

## **Information on Auditions for the Oak Park Dance Team**

Interested in joining the Oak Park Dance Team? Here is some important information before you audition:

- OPDT is a year-round activity, with summer conditioning beginning in July\* and the final performance at the end of April/beginning of May \*Summer conditioning is currently TBD based on the current COVID-19 situation
- We primarily dance hip-hop, jazz funk, and contemporary
  - Dance and performance experience is recommended
- OPDT practices 3 times a week (6 hours total) and performs 18-20 times each season. Our current practice times are Monday/Wednesday/Thursday from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM.
- Our 2019-2020 team mission consists of these qualities: Positive attitude, hard-work, motivation, friendship, inclusivity. OPDT dancers embody this spirit and are dedicated to their team and school!
- Before you audition, please review the contact to see if this is a program that you would like to be a part of (located at the bottom of this document).

### **FAQ:**

#### **1. How many dancers make the team?**

All dancers must audition for the team, including returning members. For the past few years, the size of the team has ranged anywhere from 16-22 dancers total. There is no maximum amount of dancers per grade (i.e. max. of 5 freshman, max of 5 sophomores, etc.).

#### **2. Should I have dance experience before auditioning?**

Dance experience is recommended! Dancers should have technical training who work hard, are committed to the team, and can fully dedicate the time and hard work that Dance Team requires. It is important that the dancers is not just talented technically, but that they possess the qualities of a great teammate.

#### **3. What events does Dance Team perform?**

OPDT performs at football and basketball halftimes, rallies, assemblies, the annual Dance Team Showcase, and other school events. Dancers should feel comfortable and confident performing in front of their community.

#### **4. Does the Dance Team fulfill the P.E. requirement?**

Yes, Dance Team does fulfill the P.E. requirement, as long as you participate in at least 50% of the performances for the season.

**5. Can I still dance at my studio if I am on Dance Team?**

Yes! Additional training is encouraged! This is a manageable task, but please make sure that you do not overwhelm yourself, as you are a student beyond all! As long as you communicate with your studio director the anticipated performances and requirements for the year, you can absolutely continue to dance at your studio.

**Virtual Audition materials will be released on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please visit our website to retrieve these materials or email Coach Gentile at [egentile@opusd.org](mailto:egentile@opusd.org).**

## *10 Qualities that Require Zero Talent*

1. Being on time
2. Work ethic
3. Effort
4. Energy
5. Body language
6. Passion
7. Doing extra
8. Being prepared
9. Being coachable
10. Attitude



## **2020-2021 Oak Park High School Dance Team Guidelines/Contract**

This contract is for each member of the Oak Park High School Dance Team listing policies, expectations, guidelines, and commitment responsibilities required for each of the dancers on this team. By signing this contract and agreeing to the statements below, you as an OPHS student are a participant of this team for the 2020-2021 season.

### **Basic Guidelines:**

1. Dancers must be in the dance room dressed and ready to participate 5 minutes before practice starts. If you are going to be late/absent, **you must call or text Coach Gentile** at (630) 659-5022. If you show up to practice late without communicating with Coach or captains and without a proper excuse, there will be consequences.
2. You must be present for **all periods** during the school day in order to participate in practice and/or perform at a game or rally. If you know you are going to miss any part of the school day, you must get prior approval from Mr. Meskis to participate in practice and/or performance (48 hours before a performance).  
\*\*\*\*Have your parents email Assistant Principal Mr. Meskis at least 48 hours in advance if you are going to miss any part of the school day on a practice or a performance day to get approval to participate: [jmeskis@opusd.org](mailto:jmeskis@opusd.org).
3. During the week of a performance, you must be present at practice for the entire week. If you are absent for a practice during the week of a performance, you will be exempt from performing.
4. If you have 2 unexcused absences OR 3 tardies, you are not eligible to perform at the upcoming performance.
5. Come to practice prepared: proper attire, shoes, and water. No gum or dangly jewelry.
6. Cell phones must be on vibrate or silent. The use of cell phones during practice is only permitted during breaks.
7. If you miss a practice, **it is your responsibility to learn the choreography and formations from the captains or teammate(s) before attending the next practice.**
8. Show respect to the coach, captains, teammates, and guest choreographers. Pay attention, no talking while the choreographer is talking, and raise your hand if you have any questions.
9. If you have any conflicts with another teammate, try to resolve amongst yourselves. If that is not an option, please make the coach aware of the conflict(s) in order to assist in a resolution.
10. Do not alter uniforms in any way (i.e. no tying shirts, rolling up pants, etc.).

### **Absences:**

Excused: Illness, family emergency/obligation, academic purposes (with previous communication with Coach)

Unexcused: Hair/nail appointment, you don't feel like it, etc.

**YOU MUST GIVE ME AT LEAST 7 HOURS NOTICE OF YOUR ABSENCE.** Failure to do this will count as an unexcused absence. I am very reasonable with the number of absences as I know you are a student/person above all. However, please do not take advantage of these policies.

NOTE: You do receive a P.E. credit for being a member of Dance Team, however, if you do not perform in at least 50% of the performances throughout the year, you will not receive credit.

### **Tardies:**

Excused (and coach is notified at least 7 hours beforehand): 7<sup>th</sup> period, doctor's appointment, academic purposes

Unexcused: Everything else

If you are not dressed and ready 5 minutes before practice, you will be considered tardy.

**Social Media:**

You are a representation of your school, the team, and yourself. I expect your social media should be CLEAN. Absolutely no references to alcohol, vaping, drugs, promiscuity, or overall vulgar content are allowed on your social media accounts. If you would not show your grandparents, do not post. Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in suspension or expulsion from the team.

**Above all:**

Work hard and be kind!!! It is a privilege to be a part of the Dance Team. Dance Team should be an open and accepting environment that allows us to encourage, challenge, and inspire one another. As a coach, I want to emphasize the value of teamwork and creativity to my dancers. To be a member of any team is something that is incredibly special, so please attend every event with an open heart and mind and share your passion with others!

Please email Coach Gentile at [egentile@opusd.org](mailto:egentile@opusd.org) if you have any questions or concerns.