

Garland Independent School District

Fine Arts Handbook

(MS/HS Cheer, Junior Varsity/Varsity Drill Team, Step, World Dance)

Purpose

The purpose of the Garland Independent School District ("GISD") Fine Arts is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing our schools throughout the community, state, and nation.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward the development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

Students are exposed to instruction, practices, performances, competitions, and community service opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

DEFINITION

Performance Year: The rules and procedures outlined in this handbook are in effect from the time the student is selected to the Fine Arts group until the tryout for the next school year. This does not include the academic guidelines. Academic policies are in effect for a school year. Teacher will include coach, director, and sponsor. Student/member will include Varsity/Junior Varsity/Middle School Cheerleaders, Varsity/Junior Varsity Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step.

STATEMENT CONCERNING DISABILITIES:

It is the goal of the GISD Fine Arts Department to provide every qualified student with a disability an opportunity to try out for a program on a level that is equal to that of students without disabilities. We operate under the guidelines outlined by the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to ensure that all GISD Fine Arts programs adhere to the district's responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The GISD students' centralized tryout process is designed so every student is provided with an equitable and nondiscriminatory tryout experience. The tryout process is designed to assess the required level of skill and ability necessary for students to participate in each school's programs. GISD tryouts do not operate on the basis of any generalization, assumption, prejudice, or stereotypes about disability generally, or specific disabilities in particular. The tryout process is open to all qualified students.

Equal opportunity for participation is afforded to any qualified student seeking to try out for a position on a GISD team. GISD will provide reasonable modifications to ensure that every student is afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the tryout process unless doing so

fundamentally alters the tryout process. Requested modifications must not alter essential aspects of the tryout process or provide any student with an unfair advantage.

The GISD centralized tryout process is designed to assess fundamental team skills that are essentially necessary for the teams of each campus. The tryout process assesses a student's ability to learn and perform a specific routine within a set amount of time. The tryout process also assesses a student's ability to perform specific skills including, but not limited to, kicking, leaps, jumps, splits (slide, jump, etc.), motion technique, dance technique, projection, timing, and memory. These skills and abilities are scored according to standardized judging criteria which is used to assess every candidate equally.

INJURY, USE OF VIDEO, AND VIDEO USAGE GUIDELINES

- A. In the case of physical injury prior to the tryout, the Director of Fine Arts must be notified for permission to have any deviations in the tryout procedure. A video can only be used with prior approval from the Director of Fine Arts, and only in the case of an injury that impairs a student from fully participating in the tryouts. If a prior video is used, only a small segment of the video that shows the necessary skills or styles used during tryouts may be judged.
- B. A medical doctor's note indicating the specific skill the student is incapable of performing will be required prior to video use. The student must still be in attendance the day of tryouts.
- C. The judges shall be instructed to consider "absence of pressure," lack of physical/respiratory exertion, vocal ability, and note if a candidate is using a hard or spring floor when performing "specific skills" on video. A candidate must perform each individual "specific skill" required in the tryout to receive credit/points. No score reduction or credit shall be exercised due to the claimed injury. However, in light of the above considerations, a perfect score for any "specific skill" or category should be rare. Teachers will make these guidelines available to judges if a video is used for tryout.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- A. Because Fine Arts groups are extracurricular activities, there are both financial and time commitments involved in being a part of a successful program. These commitments are spelled out clearly for each school in the packets that are distributed prior to tryouts. It is critical that students and parents understand the financial obligations of the organization and the timeline for submitting payments due for materials and/or activities before the student decides to try out for the team. Payment contracts may be requested.
- B. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not be allowed to perform with the organization until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- C. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not receive an item or service ordered until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- D. Any student who has not met their financial obligation for the current school year will not be allowed to try out for the team next school year.
- E. If a member chooses to not continue with the team or is removed from the team, the member will only be refunded for the portion of their expenses for items that have not been ordered.

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES

- A. All members must attend practice sessions as determined by the teacher. Absence from practice may result in a missed performance if the teacher determines that the absence has hindered the ability of the team to practice productively. Tardies to practices and performances will receive demerits.
- B. Members will be required to dress and practice in the correct practice attire. Practice wear will be decided by the teacher.
- C. Activities and practice time must be in accordance with TEA/UIL Side-by-Side.
- D. Members should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities and communicate conflicts with other teachers.
- E. There may be tryouts for each performance. The teacher will judge routines/skills. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine/skill to the expected standard or who have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices will not be chosen to perform.
- F. Members should strive to maintain a reasonable level of fitness.
- G. If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, tardies, illness, attitude, or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits them from doing so.
- H. A member may only perform if incorrect and complete uniform at the time of performance.
- I. A member must follow a standard of uniformity (hair, makeup, nails, etc.) that is developed and established annually by the teacher, a committee of team members, and will be approved by the principal.
- J. Members who have auditioned and passed on the prior week routine will not be disciplined for making mistakes that were clearly unintentional during the performance.

ATTENDANCE

- A. Absences– these rules govern all practices, events, and performances, including those not during school hours.
- B. Attendance at all activities and practices is mandatory.
- C. An absence is recorded if more than 20 minutes late.
- D. An unexcused absence from class periods and other practices receives demerits. Absences are excused for: personal illness with a doctor's note, death in family, illness in family that requires out-of-town travel, funeral, approved college days, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays.
- E. Absence from practice will result in the student being benched from the next performance if the teacher determines the student's absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.
- F. Unexcused tardies will be recorded and will receive demerits.
- G. Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities, including religious holidays, will not be recorded as an absence.
- H. Absences must be communicated in a manner requested by the teacher in advance. Failure to do so results in demerits. Members must keep the teacher informed of all conflicting school activities (field trips, approved college visit day, testing, meetings, etc.) in a timely manner. Failure to do so can result in demerits or inability to perform.

- I. Upon return from any absence, members must bring a note to the teacher from a parent or physician explaining their absence. Failure to do so results in demerits or inability to perform.
- J. Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of the performance group activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence and results in demerits or inability to perform.
- K. Members cannot miss a band practice (drill team only) or the last practice before a performance. Doing so will result in the member's inability to perform or demerits.
- L. Members who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. Exceptions will be approved for school field trips, religious holidays, and excused medical reasons.

TRANSPORTATION

- A. All members are expected to travel to and from games/competitions/performances/events on school buses (HS Only). Any exemption must be applied for at least 24 hours in advance, use the district form, be for a specific reason, and be approved by the campus principal. Members will be checked out by the teacher at the event. A picture ID will be required of the approved adult before a member can be checked out.
- B. Middle school cheer will be provided two buses in the Fall and 2 buses in the Spring.
- C. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performances/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher. Be respectful of the teacher's time and contact the teacher if you are running late to pick up your student. Repeated tardiness of pick up will result in a principal/teacher review with the parent/guardian and benching or removal may be possible.
- D. Members are not allowed to be transported in the teacher's car.
- E. Booster clubs may provide charter buses at the club's expense if approved by the campus principal.
- F. If a member misses the bus to games/competitions/performances/events, they will not be allowed to join the team by using their personal transportation. Missing the bus is an absence. Absence demerits and other consequences will apply.

HEALTH ISSUES

If the teacher or an administrator suspects a potential or dangerous health condition, they have a right to ask for a doctor's examination at the member's expense and must obtain a doctor's release before continuing to participate.

- A. Participation will be reviewed when a medical or physical condition prohibits safe performance.
- B. Members may not be exempt from practice for longer than 3 days without a note from a doctor.
- C. If the member sits out of practice for medical reasons, they may not be eligible to perform.

- D. Medical devices prescribed by a doctor will be required in all rehearsals and performances. Failure of the member to bring their prescribed medical device will limit their ability to rehearse and perform.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the teacher, in collaboration with the building principal, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interest of the students and their health and welfare.
- B. If a student voluntarily leaves an event, with or without a parent/guardian, they will be subject to the penalties as outlined in the Fine Arts Handbook.
- C. Cancellation of some events may not occur until the day of the event.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS

- A. The GISD Fine Arts Department holds to the belief that communication between teachers, members, and parents/guardians is of the utmost importance. Parents/Guardians have the right to be aware of all rules, guidelines, and expectations for both students and parents/guardians. Teachers have the right to know if a parent/guardian has a concern. Parents/guardians should discuss concerns with the teacher at the appropriate time and place.
- B. There are times when a conference with a teacher is required. If parents/guardians believe that a conference is necessary they must contact the teacher through school email and set up an appointment. A principal may be requested to attend the conference.
- C. All GISD rehearsals are closed to the public. Parents must obtain permission from the teacher and/or principal before attending any practice or class. Parents/guardians must adhere to the GISD visitor policy for any visit to campus or other GISD facilities.
- D. Under no circumstance should a teacher be approached by a parent/guardian before, during or after a practice or performance.
- E. If a parent/guardian chooses to not follow these guidelines, or if a parent/guardian contributes to repeated disruptions, a campus principal review will be required. Disruptions include, but not limited to, unannounced walk-in to a practice/performance area, derogatory language, threats, harassment, and parent/guardian/family member who uses social media as a means to threaten, harass, and bully a teacher, a member of the team, or the parent/guardian of another member. Parent/Guardian disrespect or harassment toward a teacher will not be tolerated.
- F. The campus principal review may result in the parent/guardian being banned from all activities or in a student being removed from the team.

SPECIALTY GROUPS

It is up to the discretion of each school to decide whether to offer specialty groups. Specialty groups are: officers, squad leaders, managers, kick lines, elite teams, travel teams, cheer captains and other special groups. It is considered a privilege to be a part of these specialty

groups. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each member of a specialty group.

GISD FINE ARTS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Fine Arts student (Cheerleader, JV/V Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step Performer) is a recognized representative of the individual school as well as the district and as such must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior. It is the responsibility of the campus administrator and teacher (coach, director, and sponsor) to maintain this high level of expectation. Mutual respect and politeness toward members within the team and GISD performance community are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the squad. Fine Arts students are expected to maintain positive relationships with all students, faculty and staff members, members of the general community, and other GISD groups. Students are expected to present themselves in a manner that reflects GISD accepted dress code, including guidelines for hair, tattoos, fingernails, and piercings. These guidelines have been established to ensure that every student is safe and not injured during a rehearsal or performance. A separate rehearsal/performance uniformity dress code will be in effect while the student is participating within the performance group. Any behavior considered detrimental to the reputation of the GISD Fine Arts Department can result in the dismissal of the student from the program. The determination of conduct detrimental to the reputation of the program will be made by the principal, teacher, board policies and applicable law. All Fine Arts students must follow the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD District Code of Conduct, and the Fine Arts Student Code of Conduct.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring the GISD/Fine Arts Students' websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Therefore, any communication such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat, Vines, Tumblr, or any other photo/video sharing or social media site, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Per the GISD Code of Conduct, students are responsible for their personal websites and postings on others' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but not limited to, the following: language, sexual or other (abbreviated or alluding to); pictures, reference to sexually explicit conduct or content, bullying/harassment within school and to other campuses, clothing, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, which includes e-cigs and vapes. Excessive amounts of postings during the school day and posting updates in the middle of the school day is unacceptable and will be considered if a principal/teacher review takes place. Messages, Snap Chats, pictures, etc. sent via text messages or any other form of communication can be used as a screenshot and therefore can be considered public domain. By sending any content electronically to someone else, you are giving them permission to use that information as they see fit so please be aware of what you are sending and to whom you are sending it to at any time. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and teacher.

Students selected as Fine Arts student performers must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. A student has no ordained right to participate in Fine Arts. It is a privilege that

has been granted to the student and it is possible that the privilege can be taken away. In addition to the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD Code of Conduct, and the standards outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct will be in effect twenty- four hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year, in season and out of season, whether in school or school is not in session.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Fine Arts programs do not operate under Athletic UIL rules but are required to adhere to the UIL-TEA Side-by-Side. All issues regarding eligibility must be in line with the UIL standards of eligibility for extracurricular activities.
- B. A member who becomes academically ineligible two times during a school year will be considered on probation for the rest of that school year with regard to auditioning and performing with specialty groups. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt.
- C. A member who becomes academically ineligible three times during a school year will be removed from the team.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

- A. A member may be placed on academic probation for academic reasons as stated in the TEA/GISD policies.
- B. If a member is placed on academic probation, that member will also be on probation regarding the specialty groups and may not audition for or perform with such groups for the remainder of the academic probation term.
- C. Students who are placed on academic probation twice in one year will automatically be on probation with regard to specialty groups for the remainder of the school year.
- D. A member on academic probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.
- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

DISCIPLINARY PROBATION

- A. A member may be placed on disciplinary probation for indicated periods of time as described in this document.
- B. Reasons for probation can be, but are not limited to, inappropriate personal web pages/social media accounts, In-School Suspension (1st Offense), harassment/bullying.
- C. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team, or of specialty groups, as defined in the specialty groups section of this handbook.
- D. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.

- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

REMOVAL¹

- A. A member may be removed from the performance team or placed on disciplinary probation by the teacher and principal for violation of the Standards of Conduct sections of this handbook.
- B. A member will be removed from the team on the third disciplinary/academic probation period in one year. Removal occurs once demerits reach 22 or more. If the student progresses to 22 or more demerits without having served other disciplinary actions, or during a disciplinary term, removal is still the result, and will be immediate.
- C. If a member of the team suffers loss of credit for the course because of excessive absences, they may be removed from the team subject to principal/teacher review.
- D. A member who is placed in the reassignment room more than one time during the school year will be subject to a principal/teacher review which may result in removal from the squad.
- E. A member who is suspended from school will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- F. A member who is accused of harassment, bullying, theft, or terrorist threats will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- G. A member who is placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- H. A member who is placed in the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (expelled) will be removed from the team.
- I. Immediate dismissal: Minor in Consumption (MIC), Drugs or Alcohol Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Minor in Possession of Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping, THC products or other illegal substances, other violations of the law (MIP), AEC placement, fighting at school, RAC (second offense), possession of weapons.
- J. Members who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with membership, including attending team-only events, using facilities, and wearing school district purchased team attire.
- K. Any student removed from the team must also be removed from the class. Students will not be removed until all financial obligations are met and all uniforms and equipment are returned in good condition.
- L. A member who has been removed from the squad on any GISD campus will not be eligible to participate in the next tryouts without approval from the principal and teacher. Areas to be reviewed will include, but not be limited to, the reasons for the removal,

¹ Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., 594 U.S. ____ (2021), discipline regarding off-campus speech and behavior will be weighed in light of this recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal and the teacher.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

The following are considered rule infractions. Demerits are strictly used only to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. Demerits are given for one school year, and at the beginning of the next school year, each member's record is cleared. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet served. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student's record will be cleared.

- A. Benching: Member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance. With regard to pep rallies, football and basketball games, the member may perform in the stands with the team but may not perform in pre-game, half-time, or post-game performances or festivities. A benched member will be required to remain in the stands or in an area designated by the teacher. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- B. Probation: Member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team or of specialty groups. The member is not allowed to travel with the team for any reason. The member may not wear the team uniform. The member must continue to attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- C. If a member is academically ineligible at the time of benching due to disciplinary probation, the penalty will be served after the academic probation has been served.
- D. A member will be required to have a parent, teacher, principal conference after the first 5 demerits and warning or benching will be issued.
- E. If a student receives an excessive amount of demerits that moves them to an advanced disciplinary level, they will also receive the consequence(s) from the level(s) they may have skipped.
- F. The following benching guidelines will be used:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1-4 Demerits | Warning by the Teacher |
| 5-10 Demerits | Conference/Warning/Benching |
| 11-16 Demerits | 3 Week Probation |
| 17-21 Demerits | 6 Week Probation |
| 22 + | Removal from Team |

DEMERIT/MERIT GUIDE

The following demerit/merit guide will be used:.

| RULE INFRACTION | DEMERIT(s) |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Incorrect practice uniform | 1 per item |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Failure of student to dress out for practice | 3 |
| Chewing gum during practice or performance | 2 |
| Not returning any item with a due date | 1 each day |
| Leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area | 2 |
| Unexcused tardy to practice, performance/function/area ** Excessive tardies can receive benching | Practice 2 Performance 3 |
| Wearing any jewelry during practice **no visible piercings, refer to practice dress code | 2 ** |

MERIT GUIDE

- A. Merits must be acquired prior to any demerit listed above. See the chart below.
B. Three merits will remove one demerit.

| Approved Merits (approval of the teacher) | Merit (s) |
|--|----------------------|
| Parent /Guardian Attending Booster Meetings | 2 per meeting, Max 6 |
| Conditioning | 3 |
| 10 sets of 10 kicks/30 jumps | 3 |
| Creating posters/signs for events/fundraisers | 1-3 per poster |
| Attending and helping at GISD events (literacy, back to school, etc) | 3 per hour |
| Attending and supporting Fine Arts Group performances | 3 |
| Extra shift at team community service | 3 per hour |
| Teacher assistant by appointment for 1 hour | 3 |
| Extra shift at a team fundraiser | 3 per hour |
| Greeter at after school functions | 3 per hour |
| Volunteer to organized closet, clean locker room, dance area, etc | 3 per hour |
| Assist with faculty dance, school talent show, etc | 3 per hour |
| Volunteer to bring supplies for events | 3 |
| Team bonding game winners | 3 |
| After school technique/tutoring team members | 3 per hour |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Attending and supporting other school events to promote unity | 2 |
| Volunteer for outside community service (must be approved) | 3 per hour |

DEMERIT GUIDE - These demerits may not earn merits.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Moving or talking in performance line | 1 |
| Not following instructions for stands, sidelines, and entering/exiting venue | 1 |
| Any inappropriate behavior (in uniform) as outlined in the GISD/Fine Arts Student Code of Conduct | 5 |
| Wearing unacceptable nail length (safety) and hair (safety) to a practice *Nails should be worn in a "sports length" See page 3, Practice and Performances, I. | 3 |
| Wearing nail polish or unacceptable nail length (safety) to a performance *Nails should be worn in a "sports length". Acceptable colors: clear, French, or neutral **After first occurrence, performance, based on campus Standard of Uniformity, dress code should be used | 4 ** |
| Not notifying teacher when going to be absent & not bringing a note upon return from absence **After first occurrence, benching | 2 per infraction ** |
| Wearing any jewelry to a performance **no visible piercings, refer to performance dress code | 3 ** |
| Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets to non-team members | 5 |
| Wearing uniform to non-team function without teacher approval | 5 |
| Failing to bring all required items to a practice/performance See page 3, Practice and Performances | 2 per item |
| Having a cell phone or smart watch in practice or performance area without permission from the teacher | 2 |
| Leaving any group activity without permission from teacher | 10 |
| Insubordination (eye rolling, arguing, disrespect to faculty/staff, not responding, negative body language, ranting, repeated use of cell phone/smart watch w/out permission, non-compliance) | 10 |
| Violating school rules, dress code, policies, non-compliance established by the campus principal **and refer to GISD policies/office referral/director/principal review | 10 ** |
| Letting a non-member into locker room without teacher's permission | 2 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Unexcused absence from class period, practice outside school hours, or required performance/function | Practice 2 Performance 5 |
| Reassignment Room **review and refer to GISD Policies | 10 ** |
| N in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies | 15 ** |
| U in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies | 20 ** |
| Suspension from school **review and refer to GISD Policies | 20 ** |

HANDBOOK CHANGES

The GISD Fine Arts Handbook is subject to change at any time due to court rulings, Texas Education Agency rulings or Garland Independent School District policy changes.

Appendix D: Step Team

STEP TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

At the time of tryouts, one of the two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.

- A. Each sponsor will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the tryout packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- B. All current members may be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. In case of an injury, video audition may be used, but the candidate must be physically present at tryouts (see page 3, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are welcome to try out regardless of grade eligibility.
- D. Tryout clinics and dates will be determined by the sponsor and campus principal. Judges will be the sponsor(s) and one other to be selected by campus administration. This could be another faculty member or a Fine Arts designee.
- E. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team. Selection criteria includes: Personality, Showmanship, Enthusiasm, Facial Expressions, Energy/Stamina, Vocals and Precision.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the sponsor). Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the step team are expected to make a commitment for the entire school year. Performances and events include, but are not limited to, pep-rallies, parades (Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade), step shows, community events, and other performance opportunities.
- H. Any member who quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have tryout approval from the principal and sponsor.
- I. Auditions will be closed to the public, except for judges, sponsor(s), principal, and Fine Arts designee.
- J. A mandatory meeting will be held after the auditions for parents and members of the team. Financial expectation and payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding after school practices and performances/events.
- K. Step team candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the step team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than

April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the sponsor and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former step team. Tryouts at the new school are required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and sponsor stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and sponsor.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new sponsor and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout routine will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and show performances will be at the discretion of the sponsor and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The sponsor and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.