

## **Bartram Trail High School Dance Team By-Laws 2017-2018**

### **I. PURPOSE**

- A. Promote and uphold school spirit.
- B. Represent BTHS to the highest degree in performances, competitions, and daily academic/behavioral life.
- C. Set an example of good behavior at all times (whether in uniform or not) in class, at games, and at all school functions, whether performing or not.
- D. Promote friendship between all dance team members, cheerleaders, and other athletic and/or spirit organizations.
- E. Promote friendships with schools with whom we compete, perform, and attend camp.
- F. Commit to achieving goals through dedication and perseverance.

### **II. REQUIREMENTS/ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Members must meet all academic requirements as dictated by the Athletic Department and the FHSAA, and must maintain a 2.5 unweighted GPA with no failing grades. If Team Members fall under the 2.5 GPA, he or she will be put on probation until the grades are recovered.
- B. Dance Team must take priority over ALL other extracurricular activities (including jobs, and other activities) during the dance team season: Preseason, Football, Basketball, and Competition season. Unexcused demerits may be issued for practices or performances missed and/or dismissal from the team. If a member of BTDT is on another dance team, she must commit to all of BTDT's practices and performances as a higher priority. Missing practices and/or performances for another team carries unexcused demerits and/or dismissal from the team.
- C. Members must maintain good citizenship marks, attendance, class performance, and teacher recommendations during the time on the squad as well as during auditions. Problems in any area will be disciplined in a timely and appropriate manner. If a team member displays problems in any of the above areas, the team member is not considered to be 'in good standing' until those problems are resolved.
- D. All members must have a current physical (May to May -the specific date TBD) on file in the front office. This must be on file before members can audition, practice, attend camp, perform or compete.
- E. Being on dance team one year IN NO WAY GUARANTEES PLACEMENT ON THE SQUAD FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. Every member must go through the same audition/selection process each Spring. (With the exception of 4th year Seniors in good standing who wish to remain on the team. These members must submit a letter of intent at least one week prior to auditions.) In

addition to ability, each member's cooperation, effort, attitude, behavior and ability to get along with other squad members from the previous year will be considered. The squad will be chosen by a select group of qualified judges with input from teacher recommendations and clinic evaluation. This decision is FINAL. It is recommended that each member who intends to audition for the team the following year, work independently during the season as well as in the offseason to stay in shape and improve their technique/skills.

- F. All members are expected to take an active part in fund-raisers. Fundraising is a team effort and an excellent opportunity to spend quality time with your teammates. Any merchandise lost or stolen must be replaced/paid for by that individual. You are to follow school guidelines as well as Athletic Booster's guidelines for all fundraising activities. Remember that YOU are on the team - not your parents. It is your responsibility to help them out with the money. Ample opportunities will be provided for you to earn most of the money required. If you are not able to participate in a fundraiser you will be required to pay the amount earned by each team member.
- G. All members must be enrolled in the Dance Team class, with the exception of male team members who participate in competition only.
- H. Any team member who is dismissed from the team or who quits the team the previous season (year) will not be eligible to audition or participate in any capacity the following season (year.)

### III. CONDUCT

- A. By accepting the privilege/honor of wearing a BTHS Dance Team uniform, a member accepts the fact that their actions are more prominent than those not associated with such an activity. By accepting this privilege, a member agrees to be a positive role model. Your reputation no longer belongs to just you ... it is shared with each member, past and present, of BTDT.
- B. Because of this prominence and because members represent the school, exemplary behavior is mandatory at all times, anywhere in the community of BTHS and at all functions where members are recognized as representatives of Bartram Trail. A member of the BTDT is always in uniform, whether it is being worn or not.
- C. Proper appearance is required at all times, with clothing appropriate to the occasion.
- D. Members must not use foul language at practice, in school, at games, camp, competitions, etc.
- E. Excessive public displays of affection are never considered appropriate, especially in uniform, at games, or in school (whether in uniform or not).
- F. Smoking or drug usage (including alcohol) is not allowed at any time according to the St. Johns County School District Student Conduct Code and is considered grounds for IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL from the BTHS Dance Team. *"The use, possession, distribution or sale of controlled substances, alcohol or tobacco in any form are not tolerated and are grounds for suspension, referral to an alternative program and/or expulsion. The misuse, misrepresentation, distribution or sales of prescription or over-the-counter drugs incur the same discipline measures. Law enforcement will be contacted and legal sanctions will also apply. Students knowingly in the presence of such activity are subject to similar consequences."*
- G. Please note that to be with people who are in possession of alcohol or other drugs could result in dismissal or temporary suspension from the team.
- H. All rules and regulations imposed on any Bartram Trail student will be imposed on dance team members. However, due to the fact that members of the Bartram Trail Dance Team are more recognizable in our school and community, they are held to higher standards. The Athletic code of Conduct is a starting point for members of this elite team.
- I. Members must display proper behavior in class, including being on time, not skipping, and not cheating.
- J. The Coach will back all members 100% if she believes an injustice has occurred against them. However, members must pledge to be completely honest with the Coach in these, and all, cases.
- K. A demerit system will be utilized to deal with minor infractions -tardiness, missed practices, missing equipment, uniform, etc. (Demerits may be erased in various ways: cleaning dance room, helping someone with a routine, doing paperwork, tutoring a fellow team member, etc.) If a member receives the designated number of demerits or if the situation merits immediate formal probation, the member will be notified in writing. This notice must

be signed by the team member as well as the parent(s) and returned to coach within 48 hours.

Accumulation of 12 demerits places a team member on Probation. Probation deems a member to be 'not in good standing' and therefore unable to perform until the demerits are reduced to 11. An accumulation of 15 demerits is grounds for immediate dismissal.

The maximum number of *merits* that a team member may earn during the course of a year is ten (10).

- L. Any team member who becomes pregnant will not be considered a member in good standing and therefore will not be permitted to participate in any capacity.
- M. Every attempt will be made by the Coach, and officers, to deal with members fairly. Consequences of actions will be made clear ahead of time. Parents will be kept informed of problem situations.
- N. Because all situations may not be foreseen and thus outlined here, each will be dealt with in a manner decided upon by the Coach, with assistance from the administration if deemed necessary. Each disciplinary case will be judged individually, but each may also serve as a basis on which to judge future cases.
- O. Poor conduct/behavior under any of the above circumstances could result in warnings, demerits, and/or suspension/removal from the squad. Inappropriate behaviors not only reflect on the individual, but can also affect the image of the entire team. **The good of the squad always comes before anyone individual.**
- P. Members are responsible for knowing all the rules.

#### IV. UNIFORMS, OTHER EXPENSES

A. Poms and tops will be provided by the school, and therefore belong to Bartram Trail High School. These items will be returned in GOOD condition at the end of performance. If the Coach or Athletic Director feel that the items are no longer usable, they must be replaced by the student that the item was issued to in the Fall.

B. Team members must provide other items, such as shoes, socks, tights, jazz pants, competition wear, hair accessories, warm up suits, etc.

C. Uniforms/poms/props that are ruined, lost or stolen will be replaced by that member at her/his own expense.

D. Additional uniforms may be purchased for pep rallies, game days, and/or competitions. Costs for these additional uniforms will be absorbed by the member.

E. Dance Team Uniforms are to be worn on specified days at specified events. Other students, friends, siblings, etc. are not to wear the BT Dance Team uniform unless they are a member of the team. This includes the warm up pants and jacket, letter jacket, and practice wear. Allowing others to wear a part of the uniform is an infraction that will carry demerits.

F. Attending summer dance camp encourages team bonding and increases the ability of the team. Members must commit to attending summer dance camp prior to auditioning for the team. Fees are the responsibility of the individual. If unable to attend due to illness, a doctor's note is required PRIOR to camp.

G. If a member is removed (or resigns) from the squad, she/he will be expected to return all non-personalized items (warm up suit, performance wear, props, poms, etc.) If items are sold to other members, negotiation of price will be between the parties involved (buyer and seller) and not the coach.

H. Competition/travel expenses are to be paid for through individual fund raising -remaining costs to be absorbed by the member.

#### V. DANCE TECHNIQUE CLASS

A. Members must be able to fit the dance team class into their schedule. If a class conflict arises due to an academic matter, please contact the coach prior to summer camp. Often this is a matter that can be worked out. If the student is unable to enroll in the class, the student will not be permitted to be a member of the team.

B. Everyone must practice the steps learned in class before the next class/practice in order to be prepared to go on. Steps missed when absent must be learned within ONE DAY of return. Inability to learn the routine well enough, in the opinion of the coach, may result in an individual not performing. *It is the responsibility of the team member that was absent to learn the missed material on their own time.*

C. Unexcused Absence from Dance Team class and/or three hours of school (except for field trips, or other school related, pre authorized activities the day of a performance for a weekday event, or the Friday before a weekend event will result in not performing at that event. However, the member must still attend the event in uniform.

D. Members must contact the coach prior to any after school absence if the member was in attendance during the school day. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and will carry demerits as such. Classroom absences will follow the school policy.

E. Members must NOT schedule routine dental, doctor, or other appointments during class hours, scheduled practices, or performance days. This will result in unexcused demerits

F. On emergency (Le. bad weather, safety alerts) closing days, the coach will stay in touch with the officers and officers with members. If not at home, YOU must stay in contact for schedule change, performance info., etc.

#### VI. PRACTICES

A. Mandatory before/after school practices, usually three per week will be established during performing months (August-March). Prior to competitions, rehearsal may be held daily as needed either before or after school.

B. Additional practices will be scheduled as needed, especially to start each season, and when many performances are close together. Sufficient notice (one week) will be given prior to additional practices. If a practice is called less than one

week before, it will be considered optional. Merits may be earned by attending optional practices.

- C. Any absence from practice must be reported directly to the coach IN WRITING (email is sufficient) at least one day prior. You must contact the coach before leaving campus if ill (ask the office to put a note in Coach Lindell's box). Failure to report the missing of a practice will result in demerits/removal from the next event.
- D. Missing an added-on practice at which major routine changes are made will result in not performing for that event if it is too close to the performance.
- E. Missing part of practice for an occasional club meeting will be allowed IF prior approval is given at least three school days in advance.
- F. Missing part of practice for a test or other approved academic reason will carry NO penalty, but the member must get PRIOR approval by showing a note from the teacher, and make up what is missed.
- G. Members must dress out for all practices unless otherwise notified. Proper dance attire (including shoes and knee pads/knee braces if necessary) must be worn at all practices. Foot thongs are not appropriate for hip hop. Demerits will be issued accordingly.
- H. Dance Team members will respect 'Bear Time'. Members must be in the practice area with needed items five minutes before the practice is scheduled to begin. Remember that it is irresponsible and discourteous to inconvenience the rest of the BT Varsity Dance Team. Respect your team mates.
- I. Members must NOT LEAVE PRACTICE EARLY without prior approval; this does carry demerits, with the exception of family or medical emergencies. Don't schedule work too early and don't sign up for studio classes that you can't get to on time.
- J. If you are at practice, but your heart and/or mind is elsewhere -you will be considered absent. Leave your worries outside of dance class and they will probably be gone when class is over.

## XI.' WEBSITE

- A. Team members maintaining a 'FaceBook', Instagram account, or any similar site, are expected to display the same conduct online as outlined in section III of this document. You will be monitored by a watchdog account for both your protection as well as the best interest of the team. If you choose to maintain such accounts, then you must add the 'Bartram Dance' account as a 'friend'. In addition, if an incriminating picture of you is found on someone else's site, this will carry the same penalties as if the coach sees you in person. AS A MEMBER OF BTDT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS AT ALL TIMES IN ALL PLACES.
- B. Information for Team Members can be found under the BTHS Athletics page by clicking on the Dance link.

## XII. OFFICERS

- A. The officers are the leaders of the team. Their main responsibilities include;

maintaining the demerit/merit list, issuing demerits/merits, teaching/cleaning routines, maintaining discipline, motivating the team, and assisting the coach as per her request.

B. Officer auditions are held before the team auditions. Applicants must prepare a one page essay on the "Qualities of Leadership" and self choreograph a routine that is at least 12 counts of eight. The essay should be typed, double spaced and a copy made for each judge. The routine must be written in dance notation and copies made for each judge. In addition, the applicants will be required to: demonstrate technique, perform and ' teach the self choreographed routine and go through an interview process.

C. If an officer summer camp is available, it will be a requirement for officers to attend camp with the coach. Prior to tryouts, candidates must commit to attending the officer camp. The camp fee, food, and lodging, is the responsibility of the officer.

D. The officers are to be regarded with the utmost respect at all times. By disrespecting an officer, you are disrespecting your team. If a team member has an issue with an officer, they should either speak with the officer in private or seek the coach's advice. Insubordination to an officer is a demeritable offense.

E. Being an officer of the BT Varsity Dance Team requires a higher level of commitment. When there is a dance, trick, or other skill to know, the officers will be expected to have perfected it and be able to teach and demonstrate it to the rest of the team. Officers will need to plan to have thirty minutes available after each practice to help any team members or the coach with certain needs. For example if practice is from 3:45-5:15, an officer's practice is from 3:45-5:45. The officer should not schedule any other commitments during that time.

### XIII. COMMUNICATION

A. Most problems can be prevented/resolved with open communication.

B. Always remember that the Coach wants you to be happy and enjoy this experience. You were very fortunate to be selected as a member of this team. The hard work and dedication that got you on this team should remain evident throughout the year. If so, you may be assured that this time in your life will be a cherished memory for years to come.

BARTRAM TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEAM  
PARENT/MEMBER/COACH AGREEMENT:

TEAM MEMBER'S NAME: (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the above named student, have read the BT Dance Team By-Laws and understand all the requirements, objectives, and consequences. We understand the coach has final say in my/our daughter's/son's remaining of the team. We also realize this is a team effort and that we may be called upon to help in some way throughout the year which is within our capacity to help, and we will make every effort to do our share of assisting on behalf of our daughter/son.

PARENT SIGNATURE/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the BT Dance Team, I have fully read the By-Laws and understand what is expected of me to remain a member in good standing. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all rules, and realize the consequences of poor behavior or inappropriate actions may be severe. I will do all I can to create and uphold an honorable image of the BT Dance Team. I will respect my Coach, my team mates, my school, and all persons associated with Bartram Trail High School at all times.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

As Coach of the BT Dance Team, I pledge; to keep parents informed, to treat all members as fairly as possible, to keep the team organized, focused, disciplined, and to always keep in mind that academics and family need to be highly considered within the framework of my expectations.

COACH'S SIGNATURE/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_