

2019-2020

# HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM HANDBOOK



**PLEASANT GROVE**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TEXARKANA, TEXAS

**2019-2020**  
**Showstopper Handbook**



## Preface

Welcome to the Pleasant Grove Drill Team! As a member, you are part of one of the school's most respected 'teams.' The Pleasant Grove Showstoppers are known for being a very dedicated and loyal group.

The success of the drill team will depend on the dedication, enthusiasm, and cooperation of *each* member. As with any group, teamwork is a vital part of this organization. With a positive attitude, patience, and hard work, the PGHS Showstoppers will attain the goals set.

The following pages reflect hours of careful thought and planning. Please read the rules and regulations carefully to guide you through a successful year.

**BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!**

# Drill Team Selection and Responsibilities

## Selection

Membership in the drill team is open to students in grades 9-12. Members of the drill team will be selected by judges from outside the school. Selections will be made in the spring of the year preceding the school year in which the drill team members will serve. Information will be distributed prior to spring tryouts. Students who have been members of the drill team for two consecutive years will not be required to try out, but must turn in a tryout form by the deadline set by the director.

Each candidate shall have written parental approval to try out for the drill team. Permission forms shall be signed and returned to the office on or before the deadline set. In addition to meeting UIL rules and requirements, a candidate must have no grade lower than an overall grade average of 78 and no grade lower than a 'B' in conduct the semester prior to tryouts. In addition each candidate shall receive a passing grade in all subjects the six weeks prior to clinic and tryouts.

Each candidate shall attend a clinic conducted by the school prior to tryouts and must attend in its entirety.

1. All candidates will perform a routine provided by the director.
2. Candidates should wear dancewear as noted in the tryout information.

Parents/spectators shall not be allowed at tryout clinic or tryouts.

Candidates will be judged only at the time announced and set by school officials. Candidates will be judged on appearance, showmanship, projection, execution, precision, memory, rhythm, kicks, and splits. The decision of the judges shall be final. Selected members will be verified by the principal and director.

In years where drill team tryouts precede cheerleaders tryouts, a candidate who tries out and makes drill team will not be allowed to tryout for cheerleader without forfeiting their position on drill team.

Members of the drill team shall be ineligible for participation in the band, cheerleading, and first semester athletics. They may participate in second semester athletics so long as practices do not interfere with drill team class, practice, performances or other events. Members may participate in theater so long as rehearsals and performances do not interfere with drill team class, practice, performance, or other events. Missed class, practice, performances, or other events may result in loss of drill team performance eligibility.

## **Responsibilities of Drill Team Members**

Every member of the drill team should be able to carry out the following responsibilities:

- All drill team members will follow standards and regulations as developed by the director and administration and approved by the board.
- Attendance at practice is mandatory in order to perform at each week's activity. If a practice is missed, the member will miss the activity they are practicing for. Work will not be an excusable reason for missing practices.
- Members and their parents must be fully aware of the expenses of drill team. They must be willing to meet all financial obligations.
- Each member must be at games and practices at the times designated by the director. A point deduction is given if past 5 minutes late, and if a member must leave more than 10 minutes early. Refer to the point system for consequences.
- Members shall respect the director's decisions and actions or regard the possibility of suspension or permanent removal. Members are to be respectful to the director, to the officers, and to each other.
- Members must attend all events including: camp, pep rallies, football games, assigned basketball games, parades, clinics, competitions, spring show, and any other special appearance. If an event is missed, refer to the point system for consequences.
- Each member must be prepared for each performance. Each routine will be evaluated one time by the director and officers to determine the performance group for that dance. If a routine is repeated, the director will reevaluate the routine for possible placement in the performance group. The decision will be up to the director whether or not a dance will be evaluated a second time.
- Drill team members must attend scheduled practice sessions not to exceed eight after school hours each week. Drill team members must also attend practice sessions as scheduled during the summer.

## **Responsibilities of Drill Team Director**

The drill team director will:

- Be selected by the administration.
- Handle discipline matters according to school policy.
- Follow procedures for removing students from their positions if grades are not at the level specified and the probationary periods have been exhausted.
- Accompany the drill team whenever they perform as a school sponsored group.
- Determine uniforms for weekly performances and make decisions concerning the use of uniforms for all performances, with officer suggestions.
- Assist the administration in the development of standards and regulations for the drill team.
- Administer demerits according to policy.
- Maintain a channel of communications with drill team parents concerning activities.
- Select routines and music for all performances with suggestions from the drill team and officers.

- Supervise drill team at all times with assistance from officers upon director's request.
- Make final decisions for line at weekly performances.
- Assign officers responsibilities as necessary.
- Respect the effort, time, and presence of all drill team members.

### **Responsibilities of Drill Team Officers**

The drill team officers shall consist of a minimum of one captain and two lieutenants. More lieutenants may be chosen at the discretion of the director.

Candidates will be selected by judges outside the school and will be judged on interview, appearance, group routine, kicks, splits, teaching, and solo. There will also be a team and director evaluation, at the discretion of the director. Classroom teacher recommendation forms may be included in the tryout process.

In the case of a tie, the director may choose one of two options: the judges can be asked to break the tie, or the director may choose to have co-positions as the scores necessitate.

To be eligible for officer tryouts, the candidate must have been a member of the drill team for at least two years.

### **The drill team officers will:**

Be responsible for making sure that each member knows each routine. Team officers must have at least two years experience.

### **Captain**

The captain will be chosen by performance, leadership and interview, and on the basis of the tryout guidelines and criteria. She must have at least two years experience.

### **Responsibilities**

- Ensure lieutenants are carrying out their responsibilities as instructed by director.
- Cooperate fully with director, fellow officers, and drill team members and display a good attitude at all times.
- Teach tryout routine.
- Assist director in squad control at practices and performances.
- Assist director in dance instruction and performance skills.
- Assume the responsibilities for a squad.

### **Lieutenants**

The lieutenants will be chosen by performance, leadership, and interview on the basis of the tryout guidelines and criteria. She must have at least two years of experience to qualify.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Assist director in squad control at practices and performances.
- Assist director in dance instruction and performance skills.
- In absence of captain, assume instruction of routines.

- Set a good example and work to develop a sense of pride in all drill team leaders.
- Cooperate fully with director, fellow officers, and other teammates and display a good attitude at all times.
- Assist the director in preparing squad for weekly tryouts and give individualized instruction at the director's request.
- Prepare one dance for squad at Spring Show with the assistance of members of the squad.
- All officers must respect the director's decisions at all times.
- All officers may only give constructive criticism to line members and must be considerate of their feelings at all times.
- All officers are expected to participate in all exercises and activities.
- All officers are expected to respect each other at all times and not to question each other's authority.
- All officers are expected to arrive at least 5 minutes early to any scheduled function.
- All officers will be expected to attend special officer meetings.
- All officers are expected to attend officer camp.
- Since being a Showstopper officer is such an important position, it is necessary for each officer to follow the guidelines set for them. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in severe discipline.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense—point deduction and conference with director

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense—probation for a minimum of one week and conference with director

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense—termination from officer rank

### **Managers**

Applications for the manager position(s) will be available in the spring after line tryouts. The manager position is open to all students, male or female, at Pleasant Grove High School or who will be members of the student body for the following school year. Managers will follow all drill team rules and regulations just as any other drill team member. They will be held to the same expectations and will receive the same consequences for misconduct as all drill team members. The manager(s) will be chosen by the director by application, teacher recommendation and by conducting an interview with applicants.

All materials the managers need and that will be used by the drill team will be provided by the drill team. Managers will wear the team warm up and tshirt to all Showstopper events. They are not required to wear special clothing to practice. Managers are required to attend all practices and Showstopper events. Managers are required to fully participate in all drill team and booster club fundraisers.

## **Drill Team Trips**

- Students who participate in school sponsored trips shall be required to follow board policy rules for school trips.
- In case of an emergency, the director may approve other means of transportation.
- Each student must have completed and on file a trip permission form given to them by the director before traveling with the drill team.
- A note must be provided by the parent at least 24 hours before the trip for their child to ride home with someone besides the parent.
- A sign out sheet must be signed for the member to ride home with a parent from an activity where the bus is taken.
- Members must maintain appropriate bus conduct at all times as designated by the director.
- Any member who misses the bus will receive a point deduction for her first offense. If there is a second offense, she will be placed on probation for one week and given a point deduction. For a third offense, and any thereafter, a point deduction will be given, and the member will be placed on probation for one week.

## **Attendance for Participation and Eligibility**

- All members are expected to attend and participate in all activities, classes, practices, performances, and drill team functions. Each member must be at practices and performances at the times designated by the director.
- Regular football season practices will be held during the drill team class period and will last no longer than three hours, unless otherwise notified in advance.
- Each drill team member must realize that to attain championship performance standards the following conditions must be met:
  - Tryouts will be held for each performance. Each member must have an evaluation score of 85 in order to perform.
  - During football season, tryouts will be held on the day designated by the director for the performance line unless otherwise notified.
  - Alternates must attend all practices.
  - The director must be notified in advance if an absence is expected.
  - Doctor appointments should be scheduled for non-practice times.
  - If a member misses any practice, she is responsible for any instruction missed. She will be held responsible for any announcements made or routines taught in her absence.
  - If a member misses a scheduled activity, for an unexcused reason, points will be deducted according to the point system. If a member misses ANY ACTIVITY without contacting the director or an officer in advance, she will not perform at a following activity or performance as designated by the director.
  - If a member misses more than two scheduled activities for unexcused reasons, she may be removed from the team.

- Any student who is absent from school will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activity on the day of the absence unless excused by the director in advance.
- Members should be at home if ill the day of a scheduled performance.
- Excused activities include personal illness or accident, death in family, and school related trips, with advanced notification from a parent/guardian.

### **Performances**

The drill team will perform at all football games. Transportation will be provided by Pleasant Grove Independent School District to away games.

- The line must attend all activities in full uniform. If any part of the uniform is forgotten, the member may not perform and point deductions will be given accordingly.
- Alternates will attend each game in uniform to participate in pre-game and stand activities.
- The members of the team will sit together before and after each performance.
- Members must attend football and basketball games and pep rallies in their entirety. Break times will be designated by the director.

### **Performance Attendance Policy**

**A Showstopper will not be eligible to dance in a performance if she:**

- Misses the practice prior to the performance (i.e. Thursday before a Friday game/pep rally)
- Misses more than 1 practice during the performance week (i.e. within the 4 practices leading up to the performance)
- Per school policy, an absence is missing 15 minutes or more of the class. Less than 15 minutes is a tardy.
- This includes absences for any reason, excused or unexcused.
- The Showstopper is still responsible for attending the event and practices, even if she is not eligible to dance.

### **Point Deductions for Absences**

**Points will be deducted for an absence based on the following:**

- Excused absence (Sick/Funeral/School Related Trip): 0 points
- Absence from Performance/Appearance (Family event, College Visit, Vacation, etc.): - 3 points
- Absence from Performance without prior approval (Showstopper just doesn't show up): - 5 points
  - The above action will also result in automatic loss of eligibility for the next performance.

### **Notes**

- It is required to notify the director before the absence or it is considered unexcused.
- These policies are set for the purpose of upholding the integrity of the performance.

- Please make every effort to schedule doctor's appointments outside of practice times.
- The health of the Showstopper is priority, even if that means that she is unable to perform.

### **Camp**

Every drill team member must attend summer camp. Members will be notified on the details of camp before school is dismissed in June. The only excuses for missing camp or any part of camp are illness of the student, death in the family, family emergencies, or any other reason acceptable to the director. If a member is unexcused from camp, she will be dismissed from the drill team.

### **Summer Practice**

Attendance is required at pre-season practice. If a member chooses to miss a practice, the member will miss performances accordingly.

### **Spring Show**

All members will participate in the production of the annual Spring Show unless UIL standards or point requirements are not met.

### **Contest**

Each member will be given the opportunity to participate in the annual competition provided she meets the specific requirements. Requirements will consist of attendance, points, attitude, and UIL eligibility. Contest requirements are given out prior to contest season.

Members will audition for placement in the competition dances. Placement will be determined by the director.

### **Conduct**

Grading will be based on the Pleasant Grove Student Code of Conduct handbook criteria.

### **Standards**

• Standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any leading organization. Members of the drill team should be leaders within the school and exhibit the following attributes in order to lead by example at all times. Showstopper should be: prompt, productive, prepared, polite, and principled.

**Prompt:** Members should be early or on time for scheduled practices, performances, and events. Showstoppers should not be late to any practice, performance, or event.

**Productive:** Showstoppers should value their own time, as well as that of their teammates. Practice time should be spent preparing for upcoming performances or events, and accomplishing the tasks set by the director and/or officers.

**Prepared:** Members should be prepared for practice, performance, or event, by having all uniform or costume pieces and other materials designated by the director and/or officer.

**Polite:** Showstoppers should exhibit an attitude of respect for their teammates, director, teachers, fellow students, parents, and community members at all times, but especially when representing the Showstopper organization.

**Principled:** Integrity is essential to the reputation of the Showstoppers. Members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Personal appearance and habits of which there can be no criticism or distraction from the team's performance are required since drill team members are constantly representing the school before the public.

- If any of the above standards are broken and it is reported to the director, the director will investigate the infraction and will take the appropriate action as deemed necessary (possible probation or dismissal).

- Disciplinary action for failure to meet standard requirements shall be chosen from the following:

- a. Conference with director/demerit
- b. Probation from performance
- c. Expulsion from the drill team

### **Discipline Management Techniques**

All drill team members are not only subjected to the discipline management techniques listed in the district's discipline management plan when being assessed penalties for violations of the code of conduct, but may be suspended or dismissed from the program or assigned to extra physical activity for violation of team standards.

A point system will be used to manage team standards. The point system will be an online system that both members and parents can check at any time.

A point deduction will be given by the director only. Leaving early from practice without permission will result in severe discipline (probation).

Talking back to or arguing with the director will result in immediate probation. Dismissal from school or truancy will result in immediate probation.

Termination of membership will occur for the following:

1. Excessive violation of drill team rules
2. Use or possession of prohibited drugs or alcohol, the student code of conduct will apply. DAEP placement results in automatic termination from the team.

Members must abide by all regulations in order to remain in drill team.

**These rules are subject to change with sufficient notice.**

**The director may be allowed to place certain restrictions upon a member of the team.**

Any time a member fails to adhere to these requirements, she may be dropped from the team.

If a member is dismissed from the team, she may not sign up or tryout for drill team the following year.

## Point System

### **Football Season**

- For every 3 points deducted, the Showstopper must sit out of a performance.
- Items are considered “missing” at check-in time.
- Eligibility is checked on Wednesday during practice. This allows for formations to be adjusted without stress on the team.

### **Competition and Spring Show Season**

- Class Dojo will be used to record and monitor points.
- For every 3 points deducted, the Showstopper will have a running consequence.
- Items are considered “missing” at check-in time.

## **Point Deductions**

Incorrect practice clothing/Game Day clothing	1 point
Missing practice item (hat/boots/poms/etc.)	1 point
Late items (forms/costume return)	1 point
Tardy (after “check-in” time)	1 point
Cell phone use when not allowed	1 point
Excessive talking/disruptive behavior during practice/performance	1 point
Missing uniform piece for performance	2 points per piece
Inappropriate behavior (in the classroom and during practice): ISS placement will result in a 5 point deduction	1-5 points (depending on the action)
Unexcused absence	3 points
Absence without prior notice	5 points

\*\*\*Opportunities to earn bonus points may be available at Director’s discretion.\*\*\*

## Probation

Any serious violations will be considered grounds for probation, suspension, or dismissal. While on probation, performance as a drill team member is prohibited.

- Any member who does not meet eligibility standards more than 3 times during a year, may be dismissed from the team.
- The point system will be kept in Class Dojo or another similar app. Parents and students will have access to check their status whenever they would like.
- Any member who is placed on probation due to the 'No Pass-No Play' rule for two grading periods a year may be dismissed from the team at semester or the following year.

### **Grades**

Grades will reflect mastery of essential elements in physical education and dance. Students will receive grades each week based on performance skills, participation, and responsibility.

In addition to meeting UIL rules and requirements, each drill team member must maintain a grade average of 78 or above in all classes and no grade lower than a B in conduct each six week grading period. Grades shall be checked by the sponsor at the end of each grading period.

A student whose grade average in any class is lower than 70 at the end of the six week period, shall be suspended from extracurricular activities for the following six week grading period. During that time, the student will be allowed to practice as an alternate during the class period only. They should use their time after school to get academic assistance or tutoring and to work on regaining their eligibility. It will be up to the director to determine what dances or performances the student will be placed in after the suspension. Students on suspension will NOT be allowed to practice after school, attend or perform at any Showstopper events during the suspension period.

If a member becomes ineligible under TEA Guidelines for two six week grading periods, the member will be removed from the team for the remainder of the year. The member must have director and administrator approval to tryout for the following year.

A student failing two or more six week grading periods while a member of the drill team, will be dismissed from the team. These failures do not have to be in the same school year; the failures will accumulate over the course of the student's time on the drill team.

### **Uniforms**

The booster club will provide part of the basic football performance uniform. The rest of the uniform must be provided by each member. All uniforms will be selected by the director.

All uniforms must be kept clean at all times. Uniform check may be held several times during the year. The proper cleaning method and dates of uniform check will be set by the booster club uniform committee.

Members are responsible for all uniforms and materials assigned to them. Items not returned, or damaged, will be responsible for replacement costs.

Costumes or uniforms with cigarette smoke odor will not be eligible for return, and will have to be replaced by the member.

### **Letter Jackets**

In order to receive a letter jacket, a member must be in drill team for two years, return for her third year, or be a senior and have director's approval.

### **Insurance**

The Pleasant Grove Independent School District provides your son/daughter with supplemental insurance each school year while he/she is participation in any school sponsored UIL event for grades 7-12. The coverage is supplemental to the primary insurance you provide. The policy only covers accident coverage while the student is participating in UIL athletics or activities sponsored by Pleasant Grove ISD. Coverage is in force during practice, scheduled games, and travel in a school appointed and supervised vehicle, to and from the event. In the event of an accident, notify the drill team director immediately. Accident claim forms can be picked up from the middle or high school office.

# Pleasant Grove Drill Team Handbook

In accepting this handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a member of the Pleasant Grove Showstoppers. I promise to uphold in my actions and attitudes those qualities which will honor the drill team and the school.

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

If you wish, list an insurance company and policy number.

List any medical history of your child that might be helpful in the event of an emergency.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medication being taken at  
present \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION  
IN SHOWSTOPPER ACTIVITIES/TRIPS  
2019-2020**

This form will serve as a permission slip for any Showstopper performance, practice, or other activity your child will participate in this year. For all out of town travel, all students will use PGISD transportation.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to allow my child, \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian), (child's name)

to travel in the following manner (check one):

\_\_\_ My child may **only** travel on a school bus or other official vehicle driven by an employee of Pleasant Grove Independent School District.

\_\_\_ My child may **only** drive himself/herself when participating in Showstopper activities.

\_\_\_ My child may drive himself/herself and/or ride in another vehicle driven by another specific student(s). List the specific name(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_

I also agree to assume any and all liability and hold the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents harmless from all claims or actions which I or my child ever had, now have, or may have in the future or any liability for injuries or damages which occur to my child or to me as a result of his or her participation in these student council activities. I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims to which I may otherwise be entitled and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Pleasant Grove Independent School District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Pleasant Grove Independent School District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child's actions during these activities.

I understand that the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity which it or they have under Texas law.

I understand that normal disciplinary procedures will be followed from the time of departure from the school until the time of arrival back at school.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date