Desoto Central High School Dance

Rules, Regulations and Contract

**Academics**

* To be eligible to dance for the fall semester, the student must have a 2.0 GPA for the previous year.
* Students must maintain at least a 70 average in all classes.
* Grades will be checked at the end of each nine weeks.
* Sponsors are allowed to spot check as needed.
* If grades do not meet this standard, the student will not be allowed to perform at competitions, games or pep rallies until proof is provided by the teacher that the average is above a 70.
* It is the student’s responsibility to make up any work or assignments missed due to dance, and to inform their teachers IN ADVANCE of dance related absences.
* Academics should and will be placed before athletics.
* Sponsor reserves the right to administer consequences if these priorities are not met.
* Skipping school at any time without a valid reason will NOT be tolerated and will have consequences.

**Conduct**

* The Dance Team will dance at all football games, pep rallies, and all home basketball games.
* DCHS Dancers are allowed to dance on all-star squads with the following understanding:
  + DCHS dance practices, games, and competitions are all mandatory.
  + All-star must not interfere with any regularly scheduled DCHS dance activity.

*The student may be dismissed from squad if above rules are not followed.*

* DCHS Dancers are expected to be positive role models that represent the school well on and off the field/court/mat. Negative teacher evaluations or behavior/complaints from a dancer’s teacher can and will result in a consequence, and can include the dancer’s immediate dismissal from the squad.
* DCHS Dancers will not participate in any illegal activity, including but not limited to: tobacco use, vaping, alcohol, drugs, theft, vandalism, etc. Any participation in any of these activities can and will result in a consequence by the sponsor/coach, and can include the student’s immediate dismissal from the squad. Dancers are subject to random drug testing at the sponsor’s discretion at the parent’s expense.
* Absolutely no profanity or inappropriate behavior is allowed while in uniform or representing DeSoto Central High School in any way.
* Internet, Social Media, and anywhere you may post &/or discuss being a member of DCHS Dance Team:
  + Absolutely no profanity or inappropriate behavior is allowed while in uniform or representing DeSoto Central High School in any way.
  + All internet posts/pictures must be appropriate for representing the squad in a positive manner.
  + Consequences could result in immediate dismissal from the team.
  + Parents, please monitor your child’s social media.
  + No PDA in person or on social media.
  + No swimsuit post on social media. Swimsuits must be covered up and not revealing. Wear cover ups.
  + Also the DCHS uniform and clothes are to only be worn by members of the dance team and only when the sponsor states to wear these. These will be monitored often.
* DCHS Dancers will show respect to the squad, sponsors, coaches, teachers, administrators, and other students and other teams at all times. Dancers will treat all other dancers, sponsor, and coaches with respect both during and outside of dance activities.
* DeSoto County Schools has a Zero Tolerance policy for bullying. Bullying will NOT be tolerated on behalf of a student, parent, sponsor, or coach. Consequences could result in immediate dismissal from the team.
* Any discipline action by the school/police will result in consequences from the sponsor. Consequences will vary depending on the severity of the action the dancers is being disciplined for (range from, but not limited to, not being allowed to dance at games, extra conditioning at practice or possible dismissal from the squad depending on the circumstance, etc.)
* All dancers should be 100 % committed to their squad and their sponsors/coaches at all times. Leaving the squad for any reason before the dancer’s commitment is fulfilled will result in full loss of credit and the dancer not being allowed to return to the squad that dance season or the next, as well as, total loss of all money already in the dancer’s account.
* There will be a set curfew of 10:00 p.m. the evening before each competition. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a named punishment at that time.

**Cell Phones**

* The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during practice, games, and competitions. Students may use their phones to/from events. If you have an emergency and need your child, please call or text the sponsor.

**Refunds**

* No refunds are given for DCHS Dance.

**Appearance**

* No jewelry during practice, ballgames or competitions. ALL jewelry must be removed. This is for the safety of all dancers.
* Hair will be worn as instructed by sponsor/coaches to all practices, pep rallies, games and competitions.
* No body piercings or visible tattoos. Any dancer with a tattoo must keep it covered.
* Fingernails:
  + **During competition:** Fingernails must be cut where they cannot be seen when looking at the palm of the hand. This includes real and fake nails. Consequences will be administered for fingernails longer than the length above. Nail polish may not be worn during a competition. Everything should be neutral colors.
  + **During non-competing months**, it is strongly recommended that students keep nails short. Colored polish may be worn when not competing.
* During the competition season dancers are prohibited from altering their hair color involving any color that is not natural such as bold streaks, blue, red, green etc., permanent hair accessories such as feathers, colored extensions etc. are not allowed.
* Dancers should dress appropriately at school and other times when they are in public and not in uniform. Dancers are representatives of the school at ALL times. Dancers should be appropriately covered during practice times. And shorts and shirts should be worn at a length that will not reveal any undergarments.

**Attendance**

* Attendance at all practices and team events is mandatory. (Including but not limited to fundraisers and competitions)
* Dance practice will be held on the following days:
  + Mondays – 2 Mondays each month. Dates will be announced at the end of the previous month. 4:00 – 6pm
  + Tuesdays - 4:00pm – 6pm
  + Thursdays 4:00pm – 5pm
  + Saturdays 8am - 11am (2 Saturdays a month).
* Leaving practice early is not permitted.
* Excessive absences may result in consequences deemed appropriate by sponsor, which can include the dancer’s dismissal from the squad.
* Dancers are responsible for finding their own transportation to/from practices, games, competitions and other dance events.
* Any scheduled absence (doctor’s appointments, etc.) from any practice must be cleared in advance with the sponsor. However, appointments need to be scheduled at times that do not conflict with practice unless there is an emergency. Regular appointments such as dentist, orthodontist, etc. will not be excused. Do not schedule those during practice times.
* Injuries and/or prolonged illnesses (more than 1 practice) will only be excused with a doctor’s note and the sponsor must receive advance notification. If you are not contagious, you are expected to the present to watch, learn and cheer on teammates.
* Death in the family, contagious illness, high fever, & vomiting are the only excuses for missing a practice. If vomiting/contagious a doctor’s excuse must be presented in order to excuse the absence. Refer to COVID-19 plan for additional guidelines.
* After an injury is treated by a doctor, you will not be allowed to practice with the team until sponsor has received a release from injury note FROM YOUR DOCTOR.
* Dancers must be on time and completely dressed for all dance-related functions. This includes having hair up, jewelry off, shoes on, and in their place by their designated time.
* It is the dancer’s responsibility to notify the sponsor prior to an absence. This should be done as far in advance as possible and should not be done less than 2 hours before a practice or game. If the sponsor is not notified by the student, the absence becomes unexcused and a consequence will be administered. Understand, that just because you notify the sponsor of an absence that does not make an absence excused. Having another student tell the sponsor where you are or where they think you may be is not considered notification.
* Dancers must be present for at least 2 blocks during the school day in order to attend dance practice on that day. If the student does not attend school on a particular day, the student cannot attend practice or perform on that day. The absence is unexcused regardless of not being allowed to attend and the consequences listed for an unexcused absence will follow.
* In order to be eligible to participate in a competition or performance on a school day, an athlete must attend school at least 63% of the school day. A school related absence will not affect this rule. Demerits will still be in affect if absent/ineligible to compete/perform.

**Practice, Ballgames and Competitions**

* Practices are closed to everyone to cut down on distractions. No family or friends may attend.
* During the week, practices will be held at school. Saturday practices will either be held at DCHS or LRP Dance Studios in Southaven.
* Every dancer will participate in all activities that take place during practice time unless a doctor has excused them due to injury. At such time, different conditioning will take place that will not further injure the dancer.
* All dancers must be present and checked in at ballgames at least 30 minutes prior to the start of a game (football and basketball).
* Dancers will not leave any dance related event for any reason until dismissed by the sponsor. Leaving without being excused will be considered the “Leaving without being dismissed…” infraction under the “Consequences” section and will receive the consequence listed.
* Dancers must be present to dance at every varsity football game and assigned basketball game.
* Missing a game will result in consequences deemed appropriate by the sponsor.
* Bathroom breaks need to be taken before games or during half time. Refreshments are allowed only at half time, and dancers are expected to be ready to go at the start of the next game/quarter.
* Dancers are responsible for their own transportation to and from practices, performances, and competitions. Transportation will only be provided if the team is attending an out of district school sporting event. The sponsor will require notification from each dancer’s parent/guardian prior to off campus games / performances / competitions regarding their dancer’s transportation. By signing the team contract, you agree that the DeSoto Central High School Varsity Dance Team, DeSoto Central High School, Mrs. Pamela D. Williams, and Coach Erin Elam, and any other person in connection with the previously mentioned are not liable for any accident, injury, etc…that occur during dancer/parent provided transportation.
* Competitions are a privilege, not a right. Competitions can be taken away by the coaches/sponsor as a consequence for lack of effort or behavior problems throughout the year.
* The #1 priority of our dance team is to support the school’s sports teams and promote school spirit. Competitions are secondary. Obligations for team support will be taken care of first, and we will participate in competitions if all previous obligations are met.
* Separate rules and contracts may be required for participation in competitions.

**Alternates**

Please understand that we make decisions based on the best interest of the squad. Please do not take these decisions personally and understand that we will give everyone an equal opportunity to perform to the best of their ability. Alternates are necessary and keep the squad from getting completely pulled out of a competition in cases of injury, illness, or when other emergencies that arise. Alternates are an extremely important part of the squad and are treated as such. **Alternates are the best way to move team in the right direction.**

* Dancers must understand it is possible that everyone will not compete at every competition. Alternates may change from competition to competition and will be chosen based on ability and what is needed for that particular competition. These dancers are still required to practice & know the routine in case they are needed at any time to step in.
* If an alternate is needed to replace a team member, the alternate showing the most improvement, ability, and positive attitude will be chosen by the coach unless she did not meet the guidelines for grades, behavior, attitude, injury, illness, lack of effort at practice or any other reason the coach sees fit.
* Dancers may be moved to alternate status due to lack of the required skills, attitude, work ethic, or the number of team members required for competition.
* Dancers will be pulled out and replaced with an alternate for grades, behavior, attitude, injury, illness, lack of effort at practice or any other reason the coach/sponsor sees fit. If a dancer cannot physically fulfill their role, they will be replaced as soon as the coach/sponsor deems it necessary. These dancers will still go to all competitions and they will still be responsible for meeting all necessary financial obligations. Alternates will still practice, and they will still be in attendance at every practice and competition, or they will be dismissed from the squad.
* Alternates will be chosen as soon as we are able to do so before each competition, and we will let them know as soon as possible. Alternates may also be put back into the competition if they improve on the skills that they were lacking on when they were chosen as an alternate.

Consequences

All of the above rules and regulations are subject to demerits that will result in consequences if not followed. A notebook will be kept and each offense will be recorded in that dancer’s file. Notes will be taken for any violation of the rules. An excessive number of violations or a severe violation will result in dismissal from the squad. Demerits and consequences will begin on the first offense, and are as follows:

* Absences and tardies:

1. Tardy to practice or event = 1 demerit

2. Unexcused absence from practice with sponsor notification= 2 demerits

1. Unexcused absence from practice without sponsor notification= 3 demerits
2. Unexcused absence from last practice before a competition/performance= 4 demerits
3. Unexcused absence from small event (fundraiser, pep rally) = 4 demerits
4. Leaving without being dismissed/checking out from practice, competition, or other function = 2 demerits
5. Unexcused absence from competition = immediate dismissal and repay competition fee amount (regardless of demerit total)

* Dress:

1. Breaking practice dress code (including jewelry & hair) = 1 demerit
2. Fingernails too long at practice, event, or competition = 1 demerits
3. Inappropriate dress at school, event, or competition = 2 demerits

* Behavior:

1. Academic/not meeting GPA requirement = 2 demerits and placed on alternate status for the semester
2. Excessive goofing off/lack of effort at practice or event = 2 demerits
3. Teacher complaints = 1 demerit
4. Discipline referral from school = 4 demerits
5. Disrespectfulness = 3 demerits
6. Arguing with other dancers= 2 demerits
7. Use of profanity of any sort while in practice clothes or uniform (including on internet based sites) = 2 demerits
8. Causing conflict/problems involving the squad = 3 demerits
9. Participating in illegal activity = up to 10 demerits or immediate dismissal (depending on the severity)

THE SPONSORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADD/CHANGE ANY DEMERITS OR OFFENSES AT ANY TIME. THIS WILL ONLY BE DONE IN SEVERE OFFENSES OR IN THE CASE THAT SOMETHING WAS LEFT OUT OR THAT SOMETHING NEW OCCURS THAT NEEDS AN IMMEDIATE DECISION.

1-4 demerits = one extra conditioning consequence per demerit before or after practice

5-7 demerits = previous consequence PLUS sitting out of the next noncompetition performance (pep rallies, games, etc...)

8-9 demerits = placed on alternate status (attendance at all events is still mandatory but no participation at competitions is allowed)

10 demerits = dismissal from the squad, total loss of all funds contributed, and the inability to try out the following year.

Demerits earning will start over at the beginning of each 9 weeks. When at all possible, consequences administered will be to improve the dancer’s overall dancing ability and/or contribution to the team. Losing performance time or dismissal from the team will be reserved for severe offenses or continued lack of regard for the rules and regulations.

**Lettering Requirements: How to Earn Letterman Jacket/Chevrons**

* Must maintain the minimum grade requirement set forth in the contract.
* Must dance at every home and away varsity football game and assigned basketball game. Any unexcused absences will result in not earning a letter for the year.
* Dancer in her first year of dance will be eligible for a jacket only.

**Finances**

* Coaching fees are due the 1st Monday of each month except for August, which will be due on August 7th. If your payment is late, a $10 late fee will be added. Any account that is consistently past due will result in the dancers being put on probation and not being allowed to participate until the account is paid in full. Any returned check will require that dancer to pay in cash from that point on. Dancers will continue to receive demerits until payment is paid. If the amount is not paid during the month the dancer will be dismissed from the team. If you are not paying coaching fees, you will not be coached by the coach. You will sit out and eventually be dismissed.
* General account fundraisers are mandatory. Each dancer must either meet the base expectation set by the sponsor, or they must pay in to cover their part.
* ALL money paid to the DCHS Dance School account is non-refundable. If a dancer leaves the team for any reason (quits, moves, gets dismissed, etc.) the money in her account will not be refunded or rolled to any other dancer.
* If a dancer leaves the squad for any reason or chooses not to try out for the next season and owes money to the squad, that money must be paid and the account cleared before the dancer can try out again, leave the school, or graduate. Report cards and cap & gowns will be held at the school until the account is paid in full.

PARENTS:

There may be things that will happen throughout the year that you may not agree with. I know that our coach and I may make decisions that you think should not have been made.

My responsibility to each student is to make decisions that are in the best interest of the TEAM or the MAJORITY OF THE TEAM. I will always consider the affect our decisions will have on every child before I make them, but unfortunately, they can’t always benefit everyone.

I will always attempt to make decisions in the best interest of the squad. I understand that sometimes it doesn’t feel that way. There may be times throughout the year that your child will come home angry, upset, frustrated and/or with hurt feelings over something that has happened at practice. I promise at ALL times to be honest with you and your child. Instead of “assuming” anything, I ask that you encourage your child to come talk with me. I WILL tell them the truth.

I keep the lines of communication open at all times. If there is something going on that you don’t understand or are confused about, please ask me. I will gladly tell you everything I can. You still may not agree with me, and that’s okay. I just ask that you respect that my decision for the team is final. Regardless of what decision is made, it is vital to the team’s success that our relationship remains a positive one.

Above all, I ask that you know that I am, along with school administration, the final authority on every team decision, and we ask that as long as your child participates with our team, that you follow many of the same rules they do. We ask that you represent DCHS dance in a positive manner, you talk to the sponsor first when there is a problem, and you speak about us and to us in a respectful way, even when you disagree. We also promise to do the same for you.

\*Mass communication (through email, Facebook, Twitter, phone calls, in person, or any other form of communication) or consistently causing conflict amongst dancers or parents by parents/guardians that is negative about the team, sponsors, coaches, dancers, or anything else in connection with the team will not be tolerated. Parents, like their students, are expected to always represent the team in a positive manner.

For DCHS, we have Jag Expectations that everyone must sign in order to represent one of our sports at DeSoto Central. Make sure you understand that these expectations are not only for the athlete but for their parents as well.

Please sign and return the “Signed Contract” form to allow your child to participate on the Desoto Central High School Danceleading Squad. By signing, you and your student agree that you have read, understand, and agree with all of the terms, rules, and consequences stated in this contract.

We encourage each of you to keep the contents of this contract for your records.

2020-2021 DCHS Varsity Dance Contract

By signing, you agree that you have read, understand, and agree with all of the terms, rules, and consequences stated in this contract.

As a student, I am aware that it is a privilege to be a member of the Desoto Central High School Dance Team. I am aware of all of the rules, and I agree to adhere to them at all times. I understand that if I do not, consequences will be administered up to and including, dismissal from the team.

As a parent, I understand that my child is subject to consequences if they do not follow the rules, and I give the coaches/sponsors /administration permission to administer these consequences as they deem necessary. I also understand that these consequences could result in my child being dismissed from the team.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents,

Please include the following contact information for yourself:

Phone numbers:

(Day)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Home)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address (most common way to send information to parents):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_