

Goose Creek Consolidated ISD High School Drill Team Constitution

Index

Article 1 – Name

Article 2 – Purpose

Article 3 – Membership

Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications

Article 5 – Tryout Procedures

Article 6 – Maintaining Membership

Article 7 – Officers

Article 8 – Demerit System

Article 9 – Interpretation of Constitution

Article 10 – Changing of Constitution

Article 1 – Name

The names of the organizations shall be the Celebrities of Robert E. Lee High School, the Stars of Ross S. Sterling High School and the Dazzlers of Goose Creek Memorial High School.

Article 2 – Purpose

The primary purpose of this organization is to promote school spirit through active participation in as many phases of school life as possible. The drill teams offer members the chance to support our school district and the community by giving time and effort to the advancement of school representation in areas ranging from support of school activities and athletic events to voluntary civic work. Membership in a district drill team program fosters responsibility, leadership, sportsmanship, and community awareness. Each member should reflect the highest standards of character, scholarship and ability.

Article 3 – Membership

Membership shall be open to all high school students who meet the requirements and agree to be governed by the GCCISD High School Drill Team constitution.

Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications

Section 1:

Tryouts for drill team will be held in the spring semester of the school year. The director and the principal or designee will set the specific dates for the tryout. Each candidate must meet the requirements of grades and conduct, return the drill team candidate application and permission slip, and have a parent/guardian attend the mandatory meeting. Candidates will consist of 8th to 11th grade students. The campus drill team director may decide to have a JV dance team. The criteria for the JV dance team will be discussed at the mandatory tryout meeting.

Section 2:

Tryout Criteria

- A. Before trying out, each candidate must have an overall average of 80 the six weeks prior to the actual tryout.

- B. Candidates must not have excessive conduct marks below satisfactory.
- C. Candidates must not have received more than three full or partial days' assignment to In School Suspension for the school year and must not have received any assignment to alternative campus or home suspension during the current school year.
- D. Each eligible candidate must participate in the weeklong Drill Team Clinic to learn the necessary procedures for tryouts.

Violation of any portion of Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications will disqualify a candidate from participation in all portions of the drill team tryouts.

Article 5 – Tryout Procedures

After a student has successfully fulfilled all criteria set forth in Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications, she/he will be able to participate in the following tryout procedures:

Section 1:

End of School Tryouts

- A. Training Clinic
 1. Tryout routines and required skills will be taught to candidates after school.
 2. Candidates must be present in school to attend the afternoon sessions of the training clinic.
- B. Judging of Candidates
 1. Candidates must be present in school on the date of judging.
 2. Judging will be done in groups determined by the director.
 3. Judging of candidates is based on technical skills, flexibility, projection, coordination, memory, and overall performance.
 4. Judges will have full access to candidates' tryout packet as needed.
 5. All candidates must obtain a minimum score of 80 out of a possible 100 points to be named to the campus drill team program. A score of 80 or above does not guarantee a candidate a spot on the drill team.
 6. Judging of candidates will be done during closed session.
 7. Candidates will wear attire approved by the campus drill team director.

Article 6 – Maintaining Membership in the Campus Drill Team Program

Section 1:

Six Weeks Grades

- A. Beginning with the first six weeks of the fall semester following selection to the campus drill team, a team member ruled ineligible as a result of receiving a grade below 70 in any class will be placed on warn status for grades for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with Senate Bill 1 and GCCISD guidelines for receiving a grade below 70 in a Pre-AP or advanced placement class will allow a team member to continue to participate in drill team activities.
- B. Any team member on warned status as a result of Article 6, Section 1, and Part A, that is ruled ineligible as a result of receiving a grade below 70 in any class will be placed on probation for grades

for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with Senate Bill 1 and GCCISD guidelines for receiving a grade below 70 in a Pre-AP or advanced placement class will not prevent a team member from being placed on probation for grades.

- C. Any team member on grade probation as a result of Article 6, Section 1, and Part B, who receives a six weeks grade below 70 in any class, will be dismissed from the drill team program for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with Senate Bill 1 and GCCISD guidelines for participation after a student fails Pre-AP or advanced placement class may not be used to prevent dismissal from the campus drill team program.
- D. Any team member who has been dismissed from the campus drill team program for the remainder of the year because of failing grades may tryout the following school year if she/he fulfills the portion of Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications. If the team member makes the drill team the next year, (s)he will resume his or her active status (assuming she/he succeeds in the tryout process) but will remain on grade probation for the entire first semester. For definition of grade probation, see Article 6, Section 1, and Part B.

Section 2:

Conduct

- A. Any team member not abiding by the GCCISD or campus dress code(s) including piercings and unnatural hair colors will not be permitted to perform and will receive demerits per day for insubordination (see Article 8 – Demerit System).
 - 1. Piercing to include but not limited to: nose, lip, excessive ear piercings and anywhere else visible while in uniform or practice wear.
 - 2. Natural hair colors include: blonde, black, brown, and a natural red tone. Any other colors are not permitted according to the GCCISD student code of conduct and will be subject to insubordination/demerits (See Article 8 – Demerit System).
 - 3. No visible tattoos are allowed.
- B. A team member receiving suspension (in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for a physical altercation may be dismissed immediately with administrative approval.
- C. Any team member holding a title, whether appointed or selected, that receives disciplinary action by administration may lose their rank or title for the remainder of the school year. This will be determined at the director and principal's discretion.
- D. Any team member dismissed through the demerit system or through voluntary resignation from drill team during the school year will be allowed to reestablish membership in the campus drill team program by trying out at the end of the current year tryouts. If membership is reestablished through the audition process, the student will be classified as a new member for the upcoming school year.

Section 3:

Responsibilities and Duties

Being a member of the campus drill team program is a time-consuming activity. It is important that members budget their time efficiently. A team member is expected to keep up with academic classes while participating in team activities. A team member who is a participant in other extracurricular requirements will be expected to fulfill his/her drill team requirements before fulfilling other extracurricular requirements. Conflicts between other extracurricular activities and team activities should be brought to the attention of the director and the other sponsor involved as

soon as possible and a solution should be worked out. Active status for drill team begins when a team member is selected and concludes on the last day of instruction of the following school year.

Summer Camp

- A. Each team member is required to attend a training camp held during the summer. The camp will be held in a location designated by the director and school principal.
- B. Camp expenses are the responsibility of the team member.
- C. A member will forfeit one game performance for each day or partial absence from camp.

Summer Practice

- A. Summer practice is mandatory of all members. Summer practice dates will be determined by the director.
- B. A member who is unable to attend any summer practice, for any amount of time, will be penalized at the discretion of the director.
- C. Each member will be required to complete *summer hours of dance technique as follows:
Officers – 16 hours (minimum)
Varsity Members – 12 hours (minimum)
Junior Varsity Members – 8 hours (minimum).

*Failure to complete required summer dance hours could result in forfeit of performances.

Fall Semester

Drill Team Class

- A. All members are required to be scheduled into designated team class.
- B. The grade of a member is determined by their participation, attitude in class, abilities to complete assignments and paperwork, and performance of dance skills
- C. Members will receive course credit according to the GCCISD curriculum guidelines.

School Practices

- A. Members practice regularly throughout the year, as indicated by the team calendar.
- B. Members will arrive on time, practice and stay until dismissed by the director. However, allowances will be made to attend tutorials after school until time designated by director.
- C. The only reasons accepted for absence are illness, accompanied with a doctor's note, death in the family, or religious event or activity.
- D. In an emergency, when a member is unable to attend practice, meetings, or performances, contact must be made to the director or an officer. Failure to complete responsibility will result in demerits being issued (see Article 8 – Demerit System).
- E. Members shall not be permitted to participate in an activity if she/he is absent for any reason from practice in which the director deems necessary to her/his participation. If a practice is missed the day prior to or day of performance, the member will be ineligible to perform in the activity.

Football Performances

- A. Members attending a football game are attending for 2 major reasons:
 - 1. To lend support to the football program by backing the cheerleaders, and Dance Team Officers in hand motions and cheers.
 - 2. To entertain at halftime
- B. Members will attend all games.
- C. Members are also required to attend all championship playoff games.
- D. Transportation to and from all home games will be determined by the director.
- E. Members will be required to travel to and from all away games on district provided transportation. Members with extenuating circumstances may ride home only with their parents. A note, stating the extenuating circumstance, signed by the parents, and a copy of their driver's license must be turned in for principal approval in a timely manner prior to the trip. The principal will then approve or disapprove and give a copy to the director. If the director does not receive approval from the principal prior to departure, the student will not be approved.
- F. Any member leaving with their parents from an away game will meet them after the game is over at location specified by the director. They will be dismissed to their parents only at that time.
- G. Members will march into the stadium in order and at attention (no talking or moving around).
- H. Members may not talk to anyone unless the director grants permission.
- I. Members will be assigned a seat at each stadium. No one is to change seats once the seat is assigned.
- J. Members are responsible for carrying everything they need into the stadium (i.e. jacket, blanket, etc.). No one is to receive anything from outsiders without permission from the director (i.e. flowers, jacket, programs, etc.)
- K. Restroom breaks will be at the discretion of the director.
- L. Members will not drink or eat in uniform at the stadium unless it is a team activity with director permission.
- M. Gum is never allowed when in uniform (see Article 8 – Demerit System).
- N. Members may not take part in the following:
 - 1. Any actions that draw the crowd's attention to any individual member.
 - 2. Any actions that would reflect negatively on the school and/or group.
 - 3. Demerits will be given (see Article 8 – Demerit System).
- O. No unauthorized persons may sit in the drill team section.
- P. A team member's transportation home after all games should be at the school at the time designated by the director. If the team member's transportation is not at the designated area one hour past the time designated, security will be called.
- Q. Members will not stop at any public place in uniform. Do not stop, or drive through, to get anything to eat or drink before or after the game (see Article 6, Section 4 – Uniforms).
- R. Football games, just like any other drill team activities, are school functions even though they are held off campus. All rules in our student handbook apply.

Parades

- A. Annually, the campus drill teams will perform in local parades. All of these are required activities.

Spring Semester

Competitions

- A. The drill team members may take overnight trips and compete in spring semester competitions. These are mandatory activities.

Dance Concert

- A. The annual dance concert will be held in the spring of each year.
- B. Dance Concert is a required activity. All academically eligible members will participate (performing, backstage, crew, etc.).

General

- A. Drill team members are frequently asked to perform/participate at special functions. Ample notice will be given. These events are mandatory.
- B. All team members, including all officers, will try out for all performances.

Fundraising Projects

- A. All members shall lend their support to all fund-raising projects and other activities participated in by the organization.

Personal Responsibility

- A. Members are responsible for notifying their parents/guardians of all activities.
- B. Members are responsible for turning in all forms, monies, etc. on time. (See Article 8 – Demerit System).
- C. Members are responsible for having transportation to and from all events unless transportation is provided by the district.

Section 4:

Uniforms

- A. Drill team members are required to wear certain uniforms throughout the school year. During football season a day will be designated for each uniform: field uniforms, warm ups and day uniforms. The field uniform consists of any apparel purchased by GCCISD and will be worn to football games, parades, and any other designated events as directed by the team sponsor. No member of the team should be seen in an incomplete uniform. These uniforms shall not be worn except on designated days and at designated functions with the approval of the director.
- B. If a drill team member is seen by directors, or directors are given proof (photograph, video, etc.) in uniform not at a performance without permission, the member will not be allowed to perform at the next performance, will have to check out a uniform for any other performances and will receive demerits (see Article 8 – Demerit System).

Section 5:

Social Media

- A. Consequences of inappropriate social media posts:
 - 1. Any drill team member documented for using profane, obscene, or indecent remarks, or racially or ethnically offensive language and/or obscene gestures, language or gestures that is visibly or audibly observable via social, physical or electronic media will receive five (5) non-removeable demerits. This includes original posts/comments by drill team members as well as posts/comments affiliated with the member through “likes” or re-posts.
 - 2. Any drill team member documented for a Level III Violation (GCCISD Student/Parent Handbook, Pg. CC11, CC12) that is visibly or audibly observable via social, physical or electronic media will be dismissed from the team.

Article 7 – Officers

Section 1:

- A. Total number of officers may vary from year to year depending on team size.
- B. It is the duty of all the officers to be ambitious, determined, and to maintain pride in self and in the organization. An officer must learn everything expected of the organization, cooperate with and be responsible to the directors and other officers, and maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization. Each officer must always be a good representative of the organization and be the finest example of the ideal team member demonstrated by her attitude, scholarship, and citizenship.

Section 2:

Officer Tryout Qualifications

- A. Tryouts for officers will be held in the spring semester of the school year. The director and the principal or designee will set the specific dates for the tryout. Each candidate must meet the requirements of grades and conduct, return application information on the due date and complete the week of tryouts. Candidates must be on active status in order to try out for officer and must have been on the team for the entire year preceding the tryouts.
- B. Candidates may consist of 9th, 10th, and 11th grade team members at the discretion of the director depending on the size of the program.
- C. Before trying out, each candidate must have an overall average of 80 and pass every course the six weeks prior to the actual tryout.
- D. Candidates must not have excessive conduct marks below satisfactory.
- E. Candidates must not have been assigned days or partial days to In School Suspension for the school year and must not have received any assignment to alternative campus or home suspension during the current school year.
- F. Candidate must attend mandatory meeting with a parent to receive specific instructions regarding tryouts. If candidate does not attend meeting, the member will not be eligible to try out for officer.

Violation of any portion of Article 7, Section 2 – Officer Tryout Qualifications will disqualify a candidate from participation in all portions of the officer tryouts.

Section 3:

Officer Tryout Procedures

After a student has successfully fulfilled all criteria set forth in Section 2 – Officer Tryout Qualifications, they will be able to participate in the following tryout procedures:

- A. Field officer tryouts may consist of demonstrating common routine(s) (determined by director), solo routine (choreographed by the candidate), and an interview with the judges, teacher recommendations, team vote, and a project (determined by the director, ex. notebook or display board).
- B. Social officer tryouts may consist of project(s) (determined by the director) that may consist of creative ideas, organizational skills, formal plans, banquet plans and spirit ideas for the team. They will also be scored on teacher recommendations, team vote and an interview with the judges.
- C. Judging of Candidates:
 1. Candidates must be present in school on the date of judging.
 2. A panel of judges who are not employees of GCCISD will judge the candidates.
 3. Specific judging criteria for each section and an example of judges' rubric will be given to candidate prior to tryouts.
 4. Judging of candidates will be done during closed session.
 5. Candidates will wear attire approved by the director.

Section 4:

Maintaining Officer Position

- A. An officer ruled academically ineligible at any point during the school year will lose their title of office until eligibility is regained, based on the adopted UIL eligibility calendar for GCCISD. This includes being recognized as an officer and all officer privileges and performances. A second failure will result in demotion of office and the team member will also be put on grade probation (see Article 6 – Section 1).
- B. Any officer receiving an academic eligibility waiver for Pre-AP, Honors or AP level courses will lose officer privileges as determined by the campus dance director.
- C. Any officer that resigns their position at any time throughout the year may not regain officer status for the remainder of the current school year.
- D. Officers will do extra performances which require extra practices. Officers will have extra practices as determined by the director.
 1. Special performances include, but are not limited to strut, pep rally, dance clinic, community performance, contest, basketball games, dance concert. Additional performances may be added.

Section 5:

Duties of Officers

- A. Specific duties for officers are detailed in the officer tryout packet to be given at the mandatory parent meeting.

Article 8 – Demerit System

All drill team rules must be followed. All guideline violations will be documented through the demerit system and kept in the school's drill team file. Repeated violations and/or accumulation of demerits will result in suspension from drill team activities and/or a hearing involving the student, parent, director, and principal or designee. Dismissal will result on the accumulation of 15 demerits during one year of service. Demerits will accrue for the member's term of service of one year.

When a member reaches a total of 5 demerits, a letter from the director will be sent home to the member and their parent/guardian. When a member reaches a total of 10 demerits, member will be put on probation. Probation includes being ineligible for the next upcoming performance with a possible parent and or principal conference. Dismissal will result when a member reaches 15 demerits.

Demerits will be issued, but not limited to, the following:

| Drill Team Activity Demerits – Removable | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Tardy to a required dance team activity | 1 demerit |
| 2 | Inappropriate attire for practice | 1 demerit |
| 3 | Wearing personal jewelry of any kind while in practice or in public uniform | 1 demerit |
| 4 | Wearing colored nail polish while in uniform | 1 demerit |
| 5 | Not turning in money, uniforms, forms, supplies, or duties, etc. on due date | 1 demerit/day |
| 6 | Not wearing the assigned program attire to school | 1 demerit |
| 7 | Improper dress when in uniform (wrong socks, bow, etc.) | 1 demerit |
| 8 | Chewing gum, eating, or drinking while in uniform/practice | 2 demerits |
| 9 | Excessive talking or turning around while in stand lines or at attention | 1 demerit |
| 10 | Assignment to afternoon detention | 2-3 demerits |
| 11 | Use of cell phone during dance team activity or practice without director permission | 2 demerits |
| 12 | Public display of affection including kissing and excessive body contact | 4 demerits |
| 13 | In public in partial uniform including hat or boots not on or untidy uniform (see Article 6 for further discipline) | 3 demerits |
| 14 | In public in uniform without permission from director (see Article for further discipline) | 3 demerits |
| Attendance Demerits – Removable | | |
| 15 | Leaving practice or scheduled events early | 2 demerits |

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|---|--|--------------------|
| 16 | Four approved absences will be allowed for doctor, dentist or family issue (not including excused absences due to extenuating circumstances such as extended illness under a doctor's care, hospitalization, etc.). After the four absences, demerits will be given for missing. Director(s) must receive prior notice of absence for absence to be considered "excused." Absences without prior director notification are considered unexcused and will result in member receiving 6 demerits | 6 demerits |
| 17 | Unexcused absence from required activity including practices | 6 demerits |
| 18 | Unexcused absence from required performance | 10 demerits |
| Conduct Demerits – NOT Removable | | |
| 19 | Leaving a required dance team activity without permission | 10 demerits |
| 20 | Receiving discipline action as a result of tardies or dress code | 1 demerit |
| 21 | Making decisions without prior consultation with director | 5 demerits |
| 22 | Unsportsmanlike behavior during a dance team activity | 5 demerits |
| 23 | Inappropriate conduct during a dance team activity | 5 demerits |
| 24 | Inappropriate content, language or gestures via social media or via text | 5 demerits |
| 25 | Lying | 5 demerits |
| 26 | Insubordination, disrespect, disobedience | 5-10 demerits |
| 27 | Assignment to ISS | 4 demerits per day |
| 28 | Proof of cheating | 3 demerits |
| Dismissal | | |
| 29 | Suspension from school or assignment to alternative campus | Dismissal |
| 30 | Use, possession, in the presence of, under or giving the impression of being under the influence of marijuana, controlled substance, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping or any other mood changing mind-altering, or behavior altering drugs including, but not limited to social media, text messaging, email images and other forms of electronic media or communication. | Dismissal |
| 31 | Participation in the illegal activities such as stealing, fighting, indecent exposure, or public lewdness including, but not limited to videos displayed on any social media, text messaging, email images and other forms of electronic media or communication. | Dismissal |

The director retains the authority, with the approval of the principal, to add demerits as needed for incidents, which may not be specifically mentioned in the list above. Removable demerits may be removed at the director and principal's discretion.

The director will obtain approval from the principal before issuing ten or more demerits for any one incident.

Article 9 – Interpretation of Constitution

This constitution has been prepared as a general guideline to the operation of the campus drill team programs. It must be understood that the students with whom this organization deals are all individuals; therefore, it is necessary to understand that every infraction and situation is unique and the campus drill team director, with the consent of the Campus Principal, District Director of Fine Arts and/or designated GCCISD executive administration, has the authority to render all judgments concerning any matter pertaining to the overall organization and its operation.

Article 10 – Changing of Constitution

This constitution should be reviewed annually, prior to the academic year and shall only be changed by the approval of the district's Director of Fine Arts or executive GCCISD administration members.