

Veterans Memorial High School



Dance Department Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Veterans Memorial HS Dance Program. There are many reasons for success in a dance program. This handbook will describe and outline some of these reasons and other aspects of our desired success.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple and sound. Abiding by these rules allows you to fulfill an obligation to your school, to your fellow dance members, to your family, and to yourself. Only when every member of the dance program puts forth 100% effort can a dance group attain its goals in dance achievement and service to school and community.

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, progress reports, grading system, rehearsal procedures, uniforms, and important dates.

Parents and students are requested to read this entire handbook, discuss it, and keep it for reference for the school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cristy Jefferson

Veterans Dance Director

1.0 VETERANS DANCE COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Veterans Dance Program consists of several performing classes. Each of the daily class represents either a beginner, intermediate, intermediate advanced or a more advanced performance group.

1.1 Dance I (Beginner Level)

In this class is students will be learning the basics of every genre in dance (ballet, modern, jazz, tap, etc.) A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function in a dance class. Elements of dance are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. In the Fall semester Beginner students will learn the aspects of how a dance concert is put together and they prepare to perform for the End of Semester Dance Concert (Fall & Spring). **This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory.** Students in Dance I (Beginner Level) have competitive opportunities in Ballroom Dance and other performances. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to maintain their position in the dance program. Students in this class can prepare themselves for an opportunity to audition for the Veterans Memorial High School Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble. **Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass the class or students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with the dance class will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Dance Program at the earliest opportunity.** Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class.

1.2 DANCE II (Intermediate Level)

In this class students will be continuing their knowledge of dance technique in every dance genre (ballet, modern, jazz, tap, etc.). Students in this level will begin their choreographic abilities. Students that are chosen will be performing approximately one grade level beyond their current status. A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function as a member of the Veterans Memorial Dance Program. Elements of dance are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. In an Intermediate level the students have an opportunity to perform and choreograph in the Fall and Spring Dance Concerts. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students in this class can prepare themselves for an opportunity to audition for the Veterans Memorial Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble. Students in Dance II (Intermediate Level) have competitive opportunities in Ballroom Dance and other performances. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to maintain their position in the dance program. **Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass the class or students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with the dance class will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Dance Program at the earliest opportunity.** Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class.

1.3 DANCE III (Intermediate/Advanced Level)

This class is normally by audition only. Students that are chosen will be performing approximately one grade level beyond their current status. A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function as a member of a team. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. Solo and group contests provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from judges outside the school district. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students in Dance III (Intermediate/ Advanced Level) have competitive opportunities in Ballroom Dance and other dance performances. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to be eligible for contests and performances. **Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass classes will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Dance Program. Students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with an honors class will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Dance Program at the earliest opportunity.**

1.4 DANCE IV (Advanced Level)

This class is for those students who have shown progress through Dance I-III or are involved in continuing preparation for advanced performance. These students may have one or more areas that may need attention to create an excellent dancer. Elements of dance are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enrichment activities. There are solo and group performing opportunities for students in a Dance IV (Advanced Level) class. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students in Dance IV (Advanced Level) have competitive opportunities in Ballroom Dance and other performances. **Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass the class or students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with the dance class will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Dance Program at the earliest opportunity.** Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class.

1.5 VETERANS MEMORIAL CHARGERETTES/DYNAMIC EVOLUTIONS DANCE ENSEMBLE (Performing Group)

The Veterans Memorial Dance Ensemble is through **AUDITION** base only. Every student wishing to be a part of the performing group must present their knowledg in dance technique, performance and choreographic ability. The Veterans Memorial Dance Ensemble is a prestigious part of the Veterans Memorial Dance Program. The Veterans Dance Ensemble performs at all football games during half time, parades, Santa & Friends, Pep Rallies, Fall/ Spring Dance Concerts, Dance Competitions, Employee Banquet, Fine Arts Festivals and other district events. **All dance members must have all appropriate dance attire and shoes for all performing functions.** Not having all appropriate attire and shoes for all performances may result in a student's inability to participate at that event. Being in the Veterans Dance Ensemble is a **privilege.** The highest standards of deportment are expected of its members. Failure to comply with the Veterans Dance Program Hand Book, school guidelines, and district rules will result in

immediate removal from the Veterans Dance Ensemble. Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals. Elements of dance are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enrichment activities. **Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass the class or students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with the dance class will be removed from the Veterans Dance Program at the earliest opportunity.** All students participating in the dance ensemble must have an understanding of the rigorous schedule that must be maintained for a successful competition and performance year. Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class. The Director of the Dance Program will make exceptions on an individual basis.

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals. Rehearsals are held from 6:30 AM – 9:30 AM , Monday - Friday (except some game days). As well as some Saturdays. If you are absent from Dance rehearsal one day during the week (excused or otherwise), you will be required to attend any scheduled event.

Dances performed on the field or any other events, will be learned and passed off for a grade weekly. This grade will count towards your six-week average.

You will sit in assigned seats at the football games (no trading). **Only Veterans Dance personnel are allowed in the Dance section. No food is permitted in the dance section.**

1.6 DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENTIATION FOR G/T STUDENTS: Identify goals and means in which the student's needs will be facilitated. Differentiation must include components of depth and complexity and strategies for differentiation (refer to SPR for ideas).

2.0 DANCES

Dances are to be learned on a weekly basis for the performing group and bi-weekly for the Dance I-Dance IV classes. All dance members are responsible for learning all their choreography. Dancers must have all required and appropriate dance attire and shoes for the class. They may keep their items in the dance dressing room/storage room or bring it with them everyday. It will be each dance member's responsibility to make arrangements to make up their dance lesson at school if they are going to be absent. This is especially true for dance ensemble members whose part is so important. It is very important that the dance studio and equipment is taken care of and preserved for future use. You will have to pay for all lost items left in the Dance studio. Students will be charged replacement costs for school owned costumes, shoes, etc. that are lost. Items not turned in are considered lost, and you will have to pay for it.

2.1 UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be worn by all dance students in their prospective dance class. When dance concerts are in progress the students will wear their proper dance costume pertaining to their dance. The Chargerettes/Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble will have the same uniform for

dance class and have their proper costume for their public performances. When in public, the uniform is to be worn complete at times (for the Veterans Dance Ensemble). You may not remove any part of the uniform when you are in the public eye and can be identified as a member of the Veterans Dance Ensemble. When there is doubt, always ask the director.

Nothing is to be cut when uniforms/ costumes belonging to the school need to be altered.

The following are needed to complete the uniform for dance class:

1. Black Leotard or athletic top
2. Black/ Pink/ Tan tights or leggings
3. Black shorts, tights or ballet skirt
4. Jazz pants or leggings
5. Appropriate dance shoes (ballet, jazz, tap, etc.)
6. Veterans Dance Program shirts or fitted school color shirt
7. The Chargerettes stand uniforms are cared for in the following manner:
 - a. Your uniform must be cleaned once a week.
 - b. Any altering must be approved by the Dance Director.
 - c. **NO JEWELRY!** (watches, earrings, rings, bracelets, etc.) is to be worn in class, performances or with costumes. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
 - d. You will wear proper undergarments under costumes.
 - e. Uniforms will be distributed the week before school starts. Veterans will receive their uniforms first followed by the new members.
 - f. Officers will check that you are properly dressed the day of your performance. If you are not you must correct your attire and you will be written up.
 - g. For the regular dance classes you will receive your costumes a week before your performance. You will have the option to buy your outfit. If not purchased any altering must be approved by the Dance Director. Again proper undergarments must be worn.
 - h. For the Dance Ensemble, you will be given poms prior to games or pep rallies. They must be taken care of as well as returned after every performance.
 - i. Once your uniform is returned, it will be hung up. Failure to return your uniform correctly will result in your paying a fine.
 - j. **NO food will be eaten while you are in the stands. During 3rd quarter break, you may consume food and beverages.**
 - k. Keep your uniform clean. If it becomes dirty you must get it properly cleaned.
 - l. If you do not have all of your fatigues (i.e. proper dance shoes) you will not be allowed to perform. If you do not perform, you will receive a failing grade for that performance.

3.0 REHEARSAL AND DAILY PROCEDURES

The following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal. These guidelines should be considered rules. Rule violations incur a penalty and a resultant action that is negative to the dance ensemble or dance class. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurting the entire dance ensemble or dance class.

1. Enter the rehearsal studio in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get dressed in proper dance attire and dance shoes and take a spot on the dance floor.
3. A student will be considered tardy if they are not on the dance floor, ready to rehearse when the tardy bell rings.
4. Students will check the whiteboard for the agenda and be prepared to work on those objectives
5. Concert etiquette will be observed when the director is on the dance floor and no further talking will be permitted.
6. Students will not dance if not dressed out in their proper dance attire.
7. Dance members should have the following for every rehearsal:
 - a. **Proper dance attire (refer to 2.1 Uniforms)**
 - b. **Binders/ Folders/ composition notebook**
 - c. **An Open Mind**
8. All schoolbooks, dance bags, and equipment not needed for the rehearsal should be left in their lockers or the dressing room.
10. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
11. Mirrors are for self evaluation. They are not to be leaned on or abused in any way.
12. When class is over, quietly remain on the dance floor until you are dismissed.
13. The dance director will check the dressing room daily to make sure every one has taken their personnel belongings home and have kept it cleaned.
15. Students who do not bring their dance attire to school will have points deducted from their participation grade.
16. No food or drinks will be allowed in the dance studio (except water bottles).
17. No electronic devices are permitted in the dance studio.

Gum chewing is not allowed!!!!!!

3.1 DISCIPLINE

Dance by its very name suggests oneness, teamwork, ensemble, great cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal. This all comes at a time in a high school student's life when they are striving for individual identity. A very small number of students find that they cannot make this kind of sacrifice and become disruptive discipline problems for the dance director. These students will not be allowed to affect the quality of learning taking place in that dance class. Continued problems will result in that student being moved down to a lower level dance class or to another elective. Dance students need to accept responsibility for their actions, good or bad, and go on.

All discipline problems will be handled on an individual basis.

1. First offense – warning & documentation
2. Second offense -- parental contact, student may write an essay on discipline and/or be assigned to 15 min detention.
3. Third offense -- student will take discipline letter home to parents for signature to be returned the next day. 30 min detention
4. Fourth offense -- referred to administration.

The following are general rules that will be adhered to at all times:

1. NO drinking of alcoholic beverages prior to or at any function will be tolerated.
2. Drugs will not be tolerated! If you are caught with drugs, you will be immediately expelled from the dance program.
3. No inappropriate language in the dance studio or at a dance function will be tolerated.
4. The Veterans Dance Studio is for rehearsing dance pieces and practicing. There will be no loitering in the dance studio.
5. There will be no "**horse-playing**" or inappropriate behavior in the dance studio or during dance functions.
6. Students found guilty of theft or destruction of school property or property of other students will jeopardize their participation in the dance program.
7. **No inappropriate signs of affection are permitted in or around school or at any dance functions.**
8. Any student who is assigned to ISS may be prohibited from participating in “out of classroom” dance activities for the duration to the ISS term.
9. Any student who is assigned to Alternative school will be automatically prohibited from participation in the Veterans Dance Program and will be removed from the Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble for the duration of their time at the Alternative School. Their future participation in the dance program will be at the discretion of the director.

Paragraph 4.19 of the Texas Education Code

- (a) No student of any state school of Texas, or any state supported institution of higher education, shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.
- (b) “Hazing” is defined as follows:
 - (1) Any willful act by one student alone or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of submitting the student made the subject of the attack committed, to indignity or humiliation, without his consent;
 - (2) Any willful act of any one student alone, or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of intimidating the student attacked by threatening such student with social or other ostracism, or of submitting such student to ignominy (loss of reputation; sham; disgrace) among his fellow students, and acts calculated to produce such results;

(3) Any willful act of any one student alone, or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of humiliating, or that is reasonably calculated to humble the pride, stifle the ambition, or blight the courage of the student attacked, or to discourage any such student from longer remaining in such educational institution (or organization) or reasonably to cause the student attacked to leave the institution rather than submit to such acts; or

(4) Any willful act by any one student alone, or acting with others, in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming; or seriously offering, threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise, or maim, or to do or seriously offer, threaten, or attempt to do physical violence to any students of any such educational institution or any assault upon any such students made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results, to such student as defined in this section.

(5) Any student of any state supported educational institution of this state who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$250.00 or shall be confined to jail not less than 10 days not more than three months or both.

The Veterans Dance Program has a Zero Tolerance policy regarding hazing. Students who have hazed other students will be removed from the Veterans Dance Program, and referred to the proper authorities.

Any suspicion of alcohol or drug use or possession of any of these substances, while on campus or off campus on a school sponsored activity, may result in a search of belongings.

3.2 GRADING

Veterans Dance students are tested many times in any six-week period. The vast majority of tests will be performance tests. Major tests will be assigned several days in advance and will usually consist of an exercise, combination or dance history/ terms. Other tests may occur randomly and may or may not be graded. These tests will be given from any source in the student's folder. All grades will be considered equal for the purpose of the six-week average.

Areas that are graded:

1. Performance tests (discussed above)
2. Concerts, Contests, Solo and Ensemble Contest
3. Written tests & Projects
4. Journals

3.3 PRACTICE

Dance students at Veterans Memorial High School should be prepared to devote a minimum of thirty (30) minutes daily to individual practice. The rewards of learning dance technique increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. These rewards

include Ensemble placement, grade, and self-satisfaction. There will be many times during any seven-day period when more time than thirty (30) minutes can be devoted to practice. The key is to set aside a certain time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to insure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

3.4 ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for all rehearsals and public performances of the various performing groups that make up the Veterans Dance Program. One primary purpose of any dance program is the preparation for and participation in public performances and contests.

Public performances: Most dates for public appearances are announced weeks and even months in advance. The majority of our functions are listed in the back of this handbook. Excused absences from public appearances will be granted in cases of genuine emergency only, such as serious illness of the student or death in the family. Please call if such an emergency arises. Jobs, family trips, etc. do not justify absences. Student's who feel they have an excused absence, and do not discuss it with the director **before** the performance and miss the performance, will be automatically moved out of a performance. An unexcused absence from any public appearance is very serious and will be dealt with as an individual case. No person may remain in the performing group that is unfaithful in attendance. The student will receive an incomplete for an unexcused absence. If the student is excused, they will be expected to make up this grade as the director sees fit.

Dance rehearsals: The bulk of our work will be done during the regular dance and ensemble periods. DO NOT ask to be excused from this period except in emergencies, where you are urgently needed. School policy will prevail in dealing with unexcused absences and tardies during all rehearsal times. If a student has two (2) or more unexcused absences, that student may be moved down within his/her section and/or to a lower level.

3.5 DANCE OFFICE

The dance office is the nerve center of the Dance Studio. Dance members must refrain from congregating in the office at all times unless they have business with the directors. Any time the director has visitors in the office, all dance members must refrain from interrupting. School policy applies concerning use of the phone. Dance members must ask the director's permission before using the phone.

Dance members who have business in the office should first knock and ask for permission to enter. Never enter the office without permission when a director is not present.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

House Bill 72, Section 1, subchapter Z, Chapter 21, Education Code reads as follows:

Sec. 21.920 (b) "A student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class."

Extracurricular activities as stated above include UIL Contests, All-City Band, All-Valley Band, Solo and Ensemble Contests, parades, band festivals, and certain special concerts. All students are eligible to play in the concerts that are given throughout the school year on school grounds.

5.0 CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Since performance is a major objective of any dance program, concert etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. While in the audience, one should remain seated until the end of the performance. Having people walk around is very distracting to the performers and to other members of the audience.
2. While a group is performing, there should be no talking in order to allow the other people to enjoy the concert.
3. At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting or whistling is not acceptable.

Stage Etiquette for Dance Performances

- I. Entering the Stage
 - A. Come in quickly in the order you will be dancing
 - B. Stand at your position on stage and SMILE!!!!
 - C. Do not fidget, talk or leave the stage.
 - D. When all dancers have reached their positions on stage the director will begin the music.
- II. At the end of the dance piece
 - A. All dancers should stay in their ending pose until curtains close or lights turn off.
 - B. One person will lead the bow at the end of the piece.
 - C. SMILE!!!!!! (whether the piece went well or not – remember that if a mistake was made, most of the audience will not know about it unless you signal it with your facial expressions)
 - D. After the bow leave the stage quickly.

III. Concert Attire (Dress)

Proper costume will be worn for your dance piece

Hopefully all students will appreciate the opportunity to see other groups perform. Should there be a problem with any student during a concert, that person may be asked to leave and may not be allowed to perform on the next concert.

Remember that you must set an example of personal discipline. Be polite. Politely applaud regardless of your impression of the performing group. Do not be negative.

6.0 STUDENT LEADERS

The Dance Ensemble maximizes our resources and encourages student leadership. To this end there are a number of positions open to upper classmen. Their duties are as follows:

6.1 Officers

Direct the dance ensemble, both on and off the field. They are considered the directors' assistants and are the students responsible for the morale and discipline of the dance ensemble.

- a. Officer auditions will be held at the end of the year in preparation for the upcoming dance season. Students that have had a year on the dance ensemble will be allowed to audition. The Dance Director will choose a panel of judges (usually from out of town or other high schools). These judges will evaluate students wishing to audition for the position of colonel, captain, co-captain, and lieutenants. In order to try out for colonel, you need to have had a year as an officer.
- b. Only one student will be chosen for the each officer position. In order to sign up for officer auditions, a student will need to speak with the dance director and fill out an application. Students will need to prepare a solo and write an essay. The judges, to determine leadership abilities, will interview the students.
- c. Officers are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity throughout the entire school year, as they are ranking representatives of the dance ensemble. If the integrity of an officer is in question, whether scholastically or morally, the dance director reserves the right to remove an individual from his/ her position and that position will be replaced with the next candidate selected in the original audition.
- d. The dance director reserves the right to approve the judges' selection of officers. This will be based on the student's past dance performance, and overall behavior in the Veterans Dance Ensemble.

6.2 QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND SELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Officers:

1. Colonel: There shall be one (1) Colonel who will directly assist the Director and will be in command when the Director is not available.
2. Captain: There shall be one (1) Captain who will directly assist the Director and Colonel and will be in command when they are not available. The candidate with the second highest points shall be declared Captain.
3. Co-Captain: There shall be one (1) Co-Captain who will directly assist the Director, Colonel and the Captain and will be in command when they are not available. The candidate with the third highest points shall be declared Co-Captain.
4. Lieutenants: There shall be two (2) Lieutenants who shall assist the Director, Colonel, Captain and Co-Captain. The next two 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 of the **Dance Ensemble** for one year.
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****

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 **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 out-of-town judges (if available) who are experienced in the field of dance teams. Auditions will be closed to the general public. **

6.4 Uniform Staff

The uniform staff is responsible for maintaining the uniforms of the Veterans Dance Program. They will issue uniforms and maintain a constant check of uniform status. Students will check out uniforms from the uniform staff for cleaning purposes (for further information regarding uniforms, please see **UNIFORM**)

6.5 Line Officers

The VMDE officers choose the line Officers. They are chosen for their leadership ability and performing skills. They are expected to teach dance fundamentals to all dance students to whom they are assigned. They are expected to demonstrate leadership and set an exemplary example at all times. Line Officers are charged with maintaining morale and discipline in the dance ensemble. They derive their authority from the directors and officers. Their job is to correct and teach throughout the dance rehearsal

The line officers duties will include:

1. Helping others in their section.
2. Reminding dance members of rehearsals.
3. Assisting the director during rehearsals.

7.0 CONTESTS

The Veterans Dance Ensemble and its directors feel that placing students in competitive situations is an important part of student growth and achievement. Therefore, we participate in several different types of competitions.

7.1 UIL MARCHING BAND CONTEST

The UIL Concert Marching Band Contest is a very important event each year. The Marching Band performs an 8-minute marching show for three (3) judges. The band directors of the UIL region select these judges. These judges are selected based on their excellence as band directors.

7.2 BISD SOLO AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

Each year BISD offers a high school solo and ensemble contest. This contest is open to all Dynamic Evolutions dance students in grades nine through twelve, who have had prior experience in dance. It is the hope of the Veterans dance director that all Dynamic Evolutions Dance students will participate in the contest, one of the most important individual events during the school year. Students choosing to perform a solo will need to choreograph their solo and get director's approval.

9.0 DANCE TRAVEL

9.1 PERMISSION FORMS

The dance members will be traveling for dance events throughout the year. In the back of this handbook is a permission form. It should be taken home and signed by parents. This is necessary before a dance member can leave campus.

9.2 TRAVEL – OFF CAMPUS

All travel by the Veterans Dance Program is subject to the travel guidelines set forth by the Brownsville Independent School District School Board.

Throughout the year, the dance group travels off campus to football games, concerts, contests, and auditions. As a member of the Dance Ensemble, you are an ambassador of our school, community and city. You are expected to maintain the highest standards when you are representing the Veterans Dance Program.

All trips, concerts, and activities outside of scheduled classes are considered a privilege and not a right. Student must follow all lawful instructions given by the Dance Director at all times during any dance activities. Failure to comply with **ANY** of the requirements listed in this handbook, the Veterans Memorial High School Student Handbook, the BISD student code of conduct or

Local, State, or Federal laws may result in the loss of any or all of these privileges. Account balances will also be forfeited as outlined in the refund policy. These decisions will be made by the head dance director.

10.0 DANCE BOOSTERS AND FUNDRAISING

10.1 DANCE BOOSTERS

The Veterans Dance Boosters Association is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization sanctioned by the Internal Revenue Service. The Veterans Dance Boosters Association is a non-profit organization composed of dance parents that assists the dance director with fund raising and chaperoning for the dance ensemble.

There are many times during the school year when the dance ensemble will need the support and help of parents. The dance boosters welcome all parents to attend dance booster meetings. Dance members will take a notice home of all dance booster meetings.

The President of the Veterans Dance Booster Association chooses chaperones, for the football games. Chaperones for other activities will be chosen based on volunteer hours. The booster members that have the greatest number of hours will be asked to chaperone. The dance director will set the required number of chaperones each activity.

10.2 FUNDRAISING

The Veterans Dance Boosters Association sponsors fundraisers for the dance students throughout the year. Fundraisers and due dates are discuss with the students prior to the beginning of the fundraiser. Any funds or merchandise not turned in by the due date will incur a late fee. The amount of \$1 per day will be accessed. Students who do not pay by the deadline place an unnecessary burden on the boosters. Due dates are necessary as there are deadlines for deposits for trips.

Members of the Dance Program will have an opportunity to take a trip of some type each year. Each member of the Dance Ensemble will have an individual account established and will be responsible to earn their way. If the student and parents do not wish to fundraise, they may pay directly into their respective accounts. Payments may be made with cash, check, or money order. Please make checks payable to "Veterans Memorial High School." Account balances are not transferable. Unused balances will become property of the Veterans Dance Boosters Association. Any refunds of direct payments will be based on the tour companies refund policy. Deposits are not refundable under any circumstance.

The dance director will, at the beginning of the school year, establish payment deadline dates. These payment deadline dates must be strictly adhered to as we are obligated to make our payments to the travel agency.

11.0 MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

11.1 SENIOR JACKETS

Senior jackets shall be awarded to a dance student during their senior year as a dance member provided they fulfill the following criteria. The dance member must have participated in the Veterans Memorial High School Dance program for four years or eight traditional semesters. The equivalence will be accepted from students transferring into Veterans Dance from other programs. In the case of early graduation the reward may also be presented. The student must have participated in ALL scheduled performances, rehearsals, and music activities commensurate with the level of assignment. The BISD policy on absences will determine an excused absence. The student must be passing dance ensemble class with a current minimum grade average of 80. They must be a member in good standing with the organization as per the guidelines agreed to in the dance handbook. Dropping dance classes or dismissal from the dance classes will forfeit the award. The student must have cleared all financial responsibilities to the dance. In all cases the award is the property of Veterans Dance and will be considered ON LOAN until the completion of all the requirements and graduation of the student.

Each senior candidate will sign an agreement stating these guidelines upon their being measured for the senior jacket.

11.2 SUMMER DANCE CAMP

Approximately one (1) week after school is over in June; all grades for the upcoming school year will participate in the first session of summer dance camp. Approximately three (3) weeks before school begins, all (grades 9-12) dance members will participate in the second session of summer dance camp. All dance members should plan to attend. If previous plan conflict with summer dance camp dates, a note from a parent is necessary. These summer dance camp sessions mark the first rehearsals of the new school year.

11.3 LOST AND FOUND

Any items left in the dance studio overnight become the property of the Veterans Dance Program. Do not leave anything on the dance floor. **If your property is left, it will be collected and a \$1.00 retrieval fee will be charged.**

11.4 ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THIS HANDBOOK

You are expected to follow all lawful directions given by dance directors and the dance officers. Any violation of BISD or Veterans Memorial High School code of conduct may cause a student to lose their privilege to participate in all “out of classroom” activities. Any students assigned to Alternative School will be barred from all “out of classroom” band activities. Any students assigned to ISS may be barred from any “out of classroom” band activities at the discretion of the director.

ATTACHMENTS:

PERMISSION AND MEDICAL FORMS

The dance members will be traveling for dance events throughout the year. In the back of this handbook is a BISD permission form and a medical form. These forms must be signed and returned by 1 week prior to the 1st football game for the dance students in the Dynamic Evolutions Dance Ensemble to be able to travel. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to advise the dance director of any changes in the student’s medical condition as stated in the medical form submitted at the beginning of the year. Any parent wishing to pick up their child from a scheduled event must notify the dance director 24 hours in advance in writing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL DANCE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

We have read and understand the dance guidelines. We agree to abide by these guidelines as members of the Veterans Dance Program. We fully understand and accept all guidelines and consequences in the dance handbook and *grant our child permission to travel for all required events. (Dance Team only)*

PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT

Parent/Legal Guardian
Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

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