Diamonds FAQ'S

1. Is there a set number of girls at tryouts to make the team?
No, there is no set number. Potential Diamonds must score a 16 or better to make the team. Candidates achieving a score of 8-15 are placed in the drill team fundamentals class for the upcoming school year.

2. Are there tryouts for each performance or each routine?
Only one tryout is held per routine. If the dancer does not make the routine then she will not dance for performances it is scheduled for.

3. How much does it cost to be a Diamond?
The first year is the most expensive because every Diamond is required to have the proper practice clothes including shoes, camp clothes and camp fee along with purchasing the field hat and boots to wear with their field uniform. The Directors try to keep basic practice clothing the same from year to year thus saving money any year after that. For instance, the new body wear required for old girls last year was under $100.

4. If I'm in Drill Fundamentals is there is a fee for this class?
Yes, there is. Drill Fundamentals members are required to purchase some basic dance clothing items. The fee is around $100. This includes dance top, dance pants, jazz shoes(dance shoes), Drill Fundamentals t-shirt, and sport bra. The items are used again in Diamonds.

5. When do Diamonds have practice?
Diamonds have practice every day during 5th period and after school from 2:45-4:45. During contest season there will be some additional evening practices and Saturday practices.

6. What is a typical practice for Diamonds?
Check roll, run, stretch, kicks, technique, work on performances and then circle (announcements).

7. Do Diamonds have an off season?
No, this is a **year-round** extracurricular organization. Fall semester consists of Football season and Spring semester consists of competitions, trip, spring show and camp.

8. **Are grades, conduct and attendance important**?
Yes, UIL rules apply to the Diamonds as well as athletes. No pass, no play. A Diamond may not fail more than 9 weeks total if she wishes to remain a member. It is important for Diamonds to be at school and practice every day. A member must be present every day during football season in order to perform at that week's game. She may not miss more than 3 times per contest routine to be eligible to remain in the routine.

ALL ABOUT DIAMOND AUDITONS

Leslie Grant-Director-Grantlc@pearlandisd.org

1. Grades and Conduct

- In Order to participate in Diamonds, a strong academic base is necessary.
- The Directors will check for any disciplinary actions taken by the principal's office. Because Diamonds represent our school, it is important that each Diamond displays responsibility, cooperation and respect for authority at all times. A prospective member who has been suspended, or received ALA will not be allowed to tryout or to continue membership as a Diamond. (EXCEPTION: a student may serve an assignment for dress code or tardies only.)

2. Clinic

- Meets **March 21 & 22(Monday, Tuesday)** from 4:45 to 6:45 in DHS FINE ARTS Gym
- Wear black leotard or black top, black dance pants and jazz shoes. Hair needs to be pulled back securely. (NO covers-ups, gum, or jewelry.)
- If absent, please contact Mrs. Grant
- You will learn a high kick sequence and a jazz routine.
- Applications are due no later than **Wednesday, 7pm March 9.**
- You must attend entire clinic in order to audition
- **Candidates MUST have a medical release form filled out and on file with Mrs. Grant before they can attend and participate a practice session.**

3. Auditions

~Mock Auditions—Thursday, March 24 in the DHS Dance room 4:45-6:45

~ Auditions—Friday, March 25 in the DHS FA gym at 4:45. This will take place in between Officer Auditions.

- Candidates must have a minimum score of 17.5 on their Student Office Evaluation form to make the Diamond Line or Drill Fundamentals Class. Candidates who do not make the minimum score on the Office Evaluation will not be allowed to audition.
- Each of the four judges will rate each candidate from 1-5 that night. A candidate must make a score of 16 or better to make the Diamond Line. Auditions are held groups of 3-5 candidates. Typically in groups of 4.
- Candidates achieving a score of 8-15 are placed in the Drill Fundamentals class for the upcoming fall semester.
- Each Tryout group performs right and left splits, the kick sequence, and the jazz routine for the first round of auditions. Call backs are held at the judge's discretion.
- **Audition Attire**: For all parts of the audition you must wear your hair pulled back in a bun, a black leotard or top, black jazz pants and black jazz shoes. ABSOLUTELY NO cover-ups, jewelry, nail polish, or gum. Each candidate will receive a number to pin to her chest.
- Selection will be based on jazz technique (coordination, style, grace); high kick technique (flexibility, strength, endurance); projection; memory; splits; overall appearance (posture, carriage).
- Auditions are closed to the public. The Director and Principal will review your individual score sheet comments, after one week, if desired by the student and parents. Please remember, the judges' decisions are final. **Auditions are closed to spectators**. A school administrator is present for auditions.

Candidates find out Friday night if they've been selected for '22-'23 Diamonds or Drill Fundamentals member.

There will be a MANDATORY MEETING March 29, 2022 at 7 P.M. via zoom for girls that were selected to be a part of the 22-23 Diamond Team .

Links will be sent to parent email on file.

Girls that are placed in Drill Fundamentals do not attend this meeting.

4. Emergency Auditions

- If a student is seriously ill (hospitalized) or hurt (broken bone or torn muscle), she may request to audition late. The Directors will determine the specific date no later than March 25
- The directors and one other adult will evaluate you.
- You are responsible for learning all audition material on your own.
- All the audition guidelines apply to emergency auditions.

5. Expenses:

- Diamonds are responsible for providing their own supplies. This includes practice wear, warm-ups, socks, shoes, bags, performance make-up, hair accessories, t-shirts, boots, summer camp fees and other expenses that may occur throughout the year.
- Returning Diamonds are responsible for paying between $150.00 to $250.00 plus camp fees ($350.00). This money pays for replacing any lost or damaged items. Also, there will be changes and additions to our wardrobe as well as camp fees.
- New members are responsible for paying between $850.00 to $950 plus camp fees ($350.00). This money pays for practice wear, warm-ups, shoes, bags, performance make-up, hair accessories, t-shirts, boots.
- New Diamond members may divide the expenses into as many as four payments.
  - **The** first **payment is due April 1, 2022**
  - The **second** payment is due **April 15th**
  - The **third** payment is due **May 2nd**
  - The **fourth** payment is due **May 19th**

  Those not paid in **FULL** by ***May 19th*** **will not** receive practice clothing until the balance is paid in full.
- **Candidates placed in Drill Fundamentals must pay their balance in full by May 19th**
- Once items have been ordered no refunds can be issued.

6. Facts about Diamonds

- Dance experience helps but is not necessary to make the team.
- There is no set number of members.
- Grade classification does not matter—skill and a positive attitude do!!
- Diamond members follow a strict discipline system.
- There is not a standard appearance required (height, hair length, etc.)
- In order to succeed in dance team, the positive aspects of being a member (performances, friendships, social events, gaining responsibility, team work, etc.) must outweigh the challenging rehearsals.
- Candidates must be in strong physical and emotional conditions that allow them to endure long, vigorous practices, performances and other events.
- It is not necessary for candidates to have any previous knowledge in dance team. The candidates will be taught everything they need to know for auditions during the practice sessions. Any candidate who does not attend the practice sessions is responsible for any missed material on her own time.

7. Summer Camp and practices

- All Diamonds are required to attend all summer practices and summer camps.
  - Pre Camp Practice is May 17-19 at the DHS gym from 4:30-6:30
  - Failure to participate in ShowMakers summer camp will result in the dismissal from the team. **Team camp is June 14-16**
  - Diamond 2-A-Days are **MANDATORY**. The dates are **Aug 1-6th and Aug 8**

8. Booster Club

All Diamond parents are strongly encouraged to be members of the Diamond Booster Club. There is a variety of Booster Club Memberships

9. Studio Lessons(for DRILL FUNDAMENTALS members)

All DRILL FUNDAMENTAL members) are STONGLY encouraged to take studio lessons during the year. This will ensure that each member is prepared to be a team member that can contribute to the highest possible level of individual performance. As a consistent contest champion and a varsity level organization, it is the dance technique learned from studio lessons that have assured our students can perform at the highest level possible.

- Weekly lessons are STONGLY encouraged each month. We would like you to choose a turns/Leaps combo, jazz class or a ballet class (or something of a similar title). If you are unsure if your class falls in one of the above categories please come speak to a Director.
- Minimum of 45min-1 hour a week. Students may take additional lessons each month if their

ALL 2022-2023 DIAMONDS MUST ABIDE BY THE DIAMOND HANDBOOK.

The following documents are due on or before March 9, 2022 be eligible for auditions:

1. **Diamond Application via this link https://forms.gle/AcW6qc7t82epqetJ8**
2. **A copy of the MOST RECENT report card(2nd nine weeks)- submitted via Google Docs**
3. **Medical Release Form –submitted via Google Docs**
4. **Audition Permission Form- submitted via Google Docs**
5. **Student Evaluation Form - submitted via Google Docs**

Performing Rules

- A member must be present at all rehearsals in order to perform unless special permission is obtained in advance from the director.
- A member is cut from the line for the following reasons: appearance, lack of memory, technique, projection, flexibility, coordination, strength and endurance. The Directors make the final decision on who will make the dance.
- If a member is absent or tardy to a rehearsal, performance or work session, she is held responsible for all announcements or information given during the missed activity.

Demerits:

- Demerits reinforce the Diamond/PISD student code of conduct/handbook. This code sets high standards for its members. Demerits are categorized as minor, serious and major.

10 demerits	probation
15 demerits	dismissed from the team

*****The directors may assign demerits for offenses not listed.**

- Any dance officers and the directors at any Diamond rehearsal performance, or function may give demerits to any Diamond member, regardless of their squad.
- The officer of each squad keeps a record of each member's demerits.

Attendance:

- Not calling Diamond officer to notify director of being late or absent for rehearsal, performance, work session, etc. **CALL MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE EVENT.**
- Being tardy to any Diamond rehearsal, performance, work session, etc.
- Leaving a Diamond rehearsal, performance, or function early without the director's prior approval.

DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL
DIAMOND DANCE TEAM
AUDITON PERMISSION FORM

I give my daughter permission to audition for the 2022-2023 Dawson High School Diamond Dance Team or Drill Fundamentals Class.

I have read, understand and accept the 2022-2023 Diamond Dance Team Candidate Information Packet. I understand and accept of the eligibility requirements, scoring criteria and financial obligations.

I understand that the judges' decision is final.

Freshmen Diamonds are responsible for paying between $850.00 to $900.00 plus camp fees($350.00). This money pays for practice wear, warm-ups, shoes, bags, performance make-up, hair accessories, t-shirts, boots, etc.

Drill Fundamentals Members are responsible for paying around $100 for class fees.

I also understand and accept that ALL 2022-2023 Diamonds will abide by the Dawson High School Diamond Handbook.

_____ _____
Parent/ Guardian Signature **Date**

_____ _____
Diamond Candidate Signature **Date**

DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEAM

MEDICAL RELEASE

I, _____, Parent/guardian of _____
authorize Mrs. Grant to provide permission for any emergency medical services deemed necessary for my son/daughter. I understand that any medical expenses incurred will be the responsibility for the parent/guardian.

Please describe any pre-existing medical conditions or allergic reactions to medication your child may have.

_____

_____

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Medical Insurance Yes___ No____

Company_____

Policy Number_____

Student Evaluation for Diamonds

Candidate's Name_____ **School I.D. #_____**
(Please print) Last First

Current classification (please circle): 8 9 10 11

Attach a copy of current year's 2nd 9 weeks report card and/or current progress report to this form. Additional copies of a student's report card may be obtained from your counselor or registrar.

PRE TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

A. Candidates must be academically eligible at the time of auditions.
B. A candidate is required to have excellent classroom citizenship/conduct. No "U's" in conduct and no more than 1 "N" for the ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.
C. A candidate is required to have excellent disciplinary records in keeping with district policies.
D. A candidate may not have chronic absences in any one class during the current school year.
E. 4-7 missed periods = 1 full day absence; All absences are counted exceptions will be made for medical (M)or UIL/School Sponsored Trips.

----- PLEASE HAVE THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE STAFF MEMBER SIGN------

A. Student's Grade (based on 2nd 9 weeks report card) **_____**
1.5 points per A
1.0 points per B
0.5 points per C

Maximum of 10.5 points

B. Student's Absence Average (current 2021-2022 school year) **_____**
0 absences = 10
4 or less days missed = 8
5-7 days missed= 5
8 or more days missed= 0
(maximum 10 points)
# of Absences _____ Attendance Clerk Signature _____

C. Student's Office Referral Record (current 2021-2022 school year) **_____**
0 referrals = 10
1 referral = 5
2 or more referrals = 0
(maximum 10 points) # of referrals _____ AP Secretary Signature _____

Referral Reason: _____

TOTAL STUDENT EVALUATION POINTS (maximum 30.5 points) **_____**

You must have a minimum score of 17.5 to audition.