



THE PEARLAND PRANCER
HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

<u>HANDBOOK PURPOSE.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>PHILOSOPHY /PURPOSE.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>OBJECTIVES.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>MEMBERSHIP.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ORGANIZATION.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>OFFICERS.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>MILITARY OFFICERS.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>SOCIAL OFFICERS.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>REMOVAL AND DEMOTION OF AN OFFICER.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>PROMOTIONS.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>DRILL TEAM TRAINING PROCEDURES.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>AUDITION PROCEDURES.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>TRANSFER STUDENT AUDITION PROCEDURES.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>SPECIALTY GROUPS.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>GAME/ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>UNIFORMS.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>ALTERATIONS AND CLEANING OF UNIFORMS.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>RULES FOR FRIDAY UNIFORM.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>LETTER JACKETS.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>PRANCER PASS.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>DEMERITS & CONDITIONING.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>DEMERIT PROBATION.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>PHYSICAL CONDITIONING.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>DISMISSAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>BOOSTER CLUB.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>GENERAL.....</u>	<u>14</u>

HANDBOOK PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set uniform guidelines and policies that focus on the proper implementation of membership requirements, tryouts, performance expectations, attendance, fundraisers and general rules. The Prancer must abide by all guidelines and policies outlined in the PHS Prancer Handbook and Pearland High School Student Handbook.

PHILOSOPHY /PURPOSE

Being a Prancer is an honor and special privilege. Prancers exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship and enthusiastic school spirit and are first and foremost representatives of their school. Prancers exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the Pearland Student Code of Conduct. Members of this group have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, members of Prancers are expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers.

OBJECTIVES

Prancers are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering dances. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through support, personal attitude and attendance at required events.

MEMBERSHIP

Prospective members must be enrolled in Drill Team Training, attend a mandatory tryout clinic and participate in the scheduled auditions before three qualified judges.

- Realizing the current dress code stipulates that tattoos may be covered to create compliance, this is impractical with dance and drill team performance because of physical demand and costume/uniform alteration requirements. Therefore, perspective members and members must not have tattoos that require special coverings, such as make-up, costumes or bandages to create compliance with the dress code or uniform requirement of the organization.
- Members are expected to give their time to participate in required activities throughout the year. These activities may range from performances to fundraiser activities.
- Members should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.
- Members must attend prep summer camp, summer camp and football prep camp.
- Members and their parents shall be aware of the responsibilities and the expenses of the organization.
- Parents are expected to support the member in complying with all guidelines and policies of the school and the organization.
- Membership for Prancers or Junior Varsity drill team begins immediately upon notification of acceptance.
- Members must adhere to all guidelines and policies in this handbook. Exception: For membership purposes, academic eligibility does not apply until the semester following the members' acceptance begins.

ORGANIZATION

Membership consists of tenth through twelfth grades students. *Circumstances due to opening new schools may change the grade level structure of the organization. Such changes will be communicated to parents in writing.*

- Members specialize in dance as an art form. These may include jazz, lyrical, modern, kick, military, pom, funk, prop and tap.
- Members develop qualities of leadership organizational skills, proper conduct and how to be a team player.

OFFICERS

It is the duty of all officers to be ambitious, determined and to maintain pride in one's self and in the organization.

Each officer must at all times be a good representative of the organization and be the finest example of an ideal Prancer demonstrated by her attitude, dance ability, scholarship, and citizenship. She must set high standards and always work to perfect her level of performance and ability in whatever she does.

MILITARY OFFICERS

I. *Military Officers* of the organization may consist of: **Colonel, Lt. Colonel(s) and Lieutenant(s)**. The number of officers selected to serve are determined by the Directors and judges.

The duties of the **Military Officers** are:

1. to perform all duties assigned to her as an officer of the organization.
2. to control the team in the absence of the director.
3. to lead the group during public performances.
4. to assist the director in the planning of performances.
5. to assist the director with choreography.
6. to assist the Director in teaching routines.
7. to instruct small groups.
8. to assist in perfecting routines.
9. to complete any additional duties assigned by the director.
10. to attend all Prancer functions. Failure to do so without director approval may result in dismissal from the office.

The duties of the **Lt. Colonel** are:

1. to assist the **Colonel** in all her duties.
2. to perform the duties of the **Colonel** in her absence.

The duties of **Colonel** are:

1. to perform all duties assigned to her as the top ranking officer of the organization.
2. to keep strict supervision of the officer line and team.

II. *Eligibility for Military Officer*

- A. Candidate must exhibit high standards of leadership, character, responsibility, scholarship, dance technique, choreography, teaching ability and the capability of working with others.
- B. Candidate must pledge herself to remain in attendance for the current school year.
- C. Candidate must be a current member of the varsity team.
- D. Candidate must maintain a “C” average or better in each class for the current school year.
- E. Candidate must not have been on Scholastic Probation more than one time during the current school year.
- F. Candidate must not have been on demerit probation at any time during the current school year.
- G. Candidate must have their account balance paid up to last deadline in the organization.

III. *Military Officer Selection*

- A. Military Officers are determined by a panel of judges, the team and/or the directors.
- B. Military Officer candidates must complete the tryout process as explained in the tryout packet.
- C. Criteria for tryout may be judged by but not limited to:
 - 1. group choreography taught by director
 - 2. original solo dance routine (two to two-and-one-half minutes in length)
 - 3. notebook
 - 4. office student evaluation
 - 5. technique combination
 - 6. teaching session
 - 7. interviews
 - 8. Prancer strut
 - 9. handbook test
 - 10. improv
 - 11. team evaluation

SOCIAL OFFICERS

H. The *Social Officers* of the organization may consist of, but not limited to, a **President(s), Vice-President(s), Secretary(s), Treasurer(s), Historian(s)**. The numbers of social officers are determined by the director. Social Officers must attend all Prancer functions. Failure to do so without director approval may result in dismissal from the office.

The purpose of the social officers is to promote team spirit, good attitudes and assist in planning all social events.

The duties of the **President** are:

- 1. to call and preside at all meetings of the Social Officers.
- 2. to keep strict supervision over the work of all the other Social Officers.
- 3. to assist director in planning/organizing of all social events.
- 4. to oversee all social fundraising activities.
- 5. to up keep of spirit girl of the week.

The duties of the **Vice-President** are:

1. to assist the **President** in her duties.
2. to perform the duties of the **President** in case of her absence.
3. to be in charge of spirit gifts.
4. to organize social meetings every week.
5. to oversee room decorating each month.

The duties of the **Secretary** are:

1. to send thank you notes and cards for various occasions throughout the year.
2. to be responsible for the recognition of each member's birthday.
3. to be in charge of the birthday board.
4. to be responsible for the Prancer Link.

The duties of the **Treasurer** are:

1. to assist the assistant director with receipts.
2. to prepare a budget for each event.
3. to keep a record of social officer monies.

The duties of the **Historian** are:

1. to create a scrapbook of all Prancer activities throughout the school year (pictures, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, etc.) This will be presented at the last social event of the year.
2. to be responsible for Prancer publicity in the local and school newspaper.
3. to act as liaison with Prancer Booster Club publicity committee.
4. to take pictures for Slide Show at Banquet.
5. to update calendar in the dance room.

II. *Eligibility for Social Officers*

- A. Candidates must have high standards of leadership, character, responsibility, scholarship and the capability of working with others.
- B. Candidates must pledge herself to remaining in the organization for the full year.
- C. Candidates must be a current member of the varsity team.
- D. Candidates must maintain a "C" average or better in each class for the current school year.
- E. Candidates must not have been on Scholastic Probation more than one time during the current school year.
- F. Candidates must not have been on demerit probation at any time during the current school year.
- G. Candidates must have their account balance paid up to last deadline in the organization.

III. Social Officer Selection

- A. Social Officers are chosen by the team members, judges and/or director(s).
- B. Social candidates must complete the tryout process as explained in the tryout packet.
- C. Criteria for tryout may be judged by but not limited to:
 - 1. notebook
 - 2. interview
 - 3. handbook test
 - 4. speech and skit
 - 5. office student evaluation
 - 6. team evaluation

REMOVAL AND DEMOTION OF AN OFFICER

- A. Members placed on Demerit Probation or Scholastic Probation automatically forfeit their position.
- B. Members who fail to maintain the duties of their office automatically forfeit their position.

PROMOTIONS

Vacancies are filled at the discretion of the director.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AUDITIONS

Students in grades ninth through eleventh are eligible to tryout for drill team if all of the following qualifications are met:

- A. Candidates must be enrolled in Drill Team Training.
- B. Candidates must be academically eligible at the time of auditions.
- C. Candidates who have been suspended or received ALA or an ISS assignment are not allowed to tryout or to continue membership. (EXCEPTION: A student may serve a one-day assignment for dress code or tardies only. Any other assignments make them ineligible for auditions).
- D. Members dismissed from the team midyear must complete the Drill Team Training process again to be eligible to audition.

DRILL TEAM TRAINING PROCEDURES

- A. Candidates are responsible for all financial obligations incurred while in Drill Team Training or Junior Varsity drill team.
- B. Candidates must participate in Drill Team Training fundraising.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

Candidates receive an audition packet and must complete all audition requirements as explained in the packet.

- A. Candidates must obtain a Student Office Evaluation Score of 25 to be eligible for the mandatory audition workshop.
- B. Candidates must attend a mandatory workshop.
- C. The workshop and audition is closed to spectators.
- D. Candidates audition in front of a panel of impartial judges. Candidates must achieve a score of 14 or better to make the drill team.
- E. The decision of the judges is final.
- F. Candidates are considered a member of Junior Varsity drill team immediately upon notification of acceptance and must adhere to all guidelines and policies.
- G. Candidates must complete all audition paperwork and required amount of merits must be in on the designated day in order to audition.

TRANSFER STUDENT AUDITION PROCEDURES

- A. A transfer student is eligible for a tryout only if they are a current member in good standing with their previous high school drill team or drill team training class.
- B. Audition requirements are:
 - 1. A letter of recommendation from previous Director.
 - 2. Provide a current report card.
 - 3. Performs a dance routine the candidate already knows.
 - 4. Execute skills across the floor.
 - 5. Must meet all Prancer audition requirements.
- C. The audition is held in front of the director, assistant director and appropriate administrator. Date and time is at the discretion of the director.

SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

- A. All grades are checked before designated activities and at the end of the three and six-week period.
- B. Members who fail two consecutive six-week periods automatically forfeit their membership in the organization. (Exception: For membership purposes, academic eligibility does not apply until the semester following the members' acceptance begins).
- C. Members who fail for the six week period are ineligible. Upon regaining eligibility they may be selected as an alternate or performer.
- D. An ineligible member must attend all practices.
- E. An ineligible member may not travel with the team.
- F. Eligibility requirements are mandated by TEA and can be found TEA/UIIL Side by Side manual. (www.UIL.utexas.edu) All members are subject to these laws.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Members *must be present* on audition/formation day, band run-through and game day.
- B. Member must be present and participate actively in each practice.
- C. Members with unexcused absences do not perform.
- D. Auditions are held for each routine prior to a performance. Members must be present for this audition and complete it to the satisfaction of the director. Factors such as attitude, manners and effort are taken into consideration as well as ability. Members unable to execute the routine to the expected standard or have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices are not chosen to perform.
- E. Excused absences include illness, school-sponsored activity, religious holidays or a death in the family. One excused absence is allowed per week; however it is discouraged.*
In order to have an absence excused you must:
 - 1. Call or email prior to practice.
 - a. Office-(281)997.3273
 - b. franklinl@pearlandisd.org
 - c. perryj@pearlandisd.org
 - 2. Must be excused absence as stated above
- F. Tardies of more than 20 minutes will count as an absence.
- G. Missing more than one practice during the week of a football game or any practices the week of contest or Spring Show (even if it is excused) will result in being pulled from the routine(s).*
- H. Members are allowed three absences per contest or spring show routine before being removed from the performance(s).
- I. Members removed from the performance due to auditions, absences, illness or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances.
- J. Members who are academically ineligible are not allowed to wear the uniform or perform at any school related or drill team related events.
- K. An accumulation of five demerits in one week period causes a member to lose performing privileges.
- L. Members may only perform in complete uniform.
- M. Members absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. (Exceptions: school field trip, religious holidays, death in family)
- N. Tutoring should take place during non rehearsal time. Since tutoring is available after school, student's tardies will not be excused without prior approval from the director. This is not limited to academic needs, but also includes meetings and events for other organizations.

*As a result of varying rehearsal schedules at multiple campuses, performance requirements vary by campus and organization.

SPECIALTY GROUPS

- A. At the discretion of the director the organization may offer specialty groups.
- B. In the event that a specialty group is offered, auditions will be held at the discretion of the director. All members are eligible to audition but are restricted to one specialty groups.

GAME/ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR

- A. Members take their assigned seat in the stands and occupy only that seat during the entire activity. No one leaves without officer or Director permission.
- B. No eating, drinking or gum-chewing.
- C. Members participate in unison during all cheers and hand routines.
- D. At the Colonel's signal, members rise for such reasons as kick-off, National Anthem, school song, stand routines, etc.
- E. Members are considered "performing" while in stand lines; therefore there is no turning around or talking.
- F. Talking to outsiders is only allowed during authorized breaks. Unauthorized persons may not visit or sit in the drill team section.
- G. Unsportsmanlike conduct is not allowed at any time.
- H. Gifts (flowers, balloons, etc.) may not be brought into stands other than the visiting team gift.

UNIFORMS

- A. Members are expected to take pride in their uniforms and do everything possible to keep it in good condition. It must be protected at all times, whether being worn, stored or carried.
- B. Uniforms of the drill team are provided by the school.
- C. Appearances in uniform must be approved by the Director.
- D. The director may call for periodic uniform inventory during the year.
- E. Uniforms are to be spotless at all times and ready for inspection before every performance.
- F. While in uniform the following are prohibited:
 - 1. Jewelry
 - 2. Nail polish
 - 3. Eating or chewing gum
 - 4. Public Display of Affection
- G. Uniforms are not to be worn in an incomplete fashion.
- H. Members may only drink water/clear liquids while in uniform.
- I. Performance makeup is to be worn while in uniform.
- J. Uniforms are to be worn to, during and after the performance. Members must change before going out in public.

ALTERATIONS AND CLEANING OF UNIFORMS

- A. Members are responsible for cleaning and upkeep of uniform.
- B. No alterations may be made without the Director's approval.
- C. Uniforms are not to be cut.
- D. Members are responsible to pay for any damage to the uniform.
- E. Disrespect or misuse of the uniform may result in dismissal from the organization.

RULES FOR FRIDAY UNIFORM

- A. Friday uniforms are to be provided by each member.
- B. Friday uniforms will be worn by members on game days and other occasions as designated by the director.
- C. Friday uniforms are only to be worn as a group.
- D. Lady-like behavior and manners are expected at all times in any uniform.

LETTER JACKETS

- A. Letter Jackets are awarded based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Members complete one full year of varsity drill team.
 - 2. Members meet attendance requirements.
- B. Upon award, the organization provides the jacket and the letter.
- C. Patches other than the letter may be purchased by the individual member.
- D. Members may only be awarded one jacket.
- E. Non members may not wear the drill team letter jacket.

PRANCER PASS

The Director may choose to offer passes for services deemed appropriate throughout the year. The rewards for such earned passes are also at the director's discretion. A list of items for passes will be provided at the beginning of each school year. One demerit will be canceled by earning two passes.

DEMERITS & CONDITIONING

Members are expected to maintain proper conduct during all practices and performances as well as outside activities.

Demerits are given for improper conduct. Demerits do not affect a member's grade but affects active status.

Demerits are in effect for a period of one calendar year. Demerits are up to the discretion of the director. Demerits may be assigned for the items listed below, however other situations may arise that are not covered by this list.

Attendance and Tardies	Demerits
Unexcused absence from games or activities	5 & Conditioning
Unexcused absence from practices or meetings	3 & Conditioning
Tardy to games, run throughs, roll calls, or trips without a phone call to director	2 & Conditioning
Tardy to a games, run throughs roll calls, or trips with a phone call to director	Conditioning
Uniform	
Failure to wear proper uniform	1 per item
Chewing gum, eating, drinking, nail polish, jewelry in uniform	1 per infraction
Wearing uniform in public when not approved	1 per item
Makeup, uniform, hair fixed, props and other required items at roll call (not complete or dirty)	1 per item
Conduct	
Public display of affection	2 -5
Unsportsmanlike conduct or unladylike conduct in uniform	1-5
Profanity in public	3- 5
Hickies	5
Body piercing (i.e. nose, lip, tongue, eye brow, belly button, ear spacers)	5 & Conditioning- Dismissal
Tattoos according to membership guidelines	Dismissal
Allowing or inviting a non member into the locker room	3
Failure to keep clean the following areas: practice, performance, or dressing	Conditioning
Insubordination	
Talking back to an officer or Director	1 -10
Failure to obey commands	3
Leaving practice early for any reason without permission	1 -5
Failure to turn in fees, forms, or money on the due date	Conditioning
Talking or moving in formation or rank	1 & Conditioning
Failure to display respect to all teachers and staff	1 -10

DEMERIT PROBATION

- A. Members accumulating 10 or more demerits are placed on demerit probation.
- B. Members accumulating 15 demerits in one year automatically forfeit their position on the team.
- C. Members placed on demerit probation sit out two performances.
- D. Members placed on demerit probation attend all functions regardless of their performance status.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

A. Physical conditioning will consist of any of the following assignments:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15- 20 – 8's of high kicks• 50 pushups & 150 sit ups | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15-20 laps• 3 passes of lunges• 30-35 up/downs |
|---|--|

B. Physical conditioning will be given for minor offenses such as:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tardy to roll call (with phone call to director)• Missing clothing at practice• Hair not in bun• Talking during practice• Participation in all activities• Wearing jewelry• Late forms/fees• Late weekly grade check | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to wear cover-ups over practice clothes on campus or in public• Failure to be in dress code at school• Minor conduct problems at the Director's discretion• There may be conditioning assigned that does not fall under the categories above. |
|---|--|

C. Members that fail to take care of their conditioning after practice work off double the amount the following day. Officers that fail to have a member work off their conditioning, conditions with the member.

DISMISSAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION

These offenses result in dismissal from the organization.

- A. Members who are suspended or receive an ISS or ALA assignment automatically forfeit their position on the team. (EXCEPTION: a student may serve a one-day assignment for dress code or tardies).
 - B. Members who are on academic probation for two consecutive six weeks automatically forfeit their position on the team.
 - C. Members possessing, using, transmitting, or to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, tobacco etc. while at school, in uniform, outside of the regular school day including summer vacation, weekends, holidays, etc. or while representing the organization automatically forfeit their position from the team.
 - D. Members accumulating 15 demerits in one year automatically forfeit their position on the team.
 - E. Members who are convicted of MIP, DUI, DWI or any other drug or alcohol related offense automatically forfeit their position from the team. Members who are charged are temporarily suspended until the issue is resolved.
 - F. Members who have tattoos that require special coverings, such as make-up, costumes or bandages in order to be compliance with the dress code or uniform requirement of the organization automatically forfeit their position from the team.
 - G. Members who assault or harass directors or team members automatically forfeit their position on the team.
 - H. Members who steal automatically forfeit their position on the team.
 - I. Members involved in creating, leading, or participating in an initiation process automatically forfeit their position on the team.
 - J. Any student unable to meet the physical requirements is not allowed to participate as a team member and automatically forfeits their position on the team.
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BOOSTER CLUB

Booster clubs are allowed at the discretion of the principal and director.

Booster clubs are subject to the Pearland ISD Booster Club and Parent Organization Handbook.

GENERAL

- From time to time issues may arise that are not covered in this handbook. When such issues are behavioral and conduct based in nature, the director, the principal and the fine arts director may exercise disciplinary action in accordance with school district policies. Such behavioral and conduct offenses may lead to dismissal from the organization.

Each member and parent or guardian must sign the last page of this document in order to participate in summer camp and any other activities.

Parent and Team Member Signature Page

Administrative Staff Signatures:

Campus Principal

Assistant Principal

Directors:

Director

Assistant Director

Fine Arts Director

I have read the above document in full and understand the duties and responsibilities that being a member of this team requires. I agree to follow this document to my fullest capability and if I am not successful I take the consequences that follow.

Team Member Signature

Date

I, the parent or guardian of said team member, have read the above document and understand its contents. I also understand the time commitment and discipline involved in such an organization. My daughter has my full support during her time on this team.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date