



# NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## High School Spirit Organization Handbook

Fine Arts students in North East School District will have the opportunity to explore, display, test, evaluate, and refine their talents, based upon their individual development. The Fine Arts Department will provide opportunities for successful student self-expression and personal growth as artists, citizens, and life-long learners, fostering community/parental support through school, District-wide, and state and/or national levels of performance. Spirit organizations in the District are extracurricular in nature. It is a privilege for students to participate in these organizations, which are purely voluntarily, and such participation is not a condition for graduation from high school. No student in the District has a guaranteed right to participate in spirit organizations.

### ARTICLE I. GOAL

The goal of this document is to develop a set of uniform guidelines for each spirit organization in NEISD. These guidelines will focus on expectations, the proper implementation and conduct of tryouts, membership requirements, and performance expectations of the various organizations.

### ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Spirit Organization consists of four groups. These groups are Pep Squad (open enrollment; no tryout required), Drill Team/JV Dance (tryout required), Varsity Dance Team (tryout required), and Cheerleaders (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity) (tryout required).

**Section I.** **Mandatory Tryout Meeting:** For a student to be eligible to tryout for Dance/Drill Team or Cheerleading, the student and parent must attend a scheduled tryout meeting. In extenuating circumstances, an individual conference may be scheduled with director/coach **before** the tryout workshop begins. Failure to attend a scheduled tryout meeting or an individual conference will disqualify the student from tryout eligibility. The student may not have any financial obligations to the spirit organization or any other school obligations to be permitted to tryout.

**Section II.** **Financial Responsibility:** The Spirit Organization teams are extracurricular and do require fees for participation. By becoming a member or trying out for a Spirit Organization team students and parents agree to the financial aspect of membership. The students and their parents shall be aware of the responsibilities and expenses of the individual groups stated in the tryout packet distributed to all perspective members. The mandatory expenses must be paid in full by their respective due dates. **Failure to meet financial expectations will result in performance penalties and/or removal from the organization. Members and their parents understand and accept that all expenses must still be paid even if a student quits or is removed from the team.**  
**SPECIAL NOTE:** All fees associated with the Spirit Organization are non-refundable; exceptions to this policy are only permitted in extenuating circumstances when the director/coach can obtain a refund from the vendor, or the items have not been ordered.

**Section III.** **Fundraising:** Each member will participate in all assigned fundraising activities. If the student does not meet the fundraising goal, the student will be responsible for contributing the expected fundraiser profit to meet his/her financial obligation. Failure to meet the expectation may result in performance penalties.  
**Fundraising money is property of the school district and cannot be refunded.**

**Section IV.** **Dismissal:**

- Students who do not attend the required summer team camp regardless of the location of the camp will be removed from the team. Summer team camp is required of all members of the team, exceptions will only be made in extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the director.
- Students accumulating a total of 10 demerits in a semester will be removed from the team.
- Students receiving a failing grade (below 70) on any two consecutive or non-consecutive official report cards will result in dismissal from the team.
- Students who have been dismissed from a spirit or other extracurricular organization on two (2) separate occasions during their high school career are ineligible for future membership.

**Section V.** **Quitting the Team:** Students who quit pep, dance, drill and/or cheer will be ineligible to return to that team for the current school year. Quitting the team must be done in writing with parent signature.

**Section VI.**     **Outside Activities and Jobs:** Each member will give his/her time to participate in required activities throughout the year. The student should not hold a job or participate in outside activities that will interfere with spirit group activities. If an outside activity interferes with the student's involvement in a spirit group, such that a student is unable to consistently attend required team practices, events and competitions or otherwise fulfill team obligations to the standard expected for team members, the student will be removed from membership in the organization. This includes activities such as All-Star Cheerleading, Competitive Dance, Drivers Education, etc.

## **ARTICLE III.                      ORGANIZATION**

### **Section I.**         **Pep Squad**

Pep Squad membership is open to all 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who will specialize in beginning dance technique. No pre-requisites or tryouts are required.

### **Section II.**        **Drill Team/JV Dance**

Drill Team membership is open to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. **(MacArthur UIL 5A will allow 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students)**. Drill Team will specialize in intermediate dance styles and techniques. To become a member, the student must participate in the tryout process and follow rules/regulations set forth by each campus. Decisions on Drill Team/JV Dance Team membership are not subject to further appeal.

### **Section III.**       **Varsity Dance Team**

Dance Team membership is open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each campus has the discretion to allow 10<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to tryout, determined by the director of the program. Students will specialize in advanced dance styles and techniques. To become a member, the student must participate in the tryout process and follow rules/regulations set forth by the campus. Decisions on Varsity Dance Team membership are not subject to further appeal.

### **Section IV.**       **Cheerleading**

- A.        Freshman squad membership is open to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students only. To become a Freshman Cheerleader, the student must participate in the tryout process and follow rules/regulations set forth by the campus.
- B.        Junior Varsity membership is open to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. When the total number of students participating in cheerleading at an individual school results in only enough members for a Junior Varsity and Varsity squad, that school has the exclusive discretion to decide whether 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be eligible for Junior Varsity membership, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are not eligible for Varsity membership. To become a Junior Varsity cheerleader, the student must participate in the tryout process and follow the rules/regulations set forth by the campus.
- C.        Varsity membership is open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each campus has the discretion to allow 10<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to tryout for Varsity Cheerleading, decided by the coach of the program. Students must participate in the tryout process and follow rules/regulations set forth by the campus.
- D.        Decisions on cheerleading membership are not subject to further appeal.

### **Section V.**         **Competition Teams**

Competition team selections may be held separately from team tryouts at any point during the year. Requirements for competition squads will be specified in each campus handbook. The director/coach will have final determination in the selection of all competition teams. These determinations are not subject to further appeal. Students may be selected as a competition team alternate. Alternates are required to participate and attend all rehearsals and events.

#### ARTICLE IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- Section I.** All members will attend athletic events, practices, activities, and competitions designated by the director/coach. Members must participate in projects and philanthropic activities to promote school spirit and community outreach.
- Section II.** Any member who does not meet performance expectations during practices in-class, before/after school, or who has one or more absences from practice, may incur performance penalties.
- Section III.** All members are expected to maintain academic eligibility, 70 and above in all classes.

#### ARTICLE V. ATTENDANCE

**Section I.**

- A. Attendance at all Spirit Group activities is required, unless designated as optional by the director/coach. Team summer camp is required of all spirit members regardless of the location of the camp, exceptions will only be made in extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the director.
- B. A member may have no more than three (3) **unexcused** absences from activities, meetings, or practices for the school year. More than three (3) **unexcused** absences will be grounds for dismissal from the organization. The student will be removed from the organization on their fourth (4th) unexcused absence. Cases of prolonged absence due to medical or health related issues or other extenuating circumstances may receive special consideration when presented to the director/coach in writing. Members seeking to cite medical, health or other extenuating circumstances will be required to provide appropriate documentation in support thereof (e.g., doctor's notes/orders), as further detailed below. The director/coach's decision is final and not subject to further appeal.
- C. Excused absences include: (Documentation must be provided)
1. Personal illness or accident
  2. Funeral or death of a family member
  3. Special school activities which are approved in advance by the director/coach
  4. Religious holiday
  5. Weddings of a family member
  6. Graduation of an immediate family member
  7. Military ceremonies for an immediate family member

**Note: Out of town trips, vacations, retreats, and work are not excused absences for missing required spirit group activities. These absences will be marked as unexcused.**

- D. In order to receive an **excused absence** from practice, a member must present a written or emailed note (from the parent/guardian) to the director/coach. The note must include the member's name, date, reason for absence, parent/guardian signature and phone number.
1. In case of illness or other health/medical issue, a parent/guardian must notify the director by email/telephone **prior to the practice or performance**. The member, upon returning, must present a written note with the information stated above. A copy of a doctor's note or excuse may be requested to excuse the absence.
  2. An unexcused absence is automatically given if a note/email, as well as any supporting documentation requested, is not presented to the director/coach upon return. **This may affect the student's performance standing or membership in the organization.**
- E. When a member is absent, it is his/her responsibility to call a fellow member to obtain information regarding what was missed and what is required upon his/her return (uniforms, meeting deadlines, etc.)
- F. Any member who misses one practice excused or unexcused may forfeit performing in the upcoming scheduled performance(s) and/or future scheduled performances, this includes placement in competition routines.

**Section II.** Performances/Games

- A. Only in cases of extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to leave a game or function with his/her parents/guardians, unless noted by the director/coach prior to the event that parent/guardian pick up is required for that event. The following procedure must be followed:
1. A note/email must be presented to the director. It must state the member's name, date of the game, name and signature of the parent/guardian, and phone number. The reason for the request must be outlined in the written statement.
  2. Parents must personally take responsibility for the member by meeting the director in the designated agreed upon location. If the adult who is to take the member does not follow this procedure, the member must return on the bus with the group.
  3. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by the director/coach and an administrator.

## **ARTICLE VI. MERITS/DEMERITS**

### **Section I.**

All merits and demerits received by the student will be approved by the director/coach and will be in effect for one semester. A student may cancel demerits by acquiring merits during any semester, except as otherwise provided in this document. The ratio is three merits cancel one demerit. A semester is defined as Fall Semester (1<sup>st</sup> day of school through the day before the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester), Spring Semester (1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester through the last day of school), and Summer Semester (The day after the last day of school through the day before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school).

### **Section II.**

District Approved Merits: **SEE CAMPUS HANDBOOK FOR MORE MERIT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are examples, but not a comprehensive list, of merits:

- |          |                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| +9       | Straight "A" report card                                                                                                                                 |
| +6       | All A's and B's report card                                                                                                                              |
| +3       | Perfect school attendance record during an official report card grading period.                                                                          |
| +3       | Attending an unassigned athletic game for the campus in uniform and cheering with the assigned spirit group. Check with director/coach for availability. |
| +1       | Super spirit and cheering at an event.                                                                                                                   |
| +1 to +6 | Special assignments by the director/coach                                                                                                                |
| +1 to +6 | Participating in an optional philanthropy project approved by the director/coach                                                                         |

### **Section III.**

District Approved Demerits: **SEE CAMPUS HANDBOOK FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SPECIFIC DEMERITS**

The following are examples, but not a comprehensive list, of infractions:

Students may accumulate demerits at any time following membership selection. Demerits are issued for improper conduct, behavior and/or not adhering to the outlined rules/regulations of the organization. Demerits will not effect the student's grade but will effect active status in the organization.

#### **A. Tardies and Attendance**

- |    |                                                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | Tardy to game, activity, practice, meeting, or scheduled event. (Not during school hours) |
| -3 | Unexcused absences from game, activity, practice, meeting, or scheduled event.            |

#### **B. Uniform**

- |    |                                                                        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -2 | Failure to wear proper uniform when required, including missing parts. |
| -2 | Wearing uniform outside of assigned times.                             |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -2                 | Wearing jewelry that is not specified as a portion of a uniform. (During class, performances, events representing the campus and/or organization.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>C. Behavior</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| -1 to -5           | Failure to follow directions of director/coach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| -2                 | Lunch Detention, Before/After School Detention assigned by a campus administrator.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| -3                 | Saturday Detention assigned by a campus administrator, as a disciplinary action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| -3                 | Insubordination to an officer or disrespect towards a fellow member of the spirit organization, determined by the director/coach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| -3                 | Public display of affection in uniform or when representing the spirit organization.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| -3 to -5           | Team unity is of paramount importance to spirit organizations. Students who voluntarily participate must understand and accept that a continuing condition of being afforded the privilege of representing their school in a spirit organization is that they will not engage in any activity that would have a negative effect on team unity or represent the school or team in a negative light. Inappropriate social media posts that include the use of inappropriate language, content or negativity towards the organization, members of the organization or team/school leaders, will necessarily contribute to team discord, which will in turn effect the continued ability of the team to be successful, particularly when members are required to work closely with one another in furtherance of team goals. |
| -5                 | Engaging in bullying/cyberbullying, which includes, but is not limited to: bullying that encourages suicide, incites violence through group bullying, or promotes, releases, or threatens to release intimate visual material of another person through any medium to include social media platforms, digital apps, computers, phones, tablets, etc. This will be determined by a campus administrator after an investigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| -5                 | Unnatural hair color (student will receive demerits and will not be permitted to be in uniform or perform until their hair is a natural color. The student will be placed on spirit probation and given a date to have natural hair color restored or additional demerits will be given). This could result in removal from the team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| -5                 | Piercings other than in the ears are not permitted (student will receive demerits and will be asked to remove the piercings). The student will be placed on probation and if the piercing infraction occurs again during the same school year the student will be removed from the organization.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| -5                 | Visible tattoo. Students are not permitted to have a visible tattoo at any time. The student will receive demerits, be placed on probation and a parent/guardian meeting will be scheduled. The tattoo may be covered with a fabric band or make-up however, the tattoo may never be visible at school or any team function.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| -5                 | ISS assignment assigned by campus administrator.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| -5 to -10          | Insubordination/disrespect towards director/coach/teacher/administrator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| -5 to -10          | Spirit members are expected to always represent the school and the spirit organization, which includes <b>on campus</b> and <b>off campus</b> . Engaging in activities <b>on or off campus</b> , such as, but are not limited to fighting, alcohol, cigarettes, vapes, drugs, etc. does not represent the mission of our organization. When these activities occur <b>on campus</b> or during campus related activities the campus administration will administer District required consequences in addition to spirit consequences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

-10 Alternative School placement and/or expulsion. The student will be removed from the organization for the remainder of the school year.

**D. General**  
-1 to -10

Director/Coach Discretion: Any behavior that does not meet the expectations of the spirit organization. **Directors/Coaches have the discretion to remove a student from the organization after consulting with campus administration any time they feel the student's conduct/behavior/actions rise to a level that does not meet the standards and/or expectations of the program, regardless of merits/demerits. Such decisions are final and not subject to further appeal.**

**Section III.** Consequences

1. A member accumulating 5 or more demerits in a semester (Fall, Spring, Summer) will be placed on spirit group probation for **15 school days** unless merits have been accumulated to offset demerits. SEE ARTICLE VI SECTION II & III.
2. A member accumulating 10 or more demerits in a semester will be dismissed from the organization, regardless of merits accumulated.
3. In order to be eligible for the organization's end-of-the-year awards and/or banquet the member must be in good standing and a current member of the organization. If a student is removed or quits the team, they are not eligible for awards nor will they be permitted to attend the ceremony/banquet at the end of the school year.

**ARTICLE VII. PROBATIONS**

**Section I.** Scholastic Probation

Grades will be reviewed at each required UIL eligibility check. Receiving one or more failing grades (below 70) on an official report card will result in scholastic probation for three weeks (15 school days). Receiving a failing grade (below 70) on any two consecutive or non-consecutive official report cards will result in dismissal from the spirit group. **The member will participate in practices but will not be allowed to perform, will not wear the uniform, will not attend games/events and will not travel with the team.** The only exception is if a student fails a class that is approved by the District for an academic waiver to reinstate eligibility. Classes such as Honors or Advanced Placement (AP).

**Section II.** Spirit Probation

When a member is placed on spirit probation due to accumulating 5 or more demerits, the member and his/her parents will be notified to attend a meeting with the director and/or administrator to discuss the consequences for violation of the standards of conduct set out in the District Spirit Handbook and/or Fine Arts Code of Conduct. This meeting can be held in person, on an online meeting service, or over the phone.

- A. The length of spirit group probation is 15 consecutive school days. Weekends are included in the probationary period but are not part of the 15-day probation.
- B. A member violating this probationary status will be dismissed from the organization. If the student has any infractions during this probationary period they will be dismissed from the team immediately.
- C. When on spirit group probation, the member will not be able to participate actively in the group (perform or serve as an officer) but must attend all practices, group functions and be in uniform, unless the student is assigned ISS by campus administration. Students may not attend group functions when assigned to ISS to include practices, games, and events.
- D. **Violation of the NEISD Fine Arts Code of Conduct may result in additional consequences. See NEISD Fine Arts Code of Conduct and Student-Parent Acknowledgement Form.**

### **Section III.**

#### Reasons for Dismissal

- A. **Violations as outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct and the North East Student Code of Conduct.**
- B. A member being placed on Spirit Probation twice in one school year will be dismissed from the spirit organization.
- C. A member accumulating 10 demerits in a semester will be dismissed from the spirit organization, regardless of merits accumulated.

## **ARTICLE VIII. TRYOUTS**

### **Section I.**

#### Procedures

- A. Students may only tryout at their assigned home campus. A student is not permitted to tryout at a school that they are not officially assigned to, for example, School Choice, Magnet School acceptance, looking for a home in the area, etc.
- B. Each candidate trying out for a position on Drill Team/JV Dance, Dance Team and Cheerleading will tryout in front of a panel of two judges and the director/coach.
- C. All candidates and their parent/guardian are required to attend a mandatory tryout meeting scheduled by the director/coach. At that meeting, the candidate will receive a “tryout packet” outlining projected costs, tentative schedules, and a copy of the Fine Arts Code of Conduct, District Spirit Handbook and Campus Spirit Handbook.
- D. To establish eligibility for tryouts, a candidate must:
  - 1. Submit tryout forms by the due date. Submissions after the due date will not be accepted.
  - 2. Take a test covering material distributed at the first meeting regarding the rules and regulations of the organization (District Spirit Handbook). Candidates must earn an 80 on this test before being eligible to tryout for Drill/Dance/Cheer.
  - 3. Be a member in good financial standing with the District, campus, and required outside instruction (example: tumbling, masterclasses, etc.).
- E. A candidate is expected to attend the **entire tryout sessions/workshops and tryout**. If a candidate misses any portion of the tryout, he/she is automatically ineligible to continue, unless the candidate has approval for the absence from the director/coach. All tryout activities are closed to spectators.
- F. Privately paid instruction for candidates by current student members in the organization is prohibited during the workshop period.
- G. Membership is for the current year only. All members of an organization must re-establish their membership for subsequent years through tryouts.
- H. Candidates for an organization may submit to the organization’s director/coach a letter from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States, describing any serious physical injury that may have an impact on the student’s ability to actively participate in the tryouts. The physician’s letter must state the injury, limitations, and date for clearance to return to the activity. The director/coach will provide copies of the physician’s letter to the tryout judges, on which the student’s name will be redacted and replaced by the student’s tryout number. The judges may use their professional discretion in scoring the candidate.
- I. Candidates who suffer a serious injury that may impact their ability to actively participate in the tryouts, may submit a video that contains a demonstration of the student’s current skills in high impact activities jumping, tumbling, turning, kicking, etc., if such activities are affected by the student’s injury. The video may not exceed 60 seconds in length and must be submitted on the day of tryouts. The use of video at

tryouts rests in the sole discretion of the organization director/coach, whose decision is final. The judges may use their professional discretion in scoring the candidate. The candidate must create their tryout video, it is not the responsibility of the director/coach.

## **Section II.** Scoring Procedures

The following point system will be utilized in all tryouts.

Point System:

3 Judges= 300 points total (100 points each) and/or utilizing a YES or NO rubric (TBD by campus and approved by District Fine Arts Administration).

## **Section III.** Alternate Tryouts

- A. **Second Team Tryout:** A campus may determine if an additional tryout is needed for the team before participating in summer camp. The director/coach must obtain permission from their campus principal and the Executive Director of Fine Arts to hold this second tryout. The same tryout criteria is required as stated above for the initial tryout. Students that have already made the team during the first tryout will not retry out during the second tryout. Students that were not selected by the judges during the first tryout are not eligible for the second tryout. Not all campuses will offer a second tryout opportunity.
- B. **Moving Before Team Camp:** Students moving into the attendance area after the scheduled tryout date may tryout at their assigned home campus for the director/coach prior to the team going to camp. This option is for students moving into the attendance zone, not for students who currently live in the attendance zone and missed the tryout. The director/coach will communicate the tryout expectations to the candidate and offer placement on the team they feel is best suited for the candidate, this could be Drill, Dance, Cheer or Pep Squad. The director/coach's decision is final.
- C. **Moving After Team Camp:** Students moving into the attendance zone after the team has attended camp may tryout at their assigned home campuses for the director/coach if they can provide appropriate documentation that they were a current member of a Drill/Dance/Cheerleading program before moving. The director/coach will communicate the tryout expectations to the candidate and offer placement on the team they feel is best suited for the candidate, this could be Drill, Dance, Cheerleading or Pep Squad. The director/coach's decision is final. Depending on the date/time of school year, the student moving into the attendance area may be asked to wait for the new team tryout in February/March.
- D. **Magnet Program/ School Choice Acceptance:** Students must tryout at their assigned home campus only. Students are not permitted to tryout at a campus they have applied for but not received final notification on acceptance. If the student is accepted to the magnet school or are approved for school choice, they will be granted a tryout at the new school by the director/coach if they tried out and made a team at their assigned home campus. The director/coach will communicate the tryout expectations to the candidate and offer placement on the team they feel is best suited for the candidate, this could be Drill, Dance, Cheer or Pep Squad. Students making Varsity Dance Team at one NEISD campus does not automatically qualify that student for Varsity Dance Team at the new approved NEISD campus. The director/coach's decision is final.

## **Section IV.** Performance and Competition Team Auditions

### A. Performance Auditions:

- 1. Auditions may be held for performance routines. All candidates are required to audition unless an exception for medical reasons has been granted previously by the director/coach. If auditions are required, all candidates must participate.
- 2. Those members who fail to obtain a performance expectation/skill (to be determined by the director/coach) will not be selected to perform in the performance that requires the expectation/skill.
- 3. While student officers may be used to assist the director with auditions, under no circumstance will they have the responsibility of determining who will or will not perform.

4. All members (performers and alternates) will continue to rehearse each routine daily. No one will be allowed to sit out of practice except for medical reasons. Once all auditions are complete, all decisions are final and not subject to further appeal.

B. Competition Team Auditions

1. Competing with the team at the designated competitions is required of all members, unless otherwise permitted by the director/coach. Members not fulfilling this requirement will be removed from the team.
2. Some teams may choose to compete locally, and some may choose to compete towards a bid to a national competition. If the team receives a bid for nationals the entire team is required to attend and participate unless otherwise indicated by the director/coach.

**Section V.**

Officer/Leadership Selections

Directors/coaches can choose to have officers/student leaders if they feel it is necessary or in the best interest of the team. The number of officers/student leaders will fluctuate from year to year depending on the needs of the team. All officer selections are final and not subject to further appeal.

A. Selection Process:

1. The director/coach may select the officers/student leaders they feel have shown leadership qualities needed for the team. The director/coach does not have to hold a tryout to select these officer/student leaders.
2. If a tryout opportunity is given to the students, the director/coach can structure the officer tryout how they feel is best for the team.

**Options but not limited to:**

- Officer Notebooks
- Teacher recommendations
- Grades
- Interviews with the team, director/coach, judges, etc.
- Choreography assignment
- Skills assessment
- Leadership questionnaire
- Team presentation

**ARTICLE IX. HANDBOOK**

Each high school campus will develop a handbook whose guidelines may address some of the articles in this District Spirit Handbook in a more specific way that fits their specific team needs. This handbook should be an extension of this document and should not contain information that is contradictory to the information contained in the document.

Revised 1/2024



# Student-Parent District Spirit Handbook Acknowledgment Form

The North East Independent School District has adopted the District Spirit Handbook, which outlines the expectations for being a member of any spirit organization under the District. It was developed through the commitment, cooperation, and involvement of the District's administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, and students in keeping with the guidelines of the Texas Education Code. The District Spirit Handbook is intended to serve as a resource to students, parents/guardians, and staff. This document defines expectations and responsibilities of each member of the spirit organization and provides general information regarding policies, practices, and procedures. The District Spirit Handbook is not an all-inclusive document and may be altered periodically.

Please review this information so that there is a shared understanding of the District's expectations for students participating in our spirit organizations, as well as, the general practices and policies of the District/Fine Arts Department.

Please remove this page and return the signed and completed form as instructed by your campus director/coach. If you have any questions relating to the District Spirit Handbook, please contact your child's director/coach.

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I received a copy of the North East ISD District Spirit Handbook. I understand that I/my child will be responsible for adhering to the rules and procedures as outlined in this document. I am aware of the responsibility for reading and understanding the contents of the document.

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR CHILD'S DIRECTOR/COACH.**