

Pharr- San Juan- Alamo Independent School District

HIGH SCHOOL

Drill/Dance Team

Constitution

2019-2020

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The name of this organization is:

**PHARR SAN JUAN ALAMO ISD
BEARETTES, DAZZLERS, RAIDERETTES, SAPPHIRES
Drill/Dance Team**

The purpose of this Drill/Dance Team shall be the following:

- to promote school spirit and represent PSJA ISD at various school functions on or off campus,
- to develop positive traits in each member, such as leadership, good sportsmanship, and individual responsibility,
- to represent PSJA ISD by maintaining a high standard of character, moral conduct, and integrity,
- to develop and maintain a very high standard of precision dance for performance.

II. LINE MEMBER TRYOUTS

- A. Tryouts for line members will be open to current 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th graders meeting all audition criteria as listed in this document.
- B. Grade requirements:
 - 1. Anyone auditioning must have passed every class with a 70 or above for the six weeks grading period prior to tryouts. One grade of a 65-69 in an advanced course (AP) is acceptable if waived by administration.
 - 2. Progress reports may be considered for eligibility purposes if audition date falls after IPR grades for the current six weeks grading period have been posted.
 - 3. Students who do not meet the above stated criteria will still be allowed to audition if grades from MP1-MP4 average a 70 or above for each class in question.
- C. All candidates must have a current sports physical in order to audition.
- D. A member who fails to complete the full term of the designated contract period (period following auditions to the end of the scholastic year) is expected to pay for items already ordered and will be ineligible for reinstatement for the current year.
- E. All candidates must resolve all current financial issues prior to auditions.
- F. Returning members are not guaranteed a position on the line each year.
- G. Line camp will be mandatory for all members. College courses must be scheduled so as not to conflict with camps.
- H. All line members must be enrolled in the designated Drill Team class. No exceptions.
- I. The number of positions awarded will be determined by the judges' scores.
- J. All candidates selected for the team must pay their first installment immediately. No exceptions.
- K. It is understood that a few students may wish to participate in additional school related extra-curricular activities. These students may miss a portion of drill/dance team practice to participate in these other school related extra-curricular activities. Students who miss too much practice (as determined by the director) risk not being allowed to perform/compete. Scheduling conflicts will be resolved by the applicable directors/sponsors. The sponsors will devise a practice plan that the student is required to follow. It is imperative that students frequently communicate with the applicable directors/sponsors.

It is the policy of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, national origin or age.

III. OFFICER TRYOUTS

- A. Officer tryouts will be open to current 10th and 11th grade members who have been on the team for at least two complete years (must be currently active) and meet all of the criteria listed in this document. In-district transfers will be considered after one complete year on the team and in the case that the student has completed at least one full year on her/his former team.
- B. All officer candidates must be selected for line membership prior to the officer audition.
- C. All officer candidates must be physically present for the audition. Under no circumstances will video auditions be accepted.
- D. The judges' scores will determine the number of students who will be awarded officer positions (not to exceed seven). Once the officer positions are awarded, the highest ranking 12th grade officer will be named Major. In the case that there are no 12th grade students selected as officer, the position of Major will be awarded to the highest scoring 11th grade officer.
- E. All officer candidates must have a cumulative average of 70 or above for grading periods MP1-MP4 with a maximum of one failing grade. Officer candidates with two failing grades must average a 75 or above for grading periods MP1-MP4. Officer candidates with more than two failing grades are ineligible to audition for officer. A grade waived by the administration is not considered a failing grade.
- F. Officers may be removed from their positions at any time for failure to fulfill team/officer obligations and are ineligible for reinstatement to their officer positions during the current year.
- G. Officer candidates must resolve all current financial issues prior to auditions.
- H. Officer vacancies will not be filled. No exceptions.
- I. Line and Officer Camps will be mandatory for all officer members. College courses must be scheduled so as not to conflict with camps.
- J. It is understood that a few officers may wish to participate in additional school related extra-curricular activities. Officers and their parents should understand that it is very challenging for officers to fulfill their leadership responsibilities and also participate in other activities that require a substantial before/after school time commitment. Officers must abide by the following guidelines.
 - 1. Scheduling conflicts will be resolved by the applicable directors/sponsors. The sponsors will devise a practice plan that the student is required to follow. It is imperative that students frequently communicate with the applicable directors/sponsors.
 - 2. Officers may miss up to 10% of drill/dance team before/after school practice to participate in these other school related extra-curricular activities. Occasional exceptions may be made due to extenuating circumstances (at the discretion of the director). Those who miss more than 10% of before/after school practice per risk not being allowed to perform/compete and also risk revocation of their officer status.

IV. TRANSFERS

- A. Only in-district transfers are permitted.
- B. The designated cut-off date will be August 31st for all transfers. No exceptions.
- C. In the case of a transfer, the dancer will be required to purchase all attire required of the transfer team.
- D. All transfers must have attended summer camp with their former team.
- E. All in-district transfers must be in good standing.
- F. In order for a transfer to be considered, the dancer must meet the cut-off score for the transfer team.
- G. Any student changing teams after the designated cut-off date must wait out the term of the year to re-audition and are encouraged to enroll in a general dance class.

V. OFFICER DUTIES

MAJOR:

- A. Set the example of proper behavior, always above reproach.
- B. Take charge in the absence of the director.
- C. Help director maintain discipline among all members.
- D. Attend all activities held throughout their year in office.
- E. Teach dances and direct practices in accordance with the director.

CAPTAINS:

- A. Work closely with Major.
- B. Set the example of proper behavior, always above reproach.
- C. Help director maintain discipline when the Major is away.
- D. Attend all activities held throughout their year in office.
- E. Assist in directing routines and directing practices.

LIEUTENANTS:

- A. Work closely with the Major and Captain.
- B. Set the example of proper behavior, always above reproach.
- C. Help directors maintain discipline when the Major and Captain are away.
- D. Attend all activities held throughout their year in office.
- E. Assist in teaching routines and directing practices.

VI. PENALTIES/DEMERITS/MERITS

- A. Only the director may issue penalties, demerits, or merits to team members.
- B. When officers take charge, in the absence of the director, the officers will report any misconduct to the director and the director will issue the penalty or demerit to the member(s).
- C. When officers take charge, in the absence of the director, the officers will report outstanding behavior to the director and the director will issue the merit to the member(s).
- D. All penalties, demerits, and merits will be recorded for documentation purposes.

PENALTIES: A member may be issued a penalty for breaking any of the conduct or disciplinary procedures noted in this constitution. Three penalties equal one demerit.

DEMERITS: A member who has received 3 demerits may be placed on a probationary contract. Demerits may be issued as the director deems appropriate.

MERITS: Merits are granted on a positive basis. A merit is a means of rewarding a member and will be granted as the director deems appropriate.

VII. DISCIPLINARY/CONDUCT PROCEDURES

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

A. Probationary procedures for each demerit will be as follows:

- 1.) **First demerit-** Director/Member conference, Home notice
- 2.) **Second demerit-** Director/Parent/Member conference
- 3.) **Third demerit-** Probationary contract

CONDUCT:

- A. Dancers must display appropriate behavior both in and out of school.
- B. “Yes Mam/Sir” or “No Mam/Sir” must follow questions or comments at all times by all members.
- C. A penalty will be issued for any of the following offenses. Once a member receives three penalties, they may forfeit the next performance and will receive one demerit:
 - 1.) Tardies/Absences
 - 2.) Missing activities
 - 3.) Failing to inform director ahead of time when not performing
 - 4.) Leaving early from an activity without permission
 - 5.) Poor attitude
 - 6.) Not following instructions
 - 7.) Complaining after a directive
 - 8.) Using vulgar language
 - 9.) Public display of affection
 - 10.) Lying
 - 11.) Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - 12.) Lack of cooperation or participation
 - 13.) Lack of effort or lack of school spirit
 - 14.) Late back from a break
 - 15.) Unprepared
 - 16.) Wrong attire
 - 17.) Not dressing out for practice
 - 18.) Chewing gum in uniform or at practice
 - 19.) Dirty or poorly kept uniform
 - 20.) Wearing uniform/practice clothing without permission
 - 21.) Wearing nail polish while in uniform
 - 22.) Failure to display appropriate facial expressions during a performance
 - 23.) Talking while director, officers, or other members are speaking
 - 24.) Talking or moving while at attention
 - 25.) Talking during performances, pep-rallies, on the field or court
 - 26.) Talking to outsiders while in rank
 - 27.) Leaving trash, personal items, etc. at practice or activity
 - 28.) Eating or drinking at practice or activity without permission
 - 29.) Loaning team attire to members outside of organization
 - 30.) Not following school dress code
 - 31.) Not meeting deadlines
 - 32.) Failure to be picked up in time after practice/function (not to exceed 15 minutes)

D. Probation will occur for any of the following:

- 1.) Accumulation of three demerits
- 2.) Continuous poor attitude and behavior with teachers, administration, or staff
- 3.) Truancy
- 4.) Excessive absences in school or practice sessions
- 5.) Poor attitude or dishonesty in/out of school
- 6.) Ridiculing or bullying others in/out of school
- 7.) Disrespecting authority in or out of school
- 8.) Stealing in/out of school
- 9.) Fighting in/out school
- 10.) Smoking, use of alcohol, or illegal drugs in/out of school
- 11.) Lewd behavior in/out of school
- 12.) Inappropriate social networking posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.)
- 13.) Suspension or expulsion from school

VIII. PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. All before/after school, weekend, and summer practice sessions are mandatory.
- B. Members must be on time for practice and stay until dismissed by the director.
- C. Practices are based on need; therefore, practice times are subject to change.
- D. Practice is made for performance perfection; therefore, members must voice individual needs so that an officer or director may help.
- E. If questions arise, members must raise their hand and wait to be called on. Talking is prohibited while the director or officers are speaking. Clear communication is imperative.
- F. Hair must be pulled away from face at all times, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- G. Gum chewing or eating will not be tolerated. Breaks will be given as needed.
- H. All dances must be practiced at full dancing ability, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- I. Practice times will be at the discretion of the director.
- J. All practice sessions will be closed to parents and non-members of the organization.

Remember: Practice doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.

IX. ATTENDANCE

- A. Attendance and promptness at all practices, special appearances, performances, and meetings is required.
- B. The Dance Director must approve absences prior to a practice or an activity. Only in an emergency situation should the director be notified after the fact. Certain circumstances may require documentation.
- C. If a member must leave a practice or an activity early, the director must be notified beforehand.
- D. Any member who misses two specific routine practices may forfeit performing that routine.
- E. Any member missing two consecutive practice days, whether excused or unexcused, may forfeit the performance for that week.
- F. If a member misses the practice session right before a performance or during line up (formations), it may prohibit him/her from performing due to last minute change.

X. TEAM BUILDING/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- A. All members will complete a team building curriculum. All directors are certified to teach this curriculum.
- B. All members must devote a minimum of 25 hours per year to civic engagement in order to foster empathy for others and a spirit of service.

XI. CONTEST SEASON

- A. All members are required to attend all district funded contests.
- B. Any member with holds/balances on his/her respective accounts may not be allowed to participate in contest.
- C. Failure to follow through with any of the stated rules/regulations in this constitution may affect participation in contest.
- D. Additional costs may be associated with choreography/contest fees/costumes and will be determined at the discretion of the directors.
- E. Attendance at all contest rehearsals is mandatory.
- F. Absences, excused or unexcused, may affect placement in contest choreography.
- G. All dancers will be required to audition for each contest routine.
- H. Grades could affect placement in contest choreography. Director will determine placement or reinstatement in contest routines.

XII. LETTERMAN JACKETS

- A. Letterman jackets will be issued to Seniors who have completed a minimum of two consecutive years and are currently active on the team.
- B. Jackets will be ordered for the Drill Team at the beginning of September of their senior year (once budget is approved)
- C. All Seniors who have received a letterman jacket and fail to complete the term of their senior year, will be required to return their jacket immediately.

XIII. UNIFORMS/COSTUMES

- A. All matters concerning uniforms/costumes are at the discretion of the dance director.
- B. Uniforms/Costumes that are purchased out of pocket are student property.
- C. Uniforms/Costumes purchased with fundraised monies are property of the Drill/Dance team.
- D. Field uniforms are property of PSJA ISD.
- E. Dancers are responsible for paying for lost or damaged items.
- F. Upkeep of uniforms will be at the discretion of the directors.

XIV. FUNDRAISING/FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Every member will be required to take part in all fundraisers.
- B. Any member who does not partake in a fundraising event will have to pay her/his share out of pocket.
- C. Members will be responsible for selling or paying for designated amount of sponsored activity tickets, such as dance clinic or BBQ tickets.
- D. All school sponsored fundraisers will be held to benefit the entire organization.
- E. Any fundraised monies will be issued/used at the discretion of the director.
- F. All fundraising is at the discretion of the directors and principal.
- G. All fundraised money is non-refundable.

XV. CODE OF ETHICS

- A. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to be supportive and reinforce the decisions set forth by the Director.
- B. Mutual respect is imperative.
- C. The appropriate chain of command must be followed when addressing concerns (Director, assigned campus administrator, PSJA ISD Dance Specialist, PSJA ISD Director of Fine Arts).
- D. A parent code of ethics must be signed and kept on file with the campus.

XVI. INTERPRETATIONS

The interpretation of this constitution is at the discretion of the director and principal of each campus. This constitution is meant as a basic operating instrument and not intended to cover every operating policy.

XVII. DEFINITION/CLARIFICATION

For the purpose of clarification, the word "Guardian" as used in this document means any legal guardian as appointed or recognized by the judicial system of the State of Texas.

XVIII. CANDIDATE/LEGAL GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

I, _____ , along with my parent/guardian,
printed name of student

printed name of parent/guardian

Pharr- San Juan- Alamo ISD High School Drill/Dance Team Constitution

presented to me for the 2019-2020 school year. I will abide by all the rules and regulations stated in this constitution. I understand that failure to do so may constitute removal from the organization.

Candidate signature

Date

Legal guardian signature

Date

Administrator signature

Date