

**Garland Independent School District**  
**Fine Arts Handbook**  
**(MS/HS Cheer, Junior Varsity/Varsity Drill Team, Step, World Dance)**

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\*\* Student/Parent Signature Page will be given by the teacher.

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**Purpose**

The purpose of the Garland Independent School District (“GISD”) Fine Arts is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing our schools throughout the community, state, and nation.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward the development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

Students are exposed to instruction, practices, performances, competitions, and community service opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

**DEFINITION**

Performance Year: The rules and procedures outlined in this handbook are in effect from the time the student is selected to the Fine Arts group until the tryout for the next school year. This does not include the academic guidelines. Academic policies are in effect for a school year. Teacher will include coach, director, and sponsor. Student/member will include Varsity/Junior Varsity/Middle School Cheerleaders, Varsity/Junior Varsity Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step.

**STATEMENT CONCERNING DISABILITIES:**

It is the goal of the GISD Fine Arts Department to provide every qualified student with a disability an opportunity to try out for a program on a level that is equal to that of students without disabilities. We operate under the guidelines outlined by the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to ensure that all GISD Fine Arts programs adhere to the district’s responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The GISD students’ centralized tryout process is designed so every student is provided with an equitable and nondiscriminatory tryout experience. The tryout process is designed to assess the required level of skill and ability necessary for students to participate in each school’s programs. GISD tryouts do not operate on the basis of any generalization, assumption, prejudice, or stereotypes about disability generally, or specific disabilities in particular. The tryout process is open to all qualified students.

Equal opportunity for participation is afforded to any qualified student seeking to try out for a position on a GISD team. GISD will provide reasonable modifications to ensure that every student is afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the tryout process unless doing so

fundamentally alters the tryout process. Requested modifications must not alter essential aspects of the tryout process or provide any student with an unfair advantage.

The GISD centralized tryout process is designed to assess fundamental team skills that are essentially necessary for the teams of each campus. The tryout process assesses a student's ability to learn and perform a specific routine within a set amount of time. The tryout process also assesses a student's ability to perform specific skills including, but not limited to, kicking, leaps, jumps, splits (slide, jump, etc.), motion technique, dance technique, projection, timing, and memory. These skills and abilities are scored according to standardized judging criteria which is used to assess every candidate equally.

### **INJURY, USE OF VIDEO, AND VIDEO USAGE GUIDELINES**

- A. In the case of physical injury prior to the tryout, the Director of Fine Arts must be notified for permission to have any deviations in the tryout procedure. A video can only be used with prior approval from the Director of Fine Arts, and only in the case of an injury that impairs a student from fully participating in the tryouts. If a prior video is used, only a small segment of the video that shows the necessary skills or styles used during tryouts may be judged.
- B. A medical doctor's note indicating the specific skill the student is incapable of performing will be required prior to video use. The student must still be in attendance the day of tryouts.
- C. The judges shall be instructed to consider "absence of pressure," lack of physical/respiratory exertion, vocal ability, and note if a candidate is using a hard or spring floor when performing "specific skills" on video. A candidate must perform each individual "specific skill" required in the tryout to receive credit/points. No score reduction or credit shall be exercised due to the claimed injury. However, in light of the above considerations, a perfect score for any "specific skill" or category should be rare. Teachers will make these guidelines available to judges if a video is used for tryout.

### **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

- A. Because Fine Arts groups are extracurricular activities, there are both financial and time commitments involved in being a part of a successful program. These commitments are spelled out clearly for each school in the packets that are distributed prior to tryouts. It is critical that students and parents understand the financial obligations of the organization and the timeline for submitting payments due for materials and/or activities before the student decides to try out for the team. Payment contracts may be requested.
- B. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not be allowed to perform with the organization until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- C. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not receive an item or service ordered until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- D. Any student who has not met their financial obligation for the current school year will not be allowed to try out for the team next school year.
- E. If a member chooses to not continue with the team or is removed from the team, the member will only be refunded for the portion of their expenses for items that have not been ordered.

## **PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES**

- A. All members must attend practice sessions as determined by the teacher. Absence from practice may result in a missed performance if the teacher determines that the absence has hindered the ability of the team to practice productively. Tardies to practices and performances will receive demerits.
- B. Members will be required to dress and practice in the correct practice attire. Practice wear will be decided by the teacher.
- C. Activities and practice time must be in accordance with TEA/UII Side-by-Side.
- D. Members should use discretion with their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities and should communicate potential conflicts with other teachers.
- E. There may be tryouts for each performance. The teacher will judge routines/skills. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine/skill to the expected standard or who have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices will not be chosen to perform.
- F. Members should strive to maintain a reasonable level of fitness.
- G. If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, tardies, illness, attitude, or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits them from doing so.
- H. A member may only perform if in the correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.
- I. A member must follow a standard of uniformity (hair, makeup, nails, etc.) that is developed and established annually by the teacher, a committee of team members, and will be approved by the principal.
- J. Members who have auditioned and passed on the prior week routine will not be disciplined for making mistakes that were clearly unintentional during the performance.

## **ATTENDANCE**

- A. Absences— these rules govern all practices, events, and performances, including those not during school hours.
- B. Attendance at all activities and practices is mandatory.
- C. An absence is recorded if more than 20 minutes late.
- D. An unexcused absence from class periods and other practices receives demerits. Absences are excused for: personal illness with a doctor's note, death in family, illness in family that requires out-of-town travel, funeral, approved college days, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays.
- E. Absence from practice will result in the student being benched from the next performance if the teacher determines the student's absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.
- F. Unexcused tardies will be recorded and will receive demerits.
- G. Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities, including religious holidays, will not be recorded as an absence.
- H. Absences must be communicated in a manner requested by the teacher in advance. Failure to do so results in demerits. Members must keep the teacher informed of all conflicting school activities (field trips, approved college visit day, testing, meetings, etc.) in a timely manner. Failure to do so can result in demerits or inability to perform.

- I. Upon return from any absence, members must bring a note to the teacher from a parent or physician explaining their absence. Failure to do so results in demerits or inability to perform.
- J. Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of the performance group activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence, and will result in demerits or inability to perform.
- K. Members cannot miss a band practice (drill team only) or the last practice before a performance. Doing so will result in the member's inability to perform or demerits.
- L. Members who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. Exceptions will be approved for school field trips, religious holidays, and excused medical reasons.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- A. All members are expected to travel to and from games/competitions/performances/events on school buses (HS Only). Any exemption must be applied for at least 24 hours in advance, use the district form, be for a specific reason, and be approved by the campus principal. Members will be checked out by the teacher at the event. A picture ID will be required of the approved adult before a member can be checked out.
- B. Middle school cheer will be provided two buses in the Fall and 2 buses in the Spring.
- C. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performances/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher. Be respectful of the teacher's time and contact the teacher if you are running late to pick up your student. Repeated tardiness of pick up will result in a principal/teacher review with the parent/guardian and benching or removal may be possible.
- D. Members are not allowed to be transported in the teacher's car.
- E. Booster clubs may provide charter buses at the club's expense if approved by the campus principal.
- F. If a member misses the bus to games/competitions/performances/events, they will not be allowed to join the team by using their personal transportation. Missing the bus is an absence. Absence demerits and other consequences will apply.

## **HEALTH ISSUES**

If the teacher or an administrator suspects a potential or dangerous health condition, they have a right to ask for a doctor's examination at the member's expense and must obtain a doctor's release before continuing to participate.

- A. Participation will be reviewed when a medical or physical condition prohibits safe performance.
- B. Members may not be exempt from practice for longer than 3 days without a note from a doctor.
- C. If the member sits out of practice for medical reasons, they may not be eligible to perform.

- D. Medical devices prescribed by a doctor will be required in all rehearsals and performances. Failure of the member to bring their prescribed medical device will limit their ability to rehearse and perform.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- A. In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the teacher, in collaboration with the building principal, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interest of the students and their health and welfare.
- B. If a student voluntarily leaves an event, with or without a parent/guardian, they will be subject to the penalties as outlined in the Fine Arts Handbook.
- C. Cancellation of some events may not occur until the day of the event.

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS**

- A. The GISD Fine Arts Department holds to the belief that communication between teachers, members, and parents/guardians is of the utmost importance. Parents/Guardians have the right to be aware of all rules, guidelines, and expectations for both students and parents/guardians. Teachers have the right to know if a parent/guardian has a concern. Parents/guardians should discuss concerns with the teacher at the appropriate time and place.
- B. There are times when a conference with a teacher is required. If parents/guardians believe that a conference is necessary they must contact the teacher through school email and set up an appointment. A principal may be requested to attend the conference.
- C. All GISD rehearsals are closed to the public. Parents must obtain permission from the teacher and/or principal before attending any practice or class. Parents/guardians must adhere to the GISD visitor policy for any visit to campus or other GISD facilities.
- D. Under no circumstance should a teacher be approached by a parent/guardian before, during or after a practice or performance.
- E. If a parent/guardian chooses to not follow these guidelines, or if a parent/guardian contributes to repeated disruptions, a campus principal review will be required. Disruptions include, but not limited to, unannounced walk-in to a practice/performance area, derogatory language, threats, harassment, and parent/guardian/family member who uses social media as a means to threaten, harass, and bully a teacher, a member of the team, or the parent/guardian of another member. Parent/Guardian disrespect or harassment toward a teacher will not be tolerated.
- F. The campus principal review may result in the parent/guardian being banned from all activities or in a student being removed from the team.

### **SPECIALTY GROUPS**

It is up to the discretion of each school to decide whether to offer specialty groups. Specialty groups are: officers, squad leaders, managers, kick lines, elite teams, travel teams, cheer captains and other special groups. It is considered a privilege to be a part of these specialty

groups. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each member of a specialty group.

### **GISD FINE ARTS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Fine Arts student (Cheerleader, JV/V Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step Performer) is a recognized representative of the individual school as well as the district and as such must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior. It is the responsibility of the campus administrator and teacher (coach, director, and sponsor) to maintain this high level of expectation. Mutual respect and politeness toward members within the team and GISD performance community are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the squad. Fine Arts students are expected to maintain positive relationships with all students, faculty and staff members, members of the general community, and other GISD groups. Students are expected to present themselves in a manner that reflects GISD accepted dress code, including guidelines for hair, tattoos, fingernails, and piercings. These guidelines have been established to ensure that every student is safe and not injured during a rehearsal or performance. A separate rehearsal/performance uniformity dress code will be in effect while the student is participating within the performance group. Any behavior considered detrimental to the reputation of the GISD Fine Arts Department can result in the dismissal of the student from the program. The determination of conduct detrimental to the reputation of the program will be made by the principal, teacher, board policies and applicable law. All Fine Arts students must follow the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD District Code of Conduct, and the Fine Arts Student Code of Conduct.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring the GISD/Fine Arts Students' websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Therefore, any communication such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat, Vines, Tumbler, or any other photo/video sharing or social media site, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Per the GISD Code of Conduct, students are responsible for their personal websites and postings on others' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but not limited to, the following: language, sexual or other (abbreviated or alluding to); pictures, reference to sexually explicit conduct or content, bullying/harassment within school and to other campuses, clothing, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, which includes e-cigs and vapes. Excessive amounts of postings during the school day and posting updates in the middle of the school day is unacceptable and will be considered if a principal/teacher review takes place. Messages, Snap Chats, pictures, etc. sent via text messages or any other form of communication can be used as a screenshot and therefore can be considered public domain. By sending any content electronically to someone else, you are giving them permission to use that information as they see fit so please be aware of what you are sending and to whom you are sending it to at any time. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and teacher.

Students selected as Fine Arts student performers must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. A student has no ordained right to participate in Fine Arts. It is a privilege that

has been granted to the student and it is possible that the privilege can be taken away. In addition to the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD Code of Conduct, and the standards outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct will be in effect twenty- four hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year, in season and out of season, whether in school or school is not in session.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Fine Arts programs do not operate under Athletic UIL rules but are required to adhere to the UIL-TEA Side-by-Side. All issues regarding eligibility must be in line with the UIL standards of eligibility for extracurricular activities.
- B. A member who becomes academically ineligible two times during a school year will be considered on probation for the rest of that school year with regard to auditioning and performing with specialty groups. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt.
- C. A member who becomes academically ineligible three times during a school year will be removed from the team.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

- A. A member may be placed on academic probation for academic reasons as stated in the TEA/GISD policies.
- B. If a member is placed on academic probation, that member will also be on probation regarding the specialty groups and may not audition for or perform with such groups for the remainder of the academic probation term.
- C. Students who are placed on academic probation twice in one year will automatically be on probation with regard to specialty groups for the remainder of the school year.
- D. A member on academic probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.
- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROBATION**

- A. A member may be placed on disciplinary probation for indicated periods of time as described in this document.
- B. Reasons for probation can be, but are not limited to, inappropriate personal web pages/social media accounts, In-School Suspension (1st Offense), harassment/bullying.
- C. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team, or of specialty groups, as defined in the specialty groups section of this handbook.
- D. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.



- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

## **REMOVAL<sup>1</sup>**

- A. A member may be removed from the performance team or placed on disciplinary probation by the teacher and principal for violation of the Standards of Conduct sections of this handbook.
- B. A member will be removed from the team on the third disciplinary/academic probation period in one year. Removal occurs once demerits reach 22 or more. If the student progresses to 22 or more demerits without having served other disciplinary actions, or during a disciplinary term, removal is still the result, and will be immediate.
- C. If a member of the team suffers loss of credit for the course because of excessive absences, they may be removed from the team subject to principal/teacher review.
- D. A member who is placed in the reassignment room more than one time during the school year will be subject to a principal/teacher review which may result in removal from the squad.
- E. A member who is suspended from school will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- F. A member who is accused of harassment, bullying, theft, or terrorist threats will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- G. A member who is placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- H. A member who is placed in the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (expelled) will be removed from the team.
- I. Immediate dismissal: Citations for Minor in Consumption (MIC), Drugs or Alcohol Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Minor in Possession of Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping, THC products or other illegal substances, other violations of the law (MIP), AEC placement, fighting at school, RAC (second offense), possession of weapons.
- J. Members who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with membership, including attending team-only events, using facilities, and wearing school district purchased team attire.
- K. Any student removed from the team must also be removed from the class. Students will not be removed until all financial obligations are met and all uniforms and equipment are returned in good condition.
- L. A member who has been removed from the squad or voluntarily quits on any GISD campus will not be eligible to participate in the next tryouts without approval from the principal and teacher. Areas to be reviewed will include, but not be limited to, the

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<sup>1</sup> Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., 594 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2021), discipline regarding off-campus speech and behavior will be weighed in light of this recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

reasons for the removal, academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal and the teacher.

**DEMERIT SYSTEM**

The following are considered rule infractions. Demerits are strictly used only to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. Demerits are given for one school year, and at the beginning of the next school year, each member’s record is cleared. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet served. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student’s record will be cleared.

- A. Benching: Member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance. With regard to pep rallies, football and basketball games, the member may perform in the stands with the team but may not perform in pre-game, half-time, or post-game performances or festivities. A benched member will be required to remain in the stands or in an area designated by the teacher. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- B. Probation: Member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team or of specialty groups. The member is not allowed to travel with the team for any reason. The member may not wear the team uniform. The member must continue to attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- C. If a member is academically ineligible at the time of benching due to disciplinary probation, the penalty will be served after the academic probation has been served.
- D. A member will be required to have a parent, teacher, principal conference after the first 5 demerits and warning or benching will be issued.
- E. If a student receives an excessive amount of demerits that moves them to an advanced disciplinary level, they will also receive the consequence(s) from the level(s) they may have skipped.
- F. The following benching/probation guidelines will be used:

<b>5</b>	<b>Warning</b>	<b>Document and Parent Contact</b>	
<b>10+</b>	<b>Benched from Next Performance</b>	<b>Document and Parent Contact</b>	<b>1 benching until student reaches 15</b>
<b>15+</b>	<b>3 Week Probation</b>	<b>Document and Parent Contact</b>	<b>1 probation until student reaches 20</b>
<b>20+</b>	<b>6 Week Probation</b>	<b>Document and Parent Contact</b>	<b>1 probation until student reaches 22</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Removal from Team</b>		

## DEMERIT/MERIT GUIDE

The following demerit/merit guide will be used:.

<b>RULE INFRACTION</b>	<b>DEMERIT(s)</b>
Incorrect practice uniform	1 per item
Failure of student to dress out for practice	3
Chewing gum during practice or performance	2
Not returning any item with a due date	1 each day
Leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area	2
Unexcused tardy to practice, performance/function/area ** Excessive tardies (3 or more) can receive benching	Practice 1 Performance 3
Wearing any jewelry during practice and after a warning **no visible piercings, refer to practice dress code	2 **
Moving or talking in performance line	2

## MERIT GUIDE

- A. Merits must be acquired prior to any demerit listed above. See the chart below.
- B. Three merits will remove one demerit.

<b>Approved Merits (approval of the teacher)</b>	<b>Merit (s)</b>
Parent /Guardian Attending Booster Meetings	2 per meeting, Max 6
Conditioning	3
10 sets of 10 kicks/30 jumps	3
Creating posters/signs for events/fundraisers	1-3 per poster
Attending and helping at GISD events (literacy, back to school, etc)	3 per hour
Attending and supporting Fine Arts Group performances	3
Extra shift at team community service	3 per hour
Teacher assistant by appointment for 1 hour	3
Extra shift at a team fundraiser	3 per hour
Greeter at after school functions	3 per hour
Volunteer to organized closet, clean locker room, dance area, etc	3 per hour

Assist with faculty dance, school talent show, etc	3 per hour
Volunteer to bring supplies for events	3
Team bonding game winners	3
After school technique/tutoring team members	3 per hour
Attending and supporting other school events to promote unity	2
Volunteer for outside community service (must be approved)	3 per hour

**DEMERIT GUIDE - These demerits may not earn merits.**

Not following instructions for stands, sidelines, and entering/exiting venue	1
Any inappropriate behavior (in uniform) as outlined in the GISD/Fine Arts Student Code of Conduct	5-10
Wearing unacceptable nail length (safety) and hair (safety) to a practice *Nails should be worn in a "sports length" See page 4, Practice and Performances, I.	3
Wearing nail polish or unacceptable nail length (safety) to a performance *Nails should be worn in a "sports length". Acceptable colors: clear, French, or neutral **Upon first occurrence, performance, based on campus Standard of Uniformity, dress code should be used	4 **
Not notifying the teacher when going to be absent & not bringing a note upon return from absence	2 per infraction **
Wearing any jewelry to a performance **no visible piercings, refer to performance dress code	3 **
Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets to non-team members	5
Wearing uniform to non-team function without teacher approval	5
Failing to bring all required items to a practice/performance See page 3, Practice and Performances	practice 1 per item performance 2 per item
Having a cell phone, earbuds or a smart watch in practice or performance area without permission from the teacher	2

Leaving any practice/performance early without permission from teacher	5
Insubordination (eye rolling, arguing, disrespect to faculty/staff, not responding, negative body language, ranting, repeated use of cell phone/smart watch w/out permission, non-compliance), leaving any group activity without permission	10
Violating school rules, dress code, policies, non-compliance established by the campus principal **and refer to GISD policies/office referral/director/principal review	5-10 **
Letting a non-member into locker room without teacher's permission	10
Unexcused absence from class period, practice outside school hours, or required performance/function	Practice 2 Performance 5
Reassignment Room **review and refer to GISD Policies	15 **
N in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies	15 **
U in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies	20 **
Suspension from school **review and refer to GISD Policies	20 **

### HANDBOOK CHANGES

The GISD Fine Arts Handbook is subject to change at any time due to court rulings, Texas Education Agency rulings or Garland Independent School District policy changes.

## Appendix A: High School Cheer

### SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.
- B. Each sponsor/coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A MANDATORY parent meeting will be called by the sponsor/coach prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- C. Cheerleader candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the cheerleading squad, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- D. All cheerleaders will be required to try out for the team each year. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. An individual's video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 3)
- E. The Garland Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection of high school cheerleaders. The goal of the tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school cheer candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, Spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and sponsors/coaches. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to try out must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for Cheer.
- F. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be thrown out. Each candidate must score 50 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of 100 points in order to be placed on a cheer squad. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates that fall within the natural break from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by

an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

- G. Each campus sponsor/coach and principal will establish a uniform tryout outfit. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure. This uniform should be limited to a plain white polo-style shirt or t-shirt with no visible logo, a solid colored short (style/color to be determined by sponsor/coach), and any type of white athletic shoe. Hair should be up and/or out of the candidate's face. Schools will not allow any accessory or addition (rings, bracelets, hair bows etc.) to the tryout outfit.
- H. Mats will be available in all tryout gyms. It is each candidate's choice to use or not to use the mats. Certified judges will be instructed to score each candidate on the difficulty and execution of the candidate's tumbling skills.
- I. Candidates selected to be a cheerleader are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, sporting events, competition, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and sponsor/coach.

## **TRYOUTS**

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, sponsors/coaches, principals, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate. PARENTS will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include coaches from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the cheer candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of

100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Entrance (20pts), Jumps (25pts), Cheer (20pts), Chant (20pts), Dance (15pts)

- D. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation location. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the sponsors/coaches will be allowed to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation location. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped, and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the judge's average score. In order to be placed on the cheer squad, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel, a candidate must earn 50 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of the possible 100 points and fall within the natural break. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- E. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and online. A school designated area and an online address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location.
- F. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

## **CHEER SQUADS**

- A. Varsity
  - a. The Varsity Squad will be composed of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Select campuses will also include freshmen.
  - b. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 50 to earn a spot.
  - c. Eight spots will be filled by the four top scoring seniors and the four top scoring juniors.
  - d. Eight spots will be filled by the next highest scores.
  - e. After the initial 16 spots have been filled, Fine Arts administration will review the next six highest scores for a natural break. If a natural break is present candidates above the break will be added to the squad.
  - f. The Varsity Squad will have a maximum of 22 members.
- B. Junior Varsity
  - a. The Junior Varsity Squad will be composed of freshmen, and any sophomore, junior or senior who has agreed to accept a JV spot.
  - b. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 40 to earn a spot.
  - c. The JV Squad will be filled with candidates falling below the natural break for varsity and above the minimum score.
  - d. The JV Squad will have a maximum of 32 members.
- C. Additional Considerations
  - a. All sophomores, juniors and seniors (freshmen at certain campuses) trying out must submit a signed letter of JV Intent before tryouts. This letter indicates



whether or not they would take a spot on the JV Squad in the event they did not make Varsity.

- b. Any JV Squad consisting of more than 20 members may be, at the campus' discretion, divided into A and B squads.
- c. A and B cheerleader squads will be divided for the purpose of covering more games. The make-up of these squads and the cheering schedule for each is left to campus discretion.
- d. Campuses with a JV B squad will be allotted a third cheer sponsor.
- e. If scoring results in a tie for the 22nd varsity spot or the 32nd JV spot, all candidates with the tie score will be added to the squad.
- f. If a member of the cheerleading squad moves (or there is an opening for any reason), the principal and sponsor may fill the opening based on the tryout rank scores. Any replacement will take place on or before the first day of the first school term and is at the principal's and sponsor's discretion.

### **CHEERING ACTIVITIES**

In accordance with UIL rules, high school cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one contest per school week. It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at the same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. Friday night and weekend contests do not count toward the one contest per week rule.

### **CHEERLEADER COMPETITION**

The requirement is that all cheerleaders will participate in competition. Failure to commit and participate in competition(s) will result in removal at semester. Tryouts may be held to determine competition groups etc. UIL Spirit competition is a requirement of the district. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each competition member.

### **PARADES**

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

### **SUMMER CAMP**

Participation in all days of summer camp is mandatory. No exceptions are made for outside cheer teams.

### **FOOTBALL**

- A. Varsity cheerleaders` will cheer at all varsity games.
- B. JV cheerleaders will cheer at all JV games at the sponsor's discretion. You may choose to cheer for the A or B team.
- C. JV cheerleaders may be asked to cheer at additional varsity games at the discretion of the campus.
- D. Freshmen games will be covered if there is a JV B squad.
- E. Playoff games will be covered.

## **VOLLEYBALL**

- A. Games can be covered by any squad at the discretion of the campus administration and sponsor.
- B. Playoff games should be covered.

## **BASKETBALL**

- A. All district varsity boys and girls games should be covered. Squad assignments will be at the discretion of the campus administration and the sponsor.
- B. If a campus has a JV B squad, they will be assigned either JV or freshmen games.
- C. Exceptions to the above rules are as follows:
  - 1. No out of town games on Monday through Thursday nights.
  - 2. No cheering during the holiday break.
- D. Playoff games should be covered.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Additional activities such as community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus principal. Cheerleaders are required to attend each of these events.

## **SPECIALITY GROUPS (Captains, etc.)**

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

## **CHEER COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each cheerleader with a uniform and a warm up suit. Some squads will have additional pieces.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with a dated cleaning receipt attached, or must pay laundering fees as determined by the coach. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

## **GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS**

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. A transfer can only occur if there are spots available on the new school's team.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the coach and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former cheer team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head coach stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The

transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head coach.

- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new coach and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout material from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new cheer items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and other performances will be at the discretion of the coach and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The coach and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new cheer member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

## **Appendix B: Drill Team – Junior Varsity**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The junior varsity drill team is open to any student grades 9-12 attending any GISD high school. No tryout is required; however all members must follow the rules as outlined in this handbook in order to retain membership on the squad.
- B. In order for an individual to become a member of the junior varsity drill team, it is the responsibility of the student to pick up an information packet in the spring from the high school that they will be attending the next school year. The student and parents must complete the application form and turn in the completed packet to the junior varsity drill team director on or before the deadline date as designated in the packet. The director and principal will determine whether to accept late applications.
- C. Junior varsity drill team activities begin with a summer camp. During this camp, members will learn the routines that they will perform during the entire season. Attendance at this camp by all members is essential to insure an outstanding drill team. It will be the discretion of the director and campus principal for anyone to join the team after summer camp.
- D. Junior varsity candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

### **GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS**

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A three week, or less, transfer probation will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A

transfer probation can be extended if new drill team items are being ordered and have not been received.

- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCE**

- A. Performances at pre-district games and non-district GISD games (example: Rockwall, Tyler Lee, etc.) are at the discretion of the director and campus principal.
- B. All GISD junior varsity drill teams must attend at least 5 GISD junior varsity football games. If there is only one director for Junior Varsity and Varsity Drill Team, less games can be attended as approved by the campus principal.

### **VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCES**

- A. Each junior varsity team must attend a minimum of 3 varsity games.
- B. Attendance at all other varsity games is optional and at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

### **BASKETBALL GAME PERFORMANCES**

Each junior varsity team must perform a minimum of 3 basketball games (freshman, junior varsity or varsity).

### **PARADES**

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

### **CONTEST**

Junior varsity teams are required to attend the Garland ISD Dance Festival in the Spring.

### **OTHER PERFORMANCES**

Additional performances such as dance department shows, special events, spring shows, community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

**SPECIALITY GROUPS** (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.) Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

### **COST OF JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM**

In order to keep the junior varsity drill team affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$600.00 spending limit on camps, practice wear and accessories. A \$50 technique fee can be added if approved by the campus principal. A price list will be provided in each individual school's information packet.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each JV member with a performance field uniform that includes a skirt, overlay, sleeves, and sequin belt.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

## Appendix C: Drill Team – Varsity

### VARSITY DRILL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may tryout at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school. Varsity drill team is for students who are entering grades 9 (at select schools) -12.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A parent/student meeting will be called by the director prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Additional information such as cost of membership, rehearsal, and performance dates will be included in the informational packet. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents/guardians must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process. A mandatory meeting for all students and parents/guardians will be required following the tryout process. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend the post tryout meeting will forfeit the members place on the team. Pre-tryout and post-tryout meetings will be determined by the campus principal and director.
- B. All varsity candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- C. All current varsity drill team members will be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. EXCEPTION: Drill team members who have already been selected to serve as a team officer (dance, sergeant, social, squad officer) for the next school year will be exempt from the line tryouts. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. Video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 2)
- D. If a student is ineligible according to UIL standards for extracurricular activities at the time of tryouts, they can participate in any out-of-school workshops or pre-tryout judging. They will be able to try out before the judges.
- E. The Garland Independent School District will hold a centralized tryout for the selection of high school varsity drill team line members. The goal of the centralized tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school drill team candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, spring

semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and directors. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to audition must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application, clinic, or tryout fees for students trying out for the drill team.

- F. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be dropped. Each candidate must score a minimum of 70 out of 100 points in order to be placed on a drill team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates who earn the mandatory 70 points from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the team are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, football, basketball, contest, spring show, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and director.
- H. Students with Disabilities: See page 2
- I. Injury, Use of Video, and Video Usage Guidelines: See page 3

## **TRYOUTS**

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, directors, principals, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing drill team members who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate. Parents/Guardians will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include directors from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or privately taught the drill team candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of drill team members and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.



- C. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Tryout Dance (60 pts), Kick/Field Entrance (30pts), Right Split or Right Jump Split/Left Split (10pts)
- D. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation room. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the drill team director and assistant will be allowed in the room to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation room. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the judge's average score. In order to be placed on the drill team, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel, a candidate must earn an average of 70 out of the possible 100 points. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal. Call backs will be made if necessary.
- E. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also on line. A school designated area and an on-line address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location.
- F. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

#### **VARSAITY DRILL TEAM COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide field uniform pieces excluding hats, boots, bodysuits, petticoats, and tights. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- B. Award blankets will be provided to senior drill team members who have not already been awarded any other award blanket or jacket by GISD organizations.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

#### **GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS**

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.

- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new drill team items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

### **VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONTEST**

All varsity drill teams will participate in competition. Members will be required to try out for each contest dance. The expectation is that every member will be in at least one contest routine. Failure to commit and participate in competition(s) will result in removal at semester. All varsity teams are required to attend the Garland ISD Dance Festival in the Spring. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each contest member.

### **SPRING SHOW**

All team members are required to participate and attend an annual spring show. The spring show date, time, location, and theme will be announced by the teacher and approved by the campus principal.

### **SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)**

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

## Appendix D: Step Team

### STEP TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

At the time of tryouts, one of the two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.

- A. Each sponsor will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the tryout packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- B. All current members may be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. In case of an injury, video audition may be used, but the candidate must be physically present at tryouts (see page 3, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are welcome to try out regardless of grade eligibility.
- D. Tryout clinics and dates will be determined by the sponsor and campus principal. Judges will be the sponsor(s) and one other to be selected by campus administration. This could be another faculty member or a Fine Arts designee.
- E. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team. Selection criteria includes: Personality, Showmanship, Enthusiasm, Facial Expressions, Energy/Stamina, Vocals and Precision.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the sponsor). Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the step team are expected to make a commitment for the entire school year. Performances and events include, but are not limited to, pep-rallies, parades (Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade), step shows, community events, and other performance opportunities.
- H. Any member who quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have tryout approval from the principal and sponsor.
- I. Auditions will be closed to the public, except for judges, sponsor(s), principal, and Fine Arts designee.
- J. A mandatory meeting will be held after the auditions for parents and members of the team. Financial expectation and payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding after school practices and performances/events.
- K. Step team candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the step team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than

April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

### **GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS**

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the sponsor and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former step team. Tryouts at the new school are required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and sponsor stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and sponsor.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new sponsor and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout routine will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and show performances will be at the discretion of the sponsor and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The sponsor and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

### **SPECIALITY GROUPS** (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

## Appendix E: World Dance Company

### World Dance Company (23-24)

#### WORLD DANCE COMPANY SELECTION PROCESS

At the time of selections, one of the two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student can be a candidate at that campus. A student may only go through the selection process for one GISD school.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the WDC packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the selection process.
- B. All current members will be required to participate in the selection process for the company each year as approved by the campus principal. Failure to participate in the selection process will result in removal from the team. In case of an injury, a video may be used, but the candidate must be physically present during the selection process (see page 3, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are allowed to participate in the selection process regardless of grade eligibility. Separate requirements can be used for leadership positions.
- D. Clinics and dates will be determined by the director and campus principal.
- E. The selection process will be determined by the director and campus principal.
- F. Selection results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the director). Requests for scores or other selection materials should be made through the school principal's office.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the World Dance Company are expected to make a commitment for the entire school year. Performances and events include, but are not limited to, pep-rallies, parades (Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade), dance concerts, community events, and competition.
- H. Any member who quits or is removed from the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to participate in the selection process unless they have approval from the principal and director.
- I. Clinics and the selection process will be closed to the public.
- J. A mandatory meeting will be held after selections for parents and members of the company. Financial expectations and a payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding after school practices and performances/events.
- K. World Dance Company candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to any clinics and selection day. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the World Dance Company, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

**GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS (Selection process should be used in place of tryout)**

- A. If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:
- B. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout routine from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

**WORLD DANCE COMPANY COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each WDC member with a costume and shoes.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

**SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)**

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

## Appendix F: Middle School Cheer

### SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.
- B. Each sponsor/coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A MANDATORY parent meeting will be called by the sponsor/coach prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- C. Cheerleader candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the cheerleading squad, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- D. All cheerleaders will be required to try out for the team each year. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. An individual's video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 3)
- E. The Garland Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection of middle school cheerleaders. The goal of the tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all middle school cheer candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, Spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and sponsors/coaches. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to try out must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for cheer.
- F. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a three-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates that fall within the natural break from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the

requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

- G. Each campus sponsor/coach and principal will establish a uniform tryout outfit. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure. This uniform should be limited to a plain white polo-style shirt or t-shirt with no visible logo, a solid colored short (style/color to be determined by sponsor), and any type of white athletic shoe. Hair should be up and/or out of the candidate's face. Schools will not allow any accessory or addition (rings, bracelets, hair bows etc.) to the tryout outfit.
- H. Mats will be available in all tryout gyms. It is each candidate's choice to use or not to use the mats. Certified judges will be instructed to score each candidate on the difficulty and execution of the candidate's tumbling skills.
- I. Candidates selected to be a cheerleader are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, sporting events, competition, and special events) for the full year. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and sponsor/coach.

## **TRYOUTS**

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, sponsors/coaches, principals, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate. PARENTS will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include coaches from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the cheer candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Scoring - Each of the judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Entrance (20pts), Jumps (25pts), Cheer (20pts), Chant (20pts), Dance (15pts)



- D. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation location. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the sponsors/coaches will be allowed to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation location. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team and fall within the natural break. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- E. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and online. A school designated area and an online address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location.
- F. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

### **CHEER SQUADS**

Campuses should allow for up to 24 students per campus to participate. The 24 students can be divided in any way the campus determines. For example, you may have 12 7th graders and 12 8th graders, or the squads might be unequal in size.

### **CHEERING ACTIVITIES**

In accordance with UIL rules, high school cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one contest per school week. It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at the same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. Friday night and weekend contests do not count toward the one contest per week rule.

### **GAMES-FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL**

Games can be covered by any squad at the discretion of the campus administration and sponsor.

### **DISTRICT SHOW OFF/COMPETITION**

The district will host an event in the Spring. This is a mandatory event.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Additional activities such as competitions and community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus principal. Cheerleaders are required to attend each of these events.

### **COST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEER**

In order to keep middle school cheer affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$450.00 spending limit on camps, practice wear and accessories, \$300 if not paying for camp. A price list will be provided in each individual school's information packet.

### **CHEER COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each cheerleader with a cheer skirt, and 1 shell. Some squads may have additional pieces.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with a dated cleaning receipt attached, or must pay laundering fees as determined by the coach. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

### **GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS**

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. A transfer can only occur if there are spots available on the new school's team.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the coach and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former cheer team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head coach stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head coach.
- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new coach and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout material from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new cheer items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and other performances will be at the discretion of the coach and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The coach and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new cheer member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.