

Westside High School

Pride Dance Team

Audition Packet



Auditions April 1-4th

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, lyrical, and game day. 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.

Tryout Information

Timeline for the Audition process

Tuesday April 1st- All paperwork is due

Wednesday April 2nd - 4:30-7:00 Learn the audition routine. Location WHS main gym

Thursday April 3rd - 4:30-7:00 Practice and run through of audition process. Location WHS main gym

Friday April 4th - 5:00 until Finished -Team Auditions Location WHS main gym

Saturday April 5th – 2025-2026 Team Announced via Pride's Instagram Page

Wednesday-Friday is in person auditions

What to wear for the Audition process

Wednesday April 2nd – and Thursday April 3rd

- Danceable athletic attire
- Dance shoes, preferably half soles
 - Hair up

Friday April 4th -Team Auditions

- Black leotard
- Black leggings
- Dance shoes, preferably half soles
- Hair: low ponytail with center part
- Makeup: performance makeup with a red lip

Things to Bring to auditions

- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Dance shoes
- Report card and head shot if missing/ not sent to Ms. Emert

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Emert at jena.emert@houstonisd.org

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 24th.
- **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.**

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/ May
- 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 falls in February and 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 for practice, 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 \$550 for line camp. You must attend camp to be on Pride

UNIFORM

- Estimated \$1000 (**New members**) for your practice wear, uniforms, and accessories. This will be divided into 4 separate payments over two months. You will pay both companies directly and Pride through our Booster Club. 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.

CONSUMABLE FEE

- An estimated \$900 is due for the consumable fee. This will be separated into two payments of \$450 each. One will be due in Aug and the other Oct. **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, or replacement items needed.
- Nationals/travel is a separate fee. This is an out of state year. 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. This includes parents/ guardians.
- **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. A hold will also be put on you for graduation until owed fees are paid. 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

If you do not make varsity there is possibility that you could be placed on the junior varsity team, the Pride Packerettes. Having the JV team is however not guaranteed.

The Packerettes are the Junior Varsity level team that participates with the Pride Dance Team during the fall semester only. Dancers will attend 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 August all the way through to the start of the school year. Packerettes are expected to attend all practices required for football season.

Packerettes are ineligible to perform in Pep-Rally routines and 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 \$150 as well as participate in fundraising. Estimated uniform cost for JV is \$500.

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

*Should the number of Packerettes exceed a certain number, the possibility of competing will be discussed. This would include moving the JV Team to their own class period.

Registration Form

Please click the link below to register for the 2025- 2026 Pride Dance Team Auditions

<https://forms.gle/eLvq8Fo5XBijAogo8>

Or you may scan the QR code to register



You must also send a copy of your current report card and photo to Ms. Emert at jena.emert@houstonisd.org

All registration paperwork is due by Tuesday April 1st

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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/wyR48JTNRqYNEiUw5>

Scan the QR code to bring you to the recommendation Link



All teacher recommendations are due by Tuesday April 1st