

Pretryout meeting and registration fee.



WESTSIDE PRIDE DANCE TEAM



2016-2017

TEAM TRYOUT PACKET

- Please read through ALL material very carefully and thoroughly!
- Discuss and contemplate all information with your parents before deciding to try out.
- Keep this packet for your records as well as for further instructions and dates.
- Don't forget the application packet. It has paperwork that needs to be filled out well in advance!

Thank you for your interest in Pride. Drill team is a very rewarding experience that will create lasting memories! I look forward to working with you in April and hopefully during the rest of your high school years! Please contact me with questions at bdemarti@houstonisd.org. Good luck!

Sincerely, Mrs. DeMartino

Before you decide to tryout, do you possess the following qualities which are necessary to succeed in drill team?

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • Dedication | • Good attitude | • High achievement in academics |
| • Determination | • Dependability | • Work well with others |
| • Strong work Ethic | • Organization | • Physical, emotional, and mental health, strength, and endurance |
| • Responsibility | • Outgoing | • Lots of free time |
| • Respect | • Passion for dance | • Emotional and financial support from parents |
| • Discipline | • Desire to improve everyday | |
| • Lady-like demeanor | | |
| • Good manners | | |

PRIDE IS a very disciplined, precision dance/drill team. We excel in a variety of styles: high kick, pom, and jazz as well as lyrical, modern, and hip-hop. Our movements are meant to be clean, unified, precise, and visual, emphasizing the look of the team as a unit. **It is also very challenging and physically demanding.** Participation in drill team, as well as any extra curricular activity, is a PRIVILEGE and not a right. Students must meet specific requirements to be selected and to participate. Young ladies chosen for the team will receive a constitution to be read in full and will sign a contract agreeing to follow all rules and procedures. Failure to follow will result in demerits, probation from the team or possible dismissal from the team.

PRIDE IS fun, but, it is also a huge commitment which requires hard work and long hours. The team meets **DAILY before school, during 1st period, and some days in the 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!

PRIDE IS also a **financial commitment** as there are many costs for uniforms and activities.

- Estimated **\$800-\$850** (New members) is due on **May 12, 2016** for your practice wear, camp fees, and your field uniform.
- Old Members estimated \$250 due **May 12, 2016**
- Estimated **\$250-\$350** is due in **Nov/Dec 2015** for competition costumes, competition fees, and travel expenses.
- Throughout the year there are also small expenses.
- **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**. So, please be prepared to make a commitment to the team.
- There is a fundraiser during the fall to help with your Nov/Dec payment, but you must do the work!

~MANDATORY REGISTRATION (Students only)~

Monday March 21, 2016

Between 4:00-4:30 pm

Room G111

(You can bring me these items during the day if you go to Westside)

To get into the registration, you must bring:

- 1. \$20 cash**
- 2. Application Form**
- 3. Copy of your most recent report card**

If you do not bring the above items, you will not be allowed to register for the audition. Parents are welcomed at the registration, but not required. I will have a tryout information sheet discussing procedures and information about Pride in general.

Tuesday-Wednesday March 22-March 24, 2016

4:00pm-6:15pm

Westside HS Performance Gym

(If you go to a different school that releases later and you have to be a little late, I understand)

- **If you are trying out for Pride, it is required that you attend everyday in order to be considered for the team.** All material required for tryouts will be taught during the clinic (**dance routine, high kick combination, splits, presentation**). Tryout day procedures will also be reviewed.
- **Application forms and report cards** must be turned in to Mrs. DeMartino on **Monday, March 21st from 4:00-4:30 pm.** Each day that you are late turning in your paperwork, you will be penalized by a 5 point deduction from your overall total score. You **WILL NOT** be eligible to tryout on Thursday if you do not turn in **ALL** of your paperwork.
- A portion of your score will come from teacher recommendation sheets which you must pick up from Mrs. DeMartino in room G111 or make copies from the sheet you receive in this packet. **ALL SEVEN TEACHERS RECEIVE A FORM FROM YOU!** Please get these to your teacher's in a timely manner and encourage them to fill them out! If you have Mrs. DeMartino as your teacher, please ask your dean to fill out the recommendation, not Mrs. DeMartino.
- You may also be asked to participate in a **short interview** with Mrs. DeMartino during instructional days (excluding current Pride members).

- **What to wear:** Tuesday-Wednesday you may wear ANY kind/color of dance clothes or comfortable clothes that you can easily move around, jazz shoes, ballet slippers, bare foot, hair up, NO gum, NO jewelry.
- Please be prompt to all rehearsals as there is much material to be covered in a very short amount of time.

HOPEFUL TRYOUT DAY

Thursday March 24, 2016

4:00pm to 7:00pm (or when last call back is finished)

Westside HS Performance Gym

- **What to wear on Tryout Day:**
 - black leotard or tank top
 - black dance/workout pants (long or Capri)
 - black jazz shoes or tennis shoes
 - hair in a ponytail or bun
 - makeup and dark red lipstick
 - no jewelry
 - no gum
 - no piercings
 - sports bra
- **Hopefuls** will tryout in groups of 4 in front of a panel of outside judges. Each girl will be assigned a number and will wear it pinned to her leotard/tank top (these will be given to the girls at tryouts). After all groups have auditioned there may be call backs. So, remain at the school and stay stretched out.
- **Hopefuls** will be judged on:
 - Basic **jazz** technique, leaps, and turns
 - Basic **hip-hop** skills
 - **Kick** height and technique
 - **Splits** - **Right** leg split must be **ALL** of 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** on Monday March 21st. 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 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 teachers and your dean no later than March 14th.
 - **Timeliness in turning in paperwork**
 - **Behavior, work ethic, attitude, and attentiveness during the tryout clinic**
 - **Personal interview**

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

***Previous members are NOT guaranteed a spot on the team again. Everyone must audition and follow the same tryout procedures.

****Being enrolled in Mrs. Demartino's class does not guarantee a spot on the team!

******Pride is only looking for responsible and respectable students. Remember social media sites (facebook, 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.**

- **Who may be present during tryouts?** Judges, the group trying out, the director, director's designated helpers, and administrators are the only individuals allowed in the designated tryout area. **Parents, friends, boyfriends and other family members are not allowed in the tryout area at any time during the tryouts.**
- **When do I find out if I have made the team?** After everyone has auditioned you will be asked to clean up the gym and hallway waiting area. You must leave the building and take all of your belongings with you. The judges will need time to tally scores and make their decisions. When they have finished, the results will be posted on one of the doors outside of the gym area for you to see. Results will remain posted all weekend for those who need to leave and would like to return later to see the results. Results will not be posted until everyone has left the premises of Westside.
- **Scores will not be discussed and ALL RESULTS ARE FINAL!!!**
- **How many girls will make the team?** There is no specific pre-determined number of members for the team. Membership depends on the ability and potential of each girl decided by a panel of qualified judges. It is inevitable that some people who tryout will probably not make the team.
- Should you not make it, I strongly encourage you to continue practicing and try again next year! **Please understand that all judges' decisions are final!**

If I make the team, what happens next?

MANDATORY NEW TEAM MEETING

Monday March 28th, 2016
4:00 pm
Westside HS, Room S-100

- At this meeting we will discuss **COSTS, dates**, the booster club, rules, etc.
- Parents & dancers are invited. If parents cannot make the meeting, please make sure your child can provide me with a valid email address to send you the information.

MANDATORY PAYMENT DUE

Thursday May 12, 2016
330 pm in room G111

(If you go to a different school, I understand you may be a little late)

- The cost of the May payment will be charted out at the March 28th meeting.
- The **FULL** payment is due May 12, 2016 no exceptions.
- Pride is a huge financial commitment! Please make sure you are ready to take this on if you are unable to fund raise.
- **Remember, you must meet this payment deadline in order to participate on the 2016-2017 Pride Dance Team! No exceptions!**

IMPORTANT MANDATORY DATES FOR ALL 2016-2017 TEAM MEMBERS:

Pre-Training and Camp
Monday-Friday, Beginning of August
Time TBA
Any other August Practices
Time and Date TBA

*During the school year, Pride meets before school, during 1st period and practices after school when needed (subject to change and variation)

DRILL TEAM EXPECTATIONS

These are a few of the expectations of the drill team members at Westside HS. If you/your daughter make the drill team, she will receive a packet with a constitution that details all the expectations of each member throughout the year. Prepare yourself...drill team equals DISCIPLINE!

- Each member **MUST** be lady like at ALL times!
- Each member **MUST** truly want to be on the drill team
- Each member **MUST** be willing to abide all rules and follow directions and understands that they will receive punishment and demerits should they not follow the rules.
- Members must say "Yes ma'am" when corrected or given instructions by director, officer, or old member. Followed up with "Thank you."
- Be present and on time for all practices and performances, absences affect the whole team
- Each member must be dedicated. The team is only as strong as its weakest member.
- Personal business, traffic, job, lack of a ride, etc. are not acceptable excuses for late arrival, early dismissal, or absences.
- Put your name on everything that is yours, take care of your belongings and respect those of others.
- Show respect for Mrs. DeMartino, the officers, team members, parents, and teachers at all times.
- Turn in props, money, forms, etc. on time. (Strive to be early and never late.)
- School attendance is very important. Do not miss unless absolutely unavoidable. Keep your grades up.
- Never talk back or respond inappropriately.
- Always act, talk, sit, walk, and dress like a LADY (this applies to school, dance time AND your personal time)
- Only speak positively about our organization and your fellow teammates.
- Set a good example for the team and yourself at all times – both in and outside of school.
- Follow the rules and regulations of drill team constitution and the school code of conduct at all times.
- Avoid receiving a demerit for anything. Demerits will be issued when rules or instructions are not followed and will be worked off by high kicks.
- **Members must always improve and continue to strive and work hard. Acceptance onto the team does not mean that the dancer will perform at every performance. Dancers may be asked to tryout for every performance in front of the director and officers. There is a chance that you might be an alternate for some performances.**
- Each member **MUST** understand that any decision made by the director/administration and/or officers is in the best interest of the team and its members.
- Each girl must maintain a passing grade in each class.
- Each member is required to participate in ALL activities in which the organization is involved, be it performance, fund-raising, or school or community events.
- All members are required to attend a summer drill team camp and the practice sessions before and after.
- Before school, after school, and summer practice sessions are required. Time specifications for these will be established as camp dates and other school schedules become available to the director.
- Members will purchase their practice clothing and costumes, and other necessary clothing or accessories as required. Members will also pay a fee for summer camp and other expenses throughout the year. All personal financial obligations for uniform orders must be met in order to remain a member of the team.
- Parents are required to be active in the Pride Booster Club and must help with fundraising and volunteer work. Your child could be removed from the team if she does not have parental/guardian help with Pride.

THE SEASONS OF DRILL 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 brief 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
- Payment due in May.

SUMMER

- Summer practice begins before camp, 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 everyday 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 unless the member is ill.
- 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 to accommodate choreographers.
- Contest payment due in November/December.

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 contests.
- This takes us back to spring when we will have a mandatory Spring Show for all current members in May.
- Pride is very time consuming!

As you can see, drill team is a full year commitment. If you, or your daughter, feel that she cannot meet these expectations, she should not participate in the audition. It is an honor to be selected as a member of this organization. It requires enthusiasm and dedication not only from the girls but from the parents as well. The team can be the best only if it has your support. I hope each of you will be willing to give your support to your daughter and the team as these girls prepare for a successful year.

Full Name:

Current Grade: (please circle) 8th grade Freshman Sophomore Junior

Are you in the FUTURES Program at Westside HS? Yes or No

Dance Experience:

Why do you think you would be an asset to Pride?

****Please attach a current picture of yourself. (4X6, color copy only)**

****Please bring this sheet filled out to the March 21, 2016 meeting. As well as a current picture of yourself, your most recent report card and \$20 dollars cash for your registration fee. If you do not bring all these items, you will not be allowed into the meeting.****

****If you are a current Pride member, you may give Mrs. DeMartino this paperwork during class on March 21, 2016.**