

# **Garland Independent School District**

## **Visual and Performing Arts Handbook**

### **Cheer, Drill Teams, Step Team, and World Dance Company**

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# Garland Independent School District

## Visual and Performing Arts Handbook

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Garland Independent School District (“GISD”) Visual and Performing Arts Groups (“VAPA”) is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing the high school throughout the community, state, and nation.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward 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 teaching, 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 Visual and Performing Arts Group until the tryout 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 Cheerleader, Varsity/Junior Varsity Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step.

### **STATEMENT CONCERNING DISABILITIES:**

It is the goal of the GISD Visual and Performing 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 VAPA 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 a 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 VAPA Director must be notified for permission to have any deviations in the tryout procedure. A video can only be used with prior approval from the VAPA Director, 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 VAPA Groups are extra-curricular 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 guidelines.
- D. Members should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.
- E. There may be tryouts for each performance. The teacher will judge routines. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine 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 in correct 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 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 notes, 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. 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 (fieldtrips, 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. Any exemption must be applied for at least 24 hours in advance, must use the district form, must be for a specific reason, and must 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. All members are to be picked up from the high 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 could result in a principal/teacher review with the parent/guardian and removal may be possible.
- C. Members are not allowed to be transported in the teacher's car.
- D. Booster clubs may provide charter buses at the clubs expense if approved by the campus principal.
- E. 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**

- A. 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.
- B. Participation will be reviewed when a medical or physical condition prohibits safe performance.
- C. Members may not be exempt from practice for longer than 3 days without a note from a doctor.
- D. If the member sits out of practice for medical reasons, they may not be eligible to perform.
- E. 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 VAPA Performing Arts Handbook.
- C. Cancellation of some events may not occur until the day of the event.

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS**

- A. The GISD VAPA 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.
- 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, 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.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- A. VAPA 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.  
<https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/academic-requirements>
- 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.

### **GISD VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (VAPA) STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The VAPA 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. VAPA 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 VAPA 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 and teacher. All VAPA students must follow the GISD VAPA Handbook, GISD District Code of Conduct, and the VAPA Student Code of Conduct.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring the GISD/VAPA Students' websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Therefore, any communication such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snap Chat, Vines, Tumbler, 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 a VAPA Student Performer must recognize this distinction is 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 VAPA. 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 VAPA Handbook, GISD Code of Conduct, and the standards outlined in the VAPA 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.

### **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 not limited to, inappropriate personal webpages/social media accounts, In School Suspension (1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **REMOVAL**

- 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 after earning more than two disciplinary probation periods 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 placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- F. 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.
- G. A member who is expelled from school will be removed from the team.
- H. If a member misses more than ten (10) practices in one term, they will be subject to teacher/principal review which could result in removal.
- 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, other violations of the law (MIP), AEC placement, fighting at school, RAC (second offense), harassment/ bullying, theft, terrorist threats, 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 is 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, academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal and 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 activated. 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 designed 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 of disciplinary probation, the

penalty will be served at the time the student regains eligibility.

- D. A member will be required to have a parent, teacher, principal conference after the first 5-10 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. After the first 5-10 demerits, the following benching guide will be used:

<b>1-4 Demerits</b>	<b>Warning by Director</b>
<b>5-10 Demerits</b>	<b>Conference/Warning/Benching</b>
<b>11-16 Demerits</b>	<b>3 Week Probation</b>
<b>17-21 Demerits</b>	<b>6 Week Probation</b>
<b>22 + Demerits</b>	<b>Removal from Team</b>

### **DEMERIT GUIDE**

The following demerit guide will be used by all high school VAPA groups.

<b>RULE INFRACTION</b>	<b>Demerit (s)</b>
Incorrect practice uniform	3
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 late
Leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area	2
Moving or talking in performance line	1
Not following instructions for stands, sidelines, and entering/exiting venue	1
Inappropriate behavior in uniform	5
Wearing unacceptable nail length (safety) and hair (safety) to a practice *Nails should be worn in a "sports length"	3 *after first occurrence, practice dress code should be used
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 color	3 *after first occurrence, performance dress code should be used
Unexcused tardy to practice, performance, function, area	3, excessive tardies can receive benching
Not notifying teacher when going to be absent & not bringing a note upon return from absence	2 per infraction *after first occurrence, benching
Wearing any jewelry during practice	2 *no visible piercings, refer to practice dress code
Wearing any jewelry to a performance	3 *no visible piercings, refer to performance dress code
Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets to non-team members	5
Wearing uniform to non-team function	5
Failing to bring all required items to a practice/performance	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, not responding, negative body language, ranting, using cell phone/smart watch w/o permission, etc.	10
Violating school rules, dress code, policies, etc... established by the campus principal	10 and refer to GISD policies/office referral/review by director/principal
Violating team and/or makeup uniformity standards (set by each group)	*refer to practice and performance hair uniformity standards *performance dress code will be enforced
Letting a non-member into locker room without teacher's permission	2
Non-compliance with VAPA Standards of Conduct and GISD Student Code of Conduct (Example: lying to teacher, public displays of inappropriate conduct, cursing, public display of affection, disrespectful to teacher and teammates, etc...)	5 per occurrence/office referral
Unexcused absence from class period, practice outside school hours, or required function	10
Failing to respect all teachers and staff	10
Office referral by a staff/faculty member	2 and director/principal review
Reassignment Room	5, review and refer to GISD policies
N in conduct	15, review and refer to GISD policies
U in conduct	20, review and refer to GISD policies
Suspension from school	20, review and refer to GISD policies

### **MERIT GUIDE**

- A. Merits must be acquired prior to any demerit. See the chart below.
- B. Merits can only be used to remove the following demerits: Incorrect practice uniform, chewing gum during a practice, not returning any item with a due date, leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area, failure of student to dress out for practice, tardiness (up to 5), and wearing any jewelry during practice time. Smart watches will be considered as mobile devices.
- C. Three merits will remove one demerit.

<b>Approved Merits (discretion of the teacher)</b>	<b>Merit(s)</b>
Parent/Guardian Attending Booster Meeting	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 VAPA Group performances	3
Extra shift at team community service	3 per hour
Teacher assistant by appointment for 1 hour	3
Extra shift at team fundraiser	3 per hour

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Greeter at school functions	3 per hour
Volunteer to organize 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	3
Volunteer for outside community service (must be approved)	3 per hour

### **HANDBOOK CHANGES**

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

## Appendix A: Cheerleading

### SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the 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 currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may tryout at that campus. A student may only tryout for one GISD school.
- B. Each sponsor/coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A **MANDATORY** parent meeting will be called by the sponsor/coach prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal and the VAPA Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the students is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- C. Cheerleader candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes, 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 Cheerleading Squad, the member will be required to complete the physical form. ALL cheerleaders must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department during the month of May.
- D. All cheerleaders will be required to try out for the team each year. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. An individual's video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 2)
- E. The Garland Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection of high school cheerleaders. The goal of the tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school cheer candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, spring semester, as determined by the Director of Visual and Performing Arts, principals and sponsors/coaches. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or State-mandated testing. Every student wishing to tryout must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for Cheer.
- F. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Visual and Performing Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be thrown out. Each candidate must score 50 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of 100 points in order to be placed on a cheer squad. The number of candidates selected each year will be based the number of candidates that fall within the natural break from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or the Director of Visual and Performing Arts. Complaints about any

aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

- G. Each campus sponsor/coach and principal will establish a uniform tryout outfit. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure. This uniform should be limited to a plain white polo-styled shirt or t-shirt with no visible logo, a solid colored short (style/color to be determined by sponsor), and any type of white athletic shoe. Hair should be up and/or out of the candidates face. Schools will not allow any accessory or addition (rings, bracelets, hair bows etc.) to the tryout outfit.
- H. Mats will be available in all tryout gyms. It is each candidate's choice to use or not to use the mats. Certified judges will be instructed to score each candidate on the difficulty and execution of the candidate's tumbling skills.
- I. Candidates selected to be a cheerleader are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, sporting events, competition, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and sponsor/coach.

### **TRYOUTS**

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, sponsors/coaches, principals, and VAPA designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate. **PARENTS** will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Visual and Performing Arts for tryouts. A VAPA designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include coaches from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credential and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the cheer candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Entrance (20pts), Jumps (25pts), Cheer (20pts), Chant (20pts), Dance (15pts)

- D. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and VAPA designee will be allowed in the tabulation room. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the sponsors/coaches will be allowed in the room to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation room. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped, and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the judge's average score. In order to be placed on the cheer squad, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel, a candidate must earn 50 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of the possible 100 points and fall within the natural break. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Visual and Performing Arts, or the VAPA designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- E. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and online. A school designated area and an online address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location.
- F. Request for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

### **CHEER SQUADS**

- A. Varsity
  - 1. The Varsity Squad will be comprised of juniors and seniors.
  - 2. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 50 to earn a spot.
  - 3. Eight spots will be filled by the four top scoring seniors and the four top scoring juniors.
  - 4. Eight spots will be filled by the next highest scores.
  - 5. After the initial 16 spots have been filled, VAPA administration will review the next six highest scores for a natural break. If a natural break is present candidates above the break will be added to the squad.
  - 6. The Varsity Squad will have a maximum of 22 members.
- B. Junior Varsity
  - 1. The Junior Varsity Squad will be comprised of sophomores, freshmen, and any junior or senior who has agreed to accept a JV spot.
  - 2. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 40 to earn a spot.
  - 3. The JV Squad will be filled with candidates falling below the natural break and above the minimum score.
  - 4. The JV Squad will have a maximum of 32 members.
- C. Additional Considerations
  - 1. All seniors trying out must submit a signed letter of JV Intent before tryouts. This letter indicates whether or not they would take a spot on the JV Squad in the event they did not make Varsity.
  - 2. Any JV Squad consisting of more than 20 members may be, at the campus' discretion, divided into A and B squads.
  - 3. A and B cheerleader squads will be divided for the purpose of covering more games. The make-up of these squads and the cheering schedule for each is left to campus discretion.

4. Campuses with a JV B squad will be allotted a third cheer sponsor.
5. If scoring results in a tie for the 22<sup>nd</sup> varsity spot or the 32<sup>nd</sup> JV spot, all candidates with the tie score will be added to the squad.
6. If a member of the cheerleading squad moves (or there is an opening for any reason), the principal and sponsor may fill the opening based on the tryout rank scores. Any replacement will take place on or before the first day of the first school term and is at the principal's and sponsor's discretion.

#### **CHEERLEADER COMPETITION**

All cheerleading squads will tryout and participate in competition. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each competition member.

## **Appendix B: Drill Team – Junior Varsity**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The junior varsity drill team is open to any student grades 9-12 attending any GISD high school. No tryout is required; however all members must follow the rules as outlined in this handbook in order to retain membership on the squad.
- B. In order for an individual to become a member of the junior varsity drill team, it is the responsibility of the student to pick up an information packet in the spring from the high school that they will be attending the next school year. The student and parents must complete the application form and turn in the completed packet to the junior varsity drill team director on or before the deadline date as designated in the packet. The director and principal will determine whether to accept late applications.
- C. Junior varsity drill team activities begin with a summer camp. During this camp, members will learn the routines that they will perform during the entire season. Attendance at this camp by all members is essential to insure an outstanding drill team. It will be the discretion of the director and campus principal for anyone to join the team after summer camp.
- D. Junior varsity drill 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 drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form. All drill team members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department during the month of May.

### **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 director 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 drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director 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 head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A three week, or less, transfer probation 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 drill team 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 spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team 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.

#### **JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCE**

- A. Performances at pre-district games and non-district GISD games (example: Rockwall, Tyler Lee, etc.) are at the discretion of the director and campus principal.
- B. All GISD junior varsity drill teams must attend all GISD junior varsity football games.

#### **VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCES**

- A. Each junior varsity team must attend a minimum of 3 varsity games.
- B. Attendance at all other varsity games is optional and at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

#### **BASKETBALL GAME PERFORMANCES**

- A. Each junior varsity team must perform a minimum 3 freshman or junior varsity basketball games.
- B. Attendance at varsity basketball games is optional and at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

#### **PARADES**

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

#### **OTHER PERFORMANCES**

Additional performances such as dance department shows, special events, spring shows, community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

#### **SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Contest, Elite Groups, etc)**

Refer to page 5 of the VAPA Handbook

#### **COST OF JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM**

In order to keep junior varsity drill team affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$600 spending limit. A price list will be provided in each individual schools' information packet.

#### **JUNIOR VARSITY COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each JV member with a performance field uniform that includes a skirt, overlay, sleeves, and sequin belt.

- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

## **Appendix C: Drill Team – Varsity**

### **VARSITY DRILL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS**

The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the 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 currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may tryout at that campus. A student may only tryout for one GISD school. Varsity drill team is for students who are entering grades 10-12.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A parent/student meeting will be called by the director prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Additional information such as cost of membership, rehearsal, and performance dates will be included in the informational packet. This information must be approved by the building principal and the VAPA department prior to distribution. 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. A mandatory meeting for all students and parents/guardians will be required following the tryout process. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend the post tryout meeting will forfeit the members place on the team. Pre-tryout and post-tryout meetings will be determined by the campus principal and director.
- B. Varsity drill 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 drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form. All drill team members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department during the month of May.
- C. All current varsity drill team members will be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. EXCEPTION: drill team members who have already been selected to serve as a team officer (dance, sergeant, social, squad officer) for the next school year will be exempt from the line tryouts. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. Video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 2)
- D. If a student is ineligible according to UIL standards for extracurricular activities at the time of tryouts, they can participate in any out-of-school workshops or pre-tryout judging. They will be able to tryout before the judges.
- E. The Garland Independent School District will hold a centralized tryout for the selection of high school varsity drill team line members. The goal of the centralized tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school drill team candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, spring semester, as determined by the Director of Visual and Performing Arts, principals and directors. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to

audition must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application, clinic, or tryout fees for students trying out for drill team.

- F. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Visual and Performing Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be dropped. Each candidate must score a minimum of 70 out of 100 points in order to be placed on a drill team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates who earn the mandatory 70 points from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or Director of Visual and Performing Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the team are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, football, basketball, contest, spring show, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and director.
- H. Students with Disabilities: See page 1
- I. Injury, Use of Video, and Video Usage Guidelines: See page 2

### **TRYOUTS**

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, directors, principals, technical assistant, and VAPA designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing drill team members who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate. PARENTS will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Visual and Performing Arts for tryouts. A VAPA designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include directors from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credential and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the drill team candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of drill team members and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score

sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Standard of Uniformity, Presence, and Projection (15pts), Tryout Dance (40pts), Kick/Field Entrance (30pts), Right Split (5pts), Left Split (5pts), Right Jump Split (5pts)

- D. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and VAPA designee will be allowed in the tabulation room. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the drill team director and assistant will be allowed in the room to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation room. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the judge's average score. In order to be placed on the drill team, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel, a candidate must earn an average of 70 out of the possible 100 points. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, the Director of Visual and Performing Arts, or the VAPA designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal. Call backs will be made if necessary.
- E. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also on line. A school designated area and an on-line address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location.
- F. Request for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

#### **VARSITY DRILL TEAM COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide field uniform pieces excluding hats, boots, body suits, petticoats, and tights. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- B. Award blankets will be provided to senior drill team members who have not already been awarded any other award blanket or jacket by GISD organizations.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

#### **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 director 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 drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.

- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director 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 head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout 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 drill team 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 spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team 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.

#### **VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONTEST**

All varsity drill teams will participate in competition. Members will be required to try out for each contest dance. The expectation is that every member will be in at least one contest routine. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each contest member.

## **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 tryout for one GISD school.

- A. Each director 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 will 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 2, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are welcome to tryout regardless of grade eligibility.
- D. Tryout clinics and date 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 VAPA designee.
- E. Candidates must receive a minimum score of 50 out of 100 in order to be selected as a member of the team. Selection criteria includes: Presentation (25 points), Technique (50 points), and Execution (25 points).
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the sponsor). Request of 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, principal, and VAPA 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 afterschool 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. All Step Team members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department during the month of May.

### **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 is 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.

## **Appendix E: World Dance Company**

### **WORLD DANCE COMPANY 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 tryout for one GISD school.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the tryout packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parent 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 will be required to try out for the company 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 2, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are welcome to tryout regardless of grade eligibility.
- D. Tryout clinics and date will be determined by the director and campus principal. Judges will be provided by Garland ISD. Three judges will be selected by the Director of Visual and Performing Arts.
- E. Candidates must receive a minimum score of 70 out of 100 in order to be selected as a member of the company. Selection criteria includes: Presentation/Uniformity (10 points), Confidence/Projection (15 points), Folkloric dance (30 points), Latin based dance (30 points), Overall Rhythm/Timing (15 points).
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the director). Request of scores should be made through the school principal's office.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the World Dance Company 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), dance concerts, community events, and competition.
- 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 director.
- I. Auditions will be closed to the public, except for judges, director, principal, and VAPA designee.
- J. A mandatory meeting will be held after the auditions for parents and members of the company. Financial expectation and payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding afterschool practices and performances/events.
- K. World Dance Company 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 WDC, the member will be required to complete the

physical form. All WDC members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department during the month of May.

### **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 director 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 drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director 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 head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout 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 drill team 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 spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team 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.

### **WORLD DANCE COMPANY COSTS COVERED BY GISD**

- A. GISD will provide each WDC member with a costume and shoes.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

### **SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Contest, Elite Groups, etc.)**

Refer to page 5 of the VAPA Handbook

**Garland Independent School District Visual and Performing Arts Handbook  
Cheerleading, Drill Team, Step, and World Dance Company  
Permission, Commitment, and Signature Page**

**Student Name (Please Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Parent/Guardian (Please Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the VAPA Group you are auditioning for:**

Cheer \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Varsity Drill Team \_\_\_\_\_ Varsity Drill Team \_\_\_\_\_  
Step Team \_\_\_\_\_ World Dance Company \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read each statement and initial. A candidate/member and a legal parent/guardian signature and date is required at the end of the statements.**

**Candidate/Member:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read, and understand all of the information in this tryout packet and agree to abide by all rules and regulations regarding tryouts.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the judges' decision is final.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the VAPA Handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the VAPA Group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the GISD District Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all rules and regulations. (Internet access [www.garlandisd.com](http://www.garlandisd.com) )

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the financial obligation involved with being a member. I also understand that I will not receive any items, but I must still attend any events/performances, if I have not fulfilled my financial contract.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand that in addition to yearly tryouts, to remain on the team, there may be weekly tryouts conducted by the teacher (coach, director, and sponsor).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand that I must pass all of my classes, with the exception of waved classes, to be eligible to perform. (Refer to TEA/UII Regulations).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand my behavior and conduct will be held to higher standard on this team, both in and out of school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand that I am required to attend all mandatory practices, performances, contest(s), and events. An unexcused absence will receive consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am to ride to and from all events and performances on school transportation with my team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree to abide by the Standard of Uniformity (hair, makeup, and nails) that was established by a committee of my peers.

**Legal Parent/Guardian:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read, and understand all of the information in this tryout packet and agree to abide by all rules and regulations regarding tryouts.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the judges' decision is final.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the VAPA Handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the VAPA Group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the GISD District Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all rules and regulations. (Internet access [www.garlandisd.net](http://www.garlandisd.net) )

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand the financial obligation and payments involved with my student being a member. I also understand that my student will not receive any items, but must still attend any events/performances, if I have not fulfilled my financial contract.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand that in addition to yearly tryouts, to remain on the team, there may be weekly tryouts conducted by the teacher (coach, director, and sponsor).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received, read and understand that my student must pass all classes, with the exception of waved classes, to be eligible to perform. (Refer to TEA/UIIL Regulations).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand that my student's behavior and conduct will be held to higher standard on this team, both in and out of school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand that my student is required to attend all mandatory practices, performances, contest(s), and events.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my student is required to ride to and from all events and performances on school transportation with their team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree to the Standard of Uniformity (hair, makeup, and nails) that was established by a committee within the VAPA Group.

**Candidate/Member Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate/Member Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Parent/Guardian Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_