



**DIAMOND BAR HIGH SCHOOL
DANCE COMPANY**

**2019-2020 Handbook
Rules, Policies, and Expectations**

Diamond Bar High School Dance Company

**Program Handbook
2019-2029**

Welcome to the Dance Company program at Diamond Bar High School! This handbook has been designed to help you understand the commitment, dedication, and expectations we are looking for in a member of the DBHS Dance Company. Diamond Bar High School has had a long tradition of excellence and we want to add to that excellence! Being a Dance Company member is an **honor** and a **privilege**. Being a Dance Company member requires a tremendous amount of time and dedication not only from the individual, but from the entire family. In order to create a well-organized and successful Dance program, all stakeholders must be aware and compliant with the Dance Company rules, policies, and responsibilities.

DANCE COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote positive school spirit, execute the art of dance to a degree of excellence and maintain a positive reputation both at Diamond Bar High School and in the community at large by holding all members to high standards.

Dear Parents and Dance Company Applicant:

DBHS is in the process of selecting members for its 2019-2020 Dance Company. We will be selecting two-three separate teams, which all comprise the Dance Company as a unified troupe. Despite the different teams, we only have one application process. The three teams will be:

1. **Varsity Dance Team:** 10-14 dancers will be selected and train in all areas of dance with advanced level ballet, jazz, and contemporary expertise. They will meet daily during class and some outside/after school rehearsals will be required. Dancers are required to have a yearlong commitment. ***Returning members are NOT guaranteed a spot.*** In addition to performing at school and community events (dance department concerts, rallies, football games, basketball games, club events, etc.,) this team also attends competitions in January – March.
2. **Girls Hip-Hop:** 4-8 dancers will be selected and train in all areas of dance with hip-hop being area of expertise. They will meet daily during class with some outside/after school rehearsals required. Dancers are required to have a yearlong commitment. ***Returning members are NOT guaranteed a spot.*** In addition to performing at school and community events (dance department concerts, rallies, football games, basketball games, club events, etc.,) this team also attends competitions in January – March.
3. **All Male Dance Crew:** 6-10 dancers will be selected and train in all styles, specifically various hip-hop techniques. They will meet daily during class with some outside/after school rehearsals required. Dancers are required to have a yearlong commitment. ***Returning members are NOT guaranteed a spot.*** In addition to performing at school and community events (dance department concerts, rallies, football games, basketball games, club events, etc.,) this team also attends competitions in January – March.

Final determination of teams and selection of members is at the discretion of the Dance Director. Dance Director reserves the right to increase or eliminate teams based on the pool of candidates and goals, needs of the program.

AUDITION PROCESS OVERVIEW

Auditions will be Tuesday, April 9 – Thursday, April 11 3:45-5:30pm at Diamond Bar High School.

Candidates can expect cuts to take place during the audition process.

Candidates can expect to be interviewed by judging panel.

Candidates will be taught choreography, movement and/or technique by outside instructors as well as go through an interview process. Dancers will audition with short dance combinations of jazz, hip-hop, and/or contemporary styles. A professional panel of judges as well as the Director and coaches will serve as the selection team, basing results on dance scores, and past class work ethic if it pertains to that candidate.

TIME & SUMMER COMMITMENT

After auditions, the new 2019-2020 Dance Company will meet a few times prior to the dismissal of school. Some of these dates are on the tryout calendar located in this packet. Other dates will be given at a later time.

There is the expectation that Dance Company members will continue to train with studios in technique for their respective style. There may be technique classes or workshops held at DBHS throughout the summer; students are strongly encouraged to participate.

The majority of new team's commitment will begin during the summer. Students are expected to attend summer rehearsals and camps in preparation for the start of the year performances. Company members are strongly encouraged to attend all summer practices. If a member misses a practice, they risk their position in a routine or performance. Students will be learning rally routines and competition choreography during Training Camp.

SUMMER CAMP DATES

All Dance Company Members are expected to attend all summer camps and trainings.

- **July 19-21 - WCE DANCE EXPERIENCE** @ Great Wolf Lodge, Anaheim. Registration & Payment due April 29, 2019.
- **July 27 - DIAMOND BAR BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE DAY.** Payment Due April 29, 2019.
- **July 29-August 1 & August 5-8 - DANCE COMPANY SUMMER TRAINING CAMP:** Tentative time 9am-3pm. Final dates and times subject to change based upon funding. Must register by April 29, 2019. Contributions must be received in order to attend camp.

Cost for all summer training: \$600 (including WCE camp, Back to School Dance Day, 2-weeks of team training with coaches, master teachers, pep rally choreography.

DURING THE YEAR PARTICIPATION & COMMITMENT

Each Dance Company member will receive PE or Fine Arts Credit for their enrollment in Dance Team. The class is a year-round commitment.

The Dance Company will meet during one class period each day. Outside technique classes are strongly encouraged, specifically ballet. More or fewer rehearsals will be scheduled depending on performance schedule. The Dance Company will perform at rallies, community events, fall/spring dance concerts and competitions (if funding allows). The Dance Company will meet 1-4 days after school during the year and may increase as competition season approaches, including Saturdays and/or 6am practices. If funding is available, the Dance Company will enter 2-6 competitions from January-March. The exact competition will be provided by November 2019, possibly sooner. The months of January-March are the busiest weekend commitments. **The first priority of Dance Company will be to enhance school and community activities and events with a focus on competition being a second important priority.**

FUNDRAISING & CONTRIBUTIONS

- Fundraisers and contributions are essential throughout the year in order to help fund a high-quality program that exceeds expectations. Expenses include professional coaching, competition costumes, industry leading choreography, and competition entry fees. **If the program is unable to reach the various donation goals to fund team expenditures, experiences and opportunities offered to the students will be adjusted to reflect budget constraints.**
- Fundraisers include, but may not be limited to, Bingo, Food Fairs, Dance Workshops, Ad Sales, restaurant nights and other fundraising events.

- Fundraisers and contributions are voluntary and will not be tied to a student's successful participation in the program. However, the opportunities provided to the students will be directly impacted should fundraising/donation goals not be met.

The Dance Company program anticipating incurring costs this year of approximately \$60,000 in order to provide the highest caliber program for our students. The Dance program plans to achieve this goal through both fundraising and contributions. If the goal amount is not reached, the quality of the program will be impacted. For this reason, we are requesting fundraiser participation and will accept voluntary donations to the program. The donation may be monetary, or it may be an item needed by the program.

PROJECTED TARGET DONATIONS

Based on overall projected expenses for the program minus any fundraising or sponsorship efforts. Actual target donation amount will be determined based on the number of members selected for Dance Company.

Items Included	Per Student Contribution	Deadline
Summer Training	\$600.00	April 29, 2019
Uniforms	\$400.00 (approx. cost)	Based on order date
Competition Choreography	\$250.00	July 15, 2019
Year-Round Coaching	\$300.00	August 5, 2019
Competition Entry Fees	\$250.00	September 9, 2019
Solo Competition Fees <i>*if selected as a Competition soloist</i>	\$100-\$400	TBD
Competition Costumes	\$200-\$500.00	October 2019

Does not include payments for Contest of Champions trip

DANCE COMPANY PROGRAM INFORMATION

PURPOSE

- To perform at school and/or community events (i.e. football, basketball, club, dance concerts)
- To perform at selected school Pep Rallies.
- To represent DBHS at Dance Team competitions (if funding allows)
- To promote school spirit.
- To promote positive team spirit and camaraderie.

HONOR

- Being a member of the DBHS Dance Company is a great honor and comes with a tremendous amount of commitment, dedication, and responsibility.
- Students must be willing to give the time and effort necessary to be a member of the DBHS Dance Company.

ELIGIBILITY

- In order to remain eligible throughout the year, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA at the end of each grading period.
- Students will be placed on suspension and/or removed from team if GPA falls below at 2.0 and risk placement in Company.

HEALTH, LIFESTYLE, COMPANY IMAGE

- Dance Company requires a high level of physical fitness.
- Dance Company members are expected to participate in ALL strength and conditioning activities during rehearsals.
- Each Company member is expected to maintain a healthful and appropriate fitness level and lifestyle.
- Students should not have health conditions that would be aggravated by participation in team activities.

INJURIES

- Dance is an intensively physical sport. In order to complete all components of the program, Dance Company members should be in peak physical health.
 - It is the members responsibility to notify the Director and/or Coach of an injury as soon as it occurs.
 - Any member who is injured must have a doctor's note sidelining the member.
 - If any member refuses to be seen by a doctor for an injury, Director reserves the right to send student to DBHS Athletic Trainer.
 - Any injured/sidelined member will need a doctor's written release of full participation in order to resume participation.
 - Any member who is sidelined due to medical excuse is expected to still attend all practices, events, activities.
 - Any limitations on participation may keep the member sidelined and he/she may be removed from routines and is NOT guaranteed that he/she will be placed back into routine.

COMPETITIONS

- All teams compete, however not all Company members may compete. Members may be placed as alternates at any time throughout the year based on work ethic, skills, attitude, injury, attendance, or breaking of any rules.
- All members are expected to attend ALL competitions for the ENTIRE competition day. Should dancers not participate in any competition for any reason, they will be benched from any upcoming performance or events.
- Any dancer who is absent or does not fully participate in any practice/rehearsal that week of a competition will be replaced with an alternate.

CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS: February 27-March 2, 2020

The Dance Company is traveling to Orlando, Florida!! We will be attending the Contest of Champions Nationals at the Walt Disney World Resort!! Anticipated cost per student is \$1300; includes airfare, hotel, 3-day park admission, competition entry, transportation within the park, and some meals.

Payment schedule will be presented upon selection as a Dance Company member. Student and/or parents must pay IN FULL for trip in order to attend/participate in trip.

COMMUNICATION

All communication will be going directly from the Director and/or Coaches to the Dance Company Member. We are teaching Dance Company members to be responsible young adults.

- Members are expected to check Dance website regularly for weekly updates. Members are responsible for all information posted.
- **If at any time a Dance Company member has an issue that needs to be addressed, please have the first point of contact be directly from the Member to the Dance Director.**
- Parents are expected to communicate with Dance Director and/or Coaches in a professional and appropriate manner and to set a positive example for their student.
- If a Dance Company Member has a question regarding report times, uniform, etc., please communicate with your team Captain(s) or check the website.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Any violation of the following shall be grounds for immediate disciplinary action and possible removal from the team.

- As representatives of DBHS, Company members will reflect the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship and are expected to adhere to all school rules as regulations.
- Company members are prohibited from using tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances.
- Company members are expected to treat each other with respect and courtesy, saying or doing nothing to discredit a teammate or DBHS.
- Company members shall cooperate and support other activity groups on campus.
- **Company members will be expected to sign Brahma Code of Conduct & Dance Company Code of Conduct upon successful acceptance to the Company.**

APPLICATION EXPECTATIONS

1. **ACADEMIC**: Each applicant must have a 2.0 GPA or higher from fall semester 2018 and from most recent grading period (12-week or trimester). ***Please attach copies of both report cards or transcript*** to application.
2. **ATTENDANCE**: A list of prospective members will be provided to the office to confirm good attendance. If a student does not have a 90% or higher attendance at school, a written explanation must accompany the application, along with a parent or guardian's signature. ***Current members past team attendance will be a consideration at tryouts.***
3. **SKILLS**: Most of the skills taught will be in the form of movement combinations of various styles that are typically used by the Company throughout the year. This may or may not include a ballet class, freestyle and/or improv. You will perform these combinations in small groups for a panel of judges.
4. **ATTITUDE**: Each NEW application (non-returner) must have two teacher recommendations. New applicants may give those recommendations to the teachers of their choice. These can be a combination of school teachers, GLC's, or dance studio instructors. ***Returning members*** – you must receive 2 coach recommendations.

Some applicants will go through a short interview process with the judges. We are in search of dancers who are motivated, hardworking, committed, confident, poised, genuine, friendly, and will be the best representatives of the DBHS Dance Department. We want dancers who have a passion and love dance. We want dancers who never stop wanting to progress even when the going gets hard. These qualities will be assessed through interviews, recommendations, attitude and effort during audition process, and previous work ethic if student has been in class or company before.

5. **PARENT SUPPORT:** Each applicant must have a parent or legal guardian's signature signifying their support on your possible selection to the Dance Company. The parent or guardian signature serves as an acknowledgement of time commitment and program expectations.
6. **CONDUCT:** Prospective applicants' names will be provided to administrators and/or Guidance for any discipline problems a student may have had. If there are concerns by them, it may mean the student will not be eligible for final membership on the Company. This is to verify satisfactory conduct at school. After auditions, student's will be required to sign a Dance Company Code of Conduct and Constitution. This will be STRICTLY ENFORCED. No exceptions. Social networking guidelines will be enforced as well.

SELECTION PROCESS AND EXPECTATIONS

The number of Dance Company members is not pre-determined, although we are looking at selecting approximately the top **24-26 dancers** (amongst the three different teams). Final size will be determined from the scores and talent ability of the group that shows up to audition. Final decision and selection is at the discretion of Director.

The Dance Company will perform and participate in all activities and events listed in the packet. Each performance may include all members, or a selected group based on skill, preparedness, attendance, work ethic and commitment. Each performance will be pre-determined by Director, Coaches, choreographers, and/or possibly Dance Captain(s).

If the Dance Company has the ability to participate in competitions, competition dances will be selected between May and September by the Director, Coaches, and/or choreographers. **Competition groups will be chosen based on skill level, attitude, work ethic, and experience.**

SOLOISTS

Selection of soloists will be done at the end of summer. **Not all selected soloists will compete at every competition.** Part of that selection is based on preparedness, work ethic, skill, past history, and commitment to improving. There is no promise of performance in either Fall or Spring Concert. If selected, costumes and music must be preapproved by director.

Soloists will be limited to only 1 per grade level (9-11). Senior soloists will be determined based on officer positions (if applicable) and selection criteria above. **Not all selected soloists will compete at every competition** and is based on funding, and solo entry allotment per competition. **Priority goes to Senior officers** with additional consideration given to GPA, previous scores, work ethic, past history, team commitment, preparedness. Final selection is at the discretion of the Dance Director.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

March 11-April 3:	Applications available via DBHS Dance webpage, Mrs. Simonson's teacher webpage or in Dance Room.
April 8 at 3pm:	Completed applications are due to Mrs. Simonson in either the Dance Room or DBHS Front Office. No late applications will be accepted. No exceptions.
April 9-11:	<p>3:45-5:30pm each day: If dancer does not have completed application on file, audition score will be reduced. Teacher recommendations are the ONLY exception.</p> <p>Dancers are expected to remain throughout the entire audition process or until director and judges dismiss them. Callbacks may occur and if dancer is not present for call back, they forfeit their audition.</p> <p>Dancers can expect that cuts will be made throughout the process and/or at the conclusion of each day.</p>
Friday, April 12:	Posting of 2019-2020 Dance Company by participant number. Will be posted Dance Team page on DBHS Website. New Company Welcome Newsletter will be emailed to new Company members.
Monday, April 29:	5pm: 2019-2020 Parent/Student Meeting in LINC. Attendance by student and one or both parents is expected. <i>Summer Training payment is expected at this time. Checks payment to DBHS.</i>
Date TBA:	3:30pm: Uniform Fitting in Dance Room. All Company members are expected to attend.
July 19-21:	WCE Dance Experience; Great Wolf Lodge Anaheim; Commuter Camp.
July 27:	Back to School Dance Day (Training & Fundraising Event)
July 29-August 1:	9am-3pm: Dance Company Summer Training Camp*
August 3:	Car Wash Fundraiser
August 5-August 8	9am-3pm Dance Company Summer Training Camp*
<i>*Final camp dates/times are subject to change based on available funding.</i>	
August 12:	First Day of School



DIAMOND BAR HIGH SCHOOL

DANCE COMPANY

2019-2020

Rules & Policies Acknowledgement

1. We understand and agree to uphold the philosophy, purpose, and membership standards of the DBHS Dance Company Program.
2. We understand and agree to uphold the academic commitments of the DBHS Dance Company and understand that, as a class, everything done for Dance is worth a grade.
3. We understand that attendance at all practices, events, and activities is vital to be a complete TEAM. We agree to uphold attendance rules and expectations.
4. We understand and agree that competitions are an honor and privilege and that members can be placed as alternates at any time during the season at the discretion of the Director and/or Coaches.
5. We understand and agree to uphold the communication expectations of being a Dance Company Member.
6. We understand and agree to uphold the rules, policies, and responsibilities of being a Dance Company Member.
7. We understand that teams are chosen on a basis of grades, teacher evaluations, talent, and overall team needs.
8. We understand that Dance must be the first priority in terms of co-curricular activities. Including other teams, if approved.
9. We understand and agree to abide by the Brahma Code of Conduct, Dance Company Code of Conduct and will accept any consequences as set forth by DBHS Administration, Dance Director, Instructional Dean, and/or Athletic Director should any Dance member not abide by the rules.
10. We understand and agree that the Dance Director makes all program decisions.

I have read and agree to abide by the Dance Company Program Rules and Policies, accepting the consequences and possible dismissal from the squad for breaking any of the rules. I also sign this understanding that I, as a parent, cannot change or alter these rules and I am allowing my child to try out for the Dance Company Program knowing that these are the rules and expectations and I agree to the terms of the Dance Company Program as it stands.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____