

# **Davidson Middle School Dance Team Tryout Packet**

Make sure you pick up a copy of the Athletic Packet too!



# 2024-2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child has expressed a desire to become a member of the dance team at Davidson Middle School (DMS). The attached packet of materials has been put together to give you an understanding of the personal and financial responsibilities of becoming a dance team member. Please read all of the information regarding costs and policies with your child. Your signature is required to signify that you have read and understood the policies.

A clinic to prepare your student for tryouts will be Monday and Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 from 3pm to 5pm. Tryouts will be held on Wednesday afternoon, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm in the DMS gym. Cost for the clinic is \$25.00. This fee is nonrefundable and will cover the judge's fee and choreography. **Clinic and tryouts will be closed to spectators.**

While deciding whether or not to be part of our program, please remember and consider the time commitment this sport will require from both student and parent. Your commitment will involve active participation in afterschool practices (2 times weekly maximum), technique practice (1 time weekly), pep rallies, summer practices and camp, fundraising, team bonding, weekly games (football- once weekly and basketball- maximum two times weekly). Practices typically end around 4:00. Mandatory Choreography camp days will be held in June or July.

Please be aware that I have tried to include all information and requirements for trying out for Davidson Dance Team in this packet. However, as the dance coach, I reserve the right to make exceptions (only in extreme or unforeseen circumstances) if those exceptions are in the best interest of the dance candidates and the future dance team.

If your child makes the dance team, please plan to attend the MANDATORY parent meeting and fitting (Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at a location to be announced location) and be ready to make the initial payment of \$300. If you have any financial issues, then please let me know and we can discuss payment plan options. I will also offer fundraising options to offset cost. I look forward to an exciting tryout clinic and wish everyone the best of luck!

Sincerely,

**Jarin Gaines**

Jarin Gaines

(850) 683-7500 ext. 22601

[Jarín.gaines@okaloosaschools.com](mailto:Jarín.gaines@okaloosaschools.com)

# Tryout Requirements and Guidelines



- Must have a 2.0 grade point average or higher in the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks
- All bills (from the previous season) from any school activity/sport must be paid in full
- Must complete all required paperwork. This packet and athletic forms from the office must be turned in by Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Must submit a \$25.00 clinic fee (judges' fees and choreography). Checks should be made payable to DMS.
- Must have a satisfactory Discipline Record (as determined by the coach)
- **Each candidate will be judged on:**
  - Character/Academics- Recommendation from a current teacher at your school and grades
  - tryout dance taught at clinic
    - ✦ technique skills including:
      - ✦ right, left, and middle splits
      - ✦ right and left battement
      - ✦ right and left fan kick
      - ✦ single and double pirouettes
      - ✦ a lá second turns (minimum two into double pirouette)
      - ✦ toe touch
      - ✦ right and left leap
      - ✦ leap in second
      - ✦ calypso
      - ✦ trick of choice (kip-up, headspring, aerial, any tumbling, etc.)
- **Tryout wear:**
  - **clinic dress code:** any **plain** dance clothes (t-shirt, leotard, tank top, leggings, dance shorts, track shorts), jazz shoes or half-soles, tennis shoes, hair pulled up and out of face
  - **tryout dress code:** **plain** all black dance clothes, jazz shoes or half-soles, tennis shoes, no jewelry (small stud earrings are okay), hair pulled up and out of face in a ponytail or bun
- **If dancers are not dressed in proper attire they will not be permitted to tryout.**
- Judges for dance tryouts will be neutral adults that are comprised of people from the following groups: college dance students, dance coaches, dance professionals and/or Varsity staff. (Not from this area)  
**The decisions of the judges will be considered final.**
- No grandfathering clause is in effect. A position on the squad for the current year does not guarantee a position on the squad for the next year.
- Parents assume the responsibility for the applicant's health, medical, and accidental insurance for both tryouts and for the dance season.

**Tryout paperwork checklist: (for your reference)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tryout fee \$25. (Make payment to DMS).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dance Team Application complete
- \_\_\_\_\_ DMS Dance Team By-laws and Policies signed and dated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Evaluation form (Choose 1 teacher who can email the form back to Coach Gaines)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic Packet from the front office of DMS must be completely filled out and turned in 24 hours before the first clinic day.

Includes:

- Physical form (must be signed by physician and notarized)
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form (must be signed, dated and notarized)
- FHSAA Concussion and Heat Release Form

\*All forms need to be turned in by May 17<sup>th</sup>. They may be dropped off in the front office or mailed in to:

ATTN: Jarin Gaines

6261 Old Bethel Rd

Crestview, FL

32536

# Dance Team Application

## 2024- 2025

Parents, please have your student fill out Questions 1-3!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (next year): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.) What qualities do you possess that make you a good choice to represent DMS as a dance team member?**

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**2.) Do you have any dance experience? List your past years' experience in dance, cheerleading, or gymnastics.**

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**3.) What would you say is the style of dance that you are best at performing?**

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Teacher questionnaire due by **May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Student Name:

Teacher Name:

Grade:

Subject:

Please answer the following questions on a scale of 1-5, 1 being poor, 5 being excellent.

1. Student work ethic:
2. Student attitude:
3. Works well with others:
4. Works to the best of their ability:

Would you recommend this student to be a leader and represent as a DMS Diamonds Dance Team during the 2024-2025 School year? (highlight or check an answer):

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Why or why not?

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Teacher Comments:

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## **DMS Dance Team By-laws and Policies**

### **I. ELIGIBILITY:**

- A. Insurance: Parents or guardians must assume responsibility for a candidate's health, medical, and accident insurance. Proof of insurance must be on file at the school before the first day of clinic.
- B. Physical Exam: Each candidate must have a complete physical examination, by a physician of choice, to be paid for by the parents or guardians. This form must be on file before participant can begin participating.
- C. Grades: You must have an unweighted GPA of 2.0 to try out and must maintain that the entire dance season. Any member whose GPA falls below a 2.0 will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the year.

### **II. RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Conduct: Because you have been selected as a leader and a representative of Davidson Middle School's BEST, it is imperative that each of you display exemplary behavior at all times. Any conduct, by any dance team member that is deemed detrimental to the image of Davidson Middle School, such as smoking, drinking, fighting, truancy, etc., may result in permanent suspension from the team.
- B. Social Media: Any illegal activities posted to social media in any form will not be tolerated and will result in immediate suspension from the team. Illegal activities include (but are not limited to) dance team members drinking alcohol, any use of tobacco products (vaping, smoking, etc.), and/or sexual acts.
- C. Practice: Practice days are mandatory. Missing any dance activities will result in demerits. All appointments should be scheduled on Thursday. This will be a free day every week. Exceptions would require prior approval by the coach. If a dancer has an unexcused absence for the practice before a performance, the dancer will be required to attend the event, but must sit out of the performance. If it is an excused absence, then the sponsor will determine if the dancer will be able to perform. Note: Missing practice or leaving early due to other dance obligations is considered unexcused. **Members of the dance team will be required to attend a team technique class one day a week. This is an extra charge of \$45 a month.**
- D. Team Leaders: The method of selecting team leaders shall be left to the discretion of the sponsor/judges. Team Leaders will be chosen based on attitude, performance, knowledge, and responsibility. Team Leaders will remain in this position as long as they exhibit the qualities listed above.

- E. Uniforms: Uniforms will be selected by the coach. Dance team members are responsible for the cost of personal uniform articles. Rental articles that are damaged must be paid for in full by the dance team member. All uniform articles are only to be worn during dance team functions. Dancers are required to wear specific team practice uniforms for all practices, failure to come to practice in the correct uniform will result in extra conditioning.
- F. Camp: Summer Camp attendance is at the expense of the dance team member is **required**. Because the majority of dance routines for the year are taught at camp, failure to attend summer camp will be justification for suspension/removal from the team for the year.
- G. Attendance: Dance team is a demanding extra-curricular activity which requires a tremendous amount of time and effort. In addition, a student cannot participate in after school activities if he/she is not present in school. Therefore, we must monitor student attendance. Truancy will not be tolerated. The student may be required to attend events and sit with the coach.
- H. Appearance: During all activities that involve the team as a whole or partial (this includes but not limited to practice, performances, fundraisers, school spirit days, and camp) students will be required to dress and style as a team. No extra jewelry (body/facial/ear, etc.) will be worn. Hair will be pulled back neatly. Practice wear will not be worn as school clothes unless coach gives permission.
- I. Financial: A list, which estimates the cost you will be expected to pay if you become a dance team member, is provided in this packet. Please understand that everything possible is done to keep your cost at a minimum. In addition, we will hold a minimum of two fundraisers to help with the cost. If a student is not up to date on their bill, then they will sit out games and performances until bill is brought to date. Parents are responsible for their child's dance bill even if he/she quits or is removed from the squad. All bills from previous seasons or from any school activity/sport must be paid in full before trying out for dance.
- J. Fundraising: Dance team members will be expected to participate in a minimal number of fundraising projects scheduled and planned by the sponsor. Please understand that everything possible is done to keep your cost at a minimum; therefore, we will fundraise throughout the year to cover expenses that go beyond the budget. If for some reason, approved in advance by the coach, a dancer is not able to participate in a mandatory fundraiser, he/she will be responsible for paying a **\$50** "opt out" fee to the general dance account. **You cannot be reimbursed for money that was fundraised and/or sponsorships of your bill. That money will be placed in the general dance account.**
- K. Demerits: Team members will start each season with zero demerits. If a member acquires 10 demerits in one season, he/she will be dismissed from the team. "Seasons" include: Summer: Begins at the time the student makes the team until the first day of school, Football: Aug.-Nov., Basketball: Nov.-Tryouts. Also, if a student quits the team, he/she will not be eligible to try out the following year. Points (or demerits) start on the day after tryouts and ends on the day before tryouts the following year. Dancers will be asked to sign a demerit sheet acknowledging that he/she has received demerits.



**CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF DEMERIT POINTS**

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|--|--|
| 1. Missed Practice – unexcused   | 2  |
| 2. Missed Game/Pep Rally – unexcused                                       | 5  |
| 3. Tardy 5+ min. for practice  | 2  |
| 4. Leaving practice 10 min. early or more                                  | 1  |
| 5. Missing all or part of correct uniform/poms at games                    | 3  |
| 6. Minor disrespect  | 1+ (goes up with each occurrence)  |
| 7. Major disrespect  | 4+   |
| 8. Illegal posts on social media: underage drinking, drug use, sexual acts | 10 (immediate dismissal from team)   |
| 9. Office referral   | 4  |
| 10. After School Detention   | 5  |
| 11. STP/OSS  | Loss of Performances/ Suspension from team or removal at the discretion of the Coach |

L. Contact Hours: You may contact the dance coach during the following hours through email or BAND APP: Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am-4:00pm. Please do not contact coach through social media for any reason.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES AND RULES FOR DAVIDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE TEAM MEMBERS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THE COSTS INVOLVED AND MY RESPONSIBILITY IN PAYING THESE COSTS.

Holly Tew, Principal	Date	Jarín Gaines Coach	Date
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Student Signature	Date	Parent Signature	Date
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## **Sponsorships**

All members are required to turn in at least **4 sponsorships** from the community, friends, or family members. The first **\$200 worth of sponsorships** turned in by each member will go toward the general account. Any sponsorships sent in after that will go towards that member's individual account to help pay for individual expenses. **SPONSORSHIPS ARE MANDATORY.**

Here are some examples of what has been purchased through the general account:

Tryout Materials  
Judges Fees  
Spirit Items  
New Sound System for the Gym  
Parade Fees  
Parade Float Decorations  
Pep Rally Items  
Mascot Dry Cleaning  
End of Season Awards  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night Flowers  
Sponsor Shirts  
Team Banners  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Banners  
Water Bottle