

BHS Top Cats Dance Team Application 2026-2027

Dear Candidate,

The BHS Top Cat dance team will hold tryouts for the 2026-2027 school year on March 30 – April 2, 2026. Please be sure to read this entire packet. Completed tryout packets are due to the Berwick High School office by Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 2:30 pm. If the application is not complete or received on time, the student will not be allowed to try out. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email. Best of luck! - Lauren Matte (LMatte@stmaryk12.net)

ELIGIBILITY FOR TRYOUTS:

Tryouts are open to any student:

- Enrolled at Berwick High School in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, or at Berwick Junior High School in the 8th grade. (*Must submit 2 proofs of residency with this application*).
- Who has at least a 2.0 GPA (and no grade of an F on a report card) (*Guidance counselor signature & GPA on application; must submit a copy of your last report card*).
- Who is able to pass a physical examination if you are chosen to be on the team.

PRACTICE & TRYOUT INFORMATION (MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2026):

- Practices will be held in the BHS gym on Monday, March 30th (3:30-5:30 pm), Tuesday, March 31st (3:30-5:30 pm), and Wednesday, April 1st (3:30-5:30 pm). Candidates should dress in appropriate dance attire or shorts and T-shirts for practice. No revealing or indecent outfits will be allowed. Candidates will be allowed to use a cellphone or other device to video the routines taught by the instructors. These are closed practices - no spectators are allowed. Each candidate should attend all practices. The only excused absences must be school-related and approved by the director. The attached application must be filled out, signed by the candidate and her parent/guardian, and turned in on time. Only candidates who turn in completed applications to the BHS office by Thursday, March 26 by 2:30 pm will be allowed to try out. Thursday, April 2nd, (3:00-until) will be the actual tryout day.
- Thursday, April 2nd, TRYOUT DAY (beginning at 3:00 pm).
 - Tryouts are closed to the public. Do not invite anyone to watch. Only candidates will be allowed to enter the building once tryouts begin.
 - Members of the team will be chosen by a panel of professional judges. The break in scores determine who makes the team.
 - Candidates will be given a number to identify themselves throughout tryouts.
 - Candidates are to wear black shorts or leggings, a plain white shirt, and jazz shoes on tryout day.
 - All hair must be pulled back completely out of the face in a tight ponytail.
 - No jewelry can be worn.
 - Candidates must execute skills (individually) - a kick sequence, leaps, toe touch, left and right split, and a single and double turn. Candidates will execute the dance routine learned on practice days in a small, assigned group. Attached is a copy of the form the judges will use to evaluate the skills and performance.
 - Results will be posted on the BHS website following tryouts.

REQUIREMENTS/OBLIGATIONS:

If you are chosen to be a member of the BHS Top Cats, there are several requirements and fees you need to prepare for. Please be sure that you have your parents' approval of these conditions BEFORE you try out. The following is required to be a member of the Top Cats:

- You should be expected to spend \$700-\$1500 throughout the year. These amounts may vary, being slightly higher or lower than what is projected.
- All members will be required to participate in different types of fundraising projects to help defray the cost of the team and the individual member. For each fundraiser, the member will be given a set quota to achieve and specific due dates.
- A mandatory parent/member meeting will be held Monday, April 13 at 5:30 pm at BHS (library). Each Top Cat must attend with at least one parent/guardian. A \$100 uniform deposit (schoolcashionline) will be required at this meeting.
- Varsity uniform fittings will be held Thursday, April 16 at 5:00 pm at BHS (library) -. We will do uniform sizing and ordering this day. If you have uniforms, you must bring them for approval.
- Summer UDA Camp – June 2026
 - We will have a 3-day home camp again this year. UDA dancers will come and teach our routines for the entire year. Exact date will be announced ASAP.
 - This is a mandatory requirement. If you cannot attend this camp, you cannot be on the team.
- Little Girls' Clinic Fundraiser - June 15-18, 2026
 - This is a mandatory requirement. If you cannot attend Little Girls' Clinic, you cannot be on the team. A parent will need to sign up to work at least one shift during clinic.
- The weeks following tryouts will be consumed with practices, meetings, and planning sessions. A calendar of practice times will be distributed after tryouts. Practices will conclude at the end of June. We will take a break from practice for vacation time in July; then we will resume practicing in August.
- The Top Cats will be expected to perform at many BHS athletic events in and out of town throughout the entire school year. The team may also be required to make public appearances and participate in other valuable tasks representing Berwick High School. Being a member of the Top Cats will be a major commitment. Do not plan trips during football season, we perform at every pep rally, home, and away game.

PLEASE NOTE

- The members of the 2026-2027 Top Cats team will be posted on the BHS Top Cats webpage the evening of tryouts. No lists will be posted at the school.
- The size of the team is based upon professional judges' scores and score distribution. Gaps in the candidate scores will guide the team size.
- Tryout candidates who do not make the team are allowed to view only their own scores after tryouts (within one week). The cut off score will be noted. A copy of the candidate's scores will be left in the office when requested (if requested within one week).
- All decisions are final and will not be debated. The director should only be contacted through school the following week to request copies of score sheets – LMatte@stmaryk12.net

BHS Top Cats Evaluation Form

Candidate # _____ Judge _____

Category	Comments	Possible Points	Score
Turns		5	
Toe Touch		5	
Leaps		5	
Kicks		5	
Splits		5	
SKILLS		25	
Projection/Showmanship		15	
Technique		20	
Memory		20	
Overall Appeal		10	
ROUTINE		65	
TOTAL		90	

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Applications must be turned in to the Berwick High School office by Thursday, March 26 at 2:30 pm.

*** This application is CONFIDENTIAL ***

GPA _____ Guidance Counselor Signature _____
(to be filled out by Guidance counselor)

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Candidate phone # _____

Grade next year _____

Mother/Guardian name _____ phone # _____

Address _____

Father/Guardian name _____ phone # _____

Address _____

Family Doctor _____ phone # _____

In case of emergency contact name _____

Relationship _____ phone # _____

The undersigned are aware of and acknowledge the obligations and risks associated with participation in dance team activities. They release the school and sponsor from any liability in case of injury. Nevertheless, it is her desire and she has permission to participate in the dance team clinic and try out for the BHS Top Cats dance team.

Candidate signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

***Submit a copy of your most recent report card and
2 proofs of residency with this application. Guidance counselor must sign GPA***

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER AND ATTACH TO YOUR APPLICATION. You may handwrite or type answers.

1. List any dance, gymnastics, cheerleading, or athletic experiences you have had.
2. List any other extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, hobbies, etc. that you are involved in or will be involved in.
3. Dancing involves physical exertion like most athletic type sports. For safety and athletic training purposes, list any prior injuries or unusual physical conditions you are affected by.
4. What characteristics do you feel are most important for a Top Cat to possess? Explain.
5. Why should Top Cats be responsible for maintaining good grades? How will you make time to be a Top Cat, as well as focusing on your grades?
6. List any new fundraising ideas you may have.
7. How would you feel if you could not catch on to something the team is learning? What would you do to make sure you were able to learn it?
8. If a member of the team was struggling to learn or keep up with the rest of the team, what would you do to help them get caught up?
9. Why do you want to be a member of the Top Cats dance team?
10. Do you or will you maintain a job during the summer and/or school year? If so, what would your work schedule be like? Would you be willing to confirm that your job will not interfere with your Top Cat obligations?