissed from the dance team will immediately return all school owned property to the director. Uniform(s) will be returned in a dry cleaning bag with cleaning receipt attached. The former member’s class schedule will be changed as quickly as possible. If the member’s schedule cannot be changed until semester break, director will assign other non-dance responsibilities.

**Article XVIII: Social Media**

Section 1: Dance Team members shall be respectful and appropriate in their postings on any type of social media. Any postings deemed inappropriate by the directors or administration shall be removed within twenty four hours from the electronic time stamp. Corresponding demerits shall be issued. Refusal to remove any inappropriate postings will result in further disciplinary action. Please refer to Article XVII.

**Article XIX: Letter Jackets (HS)**

Section 1: Dance team members may earn letter jackets for participation in dance team activities. The letter jacket policy will be determined by the campus administration, the GISD Director of Fine Arts, and the dance team director.

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