

*Chargerettes/
Dynamic Evolutions
Dance Ensemble*



Handbook

2014-2015

Congratulations!!!

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to be a part of the *Veterans Memorial HS Chergettes*. As a part of this fantastic company you will have many opportunities to show your school spirit and work with an amazing group of dancers. Be prepared to participate in upcoming football games, pep rallies, parades, competitions and many more activities.

As a member of this prestigious company you will represent *Veterans Memorial HS* and all of its spirit. You will set an example for all student body and your fellow dance mates. Being part of this company will take lots of hard work which will require great discipline, responsibility and respect. Discipline for the company and what it entails, responsibility for being on time and being prepared and respect for the company, the art of dance and for yourself.

Although being on this company will consist of many days of excruciating rehearsals (out in the sun) and some Saturdays in the studio, remember to enjoy it.

Thank You,

Ms. Cristy Jefferson

Charettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble Director

CONSTITUTION OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HS DYNAMIC EVOLUTIONS DANCE ENSEMBLE

ARTICLE I. (Constitution)

This constitution is drawn and adopted for the **Veterans Memorial High School Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble**. The **Dance Team** and this constitution are governed by the University Interscholastic League rules and procedures, the Brownsville Independent School District Guidelines, and the **Dance Team** members. The fundamental principle of said Constitution is promoting student involvement, fostering high academic achievement, encouraging good sportsmanship while concurrently developing self-discipline, perseverance, responsibility, and self-motivation.

ARTICLE II. (Name)

From this day forward the name of this organization shall be the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble / Chargeretts** (field name). It shall consist of (max) 30-35 members and no more than five officers (unless director sees otherwise). It shall represent Veterans Memorial High School at school athletic events, as well as civic and fine arts functions.

ARTICLE III. (Parent and Physician Permit)

Each member must submit a statement from his/her family physician (prior to even trying out) that he/she has been properly examined and is physically able to participate on a dance team. If a member complains of an injury or illness that causes him/her not to participate, the member **MUST** submit a statement from his/her family physician that he/she has been properly examined and is physically unable to participate. In return, he/she must obtain written permission from his/her family physician allowing him/her to return to normal dance team activities before he/she will be allowed to participate. Each member **MUST** have submitted a statement from his/her parents permitting him/her to resume participation.

ARTICLE IV. (Grade Requirements)

In accordance with Texas House Bill 72 and academic specifications set forth by the Brownsville Independent School District, each member **MUST** pass every class with a grade of **70** or above in order to maintain eligibility. Failure to meet this standard will result in temporary suspension from participation. Grades will be checked every three weeks to ensure eligibility. Two failures to maintain eligibility will result in removal from the team and member will not be allowed to audition for one whole year.

ARTICLE V. (Attendance for Participation and Eligibility)

All students who participate in school activities must be in **REGULAR FULL DAY** attendance the day the activity is scheduled. A member that skips dance team practice for any reason and comes to school is subject to consequences articulated in the demerit system. The member must notify the Director, should he/she leave school for any reason. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. Should the member miss practice due to extenuating circumstances, it will be his/her responsibility to notify the director as soon as possible. The Director will use her discretion to determine if notification was done in a timely manner. If a member is too sick to make practice or a scheduled performance, he/she is to be at **HOME** and not at scheduled events or other places. There should be **NO** absences from practice, meetings, or other **Dance Team** activities. However, a **Dance Team Member** is allowed three absences from practice per semester. These absences will not include medical illness that require medical attention and are validated by a doctor's excuse, death in the family, and a school related U.I.L. activity that does not interfere with **Dance Team** requirements. Upon the fourth absence from practice thereafter will result in member receiving a penalty. (Penalties addressed in Article X) Failure to stay at practice in its entirety will be penalized as if had been missed, unless the reason is one of the aforementioned excused absences. Any member who is absent 3 times without an excuse will be placed on probation for one week (during this time you will still attend rehearsals and observe class). Only **THREE** probations are allowed, after you will be removed from the dance ensemble.

Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble is a class in which academic credit is received. If a member misses practice for any reason, he/she **MUST** bring a note from home to the director explaining his/her absence or

tardy. Academic grade will be based on the following:

1. Excused Absences (three or less)- minus 0 points
2. Excused Absences (four or more)- minus 2 points
3. Tardy- minus 5 points
4. Wrong practice wear- minus 5 points
5. Chewing gum- minus 5 points
6. Not dressed out- minus 10 points
7. Failure to participate- minus 10 points
8. Failure to follow direction- minus 5 points

ARTICLE VI. (Work Outside School)

Members of the dance team **WILL BE** allowed to maintain jobs so long as they **DO NOT** interfere with their obligations to the organization and school. Work will not be an excusable reason for missing practices, performances or school.

ARTICLE VII. (Performances)

The **Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** will perform at all home/away football games, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, Christmas & Charro Days Parade, attend athletic events and perform at other activities upon invitation and budget approval. The transportation will be provided to most events and **ALL** members must ride to and from all performances on the school bus. Exceptions will be made only by parental request 24 hours prior to the event. Parents **MUST** notify the Director when collecting their child.
(Notification must be given to the Director in person)

Auditions will be held for every scheduled event in which the team is scheduled to perform. If a member is selected to perform that particular event, he/she **MUST** attend all practices leading up to that event. Failure to do so will result in him/her being replaced by an alternate (this will apply to the day of the performance as well). For this reason all alternates are also required to attend all scheduled practices.

ARTICLE VIII. (Uniform)

Veterans Memorial High School will provide certain dress uniform and props necessary for participation in the **Dance Team**. Each member is held responsible for the care and return of his/her uniform and any props issued by the director. Any seriously damaged uniform, or lost uniform not returned by the

end of the year shall be paid for by the member. Each member will be required to have their uniform dry-cleaned before the end of the year. Practice uniforms, undergarments, gloves, tennis shoes, performing shoes are to be purchased by the member.

ARTICLE IX. (Moral and Ethical Values)

The member of the **Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** **MUST** at all times, practice conduct patterns which bring credit to the students, the home and the school they represent. In general terms, this means to be **ABOVE** traditional school patterns as to cooperation, behavior, courtesy, and dress. Whenever a member steps out in front of thousands of people wearing the colors and emblem of our school, his/her every action is watched and closely scrutinized. A failing part of the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble Member**, turns out to be failing of our school. Our **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** members are the “**IMAGE**” of our school. It is what our student body and the community knows about the member that counts as important.

ARTICLE X. (Demerits and Penalties)

Demerits, penalties, and pink slips are to be used as disciplinary tools. These are given for violations of set rules. Ten (10) pink slips constitute one (1) penalty, five (5) penalties constitute one (1) demerit, and a total of ten (10) penalties constitute two (2) demerits and results in immediate dismissal from the **Dance Team**. A demerit outweighs a penalty and a penalty outweighs a pink slip. Only the Director and the officers can issue penalties, demerits and pink slips. Any penalty will be discussed with student and recorded in his/her personal **Dance Team** file folder, at 5 penalties or 1 demerit, the **Dance Team** member will confer with the Director, member’s parents and an administrator. At this time he/she will be placed on three-week probation. Probationary status indicates inability to perform for a minimum of one week. At 10 penalties or 2 demerits, the **Dance Team** member will be permanently removed from the team for the remainder of the year. He/she will be placed in a regular P.E. class (or any other class available) for the remainder of the year and will not be allowed to audition for the team for one year.

The following infractions will constitute whether an offense will warrant a pink slip, a penalty, or demerit:

PINK SLIP:

1. Wearing incomplete or incorrect practice wear.
2. Unnecessary talking during practice or performance.
3. Failure to “**CHEER**” or participate when asked to do so.
4. Chewing gum or eating in uniform, at practice, pep rallies, or any performances.
5. Unexcused tardiness to practice, games, pep rallies, or other assigned activities.
6. Wearing fingernail polish or jewelry while in uniform (day/evening dress uniform).
7. Unkept hair or failure to secure it properly.
8. Moving while at attention (in preparation for performance).
9. Failure to return specific items when asked.

PENALTIES:

1. Use of foul language while in uniform, in attendance at any school function, or in school, including rehearsal.
2. Behavioral report filed by any teacher.
3. Wearing school uniform at an unauthorized time or allowing non-member to wear uniform items.
4. Over display of affection while in/out of uniform, in school or in attendance of any school function.(includes holding hands)
5. Unexcused absences to school, practice, or performance.
6. Forgetting uniform items needed for performance.
7. Unclean uniform (failure to pass inspection).
8. Misplaced or lost uniform piece.
9. Inappropriate uniform make-up.
10. Inappropriate physical, verbal contact, behavior or comments towards Director, Team Officers, Members or any other student or teacher.
11. Inappropriate behavior or comments on **Dance Team** private social page.

*Failure to notify Director of absences will constitute as an unexcused absence.

DEMERITS:

1. Writing on walls or destruction of school property.
2. Violation of any school policy which warrants **In-School Suspension (ISS)**.
3. Disrespectful or insubordinate behavior directed at the Director, officers, team members administration, or faculty members.
4. Destructive criticism or malicious gossip toward any member of the team or in any way that could cause a substantial disruption to the educational program.
5. Destructive criticism or malicious gossip regarding the Director's authority or ability that may harm the unity of the team.
6. Any conduct unbecoming of a **Chargerette/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Member** which would in any way tarnish the reputation of the organization.
7. Skipping.
8. Use the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten or inappropriately communicate with district students, employees, or volunteers including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational program.
9. Send, post, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting", either on or off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
10. Use e-mail or web sites to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

MERITS:

Just as demerits and penalties are to be utilized as a disciplinary tool, merits will be awarded as a source of encouragement and will be accumulated throughout the year. Members receiving the most merits will be honored and recognized at the end of the year. Merits will be awarded for the "above and beyond call of duty" actions of a member. Mere adherence to the rules and regulations of this organization do not warrant merits. Officers will not receive additional merits for

fulfillment of officer duties.

ARTICLE XI. (Requirements for membership of the Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble)

Each candidate wishing to audition for the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** must be willing to abide by all rules and regulations as governed by this constitution once they have been selected at auditions.

EACH CANDIDATE WILL BE JUDGED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. Personal appearance
2. Jazz/Lyrical/Modern/Hip-hop Combination
3. Improvisation
4. High kicks
5. Demonstration of splits
6. Double Pirouettes
7. Ability to learn new choreography
8. Technique
9. Leaps & other jumps

All veterans must audition yearly as to secure their position on the team.

(Veterans performance on the team in the prior year will affect their audition).

NO POSITIONS ARE GUARENTEED. Should any veteran **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** member be unable to audition due to hardship, illness, or injury, the Director shall determine the membership of said veteran member while bypassing the audition session. The dance team auditions shall be directed by judges who are experienced in the field of dance teams. **Auditions will be closed to the general public.**

ARTICLE XII. (Officers)

There will be no more than five (5) officers on the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** (unless Director sees otherwise). The group will have one (1) Captain, one (1) Co-captain, and no more than four (4) Lieutenants whose duties will be to help choreograph, teach dances, schedule, organize and help direct practices. In the event the hierarchal title of selected officers becomes a problem all titles will be stripped and all officers will thereafter be referred to as

just “Officer” and no other title. The officers shall assist the Director in any way which they might be called upon. Dance team members will respect the decisions and actions of the officers or regard the possibility of probation or permanent removal. The officers will regard the decisions of the Director as if they were their own or face the possibility of losing certain responsibility. Officers are expected to be role models for the rest of the team and **ALWAYS** set the proper example of what is expected of team members. Additional line officers may be selected by the Director to help maintain team discipline based on experience, prior performance as a **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** member, and demonstrated responsibility.

NOTE: *Being an officer does not put you above the rest of the team members.*

QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND SELECTION OF DYNAMIC EVOLUTIONS OFFICERS:

Officers:

1. Captain/officer: There shall be one (1) Captain who will directly assist the Director and will be in command when she is not available. The candidate with the highest points shall be declared Captain.
2. Co-Captain/officer: There shall be one (1) Co-Captain who will directly assist the Director, and the Captain and will be in command when they are not available. The candidate with the second highest points shall be declared Co-Captain.
3. Lieutenants/officer: There can be two-four (2-4) Lieutenants who shall assist the Director, Captain and Co-Captain. The next candidates with the highest cumulative points shall be declared Lieutenants respectively.

****Any officer eligible for renewal, who suffers a hardship, such as broken bones, hospitalization, or any hardship worthy of consideration, will automatically gain the lowest officer position available without auditioning. This decision will be made by the Director and that decision will be final****

Qualifications:

1. Must have been a team member (in good standing) of the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** for one year. Captain or Co-captain (it title remains) must have been a member in good standing for at least 2 years.
2. Must display leadership abilities and be willing to use these abilities for the improvement of the team.
3. Must display choreography skills to aid in the development of the routines.

4. Must display knowledge of dance technique to enable him/her to teach and critique others.
 5. Must be willing to give up his/her time for the benefit of the dance team.
- **Had to be a member on the team the year prior to auditions (Lieutenants only)
Captain or Co-captain (if title remains) must have been a member in good standing for at least 2 y ears.**

Duties:

1. Will aid the Director in maintaining discipline of the team.
2. Will **ALWAYS** set an example for the team during class and outside of class.
3. Will help plan performances and activities for the line.
4. Will learn and use choreography skills to produce dances for the team.
5. Will warm-up, stretch, teach and perfect the team.
6. Will inspect uniforms and make-up prior to performances.
7. Will be responsible for their rank and will do all that is needed to prepare that rank for performances.
8. Will support the decisions of the Director **AT ALL TIMES**.

Loss of **OFFICER** or **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** membership:

*An officer may lose his/her position if any of the following occur:

1. The member fails to carry out responsibilities after being warned by the Director.
2. Exhibits conduct unbecoming of a member such as the use of foul language, alcohol, or drug use. (Refer to Article X, Penalties and Demerits) This is subject to dismissal.
3. Fails one six weeks within the school year.
4. Fails to participate in major performing events.

Any disciplinary actions shall be taken determined by the Director and/or the Principle

****ALL B.I.S.D. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES ARE IN EFFECT****

Requirements for Officer Candidate:

(Each candidate will be judged in the following areas)

1. Personal appearance.
2. Officer entrance and commands.

3. Spontaneous choreography and instruction.
4. Mandatory officer dances which include jazz/lyrical/modern/hip-hop.
5. Candidate's solo dance which he/she shall choreograph on her own.
6. Ten minute interview with judges.
7. Records of history of their previous year's participation.
8. Three reference letters by teachers

****The officer auditions shall be judged by director and out-of-town judges (if available) who are experienced in the field of dance teams. Auditions will be closed to the general public. ****

ARTICLE XIII. (Awards)

Citation awards and recognition will be issued each week during football season for an outstanding performance that week. There will be a **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Member** of the week and an **OFFICER** of the week. These citations will be awarded a ribbon to be worn the day of the game. Other awards will be given at the end of the year.

(Letterman Jackets)

The following criteria will apply to the awarding of letterman jackets:

1. Any member who has completed **FOUR** consecutive years in the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** successfully will be issued his/her letterman jacket.
2. Any member who becomes a **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Member** his/her sophomore or junior year (that year being their first year at Veterans) will receive their jacket their senior year.
3. Any member who becomes a member his/her senior year (that year being their first year at Veterans) will not receive a jacket until successful completion of the entire year.
4. All candidates for letterman jackets must sign a contract indicating that they agree to successfully complete the entire school year on the team (not just football season) or they forfeit their letterman.

****Successful is defined as being an active member, performing during football season and at competition, and in addition, maintaining a level of less than five (5) penalties or one (1) demerit.****

ARTICLE XIV. (Truancy "SKIPPING" and Tardiness)

Truancy and tardiness is **NOT** allowed and will result in immediate disciplinary action by the Veterans Memorial High School Administration and **Dynamic**

Evolutions Dance Ensemble organization. Truancy or “Skipping” and tardiness from school, **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** practice sessions or performances are in direct violation of said objectives and guidelines of the Veterans Memorial High School Administration and the **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** Organization.

ARTICLE XV. (Delinquent Debts or Fess)

Failure to clear all debts regarding practice wear, fundraising or other monies due to the organization will result in inability of member to participate and perform in **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** activities. It will also result in inability to audition for the following school year. All activities have selected deadlines an inability to meet these deadlines will ensure that the member will not participate in these activities. In addition, members failing to clear debts in a timely fashion **WILL NOT** be allowed to audition the following year. Any member who finds themselves in an unfortunate situation where debts cannot be cleared on time must discuss the situation with the Director and school administration immediately so that a payment plan may be worked out. The responsibility is solely that of the members and failure to clear debts will result in failure to receive academic credit towards graduation.

*****Director can make changes at anytime necessary*****

____ **Yes**, I have read, understood and am in agreement with the Veterans Memorial **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** Constitution.

____ **NO**, I am not in agreement with the Veterans Memorial **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** Constitution and therefore forfeit my right to be a member of the dance team.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Dress Attire:

Black Leotard or athletic top (school colors also acceptable)

SPORTS BRA

Tights (black, cream, white or pink)

Skirt or black shorts may be worn on top

Pants may be worn for conditioning and for hip-hop

Hair must be pulled back in a bun and out of your face

NO JEWELRY whatsoever

Proper dance shoes must be worn

- Jazz shoes for jazz
- Ballet shoes for ballet
- Clean Sneakers for hip-hop/ conditioning
- Modern shoes for modern

Thank You and I look forward to a great 2012-2013 Dance Season!!

Keep for your records

____ **Yes**, I have read and, understood and am in agreement with the Veterans Memorial **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** Constitution.

____ **NO**, I am not in agreement with the Veterans Memorial **Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble** Constitution and therefore forfeit my right to be a member of the dance team.

The constitution is posted on the Veterans Memorial High School Chargerettes Website. Go to the Veterans page, select departments, Fine Arts, Dance, Chargerettes.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Return to Teacher