

Thank you for your interest in West Briar MS Dance Company. Becoming a member of the dance company is a very rewarding experience that will create lasting memories! We look forward to working with you and hopefully during the rest of your middle school years! Please contact us with questions at ldemny@houstonisd.org or cdrexler@houstonisd.org.

**WHAT IS DANCE COMPANY?**

The West Briar Dance Company is an advanced performing arts dance ensemble focusing on the improvement of a variety of dance form techniques with a focus on concert - stage performances skills. Dance Company performs throughout the year at various campus and community events, HISD dance festivals, and competitions. The dance styles vary every year and are chosen by directors to suit the ability and dance technique level of the current company. Previous styles have included: contemporary, ballet, fusion (hip hop), jazz, musical theatre, and fostering dance composition (student choreography). Dance Company moves at a faster pace, includes much more advanced techniques, and movement skills than other beginning/intermediate dance classes that are offered at West Briar. Ideally, the West Briar Dance Company is looking for students with prior dance studio experience, students that are naturally talented, passionate, and willing to work hard to develop their dance skills.

**Before you decide to audition, do you possess the following qualities which are necessary to succeed as a member or the dance company?**

* Dedication
* Determination
* Strong work Ethic
* Responsibility
* Respect
* Discipline
* Lady/gentleman- like demeanor
* Good manners
* Good attitude
* Dependability
* Passion for dance
* Desire to improve everyday
* High achievement in academics
* Work well with others
* Good physical, emotional, mental health
* Strength and Endurance
* Emotional and financial support from parents

DANCE COMPANY IS fun, but, it is also a huge commitment which requires hard work and long hours. The company has morning practice Tuesday – Friday, Mondays are used when needed. Roll Call is Our Roll Call time (practice start time) will be determined once we confirm which class period the Dance Company will be assigned for next school year. But keep in mind, it will be between 7-7:30am. Performances can be during the week or weekends throughout the year. Times and days may vary based on changes from West Briar school campus schedule or changes from the district.

**DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**

All dance company members are required to participate in ALL activities in which the organization is involved, performances, fund-raising, or school community events. Before school, after school, and summer practice sessions are required. Time specifications will be established as camp dates and other school schedules become available to the directors. Be present and on time for all practices and performances. **Absences affect the whole company.** Personal business, traffic, lack of a ride, etc. are not acceptable excuses for late arrival, early dismissal, or absences. Please communicate all issues to the Directors. Parents are required to be active in the Dance Company Organization and must help with fundraising and volunteer work throughout the year

* **Summer Dance Camp** (June/August)

Camp will bring in guest choreographers and master class experience to students over one week. This week dancers will learn routines; the team will perform throughout the year.

* **School pep rally** (September)

Every dancer actively participates and performs in the pep rally during school hours.

* **HISD Middle School Dance Festival** (October)

The event is comprised of master classes, performances and adjudications.  This is the only program to highlight middle schools and encourage elementary programs to take a closer look at our dance programs offered in HISD’ s middle schools.

* **West Briar Winter Show** (December)

An annual performance in the West Briar Gymnasium performances by dance company, intermediate dance classes, and Westside High School groups.

* **Random Acts of Dance Concert** (December)

A community dance concert hosted by the Inertia Dance Company at Westside High School. Students are responsible for their own ride to and from Westside.

* **Dance Montage** (January)

The event is comprised of master classes, performances and adjudications. Dance Montage highlights the status of fine arts dance instruction in HISD and provide professional and unbiased adjudicators to objectively evaluate pieces choreographed by the dance teacher for each school.

* **Spring Fundraiser** (Spring Semester)

All dance company members and parents are expected to actively participate in a fundraiser for dance company this may consist of selling tickets for a Saturday event.

* **Dance Competition** (February)

This is a competition resembling the regional dance industry competitions where dances are performed on a stage, and where students are competing per dance categories such as: ballet, lyrical, contemporary, jazz, modern, tap, hip hop, break dance, ethnic/cultural dances, student’s choreography, etc.

* **West Briar Spring Show** (April)

An annual performance in the West Briar Auditorium performances by dance company, intermediate dance classes, beginner dance classes, West Briar Cheerleaders, and Westside High School groups.

* **West Briar Student Choreography Night** (May)

An end of the year concert where the dance(s) should be choreographed by the student(s) only, without any teacher’s help that will represent the student’s ability and creativity.

As you can see, dance company is a full year commitment. If you, or your dancer, feel that she/he cannot meet these expectations, she/he should not participate in the audition. It is an honor to be selected as a dance company member. It requires enthusiasm and dedication not only from the dancers but from the parents as well. The company can be the best only if it has your support. We hope that each parent and dancers are will to give 100% effort and support as we prepare for a successful year.

**Dance Company** IS also a financial commitment. The costs for uniforms and activities/performances are mandatory.

**EXPENSE SHEET**

Below is an itemized list of expenses that reflects West Briar Dance Company. This list is for the items they will need for the entire year. Most items are “one time” expenses, unless your student should lose or damage something.

***New Member       - $500 Previous Member      - $185***

Company T-shirt $20.00 Camp $50.00

Company Jacket $30.00 Performance Fee $135.00

Leotard $37.50

Leggings $43.00

Canvas Jazz Shoes $41.50

Blocksox Dance Socks 1 $22.00

Blocksox Dance Socks 2 $22.00

Convertible Tights $16.60

V-Back Cami Bra $27.50

Team Shoes $45.00

Camp $50.00

Performance Fee $135.00

*\* Performance Fee contributes to company expenses such as outside choreographers, costumes, bus transportation, performance entry fees, etc.*

**PAYMENT DUE DATES**

Below is the payment schedule. Your total amount can be broken up into two or three separate payments OR you can opt to pay in full the first night.

\*Payments will be made directly to the vendor through a link online.

**Payment #1** – Tuesday, April 16th

**Payment #2** (remaining balance, if any) – Monday, May 6th

**Payment #3** (remaining balance, if any) – Monday, May 20th

**AUDITION INFORMATION**

**Tuesday, March 19 – Friday, March 22,2024**

**7:00 am – 8:15 am in the Gym**



**DANCE APPLICATION & PARENT PERMISSION FORM:**

Fill out the dance application and parent permission form:

Click the link – <https://forms.gle/ZwZVWeDSLBs9Rsnr8>

OR use your phone to scan the QR code

Turning in the form is an acknowledgment that you and your parent/guardian understand the rules, financial cost, and expectations of dance company. It also acknowledges that the parent/guardian is giving permission to the student participating in the dance company audition.

**Dance Application & Parent Permission Form is due no later than March 19th at 11:59 pm.** Failure to do so will keep you from being able to try out for the company.

**AUDITION CLINIC: Tuesday, March 19 – Thursday, March 21 from7:00 am – 8:15 am**

* If you are trying out for the Dance Company, it is required that you attend **every day** in order to be considered for the company. All materials required for the audition will be taught during the clinic (jazz and contemporary routine, along with splits.) Audition day procedures will also be reviewed during the clinic.
* What to wear – Tuesday through Thursday you may wear any kind of dance clothes that you can move in (no shorts, spaghetti strap tops or tanks – keep it school appropriate) with jazz shoes, half soles, or barefoot – ONLY ONE SOCK may be worn, off the heel of your left foot, for turning. Your hair must be pulled up away from face, no jewelry, and no gum. Mask must be worn.
* Please be prompt to all rehearsals as there is much material to be covered in a very short amount of time.

**AUDITION DAY:** **Friday, March 22 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

* The dancers will audition in groups of 4 in front of a panel of judges. Each dancer will be assigned a number and will wear it pinned to her leotard/black top. After all groups have auditioned there may be call backs, so remain in the dance studio and stay stretched. Once the call backs are finished the dancer will be released. Parents/guardians are not allowed in the building. Students will be escorted out when auditions are finished. Please be on time to pick up your dancer.

**Audition Day Attire:**

* Black Leotard or black fitted shirt (no design on it and no bra straps showing)
* Black dance pants/leggings
* Hair up out of the face
* Make-up is not required
* Black/Tan Jazz Shoes, half-soles or barefoot with ONE sock off the heel
* No jewelry
* No gum

**What you are judged on:**

* Basic jazz/contemporary technique in the routine
* Splits – Right leg/left leg split must be all the way down or extremely close, meaning one or two inches from the floor.
* Knowledge of the routine
* Projection/Emotion, Energy, Showmanship
* Potential and ability to blend the style and skill level of the company as a whole
* Grades – it is recommended that you have an average of at least 70 in each of your classes prior to auditions.
* Timelines in turning in paperwork
* Behavior, work ethic, attitude, and attentiveness during the audition clinic.

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

 **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**Q: Who may be present during auditions?**

A: Judges, the group trying out, and the directors are the only individuals allowed in the designated audition area. Parents, friends, boyfriends, and other family members are not allowed in the audition area at any time during the auditions. Please remain in your vehicle.

**Q: When do I find out if I made the dance company?**

A: **Results will be posted on the school dance company website March 22 at 8pm**.Click the link – <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/167723> OR use your phone to scan the QR code**.** An email with further details will be sent out to parents and students who made the company. Scores will not be discussed, and all results are final. Be kind to all of those who tried out, it can be stressful ordeal and it takes a lot of courage to audition.

Scan March 22 at 8 pm for audition results:

**Q: How many students will make the dance company?**

A: There is not a specific number of members for the company. Membership depends on the ability and potential of each student decided on by a panel of qualified judges. It is inevitable that some people who audition will probably not make the company. Should you not make the company, I strongly encourage you to continue practicing and try again next year. You can enroll in out dance classes to help prepare for next years. Please understand that all judge’s decisions are final!

**Q: If I make the dance company, what happens next?**

A: Mandatory 2024 - 2025 Dance Company Meeting Tuesday, April 16th @ 6:00 pm in the West Briar Dance Studio E113 (Mrs. Drexler’s room). In this meeting you will be ordering all uniforms/supplies for next year. **1st payment will be due!**