

Westside High School

Pride Dance Team

Audition Packet



Auditions March 26th - 28th

PRIDE is a competitive, very disciplined, precision dance team. We excel in a variety of styles which include jazz, contemporary, high kick, pom, hip hop, open, and lyrical. Our movements are meant to be clean, unified, precise, and visual, emphasizing the look of the team as a unit. Respect, time management, and commitment are some of our core principles. It is also very challenging and physically demanding. Participation in the dance team, as well as any extracurricular activity, is a PRIVILEGE and not a right. Students must meet specific requirements to be selected and to participate. If you are chosen for the team, you will receive a constitution to be read in full and signed, agreeing to follow all rules and procedures. Failure to follow will result in demerits, probation or possible dismissal from the team. We are also the only team on campus that is considered both Athletics and Fine Arts and we are held to the high standards for both departments.

How will I be judged at Auditions?

Hopefuls will be judged on:

- **Jazz** technique, leaps, and turns
- **Pom** power, placement, and sharpness
- **Kick** height and technique
- **Splits** - **Right** leg split must be **ALL** the way down or extremely close, meaning 1 or 2 inches from the floor. Left leg split should be close as well.
- **Knowledge of the routine**
- **Projection, energy, and smile**
- **Potential and ability to blend with the style and skill level of the team as a whole**
- **Grades** - It is recommended that you have an average of at least 70 in each class prior to tryouts. You will need to submit a copy of your most recent **report card**. Grades will be checked during the year and the rules of No Pass/No Play will be followed. Should you make the team and you fail at any time, you are NOT eligible to perform! **Should you become ineligible twice you will be dismissed from the team.** Therefore, anyone who experiences difficulty in their studies may want to reconsider auditioning or make arrangements to participate in private tutoring. Keep in mind that Pride requires an extra time commitment, so you will have less free time and study time.
- **Teacher recommendations** - Well before tryouts, you will need to give a **recommendation sheet** to each of your teacher no later than **March 22nd**.
- **Timeliness in turning in paperwork**
- **Behavior, work ethic, attitude, and attentiveness during the tryout clinic**
- **Possible Personal interview**

***Please keep in mind that you are judged and scored in other areas as well!

***Previous members must audition each year.

***Being enrolled in Ms. Emert's class does not guarantee a spot on the team.

*****Pride is only looking for responsible and respectable students. Remember social media sites (Instagram, twitter, etc.) can ruin your reputation and hurt your membership on Pride. Please understand anything you put on the internet may be seen by anyone.**

*****Facial piercings and tattoos are not allowed on Pride and will result in you not making the team.**

Example skills in the routine

Double pirouette
A la seconds
Leaps
Turning centers
Calypso
Kicks

The Seasons of the Pride Dance Team

Being a member of Pride means COMMITMENT, it is a year-round commitment! Activities begin immediately following auditions and continue throughout the year, until the following auditions. This involves commitment on the member's part as well as their parents for a full year. To give you an idea of what lies ahead, a summary of the year is charted out below.

SPRING

- Auditions are the first activity of the new year, usually in March/April
- Officer auditions are held following team auditions.
- Spring Show is in April
- Payments for the new team due in May.

SUMMER

- Summer practice begins before camp, and in the beginning of August. These practices prepare and condition team members for camp and football season performances.
- Following camp, members will begin practice for the upcoming school year.
- Fundraising will begin.

FALL

- Practice will be held every day during the entire school year.
- Pep rallies are held during football season. Members actively participate and perform in the pep rallies.
- Football Games are held weekly throughout the month of September, October, and early November. Members are required to attend all football games.
- Play-off games are mandatory if the football team has a successful year. These games can run into the holidays and right up to Christmas break.
- Members will learn competition routines in November, December, and January. Some extra practices may be scheduled possibly even on Saturdays.

WINTER

- The team will perform at select basketball games and all academically eligible members are required to attend designated games.
- Competition season can begin as early as December and go into March. The team generally competes in two to four contests.
- Pride is very time consuming!

PRIDE IS fun, but it is also a huge commitment which requires hard work and long hours. The team meets before school, during 5th period, and some afternoons. We also have several evening and weekend performances. (The practice schedule is tentative and depending on space availability may be moved to later in the evenings or early in the morning.) You cannot always rely on the bus because we meet before school starts; the bus being late is not an excuse!

As you can see, drill team is a full year commitment. It is an honor to be selected as a member of this organization and it requires dedication not only from the dancers but from the parents as well. I hope each of you will be willing to give your support to your child and the team as they prepare for a successful year.

Financial Commitments

PRIDE IS also a financial commitment as there are many costs for uniforms, costumes, and activities. We will break down all fees in detail at the April meeting.

CAMP FEE

- Camp fees are approximately \$500 for line camp. You must attend camp to be on Pride.

UNIFORM

- Estimated \$900 (**New members**) for your practice wear, uniforms, and accessories. This will be divided into 3 separate payments. You will pay both companies directly and Pride through school Pay. After your new member year, the cost goes down drastically for the next year.
- **Old Members** estimated \$0-200 for new practice wear and replacement items. A new field hat is required every two years due to wear and yellowing. Dance shoes, often need replacement throughout the year.

CONSUMABLE FEE

- An estimated \$900 is due for the consumable fee. This will be separated into two payments of \$450 each. One payment of \$450 will be due in Aug and the other Oct 2023. **This cost may be raised through sponsorships, so it is possible to not pay out of pocket for the consumable fee.** If you do not get sponsorships, funds must be paid out of pocket. This is the basic operating expenses for Pride. This includes but not limited to: costumes, contest fees, banquet, spring show, buses, food, etc... HISD and WESTSIDE do not provide us with a budget. All funds come from the consumable fee, fundraisers, sponsorships, or parental support.

EXTRA

- Throughout the year there may also be small expenses such as t-shirts, food, or replacement items needed.
- Nationals/travel is a separate fee. This is in state year. Our approximate cost is \$500 to travel in 2025. There will be fundraisers throughout the year to help pay for Nationals, but you must do the work! If we do not fundraise enough, one must pay out of pocket. The more we raise through fundraisers and sponsorships the less you will have to pay. Everyone loves free! All monies fundraised will go towards the team not individuals.

RULES WITH FINANCIALS

- Everyone is required to participate in fundraising and acquiring sponsorships.
- If payments are not made and deadlines are not met, you unfortunately will not be able to participate and be a member of the team. NO EXCEPTIONS! Please start saving now!
- Should you quit the team or are dismissed from the team; any money that you have already paid is non-refundable. Items purchased will be withheld if money is still owed. So, please be prepared to make a commitment to the team. By auditioning you are understanding and agreeing to these rules.

Please start saving and looking for sponsors now. We will be proving sponsorship forms at our first meeting.

Pride Packerettes JV

Pride has a JV team called the Packerettes. If you do not make varsity there is possibility that you could be placed on the junior varsity team.

The Packerettes are the Junior Varsity level team that participates with the Pride Dance Team during the fall semester. Dancers will attend Line Camp, Summer Practices, and Football Season. Packerettes are expected to abide by the Pride Dance Team constitution with expectations and procedures set forth by the director. The inability to maintain grade eligibility will result in dismissal for Packerettes.

Summer Practices will be held in the second half of July all the way through to the start of the school year. Packerettes are expected to attend all practices prior to and following Line Camp.

Line Camp must be attended by both the Packerettes and Pride Dance Team members. Inability to attend Line Camp will result in dismissal from Packerettes.

Packerettes are ineligible to perform in Pep-Rally routines and Varsity's contest season. Packerettes are required to be in the Pride class period to maintain standing as a member of the JV team.

Packerettes must be able to make payments on time. Including but not limited to uniform pieces unless team sets are given out. Packerettes must be able to pay a fall semester activity fee of \$250 as well as participate in fundraising. Estimated uniform cost for JV is \$600.

Following the spring semester, Packerettes are placed into Ms. Emert's intermediate/advanced dance unless instructed otherwise.

***TBD-** If Packerette team size numbers allow an option to continue in the spring may occur. This would include a JV competition routine and spring show performance. More information will follow if it is a possibility.

Registration Form

Please click the link below to register for the 2024-2025 Pride Dance Team Auditions

<https://forms.gle/56rbceUiGNppR7y26>

Or you may scan the QR code to register.



You must also send a copy of your current report card (no screenshot of PowerSchool will be accepted) and photo to Ms. Emert at jena.emert@houstonisd.org

All registration paperwork is due by Friday March 22nd.

Timeline for the Audition process

Friday March 22nd - All paperwork is due.

Tuesday March 26th- 4:30-7:00 Learn the audition routine.

Wednesday March 27th- 4:30-7:00 Practice and run through of audition process.

Thursday March 28th - 5:00 until Finished -Team Auditions

Friday March 29th – 2024-2025 Team Announced via Pride’s Instagram Page

Teacher Recommendations

You will need a recommendation from each of your teachers. Please share the link below or QR code with them.

Teacher Recommendation Link

<https://forms.gle/EAGJVfBtXrsLLLPF7>

Scan the QR code to bring you to the recommendation Link.



All teacher recommendations are due by Friday March 22nd.