

## **KISD DANCE/DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION**

We, as dance/drill team members of Klein Independent School District, in order to create an organization of the high schools which expect the highest standards, do hereby support this Constitution, which has been ordained and established. The director of the organization, with approval from the office of Campus Safety and Support, has the authority to interpret and enforce the Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I – Structure**

- A. The name of this organization will be the KLEIN OAK STRUTTERS DANCE TEAM.
- B. The team will be comprised of Companies.
- C. The color of this organization shall be BLACK AND GOLD.

### **ARTICLE II – Objectives**

The objectives of the dance/drill team are:

- A. To increase and develop character, leadership, scholarship, self-worth, responsibility, community involvement, while exemplifying high moral character.
- B. To promote school spirit and good sportsmanship.
- C. To promote community spirit.
- D. To represent the Klein Independent School District and our high school at major athletic events, school functions, competitions and community activities, on and off campus.
- E. To encourage and support interest in all areas interrelated to education, including and not limited to academic clubs, athletics and fine arts as well as other outstanding organizations within the school setting.
- F. To create and maintain satisfactory relations between our dance/drill team and other persons we contact.
- G. To develop and maintain a high level of dance training in various areas of dance and styles.

### **ARTICLE III – Tryouts/Requirements/Procedures**

- A. At the time of tryouts, a dance/drill team candidate must currently be a resident of the attendance zone in which the school for which the student is trying out is located, or have an approved transfer from the office of Campus Safety and Support to attend that school for the next school year.
- B. Any student who plans to try out for the team must be in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of tryouts.
- C. All prospective members must attend and participate in tryouts. The director and campus administration will handle circumstances preventing a prospective member from participating on an individual basis.
- D. Each student shall be judged on the basis of dance ability and other related areas such as poise, projection, and knowledge of routine
- E. There will be a panel of qualified judges who will evaluate the tryout. The judges and/or

directors, shall determine the composition of the team. Non-identifiable scores may be made available after tryouts if requested.

- F. An individual member's dance/drill team year begins on the day the member's name is officially posted/announced and continues until that membership is officially terminated or the announcement of the new team is made.
- G. A student transferring from another Klein ISD school who is a member of that campus' dance/drill team and is in good standing with the previous school and team will be automatically accepted as a member of the team of their new campus.
- H. A student new to Klein ISD after dance/drill team tryouts have concluded may be given the opportunity to tryout if there are additional positions available on the team.
- I. Prospective members and their parents must be fully aware of the expenses of dance/drill team as explained in the tryout general information, and they must be willing to meet all financial obligations. If a student is not able to meet all financial obligations, the student needs to consult the director.
- J. Current members of the dance/drill team must tryout each year.
- K. Each member must be physically fit and capable of enduring strenuous activity. Therefore, an annual physical examination is required.
  - a. Prospective members must have either a physical or a waiver releasing liability from the district prior to tryouts.
  - b. Returning members, as well as new members, must have a physical examination completed by a doctor and returned to the director before attending any summer camp.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Maintaining Membership**

Each member is expected to abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the constitution and by the director.

##### Section I – Grade Requirements and Consequences Resulting from Infractions

- A. All grade averages will be checked and recorded immediately after the close of each grading period.
- B. Any member who receives a failing grade in a grading period is ineligible for dance/drill team performance activities for the period of time defined by the guidelines from the University Interscholastic League (UIL).
- C. Any member who receives two or more failing grades as a semester average will be permanently removed from the team.

##### Section II – Conduct Requirements and Actions for Failure to Comply

- A. An individual member's dance/drill team year begins on the day the member's name is officially posted/announced and continues until that membership is officially terminated or the announcement of the new team is made.
- B. It is expected that dance/drill team members' conduct in classes, hallways, and anywhere

on campus will be highly satisfactory. Members are expected to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the Klein ISD Student Handbook.

- C. Infractions of rules may result in demerits, strikes, or dismissal from the team.
- D. Any violation of the constitution will apply to the dance/drill team year.
- E. Conduct probation for minor conduct infractions shall be handled at the discretion of the director according to district policy.
- F. The school principal may remove any dance/drill team member from his/her position as a result of serious or persistent misconduct.

### Section III – Termination of Membership

- A. Termination will occur for stated constitution infractions any time during the dance/drill team year (dance/drill team year begins at the announcement of the new team.)
- B. The length of this termination is until the time of the next annual tryout.

## **ARTICLE V – Discipline System**

Each member will receive a copy of the constitution. Each member and parent is expected to read it and have a signed contract turned in with both the member's signature and the parent's signature.

### Section I – Background and General Regulations

- A. An individual member's dance/drill team year begins on the day the member's name is officially posted/announced and continues until that membership is officially terminated or the announcement of the new team is made.
- B. Students may be assigned demerits, strikes, and immediate dismissal.
- C. The director has the authority to adjust the amount of demerits according to the infraction and any recurrence thereafter.
- D. The military officers may assign demerits.
- E. Discipline may be assigned during school, at any school or dance/drill team function (on or off campus), while displaying membership in the drill/dance team, or based on the member's electronic communication.
- F. Each member will have an opportunity to erase demerits by earning merits.
- G. If an infraction occurs with a combination of discipline penalties for a single offense, the maximum discipline penalty assigned would be for the penalty required for the highest level of offense. For example, a student may be assigned ISS and OSS for the same infraction, so the penalty for OSS would be assigned as discipline for the infraction.

## Section II – Disciplinary Actions

- A. For minor infractions, demerits will be assigned. At the accumulation of 7 demerits, the member will receive a strike. Once demerits have been converted to a strike, they cannot be erased by earning merits.
- B. Discipline for receiving demerits is at the discretion of the director and will be enforced at an appropriate time.
- C. Probation periods will begin with the first dance/drill team sponsored event after discipline was issued.
- D. During any probation period, for demerits or strikes, the member will maintain membership.
- E. While on probation, the member must attend all practices but must sit out at all performances, will not be allowed to attend activities, and will not be allowed to travel with the team.
- F. Any officer who obtains two strikes of any level will be removed from their officer position.

## Section III – Demerit Policy

The list below includes, but is not limited to, behaviors which would require demerits. The number of demerits issued will be determined by the director.

- Tardiness to practice, game, or non-school hour activity/event
- Showing disrespect towards an officer
- Leaving a performance, game, practice, or activity/event early
- An excused absence to a game/practice/event without written parent advance notification
- Inappropriate language or behavior
- Display of affection in school or at a school-related activity
- Moving or talking at attention
- Improper body language
- Not abiding by bus policies when traveling
- Failure to turn in money or items on due date
- Failure to inform director of ISS/OSS assignment
- Socializing with individuals other than team members, directors, and chaperones at a performance or function
- Failure to adhere to grooming and uniform expectations for a game, practice, or activity/event
- Failure to cover tattoos for a game, practice, or activity/event
- Accepting food, drinks, or other items without permission
- Allowing a non-member to sit in the ranks at a performance or function
- Leaving the stands at a performance without permission
- Receiving a failing grade at a UIL Eligibility check point and losing eligibility.

#### Section IV – Strike Policy

**Strike One:** Parent notification and probation period of two team sponsored activities.

**Strike Two:** Parent notification, conference with parent, and probation period of three team sponsored activities.

**Strike Three:** Parent notification, conference with parent, student and an assistant principal, and immediate removal from the team.

The list below includes, but is not limited to, behaviors which would require strikes:

- Disrespect towards the Director/Teacher/Administration
- Insubordination towards the Director/Teacher/Administration
- Documented inappropriate conduct while displaying membership (in consultation with campus administration)
- Any unexcused absence
- Failure to regain eligibility at the next UIL Eligibility check point
- Refusing to work or pay attention at practice
- Unsportsmanlike conduct at a game or performance
- Assignment to ISS
- Receiving a P or U on any nine-week grading period
- Forging a document or signature
- Infractions of the Klein ISD Dance/Drill Team Electronic Communication Guidelines (see Article XII)

#### Section V – Dismissal

The list below includes, but is not limited to, behaviors which would warrant immediate dismissal:

- Assignment to OSS (in consultation with campus administration)
- Assignment to DAEP
- Failing two classes at the end of a semester
- Destruction or vandalism of school property
- Stealing
- Alcohol, tobacco, vape, and/or any drug use
- Documented inappropriate conduct while displaying membership (in consultation with campus administration)
- Notice from law enforcement that a student has engaged in conduct defined as a felony offense either on or off campus.
- Infractions of the Klein ISD Dance/Drill Team Electronic Communication Guidelines (see Article XII)

## Section IV – Officers and Demerits

Officers are expected to abide by the policies of the team and to be mature in handling their leadership positions. Improper behavior of any officer could result in 1 – 7 demerits. Examples include but are not limited

to:

- Abuse of authority
- Unnecessary criticism of a member
- Failure to give merits or demerits
- Failure to set a good example
- Failure to meet responsibilities
- Failure to fulfill duties

## **ARTICLE VI – Commitments**

### Section I – Summer Camp and Summer Practices

- A. During the summer all members must attend a week of dance/drill team dance camp preceding summer practices, or the member will be subject to dismissal from the team.
- B. Practice before camp must be attended in order to prepare and condition the member before actually attending camp.
- C. Summer workouts are mandatory in order to prepare members for football season. The only excused absences during summer workouts or the school year practice or activity would be:
  - a. Personal illness/accident
  - b. Death in the family
  - c. Extenuating circumstances as determined by the director
- D. Failure to attend summer practices without prior permission from the director may warrant demerits or probation from team sponsored activities as determined by the director. Any member with an unexcused absence during summer workouts may receive probation from team sponsored activities for each day missed. If any part of a workout is missed, the director will use discretion in assessing the penalty.

### Section II – Football and Contest Season Commitments

- A. All members are expected to attend and participate in all activities, fundraisers, classes, practices, performances and functions.
- B. Tryouts may be held for performances.
- C. Missing any part of class or practice during the season may result in a member, who has made a given routine, to be placed as an alternate.
- D. The only excused absences during the school year practice or activity would be:
  - a. Personal illness/accident
  - b. Death in the family
  - c. Extenuating circumstances as determined by the director
- E. Doctor's appointments should be scheduled for non-practice days. Emergency situations

should be handled prior to the appointment and must have director's approval.

- F. Any time a member is going to be absent, it is expected that contact be made with the director prior to the class period and/or practice.
- G. If a member is absent, it is his/her responsibility to acquire information, announcements, or routines taught during any absence.
- H. Any special practices held on Saturday, holidays, or in the morning before school, scheduled by the director and approved by the administration, must be attended by all members.
- I. No Sunday practices are allowed.

### Section III – Definition of Performance Commitments

- A. Football season is comprised of 10 regular season games (both home and away) and any other playoff games thereafter.
- B. Contest season may begin as early as December and may extend through April. The director will provide the locations and dates of contests during the school year.
- C. There is a limit of three (3) team in-state competitions, plus a national competition if the group qualifies according to the Klein ISD guidelines. Only one contest may be an overnight trip unless approved by Klein ISD Campus Administration.
- D. No team may travel to a national competition out of state in consecutive years and no team may travel outside the continental United States.

### Section IV – Other Performance Commitments

- A. Other performances during the year may occur. They include, but are not limited to: Basketball games, soccer games, and professional athletic events where invitations are given to qualified teams (example: Rockets halftime performance).
- B. Community service activities may include a performance as well.

### **ARTICLE VII – Junior Varsity**

- A. A school may offer a Junior Varsity team. This course enables additional dance techniques to be taught for those who desire to become a Varsity member the following scheduled tryouts.
- B. Junior Varsity performs at various activities. This may include dancing with the Varsity at football games and second semester may perform at basketball games as its own unit.
- C. Junior Varsity members may try out at semester for Varsity.
- D. All Junior Varsity members are expected to adhere to the same guidelines as Varsity members.
- E. Junior Varsity tryouts may be held bi-annually.
- F. Those staying in Junior Varsity all year should not count this year as their first year towards lettering.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Officers**

### **Section I – Military Officers**

- A. Members anticipating trying out for military officer must satisfy the following requirements:
  - a. Each candidate must have at least one year of experience on a high school dance/drill team and be entering the junior or senior year in the fall. A transfer from another team would be credited with the year at another school.
  - b. Each candidate must be a member in good standing at the time of the tryout.
  - c. Each candidate must have fulfilled all tryout requirements as set forth in the constitution. (See Article III – Tryouts/Requirements/Procedures)
  - d. Each candidate must attend all the workouts scheduled for candidates. The director will handle circumstances preventing a prospective officer candidate from participating on an individual basis.
- B. The military officers will be selected by a panel of qualified judges with director input.
- C. The tryout process may consist of any combination of the following areas: solos, interviews, director evaluation, peer evaluation, instruction of routine(s), special choreography, group dance, ability to think and dance under pressure, willingness to work hard and consistently all year, notebooks, special assignments and /or projects determined by the director.
- D. Non-identifiable scores may be made available after tryouts if requested.

### **Section II – Social Officers**

- A. Members anticipating trying out for social officer must satisfy the following requirements:
  - a. 1. Each candidate must have at least one year of experience on a high school dance/drill team.
  - b. 2. Each candidate must be a member in good standing at the time of the tryout and must be entering the sophomore, junior, or senior year in the fall.
  - c. Each candidate must have fulfilled all tryout requirements as set forth in the constitution. (See Article III – Tryouts/Requirements/Procedures)
  - d. The director will handle circumstances preventing a prospective officer candidate from participating on an individual basis.
- B. The selection of the social officers may be done with/without a panel of judges. The director designs the process for selection.
- C. The tryout process may consist of any combination or all of the following:
  - a. solos, interviews, director evaluation, peer evaluations, instruction of routines, special choreography, group dance, ability to think and dance under pressure, willingness to work hard and consistently all year; notebooks, special assignments and or projects determined by the director. f
- D. Non-identifiable scores may be made available after tryouts if requested.



### Section III – General Definition of Leadership Positions

- A. The director will designate the hierarchy and titles of the leadership positions of the team.
- B. They may include:
  - a. military officers, social officers and spirit leaders
  - b. The director shall assign specific duties to the various leadership positions.

### Section IV – General Requirements for Leadership Roles

- A. All officers are required to follow the standards set forth in the constitutions. Officers who receive more than one waived or unwaived failing grade may be removed from the officer position and re-assigned to line member status.
- B. The officers will be expected to perform duties assigned to them by the director.
- C. All military officers have the authority to give demerits; therefore, any officers who have committed an offense warranting demerits must turn themselves in immediately. Failure to do so may warrant demerits in addition to the original number of demerits assessed.
- D. Another officer, whether higher or lower in rank, may also assign demerits to any officer.
- E. The social officers plan and coordinate all social functions for the team.
- F. The spirit leaders provide the motivational components necessary to keep the morale and energy level of the team up.
- G. Any officer may be relieved of office and duties because of excessive absences or for not fulfilling the required duties to the fullest. This process may be done after consultation between the director and the administration.

### **ARTICLE IX– Financial Obligations**

- A. Projects for financing this organization will be sponsored throughout the school year. All members are expected to participate.
- B. It is the responsibility of the member to return any borrowed items in the condition that it was received. Any item, uniform or costume must be repaired or replaced at the member's expense if it is lost, stolen or destroyed.
- C. Each member will be given an estimated cost sheet prior to tryout.

### **ARTICLE X – Lettering**

- A. To receive an award jacket or to letter, students must be members of a student organization that actively participates in interscholastic competition and/or dance/drill team activities and remain in good standing for the entire school year.
- B. Students shall demonstrate a positive attitude, maintain a satisfactory citizenship/conduct and scholarship average, and must attend all functions and activities of the organization or sub-groups unless excused by the coaches/directors/sponsor.
- C. Dance/drill team members shall complete the second year as a varsity dance/drill

team member and be selected to participate during that school year at a minimum of eight varsity football games and any assigned varsity level UIL Athletic and/or Fine Art events assigned by the director.

- D. Dance/drill team members shall participate in all official contests conducted during the academic year (exclusive of nationals).
- E. If a member does not qualify for an award jacket in year two because of non-performance due to an illness or injury, but met the “General Requirements” above in that school year, he or she will qualify for an award jacket if he or she met all of the lettering requirements in year one.
- F. Seniors, at the director’s discretion and with the approval of the school principal, may receive an award jacket if they are felt to be deserving-by meeting shortened requirements set forth by the director.

## **ARTICLE XII – Digital Citizenship and Expectations**

All Dance/Drill Team members are expected to represent themselves and KISD with honor, dignity, and integrity at all times, including when interacting on social networking sites and in other online environments. All Dance/Drill Team members who engage in interactions, including interactions on social networking sites and other online environments, can expect consequences for interactions that:

- Are harassing, bullying, or cyberbullying of a student or other individual
- Are illegal
- Are vulgar/obscene or overtly sexual in nature
- Diminish the reputation of individuals associated with the organization(s) in which the student is a member
- Create or are foreseeable to create a substantial disruption to the school environment

Violations will be handled at the discretion of the director and campus administration in accordance with law and may result in removal as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE XIII – Amendment Procedures**

This constitution may be amended with the approval of the Klein ISD office of Campus Safety and Support.

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