

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. Once on the team, 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 purchase the proper practice clothes, shoes, camp clothes, field hat and boots to wear with their field uniform, as well as paying the camp and meal fees. 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 (spring) 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 AUDITIONS

Leslie Grant, Director
Grantlc@pearlandisd.org

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.)

Candidates MUST have a medical release form filled out and on file with Mrs. Grant to receive the audition video.

2021 Audition Dates/Process

Wednesday 3/10 - All Audition Applications are due by 6 pm. Please email to grantlc@pearlandisd.org.

Thursday 3/11 - Google Folders with audition numbers will be assigned to candidates. If you do not have access to your google folder by Friday (3/12) by 12 pm please contact me at grantlc@pearlandisd.org.

Sunday 3/20- Tryout music and an instructional video of the dance will be sent via Dropbox link through REMIND (Text this message @diamau to 81010). Candidate will learn the routine on their own, as well as the kick sequence.

Sunday 3/20 - Please upload a head shot of yourself into your google folder.

Tuesday 3/23 - Open Dawson FA (Fine Arts) Gym. Diamond Officer Candidates will be available from 4:45 pm - 6:45 pm for help/questions on the audition routine. We WILL NOT be teaching the routine. You must learn before you come. This is only for clarification on choreography/help with technique. You MUST bring your own water, wear a mask, and do the COVID self-screen before you arrive.

Thursday 3/25 - Open Dawson FA Gym. Diamond Officer Candidates will be available from 4:45 pm -7:00 pm for help/questions on the audition routine. We WILL NOT be teaching the routine. You must learn before you come. This is only for clarification on choreography/help with technique. You MUST bring your own water, wear a mask, and do the COVID self-screen before you arrive. You may also use this time to record yourself.

Friday 3/26 - **Audition Videos must be uploaded to your Google Folder by 8:00 am. Late submissions will not be accepted. This hard deadline is necessary to give judges enough time to watch and score all auditions.**

Saturday 3/27 - Results will be posted on Mrs. Grant's teacher webpage by audition number no later than 2:00 pm.

Instructions for Tryout Submission

- Wear all black, any dance shoe, barefoot or socks (if indoors), hair in a high slicked high bun, no jewelry, make-up to look presentable to judges & create a visible number large enough to safety pin across your chest. (Please use white paper.)
- Use any space you are able - utilize backyards, garages, living room (move furniture if able), driveway, etc.
- Music will need to be played from a sound system in the candidate's space. It needs to be loud enough for the judges to hear on their end.
- Make sure your camera is setup securely for us to see what you are doing.
- Make sure that all skills are shown. Don't be too far away from the camera but also don't be too close.
- Please record horizontally.
- Only **ONE** submission is allowed. Your entire video should be no longer than 4 minutes.
- You will:
 - State your name and number
 - Show right split (hold for 10 seconds)
 - Show left split (hold for 10 seconds)
 - Perform kick sequence
 - Perform Tryout routine (One full take. Do not splice together multiple performances.)
 - Perform separately:
 - Right double/triple
 - Right calypso
 - Right turning center
 - Right side 2 fouettes into a double/triple

Judging

- All application & video submissions are private. Mrs. Grant, Ms. Railey, our Fine Arts administrator, and the judges will be the only people who can view submissions. Our Fine Arts administrator will have access to the Google Drive to monitor the entire process.
- Judges are aware of restrictions (space/floor) and will take that into account.
- All decisions made are final.
- If your student does not make Diamonds and wants to know what they could work on, I can email or send their score.

Scoring

- 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 for auditions. 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 candidate performs right and left splits, the kick sequence, and the jazz routine for the first round of auditions.
- Selection will be based on jazz technique (coordination, style, grace); high kick technique (flexibility, strength, endurance); projection; memory; splits; overall appearance (posture, carriage).

There will be a MANDATORY ZOOM MEETING for parents and new Diamonds on March 31, 2021 at 7 P.M. if you are selected for the 21-22 Diamond Team.

The zoom link will be sent to the email address we have on file for your parents and you to attend.

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

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 for any emergency auditions no later than March 27
- The directors and one other adult will evaluate you.
- All the audition guidelines apply to emergency auditions.

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, 2021**
 - ❖ The **second payment is due April 19th**
 - ❖ The **third payment is due May 6th**
 - ❖ The **fourth payment is due May 20th**

Those not paid in **FULL** by **May 11th** 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 20th**.
- Once items have been ordered no refunds can be issued.

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, teamwork, 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.

Summer Camp and Practices

- All Diamonds are required to attend all summer practices and summer camps.
- Pre-Camp Practice for all 2021-2022 Diamonds is May 18-20 at the DHS dance room from 4:45 pm - 6:45 pm for all 2021-2022 Diamonds.
- Failure to participate in ShowMakers summer camp will result in the dismissal from the team. **Team camp is scheduled for June 14-16, 2021.**
- Diamond 2-A-Days are **MANDATORY** and are scheduled for Aug 2-7 & Aug 9th.

Booster Club

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

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 studio offers.

ALL 2021-2022 DIAMONDS MUST ABIDE BY THE DIAMOND HANDBOOK.

The following documents are due on or before March 11, 2021 be eligible for auditions:

- 1. Audition Application**
- 2. A copy of the MOST RECENT report card (3rd nine weeks)**
- 3. Audition Permission/Medical Release Form (included in this packet - you do NOT need a physical)**
- 4. Student Evaluation Form**

Please use this link to apply and submit all documents.

<https://forms.gle/hg4pBCDKMzkCTmrJ8>

DIAMOND DANCE TEAM AUDITION PERMISSION FORM

I give my daughter permission to audition for the 2021-2022 Dawson High School Diamond Dance Team or Drill Fundamentals Class.

I have read, understand, and accept the 2021-2022 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 (\$400.00). 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 2021-2022 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 3rd 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 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 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.