

DOBIE MIDDLE SCHOOL

DANCE TEAM



2021 – 2022

DANCE TEAM CONSTITUTION HANDBOOK

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DOBIE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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AISS FINE ARTS ADMINISTRATOR
PHILIP TAYLOR



Welcome to Dobie Middle School Dance Team! We hope you are happy and excited to be in this class and eager to learn and work hard to achieve your goals and expectations. The following is a list of rules and procedures to follow in order to have a successful year!

I encourage you to carefully read the following pages with your parents and sign the form at the end. I courteously ask you to return it to me as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns on anything on this handbook, please do not hesitate to ask me. On behalf of Dobie MS, I thank you and look forward to working with you this academic year.

Sincerely,
Diane Araujo
Dance Instructor

Dobie Middle School Dance Team Guidelines

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DOBIE Middle School Dance Team Guidelines

Goal: AISD Fine Arts

So that all Dance Team members will be afforded the opportunity to explore, display, test, evaluate, and refine their talents, based upon their individual development, the Austin ISD Fine Arts Department will provide opportunities for successful student self-expression and personal growth as artists, citizens, and life-long learners through school, community, district-wide and State/National level performances.

Goal: DOBIE Middle School Dance Team

It is the Dobie Middle School's belief that participating in the Dance Team promotes and develops teamwork and leadership skills and contributes in devolving self-confidence. In addition, each member must be a role model who achieves academic excellence and demonstrates strong character in his/her daily life.

Goal: DANCE TEAM Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to develop uniform guidelines for each member of the Dobie Middle School Dance Team organization. These guidelines will focus on the proper implementation of tryouts, membership requirements, and performance expectations from each member.

Section I. Eligibility for Membership

1. Current Dobie Middle School students in grades sixth through eighth grade are eligible for membership to the Dance Team. Transfer students will be eligible once he or she has been officially approved for transfer.
2. Transferring students (in or out of district) must participate in the audition procedure and submit all required paperwork. Students who transfer after the audition date will not be allowed membership.

3. Candidates for membership must be a member in good financial standing with all student organizations of which they are or have been a member of at any AISD campus.
4. Students who are eligible for participation with the Dobie Middle School Dance Team must comply and follow the required audition procedures.
5. A student who has been dismissed from any Austin ISD Dance/ Programs for any reason is prohibited from participating in the auditions for the following school year.
7. Each candidate for membership must submit the application forms found in the audition packet prior to auditions.

Section II.

Audition Procedures

A. Audition Meeting May Be Held

1. An audition meeting will be held for all prospective members and parents/guardians. A parent/guardian of each prospective member is expected to attend the audition meeting to receive information and clarification. This is the only opportunity for parents to have an oral explanation of necessary documents required for auditions.
2. Audition packets will be distributed to all prospective members and the parents/guardians of all prospective members. The audition packet will be distributed at the audition meeting and will include information such as projected costs, tentative schedules, Dance Team Guidelines, and necessary application forms.
3. Prior to tryouts, parents/guardians of all prospective members must agree to support the enforcement of all rules and regulations and must agree to the payment of all necessary expenses should their child be selected as a member of the Dobie Middle School Dance Team by signing and submitting the Dance Team Guidelines Acknowledgement Form.
4. Candidates for membership should participate in the audition workshop provided.
5. All candidates must audition during the scheduled audition session. If a participant is injured prior or during tryouts, make-up audition will not be permitted. Make-up auditions will not be allowed for any purpose.
6. Membership is for the current year only. All Dance Team members must reestablish membership through annual auditions.
7. Middle school candidates for membership in the Dobie Dance Team **will be chosen and/or invited into the team by the dance director** according to their progress and

dedication while participating in their dance class throughout the school year. Auditions may occur as well for membership into the team.

8. Sponsors will set-up audition procedures, if needed, with the campus principal or designee.

9. Parents are not allowed in the actual rehearsals or the actual audition. Austin ISD administrators may be present during the auditions to supervise the auditions.

10. All students wanting to audition must attend **all** designated rehearsals prior to auditioning.

B. TEAM AUDITIONS FOR THE ILLUSIONS DANCE ENSEMBLE

1. All prospective candidates must submit all required forms on the first day of the audition workshop in order to participate in the workshop and to audition.

2. Each candidate will be judged using the required dance choreography for the audition.

3. All students must be passing all their courses at the time of auditions.

4. Each candidate will dress as specified by the director.

5. Each candidate will receive a written notice regarding membership.

6. Upon request a parent/guardian may review their own child's scores in a scheduled conference with the director and campus principal **no more than 14** days after auditions.

C. OFFICER AUDITIONS

Audition procedures and requirements to determine an officer position for the Dobie Middle School Dance Team:

a) Captain/ Co-Captain / Officers are open to those students that have qualified for membership and have at least **one year membership** in the Dobie Middle School Dance Team.

*****Exceptions may be made by the director*****

D. QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND SELECTION OF ILLUSIONS DANCE ENSEMBLE OFFICERS:

1. Captain: There shall be one (1) Captain who will directly assist the Director and will be in command when the Director is not available.

2. Co-Captain: There shall be one (1) Co-Captain who will directly assist the Director and Captain and will be in command when they are available. The candidate with the second highest points shall be declared Co-Captain.
3. Officers: There shall be two (4) Officers who shall assist the Director, Captain and Co-Captain. The next four candidates with the highest cumulative points shall be declared Officers respectively.
4. A member will lose his or her position as an officer if he or she receives 1 demerit and /or fails a six weeks.

Procedures for the replacement of an officer that has withdrawn or has been dismissed will be filled by the officer alternate if Director feels needed. The officer alternate will be the student with the next highest officer tryout score who does not have an office. Officers will be moved to fill positions with the alternate filling the last office. If there is no alternate, the last office position will remain vacant. There is only one officer alternate.

****ALL A.I.S.D. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES ARE IN EFFECT.****

E. Alternates

The Dobie Middle School Dance Team **does not** allow a selection of alternates.

F. Membership Number

The Dobie Middle School Dance Team will have no more than 20 positions available for membership.

*The amount of members may vary from year to year depending on the amount of students interested in being members of the Dance Team.

Section III.

Membership Benefits and Responsibilities

A. Role Model Status

Student participants in the Dobie MS Dance Team represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district when performing, competing, or participating in organization activities. While wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community, public, and to other Austin I.S.D. students as a member of the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team, behavior must be exemplary and reflect the AISD Student Code of Conduct/Student Handbook, both on and off Austin I.S.D. property.

B. Participation

1. Each member will participate in required activities throughout the year. Required activities include, but are not limited to, athletic events, parade, recitals, practices, competitions, community events, school pep rallies, summer camp, and assigned fundraising functions. The director will designate which activities are required activities.

2. Parents, guardians, and students are responsible for appropriate transportation arrangements to and from each activity and after school rehearsals in a **TIMELY MANNER**. Students are responsible for appropriate arrangements to and from the pick up and drop off locations at the time designated by the director.

3. All members of the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team travel on a school bus to any school-related activity during school and after school. During out-of-town or evening activities, parents can take members unless a bus is provided. Parents can transport students home from these events under the following conditions:

a. Student must present a **note** and a **phone call** from the parent/guardian to the director **48 hours** prior to the activity requesting that the parent/guardian be allowed to transport the student home from the activity. The note must be dated and must include the member's name, signature, and telephone number of the parent/guardian.

b. A parent/guardian transporting a student home from an event must meet the director at the end of an event or game and take responsibility for the member at that time. All other students will return to the bus with the group.

c. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved in advance by both the director and a school administrator.

4. A student may **not** be permitted to choose **not** to participate in rehearsals or performances.

C. Absences

1. In order to receive an excused absence from a practice, performance, or event, member must present a written note from a parent or guardian to the director upon the member's return. The written note must include the member's name, date, reason for absence, and parent or guardian signature and telephone number. If the absence was anticipated, a parent or guardian must also notify the director by telephone **prior** to the practice, performance, or event that is to be missed. Three or more consecutive absences may also require an excuse from a physician who is licensed in the State of Texas.

2. Excused absences include: personal illness or accident, death in the family, school activities that receive advance approval from the director, religious holidays, weddings in the immediate family, any other absence approved by the director.

3. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to: out-of-town trips or vacations, work, any absence not approved by the director.

4. Each unexcused absence will result in penalties. (See penalties)

5. When a student is absent to a practice or event for any reason, it is that member's responsibility to find out what was missed and what is required upon return.

6. Any member who misses a practice, assigned event, or scheduled game may forfeit performing in the next upcoming event.

D. Financial Obligations

1. The Dobie Middle School Dance Team will conduct various fundraisers throughout the year in order to help defray costs associated with participation in the dance program. These fundraisers are considered Dance Team activities and all members are required to participate.

2. Members will not be allowed to participate in tryouts for the next school year until all financial obligations to the Dobie MS Dance Team have been met.

3. Dobie MS & AISD has the legal right to take individuals who still owe debt to the team to small claims court to receive the debt owed.

E. Performances

1. Members must (1) attend **ALL** practices and (2) meet performance expectations during practice in order to be eligible to participate in the week's performance.

2. Attendance at each week's performance, **whether or not** a student is participating in the routine, is required.

3. Dance Directors have the option to require auditions for every performance prior to an event. Members who have mastered the required skills will perform for that event. Members who have failed to meet the required skills will attend the event. However, an opportunity to perform will depend on the need to replace a member who is unable to participate.

4. All decisions for member participation will be made by the director.

5. All members will continue to rehearse the routine daily regardless of whether that member will be performing the routine or has been designated as an alternate. The only exception to this requirement is for a documented medical reason.

6. Student grades will be checked according to the UIL eligibility calendar. Any Dance Team member who has a failing grade of below 70 will not be allowed to perform or attend events with the Dance Team. (See TEA-UIL Side-by-Side (www.uil-texas.org))

F. Summer Camp

1. Members must attend the required summer camp(s) as designated by the director. Each member is responsible for the costs of such camp(s) (If applicable).

2. Information regarding summer camp will be provided after auditions.

3. Absence directly before a performance will result in removal from the performance. The teacher is not required to notify the student. Responsibility lies on the student to verify whether they will be allowed to perform.

G. Grading Procedures

- Daily Grades (50%)
 - Warm-up
 - Dressing out in proper attire each day**
 - Participating in daily activities
 - Rehearsals
 - Written assignments
- Test Grades (50%)
 - Pep-rallies
 - Auditions
 - Parades
 - Recitals
 - Performances (e.g. which include but are not limited to Santa and Friends, Dance Clinic, and Dance Evaluation)
 - Paper exams

** In order to fulfill the daily participation requirement, the student should be dressed in appropriate dance attire for activities and participate in all assigned activities. If the student cannot fulfill the daily participation due to approved extenuating circumstances (illness, injury, etc.), they must complete an alternate assignment for each day of class missed (suggested: three pages of written research pertaining to dance from library).

H. Uniforms and additional expenses

1. Full payment for the total cost of the specified uniform / costume or additional expenses (team shirt, guest artist choreography fee) will be required before an order is made. Deadlines for payment(s) must be met to have merchandise delivered on time. Payment plans will be available as long as full payment amount is paid by the deadline specified by the Dance Director.

I. Safety/Health Concerns

1. To avoid allergic reactions, viral infections, bacterial infections & communicable diseases, do not share the following items, but not limited to:

- Make-up (i.e. lipstick, lip-gloss, eyeliner, eye-shadow...)
- Grooming tools (i.e. brushes, combs, tweezers, razors...)
- Hygiene products (i.e. toothbrushes, towels, roll-on deodorant...)
- Any medication (i.e. prescription and non-prescription)
- Unwashed clothing
- Canned or bottled drinks

Section IV. Prohibited Conduct

A. Jurisdiction

1. Each member will follow school rules as well as the rules that are unique to members of the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team. Participation with the Dance Team is a privilege, and as such, rules must be followed regardless of whether school is in session, regardless of whether the offence occurs on or off school property or at a school related event,

2. A student who violates a school rule may incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from the Dance Team Director for the same violation. It is also possible that a Dance Team member could violate a Dance Team rule and be subject to discipline by the Dance Team Director without having violated the AISD Student Code of Conduct.

B. Demerit System

1. All merits/demerits will be weighed according to the DOBIE MS Dance Team Guidelines.

2. A student is subject to the merit/demerit system upon becoming a member of the organization.

3. The Dance Team calendar year for the purposes of the merit and demerit system runs from the date of tryouts in spring of the current school year until the date of tryouts in the spring of the next calendar year. This may result in one calendar year running longer than 365 days, depending on the date of auditions and district mandated testing dates.

Demerits: consequence due to an inappropriate feature, action, or quality displayed by member:

10 demerits shall result in dismissal from the team

8 demerits shall result in probation from the team

3 demerits shall result in removal from captain/co-captain/officer positions

5 demerits warrant a conference with parents to give information of possible probation

Demerits will be issued for the following:

ONE DEMERIT

1. Talking at a time during an event when there has been an announced “no talking” restriction. (1 demerit)
2. Failure to participate to the fullest extent of the required dance team event or rehearsals.
(i.e. not dancing full out, leaving early, not bringing required item). (1 demerit)

3. Chewing gum during any required dance event, performance or rehearsals. (1 demerit)
4. Eating or drinking during performances/activities without permission. (1 demerit)
5. Tardiness to any required events/performances including class. (1 demerit)
6. Wearing an incomplete or incorrect uniform per director's instructions for the required event, performance, rehearsals. (1 demerit)
7. Wearing hair and/or make-up that do not conform to the director's instructions for the required event, performance, rehearsals. (1 demerit)
8. Failure to turn in uniforms, costumes or accessories in good, clean condition by the designated due date. (1 demerit)
9. Wearing any type of jewelry or colored nail polish with costume/performance attire. (1 demerit)
10. Inappropriate behavior in class as determined by a teacher. (1 demerit)
11. Failure to turn in important paperwork or consent forms on or before the due date. (1 demerit)

TWO DEMERITS

12. Failure to follow director or officer instruction(s). (2 demerits)
13. Wearing a costume attire anywhere other than a school sanctioned activity. (2 demerits)
14. Failure to bring a written excuse from a parent/guardian upon return after any absence. (2 demerit)

THREE DEMERITS

15. The use of electronic devices, such as stereo, headsets, cassette players, electronic games, phones, or MP3 players while on campus or during a game without notifying director. (3 demerits)
16. If student is picked up 30 minutes late or more from an event, performance, or rehearsal, dance director will call AISD police. (3 demerits)
17. Students should follow the appropriate chain of command for problems or grievances. Demerit will be issued to students who break the chain of command and will be sent back to the appropriate individual. Captains may be

required to write brief statements to the coaches upon request regarding a particular issue(s). (3 demerits)

Chain of Command for Dance Team members is as follows:

Student Officer → Dance Director → Campus Administrator → Principal → Fine Arts Administrator

Chain of Command for parents is as follows:

DOBIE MS Dance Director → Campus Administrator → Principal → Fine Arts Administrator

FIVE DEMERITS

18. Displaying visible body markings including tattoos and body piercing while in uniform. (5 demerits) (Band aids or other coverings to cover jewelry or piercing will not be allowed in place of removing the jewelry)
19. Loitering or trespassing on school grounds before the bell and after the last bell. Students should be on campus for an educationally related purpose, such as tutorials or extracurricular activities. Students who are waiting for a ride home shall not be considered to be loitering. (5 demerits)
20. Any unexcused absence from required event or practice (5 demerits)

8 DEMERITS

21. Insubordination toward the director. (8 demerits)
22. Inappropriate use of social media during or outside school grounds. (8 demerits)
22. Distribution of any non-school related materials, during instructional time, such as invitations, notices, or bracelets related to parties not approved by school administration. (8 demerits)
23. Inappropriate public displays of affection while in or out of uniform including but not limited to holding hands, kissing or inappropriate hugging. (8 demerits)
24. Displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate behavior or using foul language. (8 demerits)
25. Inappropriate conduct as stated in Student Handbook. (8 demerits)

10 DEMERITS - Immediate Dismissal from Membership (Accumulated 10 demerits)

Failure to comply with behavior that is defined in the AISD Student Code of Conduct/Student Handbook, both on and off Austin I.S.D. property, regardless of whether the member has parent approval, constitutes behavior that is defined as an offense. Other examples include, but are not limited to, violation of any of the conduct described in the Austin I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct/Student Handbook & DOBIE MS Dance Team Guidelines to the extent that the director, school official and Administrator determine that immediate dismissal from membership is warranted. The circumstances surrounding the incident will be considered; however, parental permission will not be considered in allowing exceptions to the rules.

26. Engages in two or more bullying or hazing offenses including cyber bullying offenses. (10 demerits)
27. Engages in acts intended to disrupt school, inciting a riot or disturbance, encouraging others to disrupt school (i.e. walkout, sit out). (10 demerits)
28. A student who is placed in an alternative setting under these circumstances will be given the opportunity for a hearing. A placement will not be made unless the Board or the Boards designee determines that the student's presence in the regular classroom either:
 1. Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
 2. Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
 3. Is not in the best interest of the district's students. (10 demerits)
29. If a student is placed in In School Suspension (ISS) or suspended from school for any reason. (10 demerits)

**Section V.
Probation**

1. Parents/guardians will be notified if the director places a member on probation.
2. A conference between a campus administrator, director and parents/guardians shall be held regarding probation of member. When a member has 8 demerits an administrator is required, to be involved at the conference.
3. A Dance member who has 8 demerits will be placed on disciplinary probation. A student who is on disciplinary probation is prohibited from actively participating in performances; however, the member must attend all group activities in uniform in order to be allowed to tryout for the following year.

Note: The duration of the probation period will be 3 weeks.

4. Scholastic Probation – A member will be placed on scholastic probation if he or she receives grade lower than a 70. Grade checks will be performed according to the TEA/UIIL eligibility calendar. A member who is on scholastic probation must participate in practices, but will not be allowed to perform or attend events with their group.

Section VI. Dismissal

1. Any member who accumulates 10 demerits during the DOBIE Middle School Dance calendar year will be dismissed from the organization for the remainder of the school year and not allowed to tryout for the following year.

2. Student members are required to demonstrate the type of strong leadership qualities, which directly influence other students in a positive manner. This requires the Dance Team members to follow the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team Handbook. Failure to follow the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team Handbook may be grounds used for immediate dismissal from the Dance Program.

3. Any member of the Dance Team found in violation (by administration or law enforcement) of any criminal activity punishable by law on or off campus or offenses occurring off campus not at school-related activities will be dismissed for the remainder of the school year and not be allowed to tryout the following year.

Section VII. Withdrawal from Membership

1. A member who withdraws from the DOBIE Middle School Team must do so in writing. The written request must be signed by a parent or guardian. A copy of the withdrawal letter must be turned into sponsor and will be shared with campus administration.

2. A member who withdraws from or is dismissed from the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team for any reason must fulfill any and all financial commitments. No reimbursements will be given. If financial commitments are not adhered to by the member, or parent/guardian, the district may file a complaint in small claims court to recover any monies owed.

3. A middle school student who withdraws from membership from the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team will be enrolled in a regular dance class.

4. A member who is dismissed from the DOBIE Middle School Dance Team will not be allowed to audition for a whole year.

DOBIE MS Dance Team Agreement of Constitution

I hereby pledge to be positive about my participation in, the 2021-22 Dobie MS Dance Team. I agree to abide by the AISD Code of Conduct and all items stated in the Dobie MS Dance Team Constitution.

It is my own desire to participate in this program. I will be forthcoming to my director about any issues I face throughout my time on the team.

I deserve to be an active member on this team because my actions will reflect that. I understand school is most important and comes first. My behavior and success in my class will reflect my membership on the team and vice versa.

I will be a team member and act as such. I understand that being on this team is a privilege and not a right.

I understand there is no "I" in the Dance Team!

I have read the Dobie Middle School Dance Team Constitution. I agree to adhere to all the rules as a condition of my membership on the team. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures.

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

It is the policy of Austin ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de Austin I.S.D. el no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educatoín de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitation de 1973, según y la enmienda

DOBIE MS Dance Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct & Agreement of Constitution

I hereby pledge to be positive about my child's experience as a Dobie MS Dance Team Member. I accept responsibility for my child's participation by abiding to this code of conduct and constitution.

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for my child and his/her teammates.

I promise to help my child enjoy his/her experience by assisting with what is asked of my student by assisting in any ways I may be able to (i.e. transportation, fundraisers, etc.).

I will support my Dancer by offering positive praise. Encouraging them to work hard and to their fullest potential.

I will work directly with the director so my student and the Dobie MS Dance Team can reach their fullest potential.

I will remember that my student's participation in this program is a privilege and not a right.

I have read the Dobie Middle School Dance Team Constitution and understand that as a condition of my child's membership that he/she must follow the rules set forth in this document. I understand that by failing to do so my child will face consequences.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dobie Middle School Administration

Agreement of Constitution

Administration at Dobie Middle School has read, advised and agreed to all information documented in the Dobie MS Dance Team Constitution. Should problems arise within the guidelines, administration will work with the director, student, and Parent/Guardian to make a resolution.

Jessie De La Huerta
Dobie MS Principal

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