

SUNDANCER



HANDBOOK 2017-2018

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SunDancers

Thank you for each girl here

Help her realize that she's dear

Let each girl know that we all care

And problems we will gladly share

We are a drill team family

We love each other equally

In any trial and every test

Help the SunDancers to do their best

In all we do we will prevail

For as a team we cannot fail

PURPOSE & VISION OF SUNDANCERS

The purpose of the SunDancer dance team is to encourage quality performance, high academic standards, loyal school spirit and strong personal values among its members. Through the development of dance technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline and sportsmanship in each individual member, the SunDancer organization will fulfill its purpose for the benefit of Westwood High School and the community of Round Rock Independent School District.

With respects for the traditions of Round Rock ISD Dance Teams, each campus will strive to develop artistry through movement. Every team will encourage members to reach their fullest potential and recognize their value as a person. These objectives will prepare each member to be successful and contributing members of a diverse society.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- The student must be a sophomore, junior, or senior in good standing.
- Members must be willing to carry out all provisions of the SunDancer rules and regulations.
- SunDancers must comply with the WHS SunDancer Handbook, UIL rules, and the RRISD Athletic Code of Conduct. Should a student be cited for illegal activities outside of school, she will be removed from the team.
- Members must be willing to resign gracefully upon failure to live up to the requirements of membership.
- If a member resigns before the last day of the current school year, she will forfeit their membership for the subsequent year
- Members must be willing to commit to the SunDancer calendar and cannot have a habitually conflicting schedule.

COMMITMENT

Commitment is what transforms
a promise into reality

It is the words that speak,
boldly of our intentions,
and the actions which speak,
louder than words

It is making the time
when there is none,
coming through time
after time, year after
year after year.

Commitment is what
character is made of;
it is
the power to change the
face of things.

It is the daily triumph
of integrity over skepticism.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP

To qualify for membership and participation, a student must:

- Submit all required paperwork .
- Be eligible in accordance with requirements to audition.
- Attend the audition clinic, which will be conducted on days, times and locations set by the Director.
- Only have been academically ineligible for one of the two six weeks prior to auditions.
- Not have been suspended from school (OSS) for the current school year.
- Not have attended high school for seven or more semesters.
- Not have been or will be in high school for more than four years
- Complete an audition (and submit a written recommendation from their home dance team director if they are a campus approved transfer student.)

- If a Baby SunDancer member losses membership for any disciplinary reason in any school organization following the SunDancer audition date, the student is ineligible to re audition the following school year.

There will be no set numbers for RRISD Dance Teams. Membership depends on the number of candidates who audition and the score variation.

Welcome to SunDancers!!

When a girl becomes involved with the Westwood SunDancers, her entire family becomes involved—as supporters, spectators, and helpers. SunDancers makes many demands upon the families involved in terms of time, money, and emotional involvement, but we hope you will find it a rewarding and enriching experience.

TIME: Your family’s schedule will sometimes have to be adjusted to accommodate your daughter’s commitments in SunDancers. This is a team activity, so each girl must be present for a rehearsal or a performance, etc. –if one girl is late, the rest of the team is often left waiting. Parents will also be asked to give their time to sew costumes, to cook for social events, to volunteer for various committees throughout the year, and perhaps, more importantly, to attend as many of your daughter’s performances as possible.

MONEY: Every effort is made to keep expenses reasonable, but there are considerable costs associated with SunDancers. In an effort to ease the individual financial burden, the SunDancer Booster Club participates in fund raising to help defray over \$15,000 in team expenses. Each girl and her family must support these events by giving their time and talent because each family directly benefits.

EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT: Each girl will have her triumphs and disappointments in SunDancers and the love and support of her family will be important to her. Celebrate her triumphs- she worked hard to earn them. Console her during her disappointments. But remember, learning to deal with frustration and pressures are part of her maturation process. Your positive attitude will influence your daughter’s reactions to her experiences. You and your daughter should always address your SunDancer concerns and questions to Shelby Kelly and/or Angel Scudder. Any booster club related questions should be directed to the SunDancer Board. Many problems arise from simple misunderstandings and there are always improvements to be made. Communication is the only way to reach a solution.

As each of you are a part of the Sun Dancer family, Sun Dancers is also a part of your family. Cherish it and protect it- your words and actions should uphold our family’s positive image. We are a large family and while we consider what is best for the individual, we recognize that we must always consider what is best for the whole. What might not be a problem for one person could be a nightmare if everyone did it, so we must all be willing to “give and take” for the sake of the team. By working together, we will have a wonderful Sun Dancer family.

SunDancer Chain of Command

1.) Westwood Administration

2.) Westwood SunDancer Directors

- a. Director Shelby Kelly
- b. Assistant Director Jessica Steedley

3.) Line Officers

- a. Major
- b. Senior Lieutenant(s) (returning)
- c. Senior Lieutenant(s) (new)
- d. Junior Lieutenant(s)

4.) Social Board

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Senior Board members (returning)
- d. Senior Board members (new)
- e. Junior Board members

5.) Fourth Year Returning Seniors (Alphabetically)

6.) Third Year Returning Seniors (Alphabetically)

7.) Second Year Returning Seniors (Alphabetically)

8.) Senior Rookies (Alphabetically)

9.) Junior Returning Members (Alphabetically)

10.) Junior Rookies (Alphabetically)

11.) Sophomore Rookies (Alphabetically)

What is a Returning Member?

A SunDancer that is in their second or third year on the team

What is a Rookie?

A SunDancer that is in their first year of membership on the team

What is a baby?

Once a candidate has been selected to be a SunDancer in the tryout process, they are called a Baby until their first day of line camp. Babies are not official members of the team until their first day of camp.

Directors

SUNDANCER DIRECTOR – SHELBY KELLY

Education:

Dance Performance at The University of Texas in Austin
Bachelor of Science in Dance Education from Abilene Christian University

Dance and Teaching Experience:

Reverence Dance Project, Austin
Third Coast Contemporary, Austin
MTV “Woodie” Awards
Atmosphere Dance Company, NYC
Fear.LESS Dance Company, NYC
Instructor for Project Dance: NYC, Hong Kong, Toronto, Sydney
Encore Creative Productions Staff
Instructor at The Dance Spot and Dancer's Workshop, Austin
Director and member of Roustabouts Dance Company, Austin
Instructor/ Choreographer Starmakers Dance Camps

Professional Memberships:

Texas Dance/Drill Team Educators Association Board of Directors,
Corresponding Secretary

**THE SUNDANCER DIRECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL
DECISIONS AFFECTING THE TEAM UNDER THE GUIDELINES
OF WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, ROUND ROCK ISD.**

SUNDANCER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - JESSICA STEEDLEY

Education:

Bachelor of arts in Psychology and minor in Dance from the
University of Texas in Austin

Dance/ Teaching Experience:

Dance and Drill Team Assistant Director of Cedar Park High School
Choreographer and Dance Instructor of Cedar Park Dance Company
Reverence Dance Project, Austin
Third Coast Contemporary, Austin
Austin Contemporary Dance Theatre, Austin
Roustabouts Dance Company, Austin

Professional Memberships:

Texas Dance Educator’s Association
2016-2017 Chapter Sponsor of National Honors Society for Dance
Arts

SUNDANCER LINE OFFICERS:

OFFICER CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a sophomore or junior and at least a one year member of SunDancers in good standing.

Cannot receive 5 or more demerits during the year she is auditioning or have been put on probation for any reason.

Must have a proven record of volunteering during the year she is auditioning (a minimum of 100 merits is required)

AUDITION PROCESS:

There are various audition requirements that the candidates are responsible for.

During the week of auditions, the candidates might have an interview, after school practice to learn audition pieces, and go through a tryout for the team, outside judges and directors.

The selection process is determined by the votes of the judges, directors and team

The candidate with the highest score receives the position of Major, and the rest of the selected candidates will fill a Lieutenant position.

OFFICER REQUIREMENTS:

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team

Stay after rehearsal until dismissed by the directors

Required to attend all SunDancer rehearsals and functions

Teaching, choreography, polishing, and disciplinary responsibilities throughout the year.

** There will be a meeting in the spring semester for SunDancers who are interested in auditioning for officer, and a more informative packet will be given. **

SUNDANCER SOCIAL BOARD:

SOCIAL BOARD CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be a sophomore or junior and at least a one year member of SunDancers in good standing.

Cannot receive 5 or more demerits during the year she is auditioning or have been put on probation for any reason.

Must have a proven record of volunteering during the year she is auditioning (a minimum of 100 merits is required)

AUDITION PROCESS:

There are various requirements that the candidates are responsible for, which might include team presentation, notebook, gift idea, etc...

During the week of auditions, the candidates will give their presentation to the team, judges and directors.

The selection process is determined by the votes of the judges, directors and team

Returning members can run for the office of President/Vice President. All other titles and duties will be designated once the board has been chosen.

SOCIAL BOARD REQUIREMENTS:

There are many different responsibilities specific to each of the social positions, and each board member is expected to fulfill those responsibilities to her utmost ability.

Must attend every meeting or social function called by the President or Directors.

Responsible for motivational activities and functions, public relations , projects and committees during the football, contest, and Escapade seasons.

** There will be a meeting in the spring semester for SunDancers who are interested in auditioning for social board, and a more informative packet will be given. **

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUNDANCER EXPERIENCE?

I love everything about SunDancers. I love the fun parts, the hard parts, the frustrating parts, and the rewarding parts.

I love the football games. I love performing in front of what seems like a million people. I love the uniforms that show every ounce of fat on my thighs. I love hot chocolate. I love the bus rides with the crazy cheerleaders. I love it when it rains in the stands. I love the drum chants. I love the escorts. I love watching the other teams perform their dances. I love having to smile until my cheeks cramp up and start to have spasms. I love sitting in the stands at 11:00 at night, looking at the dark sky lit up by bright lamps and stars, with the band and the Yell Raisers screaming; and thinking... "I am a SunDancer."

I love the contests. I love watching us and thinking about how much talent we all have. I love the grueling 7:00 practices. I love hearing the officers "woo – hoo" until we smile. I love the motivational talks. I love dancing and watching out of the corner of my eye everyone doing the exact same thing. I love the motivational talks. I love the disappointments that bring us closer, and the awards that bring us pride.

I love the every day experience. I love being a part of such an awesome group of girls and feeling close to every one because of our bond.

I love the laughter. I love the cupcakes. I love the "what will I wear" debates in the locker room. I love my big sis. I love wearing my Sun Dancer jacket. I love seeing ya'll in the hallways and saying "Hi." I love the feeling of knowing that there are 60 other girls at my school that love me as much as I love them.

So what's my favorite SunDancer experience?

Every person, event, and feeling contribute to my favorite SunDancer experience:

Being part of the team.

Amber Robinson

Sun Dancers 98 - 01

COMMUNICATION & DANCER, PARENT MEETINGS

- **Meeting Protocol:** No parent meetings will be conducted if the player has not met with a director first. We will only meet regarding ways you specifically can improve. An agenda for the meeting must be provided PRIOR to scheduling the meeting.
- We will not meet about placement in formations. We will not discuss other dancers.
- Order of meetings:
 - Director- Dancer
 - Director- Dancer- Parent
 - Director- Dancer- Parent- Principal
- Email policy: If a parent emails a coach, we will inform the player of the email and it's content UNLESS it jeopardizes the players health or safety.

SUNDANCER EXPECTATIONS

SunDancers are expected to follow all rules and guidelines as written in the Sun Dancer and WWHS handbook.

BE A RESPONSIBLE STUDENT! Make sure you are aware of the academic policies in the WHS student handbook. We expect you to take the initiative to come to the directors BEFORE you find yourself in a serious situation with grades. We will work with you and allow you to go to tutorials. Academics comes before SunDancers, and we would much rather you miss a couple of weeks of football season to pull a grade up, instead of sitting out an entire 6 weeks or being dismissed from the team.

BE A RESPONSIBLE SUNDANCER! Know your deadlines, what to bring everyday, and what you should be wearing. If you stay organized, there should be no reason for you to receive demerits. If you are ever in doubt, call your sister, social, or officer. Make sure that you are giving the appropriate forms to your parents when necessary, hand forms back in on time, and update your SunDancer calendar as needed.

Because we all want to be a part of a very successful dance experience, it is important to realize and understand the ground rules that must be followed when 40+ girls are involved. Unfortunately, some girls think that the rules don't apply to them. But, in large groups, success depends on all of us pulling together in the same direction, at the exact same time, in the exact same way. That is why we are called a TEAM!

Rules work best when everyone knows them, understands them, and most importantly, follows them. When this occurs, the group is empowered by a common vision. We hope that you find the rules strict, but logical; for if you do, we are in for an incredible year!!

Everything you say, everything you do, reflects on you, your family, and the organizations you participate in. Therefore, your actions are put through a test every day by others. Remember – ***actions DO speak louder than words.***

BE A RESPECTFUL STUDENT! One of the most important qualities in a SunDancer is respect, and we expect you to exhibit this at all times. Our faculty and administration should be able to count on the SunDancers as leaders and role models at Westwood, and we also expect you to behave in an exemplary manner that supports the reputation of our drill team.

Make sure you get your school work DONE, especially during our hectic times of the year! Never sleep in class, don't roll your eyes, and don't disrespect your teachers EVER! Always use your "yes ma'am's" and "yes sir's"! Do not use SunDancers as an excuse to get favors out of your teachers, i.e., late papers, etc. We also expect you to hold yourselves accountable for the rules of the Westwood handbook, as well as ours.

SUNDANCER EXPECTATIONS

DO NOT GOSSIP! Every person has passed on gossip, and every person has been hurt by it. If we want to be a family, and bring sisterhood into the group, then how can we afford idle words? *Be careful of your words and protect your thoughts. So often your thoughts change without benefit of taking your words back.*

There are years where a team is a “ kinder, gentler” group of young ladies, and those are the years that will bring back incredible memories for everyone. Acceptance of others in a group the size of 40+ is a tall task that we can tackle if we want to. We will be close if our hearts are big and our spirits forgiving.

Your challenge - go 24 hours without saying one negative word about anyone. This includes yourself! Always ask yourself, “ If she walked into the room, would I continue this conversation? “ If not, then you should reconsider the benefit of those who have to listen to you.

TALK TO YOUR DIRECTORS! Please feel free to visit with us if you think that by sharing your feelings we will gain insight on problems that may be occurring on the team, or even your personal concerns about a situation. It is important to communicate with us, even though it may not be the easiest thing to do. We definitely don’t need to know about every small argument that occurs, but if you feel like we should be aware of something, please let us know. We may not be able to fix the problem, but if we don’t know it exists, there is no possible way we can even try to fix it!

WORK ON YOUR DANCE SKILL! When a dance or movement is taught, come back prepared each and every day knowing the material inside and out. When we clean, polish, and make changes, pay attention and be willing to alter the choreography. Whenever there is free time, such as after water breaks, go over movement that you are having trouble with. Ask others to help you. Go over movement in your head at night when you are trying to fall asleep. Spend time outside of SunDancers working on dances as well as technique. There is no such thing as a perfect dancer. Take dance classes outside of school. To improve as a whole, each member must be willing to do their part as an individual.

ALWAYS GIVE 100% !!! We expect this in your attitude, your moral, and your work ethic. The atmosphere of any activity we do is affected by our attitude. As your directors, we promise that the minute we walk into practice, 100% of our energy will be directed to the task at hand, and we will have a positive and motivating attitude. We expect all of you to give us the very same. There is a tradition of excellence and high standards in our organization, and we will work together to keep this tradition going. The minute you come to practice, ALL of your physical and mental energy must be devoted to Sun Dancers. We expect you to dance your hardest every day. These things together comprise team work, and team work at this level will ensure that we will have a successful year, in performance and in spirit.

*“The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play with the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you; we are in charge of our attitudes!” Charles Swindoll*¹⁴

REHEARSAL POLICIES

SunDancers must be present at ALL rehearsals scheduled by the directors, regardless of whether or not they are performing, unless PREVIOUS arrangements are made with the directors.

- Required rehearsals consist of summer practice before camps, daily practice during the school year, and extra after-school and weekend rehearsals.
- If a SunDancer is tardy or absent to a rehearsal, she is responsible for all choreography, polish, information, and announcements that she missed on the day she returns.
- If a SunDancer is going to miss practice or knows she will be late, **she must call the office BEFORE rehearsal begins**. Be expected to give information regarding symptoms, doctor appointments, and a return to practice if you are ill. If the directors don't answer, then leave a message on the machine. The office numbers are 464-4094/ 464-4077.
- Work CANNOT interfere with scheduled rehearsals!! Work is not an excused absence from rehearsal or an excuse to leave early or be late.
- Family vacations and college days cannot be scheduled during SunDancer functions, rehearsals or performances. There will be a penalty for missing that will be at the discretion of the directors. We must do this to protect everyone's time. **If you are absolutely unable to participate in an event, it is required that you give the director notice well in advance.**
- Doctor and Dentist check-ups should not be scheduled during class, practice, or events. If you have no choice and are going to be absent, the Directors would prefer advanced notice in writing through a note or e-mail. Telling the directors the day before is unacceptable. You should also call the office on the day of the appointment.(464-4094)
- If you are in other extra-curricular activities that have meetings in the mornings AND in the afternoon, we are asking that all SunDancers plan to attend the after school meetings. If there is an option to go to the afternoon meetings and not disrupt our rehearsal time, then you have to take it.
- Unless you are contagious and/or confined to a bed, you should still attend practice as well as class to sit and observe.
 - Sitting out for illness or injury during a rehearsal may result in being pulled from a performance. If a member is truly injured or ill, it is in her best interest and the team's that she not rehearse or perform until she is well.
- There will be MANDATORY rehearsals that can't be missed no matter what!! These will be announced well in advance and there will be a performance penalty for not attending FOR ANY REASON!!

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Yes, there are extenuating circumstances that occur, but they must all be approved by the directors in an acceptable amount of time before the rehearsal that needs to be missed.

PERFORMANCE POLICIES

Year Round

Reasons for being pulled from a performance regarding rehearsal rules:

- Unexcused absence of any kind from rehearsal OR summer camps
- Any member that is ill needs to come to rehearsal and observe- if the member is too sick to attend OR attends rehearsal and is too ill to dance, there is still a possibility that she will not be allowed to perform. (at the discretion of the directors)
- Failure to attend after school rehearsal that were called in advance because of work or other conflicts
- If you miss TWO practices in the same week you will be removed from that weeks performance.
- Any member put on probation is subject to a performance penalty to be decided at the discretion of the directors.
- Any member that becomes injured enough to consistently miss rehearsal and affect the performance of her self and the team may be pulled from the performance by the directors.

Football Season

- During football season, failure to attend rehearsal on days the team practices with the band OR on game day will result in being pulled from the performance.
- During football season, the dance team member is expected to commit to all games (including any pre or post-game performances that may occur).
- During football season, if a dance team member misses a game, they will be expected to sit out another performance unless otherwise approved by the Director or it is due to illness, death in the family, or a religious holiday.
- During football season, SunDancers must be present for the entire game . The ONLY excused absence for leaving after half-time is for the ACT or SAT, or serious illness. SunDancers are required to give a parent's note stating they will be leaving early. This will be STRICTLY adhered to, and if this rule is broken, the SunDancer will be required to sit out of another performance.
- Any dance team member who is academically eligible and not performing during halftime is required to attend the game in uniform with the team, unless otherwise stated by the Director.

PERFORMANCE POLICIES

CONTINUED

Contest/Spring Show/Special Events

- The start and end date of each season (ie: contest and spring show) will be defined by the Director.
- The dance team member must be present for the entire contest/show/event.
- If a dance team member misses a performance/event, they will be expected to sit out another performance event unless otherwise approved by the Director.
- Any dance team member who is academically eligible and not performing at an event is required to attend the event in team attire, unless otherwise stated by the Director.

Pulling a dancer from a performance is at the discretion of the directors. Being pulled will be based on material covered in the practice that is missed.

“It may seem easier for our life to remain constant. But change, really, is the only constant. We cannot stop it and we cannot escape it. Change is the engine of growth and the muse of creativity. Change makes the adrenaline kick in and motivates us towards achievement.”

MERIT SYSTEM

The SunDancer merit system is in place to insure that SunDancers are making a positive impact on their community and school. The SunDancer merit system has nothing to do with the grade that a SunDancer will receive on her report card. It is also a part of the Officer and Social Board audition. Merits may be turned into Mrs. Steedley at any time before or on the due date. Late merits WILL NOT be accepted. All merits must be signed by an adult.

ALL SunDancer Members must receive a total of **50 merits** for the year. (Summer 2017– Spring 2018)

The documented 50 Merits for every SunDancer will be **DUE March 1, 2018**. If the **50** merit requirement is not met by this time the member **will be pulled from the Opener piece in Escapade**.

Any member auditioning for Line Officer / Social Board must receive **100 merits** by the week of their auditions. They must still turn in proof of 50 merits by given due date.

You must bring a ticket stub or have a signature for all outside performances attended

Merits must be signed by the teacher/ leader/ organizer of the event attended. Parents may sign for merits as a last resort. If merits are turned in with no signature they will NOT be counted.

YOU MAY NOT WORK OFF DEMERITS WITH MERITS

MERITS AND DEMERITS ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE

GOOD LUCK!!

SUNDANCER MERIT OPPORTUNITIES

Examples of Activities that earn you merits...

SunDancer of the Week

Attending non required dance performances, competitions, classes, conventions...etc.

Any individual award/ribbon received at camp or contest

Service/volunteer work in the community

Volunteering for activities not required (baking cookies, making posters, moving things...Etc)

Attending non-required school function/ sporting events in Sun Dancer attire

Acquiring over the required 10 summer dance hours

Mum Making

Selling Mums at Mum Fair/Mum lunches

Selling Escapade Tickets at Lunch

Volunteer Babysitting

Mission trips

Merits are not limited to this list. Please ask Mrs. Steedley if you have any questions.

GRADING POLICY

The SunDancer grade is comprised of:

1. You will receive a grade based on part or all of the following: daily participation, progressions and technical elements, and various homework projects.

ELIGIBILITY

Academic ineligibility is a state that occurs as a result of a failing grade on a report card in accordance with UIL policy (no pass no play).

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL A CLASS?

1. All members must pass all of their classes to be eligible to perform, as mandated by the state of Texas.
2. Failing consists of a grade below 70.
3. Failure to pass all classes will result in a three to six week probationary period, as mandated by the state of Texas.
4. If after three weeks the member is passing all classes, the probationary period is over, as mandated by the state of Texas.
5. If after three weeks the member is failing any one class or more, the probationary period continues until the end of the six week period, as mandated by the state of Texas.
6. All members must maintain all required academic standards for eligibility to maintain membership as mandated by the state of Texas.
7. If a member is ineligible due to one or more classes for two consecutive six weeks periods, the member will be dismissed from Sun Dancers. See the Student Code of Conduct for a schedule of important dates regarding eligibility.

WHAT ROLE DO I PLAY ON THE TEAM IF I AM ON PROBATION BECAUSE OF GRADES?

You are still a member of SunDancers. You continue to attend all rehearsals, practices and events. You continue to dress out and learn movement unless stipulated differently by the Director and/or Administration. If a member is on Academic Probation, the State of Texas mandates that members:

- Cannot ride with the team to games, contests, or other activities
- Cannot get in free to football games, contests or other activities
- Cannot perform with the team
- Cannot sit with the group at football games, contests, backstage during spring show or other activities
- Cannot wear either district-owned field uniform or school-owned costumes

ELIGIBILITY

WHAT IF I FAIL AN HONORS, PRE-AP, AP, TAG, IB OR PRE-CALCULUS CLASS?

- If your grade is below 60, you follow the same guidelines as stated above.
- If you failed two of such classes, no matter what grades you made, you follow the same guidelines as stated above.
- If you failed only one of the above courses with a 60-69, you may be eligible to get a waiver.

WHAT IS A WAIVER?

- If you failed only one of the above courses with a grade of 60-69, you can get one waiver per semester to stay eligible to perform.
- Waivers are available in the main office.

TUTORIALS and the INACTIVE PROGRAM

Academics are extremely valued by the Round Rock ISD Dance Teams as is the personal well being of our dance team members. To ease the stress of balancing home life, academics, and dance, we have an Inactive Program.

To go “inactive”, the dance team member must conference with the directors to determine the period of time and specific terms of the program. During the inactive period, that dance team member is required to come to school early to attend tutorials and is not allowed to rehearse or perform with the team. Our goal for these team members is to allow them ample time to focus on their academics.

We will take a study hall every day . We need everyone to make every effort to take care of all morning responsibilities with teachers during this time.

TRANSFER STUDENTS/ FORMER SUNDANCERS

Transfer Students

A transfer student may become a member of SunDancers with no tryout only if:

1. The student was a member of their previous high school's Drill/Dance team's elite competition team.
2. The student left in good standing for reasons beyond their control.
3. The student provides a letter of reference from their previous director.
4. The student provides a copy of their last report card and an audition video if requested.

The SunDancer Directors will make the final decision regarding the acceptance of membership, **and may require an audition in person**. If the transfer student is accepted into the SunDancer organization, they must sign a current Handbook Agreement stating that it has been read and also be willing to follow the guidelines it sets forth. Also, depending on the time of year the student enters the organization, newly accepted transfer members may be unable to perform until the start of a new SunDancer season.

Former SunDancer Members

A former member is eligible for membership without a tryout only if the student left Westwood as well as the SunDancer organization in good standing for reasons beyond their control (family move etc.) The SunDancer Directors will make the final decision regarding acceptance of membership, and may require an audition in person. Newly accepted returning former members must sign a current Handbook Agreement stating that it has been read and also be willing to follow the guidelines it sets forth. Also, depending on the time of year the student enters the organization, newly accepted former returning members may be unable to perform until the start of a new Sun Dancer season.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Demerits help to reinforce the regulations set forth by the SunDancer Handbook, the WHS Student Handbook, as well as the RRISD Student Code of Conduct.

- The RRISD dance team demerit system has no impact on the grade that a member will receive on their report card.
- A dance team member can receive demerits at any time including summer, evenings, weekends, and holidays during their time served on the dance team.
- The director will issue, record and document demerits. It is the responsibility of the member to sign for their demerit(s) after they have been notified thereby acknowledging the demerit(s).
- Demerits start the first day of summer and end the last day of school.
- Every 5 demerits is a bench
- After 10 demerits, the SunDancer loses her membership.
- Demerits are cumulative and are erased at the end of each summer.

Demerits will be given for, but not limited to, each of the following:

ONE (1)

- Failure to call the office **prior** to any rehearsal, performance, work session, or meeting which you will be absent from-whether we are dancing that day or not!
- Unprepared for rehearsal (hair not out of face, wrong clothes or shoes, wearing jewelry.)
- Failure to wear the appropriate cover-ups to and from rehearsal and failure to take cover-ups off during rehearsal.
- Failure to meet responsibilities (turning things in on time, gift deadlines)
- Talking in rehearsal
- Leaving rehearsal or performance without asking permission
- Being seen in an incomplete uniform BEFORE or AFTER a performance in public
- Tardy to any SunDancer activity/ rehearsal
- Chewing gum, eating food, etc...at inappropriate times in rehearsal or in uniform
- Not signing the book promptly for any demerit given will result in another demerit
- Hair falling down or losing part of a uniform or costume during a performance.
- Cell phone in practice

DEMERIT LISTINGS

TWO – FIVE (2-5)

- 2 Demerits for tardy to performance
- 2 Demerits for not having a piece of a uniform at a performance (i.e. – getting on the bus and realizing that your hat is in the locker room)
- 2 Demerits for being unprepared for a performance (costume, uniform, hair, make-up, toe/finger nail polish, jewelry, etc.)
- 2 Demerits for leaving behind school owned property
- 2 Demerits for eating or drinking (anything but bottled water) in uniform without the permission of the directors.
- **3 Demerits for taking items from the closet without permission from a Director**
- 3 Demerits for not attending a function committed to
- 3 Demerits for an unexcused absences from practice

Probationary Offenses

- 5 Demerits for missing a performance without prior approval
- 5 Demerits for not following the drug, tobacco, and alcohol policy on the first offense (not at a SunDancer/ school function)
- 5 Demerits for any visible piercing – including tongue, belly button, etc... (not including normal ear piercing)
- 5 Demerits for any visible tattoos
- 5 Demerits for Disciplinary Saturday D-Hall
- 1-5 Demerits for profanity/disrespect/un-lady like conduct (behavior that is unbecoming to a SunDancer and will be decided on at the discretion of the directors; this includes postings on the internet)
- 1-5 Demerits for any act committed after a Director’s warning
- 1-5 Demerits for skipping School (Absence without parent note)
- 1-5 Demerits for lying to Administration, Faculty, or a Director
- 1-5 Demerits for posing for or posting photographs in an inappropriate manner
- 1-5 Demerits for being a part of inappropriate internet use

**Once a dancer has received a 5 demerit penalty and been put on probation, each demerit that follows will place that dancer back on probation. The 10th demerit will remove that member from the organization. **

Tattoos and Body Piercings

A Sun Dancer is not to obtain a tattoo or body piercing throughout the duration of their SunDancer term. A body piercing is defined as anything other than the ears. If a Sun Dancer already has a tattoo or piercing prior to making the team, she must remove the piercing and cover the tattoo at every rehearsal and/or performance. It must be taken out or covered at school and at school and Sun Dancer functions.

****Demerits are given at the discretion of the Directors. They are not limited to the examples listed above.****

TARDIES & ABSENCES

In order to achieve the greatest amount of teamwork and responsible social behavior, the following regulations will be enforced.

TARDIES:

Members will arrive on time to practice and stay until dismissed by the director.

You may receive without penalty two “extenuating circumstances” per year as long as a phone call was made to the directors. This includes but is not limited to, car trouble, traffic, weather, traffic ticket, etc. Does NOT include waking up late.

One or more minute(s) late = 1 Demerit

More than 15 minutes from rehearsal call time = rehearsal absence

*Note: Regarding school attendance during dance team block, absences/tardies will be recorded for any student arriving late to class in accordance with ADA and Westwood policies.

ABSENCES:

Excused in advance = 0 demerits

Excused AFTER absence = 1 demerit (no advance call to office phone) **** even if you come back to school the next day with an excused explanation OR your parent forgot to call for you while you were sick OR you called another SunDancer to tell her that you were sick- YOU WILL STILL RECEIVE A DEMERIT...you MUST call the directors BEFORE the absence occurs****

Unexcused from practice = 3 demerits

Unexcused from performance = 5 demerits

PROBATION & LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

PROBATION:

A total of 5 demerits will bench a member for a period to be determined by directors

Any officer that receives one 5 demerit penalty will forfeit their officer position in SunDancers permanently.

Probation means that you will be taken out of a one or more performance(s) or SunDancer function(s) in some way. The Directors will decide on your individual punishment. If a member is on probationary status, that member will be informed of its duration, punishment guidelines and conditions of maintaining their membership. We will handle each member's probationary status individually while always considering what is best for the whole.

Once a dancer has received a 5 demerit penalty and been put on probation, each demerit that follows will place that dancer back on probation. The 10th demerit will remove that member from the organization.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

Loss of membership can occur as a result of violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, Westwood's Student handbook or the SunDancer handbook. This decision will be handled on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, SunDancer handbook, and the discretion of the campus administration. Meetings will be held with director and administration.

Home suspension from school

A total of 10 demerits

If academically ineligible for two consecutive six weeks in a year

If academically ineligible for 3 out of the 6 six weeks in a year

A second offense of all acts in which a member receives a 5 demerit penalty in her SunDancer career

1 or more full days in ISS or at The Rock

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs while in uniform or at a SunDancer/school function

If a Baby SunDancer member loses membership for any disciplinary reason in any school organization following the SunDancer audition date, the student is ineligible to re-audition the following school year.

If a member is dismissed from Warrior Pride or Cheer for disciplinary reasons, you will not be eligible to audition for SunDancers the following school year.

District Transportation/Travel Policies

- Transportation of the team must be in accordance with RRISD regulations.
- Football season: If a team member is going to be leaving the game separately from the team, they must receive director approval in advance as well as provide written notification (barring extenuating circumstances). The only excused absence for leaving after half-time is for the PSAT, ACT or SAT, or serious illness. There will be a penalty given at the discretion of the directors if this policy is not adhered to.
- Contest/Spring Show/Special Events: If a team member is going to be leaving the event separately from the team, they must provide written notification and receive director approval in advance. There will be a penalty given at the discretion of the director if this rule is not adhered to.
- Team travel beyond the district must be in accordance with RRISD regulations.
- **RRISD Policy** states: Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to ride in transportation provided or arranged by the school to and from the event. An exception may be made if the student's parent or guardian personally requests that the student be allowed to ride with a different parent or guardian and presents a written request before the scheduled trip. The District shall not be liable for any injuries that occur to students riding in vehicles not provided by the school.

DISTRICT FIELD UNIFORM

Uniform Rules

- Members are only to be in uniform for team functions. Members may not wear your uniform at any unauthorized time.
- Members must always appear in complete uniform. Members may not be seen missing pieces of the uniform.
- The hat must always be covered except during performance.
- Members must always carry the uniform in the designated bag.
- Members must hand wash your uniform according to instructions given by your director after each performance/event. Do not dry clean.
- Members may not eat or drink anything other than water in uniform, unless specified otherwise by director.
- Do not leave the uniform or hat in a car. The heat will ruin and discolor them.
- You are the only one allowed to wear your uniform, regardless of the time, place, or circumstances. This includes letter jackets and any teamwear displaying the team name or logo.
- Upon termination of team membership, all property of Round Rock ISD (including uniform and costumes) must be returned to the director within one week.
- If it is not clean at the end of the year when turned in, there will be a \$100.00 fee.
- Should replacement be necessary, an entirely new uniform could cost up to \$450.00.
- Members must always treat the uniform with respect and wear it with pride. It is a privilege to wear the uniform, not a right.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs, or possessing or using any form of any illegal substance, electronic cigarettes and paraphernalia at any time while holding membership in Westwood SunDancer Drill Team, including weekends, evenings, holidays and summer, will result in the following:

First Offense not in uniform or not at a SunDancer/ school Function without a citation:

The member will be put on probation for a period of time to be determined by the directors. A total of 5 demerits will be issued.

Second offense:

The member will be permanently dismissed from the team.

First Offense in uniform or at a SunDancer/ school function or first offense with a citation:

The Sun Dancer will be permanently dismissed from the team.

The SunDancer directors and a school principal shall be responsible for making an initial determination of whether a violation of the SunDancer policy on student possession or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs has occurred. There must be viable proof of the action. Proof consists of actions such as, but is not limited to: police violation, video or picture of the student possessing/consuming the substance, eye-witness of the consumption by an adult/chaperone that is willing to come forward to the director/principal. Proof does not consist of rumor, assumption or here-say. Any student found to be in violation of the policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to the principal of Westwood High School within five (5) school days of the original determination. There shall be no right to appeal from the principal's decision and his/her decision shall be conclusive in all respects.

All students are subject to the Round Rock ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Harassment and Bullying Policy

According to the Round Rock Student code of Conduct, bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the students or the student's property, places a student in fear of harm to herself or her property, or is so severe that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.

Harassment is conduct so severe, persistent to pervasive that it:

- affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity
- creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile or offensive educational environment
- substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation
- cyber bullying, which is defined as the use of information and communications technologies, such as email, cell phone and pager messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal bullying websites to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior by an individual and group that is intended to harm others. This includes, but is not limited to MySpace, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other sites and future sites of the sort
- threatening or intimidating conduct
- offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors
- physical aggression or assault
- graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes
- aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

A SUNDANCER IS NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY TYPE OF ACTIVITY THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BULLYING OR HARRASSMENT. ANY BEHAVIOR OF THE SORT, ON CAMPUS WILL RESULT IN CONSEQUENCES. ANY BEHAVIOR OF THE SORT OFF CAMPUS THAT AFFECTS THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WILL RESULT IN CONSEQUENCES. DEMERITS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE DIRECTORS AND/OR ADMINISTRATION. THE SECOND OFFENSE IS PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

In order to maintain a high standard of conduct , SunDancer web activity must be appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other ' s websites. Inappropriate conduct will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other RRISD teaching staff or dance team members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other dance teams. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the dance team.

As a SunDancer, the information your provide, the pictures you post, and the words you share, a profile is established about your character and online reputation. It is important that you take as much care with this online reputation as you do with your real life reputation.

Internet Profile Guidelines

- No inappropriate pictures (such as those taken in undergarments, revealing swimwear, plunging necklines, smoking, with alcohol or drug paraphernalia).
- Delete foul language and any sexually explicit comments; either by you or posted on your online profile page by another. If it is on your page, you are responsible for it.
- Do not choose to support advertisements on your profile that promote alcohol, smoking, or sexually explicit material.
- Request that friends who post inappropriate photographs to delete them, and always untag your name from pictures that won't be deleted.
- Do not bully or talk negatively to other students on chat forums
- Do not take or exchange nude photographs via cell phone or internet
- Do not allow anonymous posts as an option on any kind of online profile or forum (i.e. Formspring, Live Journal, etc.)
- If you have inappropriate material on your profile, the appropriate consequence will be implemented upon the Directors receiving the information. This covers all social media – twitter, facebook, etc...

AUDITION PROCESSES THROUGH THE YEAR

There are several times throughout the year that we will hold auditions for various dances. There are some halftime performances during football season and some contest and Escapade pieces that we will audition for. HOWEVER...there is no tradition to our method. The directors reserve the right to change what pieces will be auditioned from year to year.

In our auditions, the following elements are assessed:

- technique: arm placement, use of center, use of spot, toe point, body angles, overall extension
- execution: knowledge of CORRECT execution of movement must be exhibited, has control of energy
- strength: power of execution, use of plie, releve, and sauté to utilize strength, use of floor space while dancing
- flexibility: technique and extension of splits, technique, extension, and height of kicks and leaps
- memory: has knowledge of steps and exhibits confidence with execution of movement
- performance ability: use of style in movements that is specific to the TYPE of dance being performed, performance energy and attitude that's appropriate to the style of dance

SUNDANCER PERFORMANCE COMPANIES

There are dance companies within the dance team that are chosen by audition only. Each company has extra audition requirements along with the general elements mentioned above. Being a member of any extra company within the organization requires extra practice time. The directors reserve the right to change what companies, if any, will be offered from year to year. Again, there is no tradition to our method.

Jazz Company: Exhibits correct knowledge, technique, and execution of advanced technical elements across the floor and in combinations; ability to perform different styles of jazz

Ballet Company: Exhibits correct knowledge, technique, and execution of ballet across the floor and in combinations

Tap Company: Exhibits correct knowledge, technique, and execution of tap across the floor and in combinations

Kick Company: Exhibits correct technique, execution, stamina, and height of kicks

Hype: Exhibits correct knowledge, technique, and execution of hip hop style in advanced combinations.

MOTIVATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Big/Lil Sisters: Old girls will draw a new girl to be her little sister in SunDancers for the year. We will select little sisters before camp and the big sister shows the little sister the “ropes.” If we attend camp out of town, the big and little sister room together.

Senior Week: Seniors are honored every day during this week with a poem, T-shirts and gifts. The underclassmen each choose a senior they would like to honor. This happens usually during the last week of football season.

Birthday Celebrations: You get to celebrate with the team! Summer babies choose a substitute winter date. Big or little sisters bring cupcakes, cookies...etc.

Winter Event- An event held for the girls that wraps up the fall semester and celebrates the Holiday Season. Activities vary each year.

SunDancer Banquet: A special evening meal for this year’s members honoring all senior members and the accomplishments of everyone involved in the organization. A recap of the year is given, a slide show, presentations by the directors and booster club. Dress is “Formal” for the girls and Sunday Best for all others. All SunDancers and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Mother/Daughter Event – A very special opportunity for the senior SunDancers to honor their mothers. Activities vary each year. Usually held towards the end of the spring semester.

Special Awards or Gifts:

SunDancer of Week – Given during football season; vote by team.

Senior Week (football season)

Spirit Girls of the Week – Each game day, the girls have a dress up theme...the Social Board awards the Best Dressed/Most Spirited
Occasionally throughout the year, the social board will give out various “spirit” awards to celebrate the different performance seasons

The Seasons

Summer

Officer Camp is in June. This is a very intense camp on leadership, technique, and performance. It is required for the line officers only. The team members and Social Board often “send off” the new officers with lots of encouragement.

Line Camp is usually in June. It is a three to four day camp put on by a professional dance team company. Line camp offers exposure to leadership and technical training that the Sun Dancers will need for their dance team development. The girls work on three routines as a team, learn a camp dance, and attend technique and other specialty classes. On the last day the girls will show all routines and parents are encouraged to come and watch.

Summer Dance Camp is usually in August. This is a mandatory event for the team. The girls will teach 1st thru 11th graders in the community. This is a great fundraiser for the team.

Rehearsal is usually the week before school starts. This is a very important time for the girls, as they will learn football routines, stand routines, victory line, etc...

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast/ Picture Day is usually the Friday before the first day of school. The parents will volunteer to bring various food items. The Booster Club officers will help set the breakfast up early in the morning. The team will take their team picture in the morning, and then throughout the afternoon. There are appointment times for each individual's pictures.

Fish Bowl is the Friday before school starts, and the entire team is required to attend.

Football Season

Football Games: We encourage all parents to attend all football games, both away and home. Many parents purchase season tickets together. SunDancers ride the bus to and from all football games. If the game is really far away, only your parents can sign you out- a note and parent must be present. There are always 10 Varsity football games. There is also the possibility of play-off games!

SPRING SEASON

Competitions: Dance teams from all over the state compete with one another in the spring semester, and one of these contests is hosted by the SunDancers as fundraiser in February. We will use this opportunity to showcase some of our pieces that will be performed at our Spring Show.

Basketball games: The team will perform at various basketball games during the months of December, January and February. The games are usually on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Trips: Every three years the district allows the team to take a trip, and this will usually occur in the spring. Some former destinations have been Los Angeles, New York City, and Florida. The cities/ trips are chosen by cost, time, and opportunities for the SunDancers in each specific city.

Escapade: An annual spring concert coordinated, choreographed, and presented by the SunDancers and the directors. Parents of rookies must work both nights and parents of Sun Dancers must work one night to prevent sending anyone to the hospital from exhaustion!! You'll love it!! Escapade will be performed at the Raymond E. Hartfield RRISD Performing Arts Center.

Community Service Activities: For either the Officer or Board audition process or squad activities, the SunDancers will participate in community service projects.

HELPFUL HINTS

This page is for our SunDancers and their parents to give them suggestions and hints to get through the year.

Gifts: The SunDancers are a very thoughtful and friendly group that likes to give **small** gifts for all sorts of occasions. Planning and shopping ahead can be life-savers for you. Here are some ideas about what to look for: pictures of squad symbol, cards, stationary, picture frames, charms, flowers, stickers, or anything else that has to do with dance.

Uniforms: Somehow on Friday morning, things have a way of going wrong or disappearing right before it's time to go to school. Make your daughter lay out her entire uniform on Thursday night to make sure she has every piece accounted for before she packs it in her bags. This will help alleviate those phone calls from our office on Friday, where girls are asking parents to bring missing pieces.

Boots for football season: The girls should carry a bottle of white shoe polish in their bag to touch up last minute smudges. However, the night before the game, they need to rub them down with a warm soapy rag to get them as clean as possible. Buy some white shoe polish and saddle soap. Or if you want them cleaned professionally, take them to a shoe repair store such as Austin Shoe Hospital. Make sure that time allows for this and you have your boots ready for the game. SunDancer boots should be spotless and VERY WHITE before every performance!!

Hats for football season: You are required to keep your hat cover on your hat until the directors tell you that you can remove it! It should stay on your hat for all rehearsals, in the locker room, on the bus, etc. If it is dirty, take it to Boot Town or a hat specialist and get it cleaned professionally. Make sure that time allows for this and you have your hat ready for the game! Never leave your hat in your car because it will turn yellow and lose its shape. Your hat should stay at school so that it doesn't get crunched transporting it back and forth! If your hat is wet or sweaty, let it dry before you put your hat cover on it!

Helpful to keep in the SunDancer tote bag: a LARGE supply of safety pins, a LARGE supply of bobby pins, a travel sewing kit, an extra pair of tights, make-up, sanitary items, deodorant, etc...

Tights and leotards will last longer if washed in a mild detergent and hung to dry. Also hand wash the uniforms (NOT the overlay) and hang to dry. DO NOT send black pieces to the dry cleaners! Never use a hot iron. **** If the overlay needs to be cleaned, use a professional dry-cleaner only and make sure they follow the instructions on the tag! Make periodic checks on tights, leotards, and shoes for holes!! It's stressful to buy those last minute before a performance, and we always have extra items to sell the girls throughout the year!! ALL Sun Dancer dancewear will last longer if it is washed in milder detergent and hung to dry! ****

When you bake cookies, etc., make extra and freeze. This will put you ahead of the game when you are asked to bring food later in the year.

SunDancer calendar/ handbook: Check the web-site often! All changes and additions will be reflected on this calendar. The directory will be passed out separately. Make sure you keep it handy, so that you'll have phone numbers when you need them!

Communicate: Encourage your SunDancer to talk to you about everything. Ask questions like "what did it feel like to be on the field?" or "what announcements were made today?" The more that you know and understand about the program, the more insight you will gain concerning what your SunDancer is going through emotionally and physically. This will help with your communication at home when you are wondering why they are showing signs of stress, happiness, or maybe even sore muscles. Also, your SunDancer should keep you up to date on daily announcements. They might need a gift for Friday morning or cookies for their sister's birthday. Staying informed is the key to staying organized.

Follow the calendar: Encourage your SunDancer to pay attention to the calendar. Drill team is a year-round activity and your family schedule will sometimes have to be adjusted to accommodate your commitment to the organization. The best way for your family to know about practices, performances, and events would be to put the calendar in a place where the family can see it and update it regularly.

Read your e-mail/Check the website: The Director's will send information to both you and your SunDancer to keep you informed via e-mail. Please check it regularly! This is the main form of communication for the SunDancers and Booster Club. Also, check the SunDancer web-site www.sundancers.org. The web-site is a fantastic way to stay informed!

The very best way to be prepared and to enjoy these few years with your daughter is to **get involved in the organization!!!** SunDancers is truly a family, and our parents are so important. In most cases, parents have made just as many special friendships as the girls have! The more you put in, the more you'll receive. We promise that you will have fun and become closer to your daughter in the long run!

"The best performers are those who take their audience on an emotional journey."

FUNDRAISING AND EXPENSES

All money raised through SunDancer will be retained in the activity account.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Please be advised that participation in Dance Team can be costly.
- Prior to auditions, the director will provide candidates with anticipated expenses. Expenses are estimated annually and will vary due to each member's needs.
- A payment schedule will be provided to assist families who are unable to pay the entire balance up front. The director will set payment deadlines.
- Failure to adhere to financial responsibilities may result in not receiving required Dance Team items and possible suspension from performance until financial obligations have been met.
- If a student withdraws from the Dance Team or is unable to participate, refunds may be prorated based on the pre-purchase and or personalization of required items for participation. All monies generated during fundraising activities belong to the Dance Team activity account.

Each Sun Dancer is obligated to pay for all items ordered regardless of whether she stays on the team. You will be agreeing to this obligation by signing the Participation Contract associated with the SunDancer Handbook. Failure to comply with the individual financial obligation could result in the suspension from performing until such obligations are met.

SUNDANCER ACCOUNTS

Each member has an individual account. These accounts are kept by the Directors and consist of a listing of all that is purchased and all that is fundraised/paid by each member. Occasional printouts are sent home so that you will know where your account stands. When you graduate or leave the team, please keep in mind that money that has been fundraised and/or donated to the organization and/or the members of the organization cannot be reimbursed. The money becomes part of the general SunDancer Activity Account. Also, any individual payments that are made to the individual SunDancer's account under \$25 will not be refunded. If your account balance is not paid in full by the end of your senior year, you will not be allowed to graduate without obligation expenses.

All graduating seniors must have their account paid in full three weeks prior to Escapade in order to be eligible to perform in the opening dance number of Escapade. This date will be announced by the directors well in advance. In consideration of extenuating circumstance, every senior SunDancer will be held to this standard unless permission has been given to an individual by the directors.

Gear and apparel may be withheld if there is a withstanding balance in an individual account, until the balance is paid.

DISTRICT MONIES: (district provides money for the following expenses)

FOOTBALL UNIFORM (\$350.00 per uniform)

FUNDS TO PAY JUDGES FOR AUDITIONS

BUSES TO FOOTBALL GAMES

PARTIAL AMOUNT FOR OFFICE SUPPLIES

SUNDANCER MONIES: (district provides NO money for the following expenses)

Printing expenses

All costumes and costume pieces.

Choreography

Music- CD's, music editing

Spirit and appreciation gifts to other teams, groups and individuals

Publicity costs for Escapade

Contest entry fees

Motivational activities

Social activities and goodwill

Video camera and camera supplies, batteries

Sound systems

Props for Escapade and contests

Uniform repair

PARENT / MEMBER EXPENSES (APPROXIMATE):

Rehearsal clothes, shoes, cover-up \$0-400 (depending on new/returning member status)

Big/Little Sister gifts \$40

Summer Camps \$160

Contest- Entry Fees \$50 (per in state contest)

SUNDANCER BOOSTER CLUB

The main objective of the Dance Team Booster Club is to support the program and the directors. Parents are encouraged to participate and support all Dance Team activities and fundraisers. The SunDancer Booster Club is a very active group of parents who support the SunDancers in countless ways. They help raise funds for trips, costumes; chaperone, give parties, make props, sew costumes, etc. All SunDancer parents are invited to become active members of this supportive association

As the school year progresses, you will be given additional information through your daughters, newsletters, and most importantly by attending the booster meetings scheduled throughout the year. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved with a group of parents with a common bond...active, dancing teenage daughters!

Scholarships

Dance Team Booster Clubs may award scholarships to one or more Senior members of their affiliated Dance Team. Scholarships are awarded based on the criteria in the district-wide Dance Team Scholarship Application. Please see Scholarship Application for more information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2018

Tracy Armstrong Susan Weatherbie

Co- Presidents

Robin Mantia Raquel Currah

Co- Vice Presidents

Karen Klein

Treasurer

Michelle Veale

Recording Secretary

Penny Hannan

Corresponding Secretary

Lindy Buckley

Website

Jennifer Castelino

Newsletter

Jennifer DeSpain Ginger Roberston

Senior Reps

Laura Burton

Junior Rep

Laura Steiert

Sophomore Rep

“The uniqueness of each of us strengthens ALL of us.”

Sun Dancers, 2006

The Path We Call SunDancers

It starts with a desire and ends with happy tears.

It has its high points and its dangerous turns.

It is exciting at times, but also takes a lot of work to navigate.

It is a path we do not walk alone.

It begins with a dream and ends with more memories than most have
in a life time.

It is packed full of laughs and smiles.

It is a path blessed by the presence of each director and member.

This path we travel down is one that only a few select get to travel on.

This path is shared by a group of girls who will never walk alone in life.

This path of hardships and memories has made each one of us the person we are and the
person we are yet to become.

This path is one called SunDancers and I am blessed to walk it
with each one of you.

Kristin Garza
SunDancer '00-'03