



Tryout Informational Packet
2024-2025 Sachse Swingsters





Dear Parents/Guardians and SHS Swingster Hopefuls,

Thank you for your interest in the Sachse Swingsters Varsity Drill Team Program. We are excited for the opportunity to work with you during the tryout process!

Swingsters is a high energy, fast paced and competitive spirit program at Sachse HS. The dancers and I are goal oriented, driven and passionate about producing stellar performances. Hustling and following directions correctly the first time is a non negotiable for our team.

As Director, my teaching philosophy is centered around accountability, competition, good manners, structure, dedication and attitude. It is my goal to provide students with a structured and welcoming environment. An encouraging classroom environment where structure and accountability matter can motivate students to reach their full potential.

Leadership comes from the top. Our student leaders are expected to model a positive attitude and mentorship. Mentoring students to show acts of compassion such as community service will positively impact each of us.

Teaching students to take pride in the integrity of the work not only prepares our young people for life after high school, but also builds character traits that will carry them through life.

Being a Swingster requires a great deal of time and effort. Please read through this packet carefully to ensure you are well informed before auditioning for the program.

If you have any questions, please email me at dcraig@garlandisd.net.

I look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,
Diane Craig, Sachse Swingsters Director



Swingsters Seasons: A Year in Review

Team Fitting: During tryout week, samples from the vendors will be used to fit the students.

Communication: Tryout info will be posted in the Team Canvas page. Once tryouts conclude, weekly announcements are posted on the Team Band page. There is also a Team Parent Band page. Band is used in lieu of group emails.

Mandatory Summer Practices and Camp: Classes for Pep Rally, Football, Contest material, team bonding and dance technique.

Independent practice: It is your responsibility to practice on a regular basis on your own in order to excel or progress. Watching a video can help you learn movement, but is not considered practice. This is Swingsters, it is not Tik Tok, meeting with a fellow dancer to be critiqued will help you improve. Contest skills must be mastered by contest tryouts in October.

Class Period: Double blocked for A1 AND B6 both semesters! All Swingsters must attend class as well as all practices in person. Virtual is not an option. Swingsters Officer and Sergeant class=A2.

Football Season: ALL games are mandatory including playoffs & games during school breaks. Dancers audition for every halftime performance. The team travels on the GISD provided transportation to and from all games. Unexcused absences yield demerits.

Swingster of the Week: Selected by the Officer Line. Any line member on Swingsters is eligible to be selected excluding those members holding the title of Miss, Officer or Sergeant. Dancers are chosen on conduct, work ethic, attitude, hustle and dedication.

Miss Titles: Miss High Kick and Miss Jump Split will audition during team camp. Adjudication and announcing of the Miss Titles will be announced immediately following the audition. Seniors only are eligible for Miss Drill Team. Seniors interested will submit an application/essay in May and possibly participate in an interview. Adjudicators will include administrators, department heads and counselors.

Mandatory Parades/Community Events: Labor Day, HOCO, SHS Christmas and MLK Day Parades. Santa Ambassadors and the GISD Black History Month Program are some of the community events.

Mandatory Competition Season: Any student who fails to participate will be dropped from the program. Swingsters will compete in the Elite division with two Ensembles OR in the Team Division. Mandatory skills needed for contest auditions in October: triple pirouette, triple coupe', chaine 2 consecutive calypsos, chaine disk to sitting position and/or roll stand, three turns in second into a double, disk drop, switch split drop.

Students pay for their contest meals. Any dancer who does NOT compete in ALL Swingsters competitions forfeits their opportunity to audition for Officer. Competition dates will be provided once they are available.

Spring Show: Spring Show is a Drill Team production held in the SHS Auditorium. If SHS hosts a Spring Show, it is mandatory for dancers in order to avoid a schedule change. The dancers will audition for non contest team routines as well as specialty groups. Senior presentation/voice over new procedure.

Banquet: Dressy casual event with a dessert buffet or meal and highlight video to celebrate the team's accomplishment with Swingsters and family. Swingsters Family, please be mindful that this is a school function. All GISD policies will be in play for both students and adults. School dress code is enforced.

Exams: Swingsters/Officers/Sergeants do not opt to exempt from their Drill Team class periods so the team can practice. Swingsters stay in class until the bell rings for the passing period.



*Hustle With Kindness Culture
Demerits Apply*

***Respond to instructions.** Verbally and physically responding signifies you clearly understand what to do. Failure to respond is interpreted as disrespectful. The entire team will participate in conditioning until we learn to respond as a team. It is expected that students look at the coach when she is speaking.

***Give your attention** to others when they are addressing the team. This includes turning your body to look in the direction of that person as well as body language. It is expected that students look at the coach when she is speaking.

***Make yourself available to help:** Interact with and mentor others with kindness and support.

***Approach practice with a professional attitude:** Dance full out unless told otherwise in order to maximize practice time. Swingsters do not talk during instruction. Practice on your own weekly!

***Hustle everywhere!** We only have 8 hours of UIL practice time per week, let's hustle.

***Critiques:** Allow Director and Officers to make critiques. This is not criticism. Critiques allow for growth. Eyes and ears open, mouth closed. To maximize time and the opportunity for growth, students follow directions quickly and correctly.

***Our Swingsters locker room is an inclusive space for the varsity drill team provided by SHS .**

Keep your locker area and the countertops clean and tidy at all times. Absolutely no food or drink other than water. Students adhere to the time frame provided for gathering belongings following performances and exit the locker room in full uniform following performances.

***Swingsters are leaders in our school.** It is expected that you become a good follower so that you can become a good leader.

***Locker room.** Varsity members should not let Non Varsity team members in the locker room. No food or drinks other than water. Clean up after yourself, clean off the countertops each day.



Standard of Uniformity: Demerits Apply

Students arrive completely ready.

We do not apply make up, paint nails nude or fix hair in squad lines.

Out of uniform demerits= Hair, nails, tights, uniform pieces, jewelry and makeup

Hair:

Football Performance hair:

- *Half up half down (in the designated place) with all sides back and no wispsies at all.
- *We may add a low pony with “your hair colored” hair tie for games where we know we will deal with the heat.
- *The Swingsters hat is worn at EVERY football game. It is suggested dancers take the hat to the Salon for hair appointments. Tell your stylist the hat is worn at all games.
- *In practice, all headbands, wraps, scarves will be black or skin tone to allow uniformity.

Hair:

Pep Rally, Contest, Special Performances and Spring Show Performance Hair

- *Low Ponytail at the nape of the neck, with center part. Swingsters will not be let out of class to prepare hair for the performance.
- *Hair in the ponytail may be wavy, curled, braided, straight etc.. as long as the pony is slicked back and tidy.

Tights:

Tights are to be clean and run free. **Demerits apply, no warnings,** always have an extra pair.

Make up:

- Black eyeliner
- Black mascara
- Blush that matches your skin tone
- Eye Shadow in shades of browns, golds, peaches that match your skin tone
- Revlon “Love That RED” lipstick. Do NOT add gloss.

Nails:

Students will arrive at school on performance day with nails done to avoid demerits.

During Performance Seasons:

- Shades of solid **light** pinks
- Shades solid nudes
- French manicure with white tip
- No sparkle or decal of any kind on nails
- Sports length per GISD drill team handbook.



Tentative 2024-2025 Swingsters Team Fundraising Agreement Form

This is a **TRIP YEAR!**

All Swingsters contribute equally to team expenses. There will be no individual accounts. The BC may add fundraisers once the budget for the year has been finalized. All fundraisers benefit the team.

When approaching fundraising, what would be my equal portion of team expenses I should attempt to raise?
One Swinger: Contest: \$500 Spring show: \$125 Banquet expenses: \$35

Corporate Sponsors: Seek sponsors. BC has details on levels of sponsorships.

Restaurant Night: Promote event. Restaurant offers a percentage of profits that will benefit the team.

Team Wide Garage Sale (SHS Parking Lot) Promote event. Students will have opportunities to work in organizing/ pricing garage sale items as well as working the garage sale event itself.

Vertical Raise and Discount Cards: Students will have opportunities to attempt to gain pledges. Dancers will be guided through the process as a large group. Promote event.

Kick a thon: 1 penny per kick. Max 1000 kicks. Pledges

Raffle for Luxury Purse/Item: Promote event.

Tamale Sales; Promote event. Participate in sales.

Dance Clinics: Promote Event. Recruit participants, work the event and post the event on social media. One will take place during HOCO week and the second one will take place during Basketball season second semester.



Swingsters Tentative Calendar 2024-2025

Date	Activity	Time
March		
28	Mandatory Tryout Info meeting	6:30pm-7:30pm Cafeteria
April		
22	Tryout Paperwork due. NO Exceptions!	Submitted into Canvas by 3pm
23-26	Tryout Workshop: learn entrance, body movement, exit	3:05pm-5:00pm at Sachse HS
27	Tryout Day. Dressed and ready for check in at 7:15 am	NFHS for group stretching
29	Team Pic Get Reveal T shirt to wear to school this day.	7am Meet by Craig's Office
29	Mandatory new team meeting with parents/ guardians	6:30pm SHS cafeteria
	Return Reveal Shirt at meeting (yes, it is dirty)	Craig will wash so they fade alike
29	Deadline to join Mandatory 24-25 Band.	by 10pm
May		
1	Payment #1 Due to individual vendors.	Payment info posted in Canvas
6,7,8,9,13,14	Rookie Practice, uniform/ boot fitting.	3:05-5:00pm
11	Garage Sale	Details coming
14	Vertical Raise mandatory meeting Vets AND Babies	3:15-4:00pm
15,16,20,21,22	Rookie Practice	3:05-5:00pm
20	Miss Drill Team Application Due (Seniors only) to Craig	7:30am hard deadline
20	Payment #2 Due to individual vendors.	Payment info posted in Canvas
23	Entire new team practice	3:00-4:00pm
23	Perform at Spring Game	Details Coming
27	No school, memorial Day	
30	Last day of classes/exams	
TBA	Senior Swingster Ring Fitting	Details Coming
June		
1	Graduation Class of 2024	6pm
3	Payment #3 Due to individual vendors	See Pmt provided after tryouts
8	SR. Banner Pictures Southern Images	Seniors sign up for slots with Craig.
July		
1	Pmt #4 Due to individual vendors	See Payment Sheet
15-16	CP Team Home Camp Sack lunch, we will eat as a team	8am-6pm
17,18,19	ADTS Team Home Camp Team Home Camp. Sack lunch, we will eat as a team	8am-6pm
19	BC meeting/cookout	Details coming
22-25	Team Practice	7am--Noon
23	Team Pool party in the evening details coming	7-9pm
29	Kick a thon Fundraiser	Details coming
29-30	Team Practice	7am--Noon

August

2	Mustang Mania Greeting students and families Change, Practice, Eat, Change Perform at SHS turf field or gym/ Table	2:30pm 4pm 7:45-9pm
5-9	2 hour Team Practice (Strange schedule this week)	Between 7am--5:00pm
10	Chick Fil A Senior Picture, Stadium Pic	TBA
12	School Starts	6:20am practice
22, 29	Team practice	3:15-5:30pm
19- Sept 1	HOCO shirt sales (parent volunteers and QR code)	
30	Sachse vs.Coppell Away	7pm GT, meet at 5pm
31	Dance Clinic Meet at Noon, stay until building cleaned up	1-4:30pm Saturday

September

2	Labor Day Parade Meet at SHS	Details coming
4	Practice in gym with all HOCO participants in gym	6:45am
4	HOCO Community Parade and Community Pep Rally Dance Clinic kiddos perform at Community Pep Rally	5-11pm
6	Sachse vs.Lamar	7pm GT, meet at 5pm at HBJ
6	HOCO Gym Pep Rally	Details coming
5,12,19,26	Team practice	3:30-5:30pm
13	Sachse vs.GHS	7pm GT Home at HBJ
19	Sachse vs.Wylie	7pm GT Home at HBJ
21	Team Pics at Southern Images	Students sign up for time slots
27	Sachse vs.LCHS	7pm GT Home at HBJ

October

3,10,24	Team practice	3:15-6:30pm
4	Pep Rally	
4	Sachse vs. Wylie East	7pm GT Away at Wylie Stadium
11	Sachse vs North	7pm GT Away at Williams
12	Team practice learn contest dance 1 and 2	7:30am-11am and 1-4pm
14-18	Fall Break NO Game	
8 and 22	Learn Senior Pep Rally	3-5pm Dance Room
23	Parent Teacher Conference and Officers at Moonlight Madness	TBA
?	Senior Shirts issued	in class
25	Tamale Sales Begin	Senior. Pep Rally
25	SR Pep Rally and Senior Spirit Programs Performance	
25	SR Night vs South	7pm GT Home HBJ
26	Team practice learn contest dance 3 and 4	7:30am-11am and 1-4pm
31	SHS vs NF Team Trip	7pm GT Away at Williams

November

1	Bye week, NO game	
1	Contest tryouts with judges	after school
7 or 8	Sachse vs.Rowlett Joint Performance	7 pm GT Home at HBJ
8	Tamale Sales end	
14,21	Team Practice	3:15-5:30pm
8-9,15-16,22-23	Possible Mustang Playoff Games: Mandatory	TBA
11 that week	Santa Ambassadors Comm Service Sachse WalMart	3:45 pm until 6pm
21	Tamale Delivery	

22 Swingsters deliver tamales to teachers in class
 25-29 Holiday Break

December

4 Christmas Parade: report 5:15 pm Details Coming 6pm
 5,12 Team Practice 3:15-5:30pm
 ? Wrap presents: Santa Ambassadors ?
 ? Jr. Class Ring Ceremony 6:30pm
 17 Team Social: TBA
 20 Early Dismissal 12:40pm
 23-31 Holiday Break

January

1 Holiday Break
 6 Staff Development
 7 School and morning practice, woo hoo! 6:15am
 9,16,23,30 Team Practice 3:15-6:30pm
 10 Solo Money due for Contest Season
 18 MLK Parade Details Coming!
 20 MLK Day, no school, no practice
 ? Contest Day for Var Details coming
 ? Pep Rally: Black Light

February

6,13,20,27 Team Practice 3:15-6:30pm
 ? Multi-Cultural Assembly TBA
 ? Regionals Contest TBA
 17 Staff Development, Student Holiday, no practice
 ? Regionals Contest

March

1 GISD District Wide ' Dance Festival" Show Offs Details coming
 6,13 Team Practice 3:15-6:30pm
 ? Regionals Contest
 17-21 Spring Break
 ? TEAM TRIP
 21-22 Nationals Practice mandatory
 21-22 or 28-29 Nationals
 24 or 31 Begin Spring Show Material in practice/class
 31 Holiday

April

1 Staff Development
 2-4 Stage Practice 6:30am
 7-11 Gym Practice due to Band UIL 6:30am
 14 HS orientation ?
 14-17 Stage Practice 6:30am
 14-17 Stage practice 5-10 pm
 18 Student Staff Holiday.... 7am-1pm Good Friday

19	Spring Show day	Meeting time TBA
21	Banquet Monday due to April 20th Easter	Evening: TBA
21	Tryout Paperwork due	3pm
22-25	Workshops Tryouts 24-25 team in large gym	3:00-5:30 pm
26	Tryouts 24-25 team	TBA
28	New Team and Reveal picture meeting	7:15pm due to band

May

5-9,12-15,19-22	Baby Practice	3-5pmpm
13	Vertical Raise meeting	3:15pm
?	SR Exams	
?	HS Exams	
22-23	Early Dismissal HS only	
23	Last day of classes	
27-28	Staff Development	

 I have been made aware of the Tentative Calendar 24-25. Sign and return paper copy. Swingsters will meet daily at 6:10am for 6:30am practice in the Varsity gym at SHS. The locker room will not be accessible after 6:20am. The team will travel to and from all games, parades, contests by GISD buses. **Notify director within 24 hours of tryout announcement of any conflicts.** It is unacceptable to notify the Director the night before events that were clearly planned well in advance.

Parent Signature _____
 PRINT Student Name _____ Signature _____



Procedures for Sachse Swingsters Drill Team Tryouts:

- April 22** Deadline for Tryout Paperwork to be submitted into Canvas Classroom
No Exceptions. Problems submitting, contact Ms. Craig at dcraig@garlandisd.net.
Do not wait until the last minute.
- April 23-26** Tryout Workshop in the **Sachse Gym** to learn tryout material/ body movement
from 3:05 pm-5:00 pm.
- April 27** Tryouts in front of judges at **NFHS**. Arrive at the NF parking lot at the designated
location at **7:00am** dressed and ready to go for check in by **7:00am**. We will all
walk into NF together as one large group in tryout number order. Director will
issue tryout numbers. Dancers provide their own safety pins. Tryouts begin at
8am
- Eligibility:** Sophomore, Junior or Senior students enrolled at Sachse High for the 2024-2025
school year at the time of tryouts for the 2024-2025 school year. Transfer
guidelines must be followed for GISD. Confirmation of SHS acceptance is
required.

Overall Impression: We get one chance to make a first impression! Be mindful of posture,
stance and appearance.

Attire for Tryout Workshop: All Black Athletic/ Dance Attire.

- *Solid black form fitted dance top, form fitted athletic top or leotard.
- *Black sports bras should be worn. No bra straps or stomachs showing!
- *Black dance pants, leggings or shorts. Shorts should be appropriate length.
- *Loose fitting dance pants should not be worn unless you have no other options.
- *Footwear: barefoot, jazz shoes in any color or half soles in any color.
- *Hair at workshop: Swingster Performance Hair. See uniformity of uniform page.
- *Gum and jewelry will not be allowed during practice or the audition.

Tryout Day: All Black Athletic/ Dance Attire.

- *Hair on tryout day: Performance hair
- *Gum and jewelry will not be allowed during practice or the audition.
- *Nails: neutral color if possible.
- *“Performance makeup”: mascara, eyeliner & lipstick for your skin tone.
- *Tryout Number for tryout day: Pin the tryout number to your stomach with 4 safety pins.
Please provide your own safety pins.



Price List: New Items are designated in BLUE

Pmt Dates: May 1, May 20, June 1, July 1, July 27 Payment Details available post tryouts.

\$50 late fee! Vendors will place Swingsters order w/o you. Order delayed, may not perform.

Practice Wear: sales tax/shipping may be added

\$31.25 Tank 1	\$47.85 Black Joggers with glitter	\$90.00 Denim Jacket/Logo
\$31.25 Tank 2	\$47.85 Navy Joggers with glitter	\$19.95 Water jug carrier
\$31.25 Tank 3	\$75.00 Rolling Duffle	\$150.00 Custom team shoes
\$85.00 Black Leggings 2 pairs	\$71.00 Charcoal Glitter team backpack	

Contest Items: sales tax/shipping may be added

\$30.00 Choker with stones	\$34.00 Tights (two pair)	\$26.75 Half soles
\$8.00 Earrings	\$80.00 Technique class	

Football season items: sales tax/shipping may be added

\$77.00 Boots	\$39.20 Poms 1 navy,1 orange	\$17.00 Poncho
\$154.00 Hat	\$37.40 Navy Leo for Team	\$20.00 Uniform Neck Tie
\$6.00 Hat cover	\$37.40 White Leo for Officers	\$45.00 Uniform Clean Fee

Spirit Items: sales tax/shipping may be added

\$60.00 T-shirts: HOCO, Contest, Spring Show	\$45 Team Crewneck Sweatshirt
\$30.00 Game Day Shirt	

Letter Jacket: Approximately \$150 **Team Camp:** Approximately \$200

Items to Purchase on your own:

Black sports bra for practice: Bras or sports bra other than black= demerits

Solid black and solid white no show socks for practice

One gallon water jug in any color

Red Santa Hat with white trim

Hangers for field uniform: 4 shirt hangers, 4 skirt hangers

Optional items: may order after total bill of required items is paid

\$57.60 Quarter zip Sherpa pullover	\$54.66 Denim crew w/ logo
\$52.50 Fuzzy Fleece Gray with logo	\$20.40 Blk racerback sports bra
\$24.20 Seamless nude bra with clear straps	\$22.10 V- waist black booty shorts
\$69.10 Corded Long sleeve top w/white glitter	\$48.00 Orange sweatshirt w/navy/white glitter vinyl

Meal package game day options coming.

Outside expenses may arise.



Swingsters Uniform Contract

The Swingsters uniform has been bought and issued by GISD and shall be returned in the same condition it was received. The Director will evaluate uniforms upon return/check in. Dancers are financially obligated for damages to the uniform:

Hanging up of the Uniform

It will be hanging in the closet at home OR hanging in the drill team locker. We do not throw pieces over the hanger. We do not use wire hangers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Shirt: hang on shirt hanger. Avoid pointy shoulders. | Skirt/ bloomers: pants/ skirt hanger |
| Jacket: hang on shirt hanger | Gauntlets: on pants/ skirt hanger |
| Belt: metal loop of shirt hanger, string tied | Neck tie: folded in ziploc bag labeled with name |

Care of the Uniform

Prior to each performance, trim unraveled threads, stitch any holes and tack down any loose sequins before each performance. Feel free to ask Ms. Craig to help you, she can sew!

Cleaning Fee covers professional cleaning costs.

- *Frequent cleaning is a must. *No part of the uniform should be dry cleaned!
- *Do not use bleach. *Please take precautions so that the colors do not run.
- *Shorts/ bloomers/ leo may be washed on the delicate cycle.
- *Vest, fringe skirt, sequin jacket, shirt, sequin skirt should each be cleaned individually by placing the item in a sink or tub of very cold water that has a capful of wool-lite or very delicate soap. Swish the item through water several times. It is best not to leave the item in the water. Dry the items hanging on a hanger or lay the item on a flat surface.

Uniform Check-In

Will be conducted once at the conclusion of football season and again at the conclusion of spring show.

It is strongly encouraged that a parent/guardian help the team member take care of the school uniform. Remember each dancer is financially responsible for any damages to the uniform she was issued.



24-25 Swingsters Tryout Packet Signature Page

I have received, read and understand the following documents. Students please initial in the first blank. Parents/Guardians please initial the second blank.

Student

Parent

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | Letter to Swingster hopefuls. |
| _____ | _____ | Swingsters year in review, explanation of the different seasons. |
| _____ | _____ | Swingsters Culture: Hustle with Kindness. |
| _____ | _____ | Fundraising agreement. I understand the importance of team fundraising. Fundraisers may be added. Individual accounts are not applicable. |
| _____ | _____ | Tentative Calendar. Once GISD dates are solid, the summer calendar will be updated. Thank you for your patience. |
| _____ | _____ | Tryout information for the tryout process. |
| _____ | _____ | Information Sheet will be used so the Director can communicate team information. |
| _____ | _____ | Team size sheet. All items are mandatory. Hopefuls/ Parents are welcome to contact the Director to establish a payment plan. |
| _____ | _____ | Contest: I understand contest season is mandatory in GISD. |
| _____ | _____ | Standard of Uniformity. I understand a diverse panel of my peers selected the standard for our team. |
| _____ | _____ | Swingsters Uniform Care page. |
| _____ | _____ | Swingsters year long calendar. Provide conflicts at the new team meeting. |
| _____ | _____ | Summer Technique classes |

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____