

Westchester Academy for International Studies
Wildcats Dance Team Constitution

Article I. General Information

The Wildcats Pep Squad is a prep squad for the Wildcats Team. Members focus on building their technique, flexibility and endurance. Members are expected to learn the basic structure of the Wildcats dance team and follow the constitution, rules and expectations. Members perform in spring show. **All** new members must go through Recruitment before they can be considered for the Wildcats Dance Team.

The Wildcats Dance Team is a precision dance group that participates in many activities throughout the year. Members on the team have the opportunity to perform at open houses, pep rallies, and an annual spring show. Team members are comprised of 6th -12th graders. Each individual dancer is expected to work to improve her dance ability, leadership, scholarship, and character.

The Sapphires is an elite precision dance group that competes at competition, open houses, pep rallies and an annual spring show. Team members are 8th-12th graders and must audition to be a member on the team. These regulations may change at the discretion of the Director.

Article II. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this organization shall be the following:
 - a. To promote school spirit and represent the pride and reputation of WAIS at any designated district function and various other school functions on or off campus.
 - b. To render services to the school and community.
 - c. To develop in each member positive traits such as leadership, integrity, individual responsibility, and community awareness.
 - d. To build character and confidence.
 - e. To encourage scholarship and physical fitness.

Article III. Director

- A. The Director is the leader of the organization and must first approve all operations involving the organization.
- B. She assists all officers and team members.
- C. She will pace rehearsals and dismiss all meetings and practices.
- D. Merits and demerits are only given with her permission.
- E. She shall serve in an advisory capacity as a member of the Wildcats Parent Crew

Article IV. General Requirements

Each dancer selected is a member of the Wildcats Dance organization for one calendar year. A calendar year is defined as September- May. As a member, dancers are required to...

- A. Participate in yearly recruitment week for returning membership in the organization if the current director asks this of the team;
- B. Participate in all activities in which the organization is involved, unless *otherwise* approved by the Director;
- C. Follow ALL school policies and regulations.

*AND...Members should remember they are representatives of the Wildcats organization, as well as WAIS and the Spring Branch Independent School District.

Article V. Membership Requirements:

In order for a candidate to become and remain a member of the Wildcats, she **MUST**:

- A. Have signed the constitutional contract as well as her parent/guardian
- B. Have a current physical on file and make sure it remains up to date. They expire after one calendar year.
- C. Maintain good citizenship grades, attendance, and classroom performance and behavior. No "U's" in conduct during the current school year and no more than two "N's" in conduct.

- D. Maintain passing grades. Grades will be checked at Progress Report time and at the end of the each six weeks to determine eligibility.
 - a. A member is ineligible for 3 weeks if she makes below a 70 on a report card;
 - b. If a member is placed on grade probation for three weeks, she must have passing grades on her Progress Report in order to regain eligibility;
 - c. A member is considered ineligible if she receives an incomplete on her report card and will be ineligible until the grade has been cleared and is a 70 or higher;
 - d. A dance or social officer who fails a class for a six week period will be placed on probation for three weeks and will be demoted to line member for the duration of her probation.
- E. Be physically, emotionally, and mentally capable of a strenuous practice schedule during peak performance times
- F. Be able to give freely of her time for any Wildcats activity throughout the year. During high performance and competition months, **Wildcats must come first over activities outside and inside of school.**
- G. She must not hold jobs that interfere with any dance team activity. Work is never an excuse to miss practice, performances, or any other scheduled activity.
- H. Must follow TEA guidelines regarding grades (NO PASS, NO PLAY in regards to practices and performances).
- I. She and her parents must be fully aware of the expense and fulfill fundraising projects to be determined by the Wildcats Parent Crew. This includes meeting all financial obligations such as Wildcat quota (if there is one), purchasing all parts of the uniform, and other expenses that may occur throughout the year.
- J. Wildcats parents must be willing to support the member in complying with all the rules and regulations of this organization without reservation. Parents must sign the constitution in agreement to abide by its contents.
- K. All current dance team members must attend recruitment season annually to be eligible for tryouts and be considered for the team. Sapphires and Officers audition yearly. If not, they will be considered as resigning their positions.
- L. Upon acceptance into the Dance Team, each member will be required to attend every day of practice, preparatory workshops and summer camp(s)

Article VI: Probation/Removal from the Team

If a member exhibits behavior contrary to the guidelines established for the team, she will receive a demerit(s), be placed on probation, and/or be removed from the team. Probation or removal from the team is warranted if a member...

- A. Fails to meet the appropriate grade requirements;
- B. Fails to maintain the standards of conduct and character required of team members;
- C. Receives excessive demerits during the school year;
- D. Fails to commit to any of the four seasons during the calendar year.
- E. Receives ISS (results in an automatic 3 week probation). A second time in ISS will result in an automatic dismissal from the team
- F. Receiving DAEP will result in an automatic dismissal from the team
- G. Fails to comply with the Spring Branch ISD Handbook and the Wildcats Dance Team constitution.

The following infractions will result in AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL from the team.

1. Possession/use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on campus or at any dance team function.
2. Any infraction that results in placement at the District Alternative Education Center and/or a requirement to enter district mandated counseling.
3. Bullying or Hazing
 - a. This includes any member who organizes or participates in a hazing incident.
 - b. Any assumption of authority by a student whereby another student suffers or is exposed to any cruelty, intimidation, humiliation, embarrassment, hardship, oppression, or is required to perform exercises in extreme excess, to become sleep deprived, to commit dangerous activities, to curry

favor from those in power, to submit to physical assaults, to consume offensive foods or alcohol, or the threat of bodily harm or death, or the deprivation or abridgement of any right. (Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 [51 U.S.C. 20 U.S.C. 1091])

4. Speaking negatively about the Director or other team members.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS (Off Campus Incidents)

1. First Offense: Alcohol/drug use at events or activities where drug/alcohol use is occurring, including, but not limited to: M.I.P, P.I., D.U.I, removal of outside school, non-dance team related functions, etc. will result in a six week probation (20% of the year). During probation, the member is not allowed to participate in any dance events/performances, but attendance for performances and practices is mandatory.
2. Second Offense: Dismissal from the team.
3. Dance and Social officers who are placed on probation for alcohol/drug related incidents will automatically be removed of their office.
 - a. In addition, a dance team member may be dismissed from the team if found guilty of any of the following:
 1. Using undesirable language or unacceptable behavior (as judged by the director(s))
 2. Defacing of property
 3. Fighting
 4. Being suspended, being expelled, or being assigned home bound instruction.
 - b. A dance team member will be subject to dismissal from the team on the member's second assignment to in-school suspension.
 - c. A dance team member will be immediately dismissed from the team if assigned to DAEP.

Article VII: Recruitment Requirements to become a Wildcats Pep Squad or Wildcats Dance Team Member

- A. The term of a team member begins the first practice after Try-out results have been posted and continues until that membership is officially terminated, or upon graduation, or transfer from middle or upper schools. Throughout the official membership, each member is responsible for adhering to all rules and regulations specified in this constitution.
- B. In order to gain membership, each girl must fulfill all of the following requirements:
 1. Each prospective member must attend all days of recruitment.
 2. Student conduct will be considered by the director(s) in determining team placement for the student in attendance to recruitment week.
 3. Prospective members will learn a series of dance combinations during recruitment season that they will be evaluated on by the director(s) and a series of judges. The scores of the director(s) and judges will determine whether the student is placed on the Wildcats Pep Squad or Wildcats Dance Team.
 4. Prospective members will participate in group activities and workshops to introduce them to the wildcats dance team. They will be expected to take assessments on the constitution and expectations throughout the recruitment period.

5. Discussion of the recruitment week outcome with the director(s) and possible administrator can only occur by an appointment made in advance.
6. Each performance will have its own tryouts once a member is placed on the Minicats or Wildcats dance team. Members MUST tryout for every number.
7. Prospective members will make application for membership during the time announced by the director(s). Making application may consist of the following:
 - a. An application and permission slip is to be filled out and signed by the applicant and their parent/guardian then returned to the director(s).
 - b. A copy of the Spring Branch Independent School District Dance Team Constitution and a general information sheet to be distributed to and read by the prospective member and parent(s) after they make the team.
8. Prospective members and their parent(s) must be fully aware of the expense of dance team as explained in the initial information form. They must be willing to meet all financial obligations. It should also be noted that expenses will be held to a minimum so that as many students as possible will have an opportunity to belong to the organization. If a student is not able to meet financial obligations, the student and parents should consult with the director(s) about assistance and alternative obligations.
9. Members who make the team will be required to obtain a physical filled out by a licensed physician and turn it into the director(s) at the beginning of the school year.

Article VIII: Sapphire Try Out requirements

- A. The term of a team member begins on the day that that member's name is officially posted and continues until that membership is officially terminated, or upon graduation, or transfer from high school. Throughout the member's official membership, each member is responsible for adhering to all rules and regulations specified in this constitution.
- B. In order to gain membership each girl must fulfill all of the following requirements:
 1. Each prospective member must be in 8th-12th grade the incoming school year. (Grade levels permitted may change at the discretion of the director)
 2. Each prospective member must tryout. Any student who is currently ineligible as per the "no pass-no play" rule will be considered eligible to tryout if qualifications are met.
 3. A student who is ineligible twice after tryouts and/or the beginning of the next year will be removed from the team.
 4. Student conduct will be considered by the director(s) in determining team membership for the student trying out.
 5. Prospective members must realize that grades or conduct marks may not be changed to make a student eligible to tryout. Requesting changes in academic or conduct grades is unfair to teachers and other students trying out.

6. Three outside judges selected by the director(s) with dance team knowledge will judge tryouts. The score sheets used by the judges will be confidential. Discussion of the tryout with the director(s) and possible administrator can only occur by an appointment made in advance.
7. A student transferring from another school who is a member of another dance team on a varsity level and is in good standing with the previous school and dance team, may be allowed to tryout before the director(s).
8. Each performance may have its own tryouts once a member is selected for the Sapphires.
9. Prospective members will make application for membership during the time announced by the director(s). Making application may consist of the following:
 - a. An application and permission slip is to be filled out and signed by the applicant and their parent/guardian then returned to the director(s).
 - b. The most recent copy of the students' report card.
 - c. A copy of the Spring Branch Independent School District Dance Team Constitution and a general information sheet to be distributed to and read by the prospective member and parent(s) after they make the team.
10. Prospective members and their parent(s) must be fully aware of the expense of dance team as explained in the initial information form. They must be willing to meet all financial obligations. It should also be noted that expenses will be held to a minimum so that as many students as possible will have an opportunity to belong to the organization. If a student is not able to meet financial obligations, the student should consult with the director(s) about assistance and alternative obligations.
11. Members who make the team will be required to obtain a physical filled out by a licensed physician and turn it into the director(s) at the beginning of the school year.

Article IX. Personal Cost

- A. Wildcats members will receive a copy of the perceived fees required for the school year. It is the responsibility of the Wildcats and parents to pay the fees necessary for the year. (This fee does not include the cost of contest solo entry fees, meals at events, special gifts, parent shirts, yard signs, etc.)
- B. Each member is asked to participate in all fundraising efforts. Members are given a quota in which they are asked to meet in order for them to fulfill their financial obligations to the team.
- C. Members who do not fulfill their monetary obligations will not be allowed to participate in special events, including the team trip, banquet, awards celebration, and other team functions (only applies when necessary).
- D. If a member does not meet the quota, she will be responsible for paying the remainder if she wishes to participate in special team events (only when necessary).
- E. Names or initials must be written on the inside of every individual piece of a Wildcats' practice attire.

Article X. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. Members will be issued uniforms, costumes, props, poms, etc. throughout the year. If an item is lost, misplaced, damaged, or stolen, the member will be responsible for the cost of replacing the item (Costume deposit covers these items).
- B. Uniforms and costumes are provided by SBISD and therefore belong to the district.
- C. The user will assume 100% liability for the care of the uniform and any other materials used.
- D. The user will pay full payment of lost or damaged items.

- E. Any item not returned must be paid for by the Wildcat who it was issued to.
- F. The uniform or costumes may not be **altered** in any manner without the Director's permission.
- G. Uniforms and costumes are to be kept neat, clean, and in good condition at all times.
- H. Uniforms and costumes are **NEVER** to be left on the floor.
- I. Uniforms or costumes are never to be worn without the director's permission.
- J. No pieces of the uniform are to be taken off during a performance unless given permission from the Director to do so.
- K. The uniform or costumes may not be loaned to anyone at any time without permission from the director.
- L. No jewelry or nail polish is to be worn with the uniform or costumes. Proper hair and makeup is to be worn while in uniform or costume.
- M. **NO FOOD OR DRINK** while in uniform or costume. Only water and/or approved snacks are allowed when in uniform or costume—**NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
- N. WDT members are only allowed to wear WDT gear on assigned **SPIRIT DAYS**.
- O. If a Wildcats Dance Team member is no longer apart of the team, she may not wear **ANY** items associated with the Wildcats dance team. This includes but not exclusive to team t-shirts, practice attire, warm ups, spirit wear, costumes, etc.

Article XI. Summer Practices and Camp

- A. All members are required to attend each practice scheduled outside the routine school day, as well as all summer practices.
- B. Wildcats summer camp will be held the last week of July and the first week of August.
- C. All Wildcats must be in attendance at summer camp practices unless given special permission by the Director one month in advance. For every day of summer practice that is missed, the member forfeits one performance opportunity unless given permission by the Director.
- D. A doctor's note is required if a member is too ill to attend summer camp or practices.

Article XII. Tryouts and Performances

- A. The decision to hold tryouts for performances is solely up to the discretion of the Director.
- B. When tryouts are held for performances, the Director and dance officers will assist with tryouts.
- C. If a member does not meet the criteria for a particular routine, she must still attend the performance in uniform and assume her responsibilities as a team member, unless otherwise specified by the Directors.
- D. If a member is absent the day of tryouts and does not return the following day with a doctor's note, she will not perform in that routine;
- E. Members must be present at the final rehearsal/s before a performance, otherwise they may be eliminated from that routine;
- F. Inability to perform-
 - a. An illness or injury that restricts a member from performing;
 - b. Receiving 5 demerits the previous week;
 - c. Grade probation;
 - d. Missing two or more rehearsals during the week;
 - e. Absent the day of tryouts without a doctor's note

The following reasons determine whether or not a dancer will be allowed to perform. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to these factors, so please read carefully.

- Lack of knowledge of a routine
- Lack of ability to perform at required skill level for said routine
- Attitude not promoting teamwork/sportsmanship
- Lack of dedication/commitment being shown toward dance team
- Lack of improvement shown over time in given routine
- Disregard of Wildcats Constitution, rules, and expectations governing this organization
- Absences the week prior to performance. Tardiness is also a factor.

- Excessive absences
- Gossiping instigating turmoil, or in any way causing conflict among members on the Dance team
- Ineligibility based on grades
- Dancer's that are on probation
- Not being in proper uniform to perform and performance ready by the arrival time listed on the performance sheet
- Not being in attendance for required parent meetings/information sessions
- A dancer will not be allowed to practice/perform if injury occurs for which dancer is unable to perform at their normal level. Dancers will not be allowed to participate until written clearance is obtained from a doctor.

Parents are expected to be supportive of our "cut" system as it has allowed us to achieve the high level of excellence which has become standard for our program. Dancers must EARN their way onto the performance floor. The Coach is always up front with dancers as to where they stand. Parents are welcome to discuss concerns with the Coach by setting up an appointment via email.

If a dancer works hard, comes to practice, behaves themselves and achieves the performance level required, THEY WILL DANCE.

Article XIII. Contest Season

- Attending contest builds team unity, showcases the team's talent, and promotes a high level of achievement.
- The decision to hold tryouts for team and encore contest routines and other performances is solely up to the discretion of the Director.
- The Director may select two or more contests during the fall and spring semesters.
- Contest is mandatory unless the Director approves extenuating circumstances.
- If a Wildcat misses a scheduled contest without notifying the Director, she may be dismissed from the team.

Practice Attendance:

- If a student is not attending a contest, she is still required to attend all practices.
- A student may be required to attend all scheduled activities even if she is not performing.

Performances:

- If a student does not attend a contest, she stands to forfeit performing at any further functions. She may also forfeit your ability to try out for dance or social officer.
- During competition season the director will decide if a member will maintain a spot in the routines. If student is absent, fails to perform the skills correctly or improve skills, the director may replace that student with a permanent alternate. The director will evaluate each situation.
- Should a student become injured or sick she may give up some or all spots within a dance and is not guaranteed to those spots once she is well.

Contest Fees:

- All contest payments and entry fees are nonrefundable—this includes payment for meals, solos, duets, trios, and small ensembles. (We will fundraise to cover the cost)

Article XIV. Spring Show Season

The Wildcats present an annual spring show during the spring semester to demonstrate their talent for the community. The following rules apply to the preparation and production of the show:

A. Dances

- The number of dances will be determined by the Director and is based on the number of girls on the team;
- Dance officers will be assigned choreography and the Director will place dancers in the various routines;

3. Solos will be performed by the colonel and lt. colonel only;
4. Each Wildcat will perform a determined number of dances based on her dance skill, hard work, dedication, growth at the Director's discretion.

B. Attendance

1. Each Wildcat is allowed two unexcused absences per semester. On the third absence, she may be removed from a routine at the Director's discretion.
2. Participation in the spring show is a required event.
3. If a member is ineligible and cannot perform in the spring show, she must still attend rehearsals and the show.

Article XV. General Information Regarding Attendance

A. Members must be at all scheduled practices and functions unless given special permission by the director prior to the absence

B. EXCUSED ABSENCES

- a. Personal illness (with excuse note and/or email from **PARENT/GUARDIAN**). If there a more than 2 consecutive absences, a doctor's note must be provided
- b. Funeral or death in the immediate family (with note/ email from **PARENT/GUARDIAN** when dancer returns)
- c. Special school activities with special permission secured from the director 2 weeks **prior** to the absence (with excuse note and reminder email)
- d. Religious Holiday
- e. Vacation-with Parent's note ahead of time
- f. Excused absence from school as noted by the attendance office.

C. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- g. Work-plenty of notice given to arrange work schedules
- h. Doctor's Appointment- please schedule these on off days. **ONLY OFFICERS AND SAPPHIRES** are an exception. Please notify Director of extenuating circumstances.
- i. "Couldn't get a ride, was grounded, had homework, didn't know about it, etc."
- j. Anything else not listed under excused absences

These excuses all come down to one word, **RESPONSIBILITY**.

D. Attendance must be regular. Members are expected to be in attendance for the entire event except in the case of an emergency; leaving practice early is considered an absence for the entire practice. Members may be removed from dances for excused or unexcused absences.

E. Absence from the final practice/s will result in removal from the performance.

F. If it proves necessary for a Dance Team member to be absent from school, practice or performance for any reason, she **MUST** notify the Director, **not officers or fellow team members but the DIRECTOR** via email or phone before the beginning practice. In addition the parent/guardian must also notify the director. Failure to notify the Director of an absence will result in an unexcused absence and possible removal from a routine.

Consequences:

- A. Any member who is not performing, no matter the reason, must be at all performances and practices with the team. She must wear the appropriate attire and abide by all the rules and regulations.
- B. If a student is absent from practice, but attends school during the day, the absence to practice will be unexcused without notification to the director or special permission.
- C. Practices are mandatory. Excused or unexcused absences could lead to removal from a routine or performance at the discretion of the Director.

Article XVI. Demerit System

- A. The demerit system is defined as a system of cuts and infringements of rules and regulations.
- B. The purpose of the demerit system is to make sure that each member is responsible for her actions and to promote self-discipline.

- C. The demerit system begins the first day of summer practice for sapphires. The demerit system starts the first day of team practice after try-outs.
- D. Demerits may be given by the Director and dance officers.
- E. The Director will assign tasks to those wishing to work off demerits.
- F. Demerits may be issued to all dance team members by all dance officers and the Director. If a dance team member has a question about a demerit, she must set up a conference with the director to discuss the demerit given.
- G. Each member must keep a record of her demerits/merits.
- H. When a member receives a demerit, she will receive notification of the demerit and must sign for the demerit at the time it is given.
- I. Demerits are accumulated throughout the calendar year, and will be erased at the end of said calendar year.
- J. Demerit/merit system will be enforced at all times.
- K. After 5 demerits, the member must participate in the Wildcat Workout with her Officers.
- L. You can receive 10 demerits with no penalties. On the 11th demerit, you automatically go into a probationary period of three weeks.
- M. On the 15th demerit you will be dismissed from the organization.
- N. An officer will be demoted to a line member after she receives 10 permanent demerits.
- O. The Director and administrators have the authority to give demerits for offenses which have not been included or which have been inadvertently excluded. The Director or administrator will determine the number of demerits to be issued according to the severity of the situation. Keep in mind that 10 demerits places a member on probation and 15 will dismiss that member from the team.
- P. Demerits will only be removed with merits if merits are earned before the demerit.
- Q. 5 merits will erase 1 non-permanent demerit only.
- R. If a demerit is issued for the same offense twice it will become permanent.

Offense	Permanent Demerits	# of Demerits
Possession or use of any tobacco or tobacco related products on or off campus		15
Drinking, smoking, use of illegal substance on or off campus		15
Using or possessing or being under the influence of any mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-affecting drug on or off campus		15
Stealing and/or fighting on or off school property		15
Suspension, Expulsion, or placement in Alternative School		15
Misuse of internet, email, and/or social webpage. This includes but not limited to: inappropriate content or language, sexual content, or illegal substances or paraphernalia		11 to 15
Truancy from class or school		11 to 15
Being in a picture that contains illegal substances (ex. Drugs, alcohol) where either the student or others in the picture are in possession of the substance		11 to 15
Engaging in lewd, disruptive, or other offensive conduct that affronts school district standards of propriety on or off campus		11 to 15
“Public Display of Affection” Defined as: ANY physical contact (other than holding hands or hug) with the opposite sex while in Wildcats clothing and/or kissing or groping at any time.		5
Interacting with friends at practice, performance or appearances when in uniform.		2
“Passion Markings”		5
The use of disruptive or profane language		5
Assigned to detention or Saturday School		2
Receiving other discipline action as a result of tardies or dress code		2
Knowingly lying to director (forgery)		5
Improper conduct in public after being warned		2
Starting or partaking in gossip		5
Disrespect or insubordination to officer or fellow teammate		1 to 5
Disrespect or insubordination to the Director *Grounds for immediate dismissal		5 to 15
Leaving or walking out of practice without permission		2
Non-attendance at any scheduled competition without prior permission from the Director		5
Non-attendance at any scheduled performance or other required activity without prior permission from the Director		5

****Disrespect - arguing, raising voice, rolling eyes, or talking back

****Insubordination - going against something you have been asked to do

Non-permanent Offense	# of Demerits
Failure to wear correct uniform or costume to a performance (includes hair, makeup, accessories, etc.)	4
Allowing non-dance team member wear any Wildcats attire without permission (including family members)	4
Leaving the events without permission and checking out with squad leader	3
Improper care of uniform, costume, or school issued property	2
Eating or drinking in uniform or costume	2
Unexcused absence to practice	2
Late to practice, performance or activity	1
Talking while in the performance area (stage, contest floor, etc.)	1
Drinking or eating at event without permission	1
Excessive talking or turning around while in event line or at attention	1
Not paying attention to commands given by Director or officer	1
Unsportsmanlike conduct	1
Allowing a non-member to stand within event lines without permission	1
Not participating in event	1
Not smiling or having proper showmanship during performance	1
Inappropriate behavior on the bus	1
Leaving before being dismissed	1
Talking while going to the restroom or practice area	1
Taking off a piece of the uniform without permission	1
Wearing dirty or non-repaired uniforms or costumes	1
Forgetting required items for performance	1
Wearing jewelry or colored nail polish in uniform or costume	1
Failure to dress out without permission	1
Excessive talking or goofing off during practice	1
Chewing gum	1
Wearing jewelry	1
Wearing wrong practice attire on assigned day	1
Late to Roll Call lines	1
Marking dance routine	1
Leaving personal items in the gym/ dance room	1
Allowing non Wildcats in the gym/dance room/ locker room	1

**The director shall have the authority to give demerits for offenses which have not been included or which have been inadvertently excluded when necessary. The number of demerits given will directly reflect the severity of the offense.

Article XVII. Demerit Erasers

- A. Wildcats will have the opportunity to erase their demerits every week.
- B. Demerits will be run off on Thursdays before practice at 3:15. If a Wildcat is late to demerit run off, she will miss her opportunity to run off her demerits.
- C. Depending on weather conditions, Wildcats may meet for demerit run off in the gym (example: heat, rain, sleet, freezing temperatures—40 degrees or below).
- D. Each demerit = one lap around the track or 5 around gym.
- E. Wildcats will have 2 weeks to run off the demerits they received during the week. Failure to do so will result in the demerits becoming permanent.

Article XVIII. Merits

- F. Merits may be earned for accomplishing various tasks assigned by the Director.
- G. **Wildcats will have the opportunity to “sign off” one demerit for every five merits earned.**
- H. Each Wildcat must earn 100 merits by officer tryouts to be in good standing.
- I. If Wildcat is interested in being an Officer, she must earn 200 merits.
- J. Merits will only be awarded and approved if necessary documentation is turned within one week of the event. If merits were earned over the summer, it is up to the Wildcat to turn in her documentation within the first week of summer camp
- K. Merits are considered a privilege and it is not required of the Director to award them.
- L. Merits will be awarded to Wildcats for the following service:

- "A" Honor Roll 10
- Holding a leadership position in a school club 10
- Community Service Project (per event) 5
- Spirit Day dress up 1
- Donating supplies to the closet(hasn't be assigned) 1 per item
- Donating pictures for scrapbook, slide show, etc. 1 per 5 pictures
- "A/B" Honor Roll per six weeks 5
- Extra activities not required 5
- Attending outside dance class (per class) 5
- Extra Curricular club membership 1
- Decorative Posters/supplies for dance room and or/locker room 1
- Staying after to clean up dance room, gym or locker room 5
- Assisting a Wildcat with homework or tutorials 5
- Attending a performance art event outside of school 5
- Going above and beyond on a performance, practice, assignment, etc. 1-10
- Parent/guardian attending monthly meetings 5
- Raising over required quota (when applicable) 1 per \$10 (up to \$1000)
- Selling more than the required amount tickets of any 1 per 5 (up to 100)

**The director may also award merits for good behavior, going above and beyond, and community service.

Article XIX. Transportation

- A. Members must ride the bus to and from all out of town activities and other functions unless authorized by the Director. **We go as a "TEAM" and we leave as a "TEAM."**
- B. The parent/guardian must pick the Dance Team member up directly after the activity.
- C. Members will provide their own transportation to meetings, practice, clinics, etc.
- D. In case of emergency special permission can be granted to a parent to take their child home after a performance, etc. Notice must be given to the Director in writing one day in advance. Dance Team members can only be released to a parent in these cases.
- E. Wildcats will stay for the entire event until dismissed by the Director. Failure to do so will result in demerits.
- F. No food or drinks allowed on the bus without the permission of the Director.

Article XXI. Performance

- A. Everything needed for a performance will be carried in the dance team tote bag, hanging bag or clear costume box.
- B. Members who are wearing unacceptable, incomplete performance attire will not be allowed to perform.
- C. All officers will lead their company into performance area in an appropriate manner designated by the director.
- D. Officers will sit/stand in front of her company during event and maintain proper behavior of her company.
- E. During a performance, Wildcats must keep lines straight with bags and poms lined up as directed by officers.
- F. Members must not attract improper attention to themselves while representing the team.
- G. Eating and drinking during an event or while in costume is not permitted, unless otherwise approved by the directors.
- H. Visitors will not be permitted to talk to individual members unless approved by the directors.
- I. During contest season, if a member is unable to participate in team performances for any reason, she may not participate in a duet, ensemble, or a solo unless approved by the directors.
- J. If a member is unable to physically participate in practice for a period of more than a week, she will be receive an understudy in any dance in which she is currently participating. For a member to return to performance eligibility, she must bring a doctor's note releasing her to practice and perform.

Article XXII. Quitting or dismissal from team

- A. Members who decide to quit the team must write a formal resignation letter to the director with the date, their signature and parent's signature included.
- B. Members must turn in their handbook/and or WDT binder upon leaving the team.
- C. Upon leaving the team, any Wildcats Dance associated attire may not be worn on campus or in social media post. This includes but not exclusive t-shirts, practice wear, warm ups, spirit wear, costumes, etc.
- D. Upon quitting the team, the Costume deposit will be forfeited regardless of the reason why the member leaves the team.
- E. There will be no refunds for ANY REASON once a member decides to quit the team.

Article XXIII Complaints and concerns

- A. Bring concern or complaint to the Wildcats Dance team director first via email. Most issues can be resolved at this time.
- B. If you are still not satisfied, schedule a follow up meeting with the dance team director.
- C. If the above steps have been done and you are still not satisfied then contact or make an appointment with the WAIS Assistant directors or WAIS director. The assistant directors and director of WAIS will refer the parent to the Dance team director and may not meet with you unless the above steps have been taken.

Article XXIV. Dance Officers

- A. It is the duty of all officers to be ambitious and determined, and to maintain pride in themselves and the organization.
- B. An officer is required to follow all standards set forth in the constitution, cooperate with the Directors and other officers, maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization, wear the Wildcats uniform with pride, and represent the school district, school, and organization with class.
- C. Each officer must set an example for her teammates by demonstrating a positive attitude, striving for academic excellence, and setting high standards for herself and others.
- D. She must always work to perfect and better herself as a leader and performer.
- E. She must be responsible for her squad members and make sure that they perform to the highest degree of proficiency.
- F. She must be willing to come in 15 minutes early and stay 15 minutes late to all functions.
- G. Dance officers must fully support the Director and other officers.
- H. A Wildcat may not try-out for officer if she has been placed on probation for any reason during the current school year.
- I. A Wildcat may not try-out for officer if she has *accumulated* more than 10 demerits in one school year.
- J. All officers are required to attend officer camp and other dance training camps in the summer as selected by the Director.
- K. All officers are required to be present at all practices, meetings, and functions.
- L. Tryouts for Dance Officer will take place during the spring semester. You must tryout on the assigned day designated by the Director.
- M. All those interested in trying out for dance officer are strongly encouraged to compete with a solo in at least one contest. The solo must be completed on the designated day assigned by the director.
- N. The Director will designate requirements for officer tryouts every year. Candidates must have filed the appropriate application and must have met all deadlines set by the Director.
- O. Dance Officers must have been a Wildcat for at least one year before being eligible to tryout.
- P. Dance Officers will be placed on probation for three weeks on the 5th demerit and demoted on the 10th.
- Q. Specific ranks and duties will be given to the newly selected officers after tryouts have taken place.
- R. Selection: (may include some or all)
 - 5. Selected by a panel of three impartial judges.
 - 6. Must perform a dance choreographed by them.
 - 7. Must perform a group dance learned prior to try-out day.
 - 8. Must present a written interview done with director supervision.
 - 9. Must present a creative project, which includes choreography ideas. The project will be different each year.
 - 10. Judges Interview
 - 11. Director Evaluation
 - 12. Merits, Demerits, attitude and leadership will be taken into consideration.

Duties:

- A. Colonel –
 - 1. The Colonel will be the commanding officer at all times.
 - 2. Together with the Lt. Colonel, the Colonel is in complete control at games, performances or other performances in the event the director is absent.
 - 3. She will keep close supervision over the other officers.
 - 4. She will be in charge of warm-ups and stretching for practices and before performances.
 - 5. She will lead the team at all Wildcat appearances and performances.
 - 6. She is in charge of roll call and will report all absences to the director.
 - 7. She will teach routines, clean and choreograph.
 - 8. She performs any assigned duty given to her by the director.

9. The Colonel promotes loyalty within the officers and team.
10. She recommends demerits and merits for the team, with director approval.
11. She reports any misconduct to the director.
12. The colonel will perform a solo at Spring Show.

B. Lt. Colonel –

1. The Lt. Colonel will assist the Colonel with all her duties. She is second in command to the Colonel.
2. She is responsible for filing all notes related to absences.
3. She will be responsible for leading conditioning exercises and technique across the floor.
4. The Lt. Colonel will teach and choreograph routines
5. She promotes loyalty within the officers and team.
6. She performs any duty assigned her by the Director.
7. She may issue demerits when warranted.
8. The Lt. Colonel will perform a solo at Spring Show.

C. Major –

1. The major(s) will be responsible for keeping up with the performance music (pep rally, officer, spring show, etc.), as well as the first aid bag.
2. In the event there are several major(s), the Director will disperse duties.
3. She promotes loyalty within the officers and team.
4. She performs any duty assigned her by the Director.
5. The Major(s) may issue demerits when warranted.

D. Lieutenant –

1. It is the Lieutenant's responsibility to see that the commands of their superior officers are carried out.
2. She will assist the Major(s) with the handling of all music and are also in charge of all sound equipment.
3. She will be responsible for leading conditioning exercises and technique across the floor.
4. Keeps detailed information about her squad information, demerits, merits and absences.
5. Check roll of her squad at all functions and turn list in weekly.
6. Teaches and Choreograph routines.
7. She promotes loyalty within the officers and team.
8. She performs any duty assigned her by the Director.

***All dance officers are responsible for keeping a current notebook throughout the year. This also includes writing choreography for future teaching purposes. The dance officers have the authority to give demerits and should do so when necessary.

In addition to the duties and responsibilities outlined above, all officers...

- A. Should arrive 15 minutes early for activities and events
- B. Should plan to stay later than team members
- C. Must develop a keen eye for errors and analyzing movement
- D. Should be able to offer her peers constructive criticism in a tactful manner
- E. Must maintain a good relationship all scholastic requirements
- F. Must be physically and emotionally stable
- G. Must maintain a good relationship with the Directors and team members
- H. Must be an exceptional dancer, teacher, and leader
- I. Must be a lady at all times and set an example for her fellow team members
- J. Have a working knowledge of music and choreography
- K. Promote and enforce discipline and respect
- L. Set up a notebook to be passed down from year to year

M. Assist the Directors in planning yearly activities

N. Are STRONGLY encouraged to attend one dance class a week

***Other duties can be assigned to the officers at the Director's discretion.

Article XXV. Social Officers

- A. Social officers will be responsible for team motivation, team building activities, Newbie activities, and the planning of all social activities throughout the year.
- B. The number of social officers and ranks may be added or deleted at the discretion of the Director.
- C. It is the duty of all officers to be ambitious and determined, and to maintain pride in themselves and the organization.
- D. An officer is required to follow all standards set forth in the constitution, cooperate with the Director and other officers, maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization, wear the Wildcat uniform with pride, and represent the school district, school, and organization with class.
- E. Each officer must set an example for her teammates by demonstrating a positive attitude, striving for academic excellence, and setting high standards for herself and others.
- F. She must always work to perfect and better herself as a leader and performer.
- G. Dance officers must fully support the Director and other officers.
- H. A Wildcat may not try-out for officer if she has been placed on probation for any reason during the current school year.
- I. A Wildcat may not try-out for officer if she has *accumulated* more than 10 demerits in one school year.
- J. All officers are required to attend officer camp and other dance training camps in the summer as selected by the Director.
- K. All officers are required to be present at all practices, meetings, and functions.
- L. Tryouts for Dance Officer will take place during the spring semester. You must tryout on the assigned day designated by the Director.
- M. The Director will designate requirements for officer tryouts every year. Candidates must have filed the appropriate application and must have met all deadlines set by the Director.
- N. Dance Officers must have been a Wildcat for at least one year before being eligible to tryout.
- O. Dance Officers will be placed on probation for three weeks on the 5th demerit and demoted on the 10th.
- S. Specific ranks and duties will be given to the newly selected officers after tryouts have taken place.
- T. Selection:
 - 1. Selected by a panel of three impartial judges.
 - 2. Must complete the social officer notebook, project board and any other projects provided by director for the selection process.
 - 3. Director's Evaluation.
 - 4. Judges Interview.
 - 5. Team Vote
 - 6. Merits, Demerits, attitude and leadership will be taken into consideration.

Duties

- P. President/ Spirit committee chair-
 - 1. There will be one president.
 - 2. She is responsible for all social officer meetings, decorating efforts, and any other activity conducted by a social officer.
 - 3. Responsible for seeing that the dance team work closely together.
 - 4. Responsible for spirit project within the school.
 - 5. The president is in charge of coordinating Minikats, collecting all monies for social officer projects, coordinating fundraising and community service projects, and overseeing the duties of all other social officers, as well as other duties that may arise.
- Q. Vice President/Spirit committee co-chair-
 - 1. There will only be one vice president.
 - 2. Assist president as needed.
 - 3. Assumes President Duties in her absence.

4. The Vice president is responsible for coordinating fundraisers with the team.

R. Secretary-

1. Responsible for writing down the minutes of each social officer meeting and sharing them with the director and fellow social officers.
2. Write thank you notes, send cards and flowers.
3. Coordinate gifts for other school organizations.
4. Keeps track of Wildcats Blog and Social officer Tab on the Wildcat website.

S. Social Chairperson(s)-

1. There may be more than one social chair, and the number will be determined by the Director.
2. The social chair is responsible for all social obligations for the team.
3. The social chair is in charge of Big and Little Sister activities, all correspondence, and party planning.
4. She will be in charge of running the team Instagram and Twitter

T. Spirit Chairperson(s)-

1. There may be more than one spirit chair, and the number will be determined by the Director.
2. The spirit chair is responsible for all sportsmanship-like behavior, as well as motivational activities.
3. Gives birthday ribbons or other item for each girl
4. Organizes Honor Roll activities.
5. The spirit chair is also responsible for making and affixing locker signs for hallway lockers.
6. She/They will assist the president with all her duties.

U. Historian-

1. There may be more than one historian, and the number will be determined by the Directors.
2. The historian is responsible for taking pictures at any and all events throughout the year.
3. Post pictures of Spirit Girl, Officer of the month and Wildcat of the Week.
4. She will categorize these pictures and put together a team scrapbook with the help of other social officers and team members.
5. The scrapbook will be turned into the Directors on or before the banquet.

V. Middle and Upper school Representatives- A representative from their class that will serve as a spokesperson for themselves on the executive board. They should channel input from their peers to benefit all activities for the team

In addition to the aforementioned, the Social Officers will...

- A. Set up team games
- B. Organize the cleaning of the dance room by companies
- C. Organize team birthday recognition
- D. Organize team building activities
- E. Organize team parties throughout the year
- F. Keep up with decorating the dance room and team dressing room during spring show
- G. Make and affix all team locker signs
- H. Set up a notebook to be passed down from year to year
- I. Assist the Director when needed
- J. Assist in leading the team in the absence of the dance officers
- K. Assist the Director in planning yearly activities

*Any additional duties may be assigned by the Director

Article XXVI. Managers

MISSION: To support the Director with the organization of paperwork and closet up keeping as well as record keeping of costumes, uniforms, etc. Selection of managers shall be held on the date designated by the Director.

- A. Each member will carry out all duties as manager specified by the Director.
- B. Managers will abide by the Wildcats Dance Team Constitution, SBISD Dance Team Handbook, and SBISD student handbook.

ARTICLE XXVII. AMENDMENTS

- A. The Director and administrators reserve the right to amend the constitution at any time as long as notification has been given to every Wildcat and parent.
- B. Notification must be given at least two weeks in advance before the amendment is to go into effect.