

Dear Prospective Dance Team Parents,

We are very pleased that your dancer is considering auditioning for the 2018-2019 SMCHS Dance Team. This experience will be full of opportunities to make new friends, develop dance ability, and expand each dancer's knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a truly committed, responsible and positive team member. The Dance Team performs and competes in the styles of jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and hip hop. Three soloists are chosen to represent the team each year. The Dance Team also performs at school rallies, Open Houses, and two football and basketball games each year.

Being a part of the Dance Team is not only a commitment on behalf of the dancer, but on behalf of the dancer's family as well. Although our parents may not be displaying their talents on stage, their time and skills (even if it's just lending a hand with carpooling) are vital to the success of the team. This is a yearlong commitment, so please read the following responsibilities carefully before deciding if SMCHS Dance Team is for you and your dancer. If you feel that this commitment is too involved for your family, please do not audition.

Before you audition, you should also be aware of our values. This is not a "win at all costs" team. All members will strive for their personal best but with the understanding that we all have different abilities. We value dancers that are willing and eager to learn, passionate about their craft, and dedicated to being a positive, involved, and committed team member. All dancers will perform in at least **ONE** competitive team dance depending on team size and skill set. Smaller routines are cast by the choreographers as they come in, and thus the dancers' participation in these pieces cannot be predicted by the director or coach. A dancer may also be selected to be an "alternate," a responsibility that includes purchasing the appropriate costume and knowing the choreography well enough to step in for a dancer in the unfortunate case of illness or injury. The number of dances for the 2018-2019 competition season will be dependent on the size of the team, but will be a minimum of 5 competition routines in total.

Sincerely,
Arielle Kalina
SMCHS Director of Dance
Kalinaa@smhs.org

-----Dance Team Policies-----

ANNUAL DANCE TEAM AUDITION

All dancers (even returning members) must be present at the audition on **Saturday, May 5th at 9:00am**. An audition fee of \$10 in cash is required. A minimum of three judges will be brought in to select the team. Individual audition results/scores will not be discussed with dancers or parents.

***Video Auditions:** Video submissions will be accepted, however they are strongly discouraged. Video recordings never demonstrate a dancer's capacity for excellence as well as a live showing, and thus should only be submitted when no other solution is possible. In order for a video submission to be considered, it must meet the criteria described below. The dancer should be shown:

- Doing across-the-floor combinations that include pique turns, battements/extensions, pirouettes, a la seconde turns, jetés and leaps in second.
- Showcasing any unique personal skills or tricks
- Performing a piece of lyrical or jazz choreography that is at least one minute in length and no longer than one minute thirty seconds.

*** This must be a current video recording.**

MANDATORY FUNDRAISING PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS

1. Christmas Tree Fundraiser
2. Spring Dance Concert - Each family will be expected to help with the Saturday evening Fundraising Concert and sell at least \$100 worth of advertisements for the Program (depending on the size of the team).
3. Date TBD- SMCHS Golf Tournament

MANDATORY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation Fee for this class is \$550. Half is due by June 18, 2018 with the balance due by August 15, 2018. Please be prompt with required payment. If there is a hardship, please discuss the matter with the director. The Dance Team is self-sustaining; fees are required for the existence of the program. Participation fees cover only about 75% of operational costs which include entry fees, choreography and music editing. Other costs to the dancer include:

- Team Uniforms and Bags
- Team costumes will not exceed \$500. Solo costumes will be extra. You will receive an invoice for costumes before the end of the year.
- Appropriate shoes for each dance and uniform competition make-up.

- *This year we have been invited to USA Elite Camp (July 19th-22nd). This camp will be mandatory and will cost approximately \$400-\$500 (split into 4 payments).*
- We also travel to Florida in the spring; the total cost can be expected to be approximately \$1,500 depending on airfare and team size; we travel as a group and group prices fluctuate drastically.

*** It is impossible to anticipate all expenses, but the above outline is as accurate as is possible to estimate.**

MANDATORY TIME COMMITMENTS FOR PARENTS

- Provide transportation to practices and competitions.
- Make sure your dancer is on time to all events. This may seem minor but is very important.
- **Please do not schedule appointments for your dancer during practice times. In the case of an emergency, which is a case by case basis, the coach and director will need documentation of the doctor's visit.**
- Willingly volunteer your time and talents to help make this a successful year.
- Support the fundraisers, rehearsal schedule, and functions we participate in.
- **Support the directors and choreographers in their decisions regarding casting. As a parent it can be difficult, but it is essential for team cohesiveness and success. Please trust that we will always have the best interest of the team in mind.**

MANDATORY COMMITMENTS FOR DANCERS

- COMMIT TO BEING A GOOD TEAM MEMBER: Be on time for rehearsals, follow dress code and be enthusiastic!
- Be attentive and focused at all rehearsals. Do not talk while we are working.
- **If cast in a dance you are responsible for participating in it. No dance is "optional."**
- Respect the Captain(s), fellow teammates, Coaches and yourselves!
- Do not engage in behaviors that will lead to attendance/academic/discipline problems with school. SMCHS Dance Team has a **zero tolerance policy towards drugs or alcohol**. You may also not perform if on Dean's Probation at SMCHS.
- Dancers will be responsible for continuing their dance training outside of class and rehearsals. (20 points per month in Dance Production grade)

- *If there is an excused absence the dancer will be responsible for learning the choreography/cleaning missed a week from the absence. If this rule is not respected, the coach and director will assess if putting in the alternate is the best course of action.*
- *KAIROS: Dancers attending Kairos may only attend the summer Kairos and/or September Kairos. Dancers will not be excused from practice for any of the other Kairos trips. Please plan accordingly, Kairos is a very special time for the seniors!*
- *Dancers must commit to adhering to the school policy of NO TATTOOS. If a dancer gets a tattoo they will not be allowed to compete on the SMCHS Dance Team, no exceptions.*
- **Be willing and committed to address any problems or concerns you have with the coach or director. We like to clear up misunderstandings (etc.) before they become a problem. Negativity is poisonous to the Dance Team's mission and focus.**

MANDATORY REHEARSAL TIMES

- SUMMER: Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5pm. Summer practices will begin on June 18th and go through July 25th. **Dancers will not be allowed to miss more than 3 rehearsals for vacations.**
- DATES TO KEEP OPEN FOR COMPETITION CHOREOGRAPHY/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
 - August 18th 9am-5pm
 - August 19th 3pm-6pm
 - August 25th 9am-5pm
 - August 26th 3pm-6pm
 - SM OPEN HOUSE- TBA Sometime in October/ November
- THROUGH THE SCHOOL-YEAR: Mondays from 2:40-4:45 (TBA about off campus location) and Wednesdays/Thursdays from **2:20 to 5:30** in the SMCHS Dance Room. Soloists and smaller group dances will have additional practice times to learn choreography.
- Occasional rehearsal times planned around schedules of guest choreographers.

These are not optional. All team members are required to attend all rehearsals. If a dancer is unable to attend rehearsal due to illness/emergency, the dancer or parent must notify The Director of Dance via e-mail to Kalinaa@smhs.org and Pelayod@smhs.org prior to rehearsal, and call the Captains. **ONLY if a dancer is excused from practice they will have one week to learn any choreography/cleanings, ect.**

Dancers and parents must realize that the advisors will select solos BY INVITATION ONLY. Please do not solicit solos. Again, the emphasis is on teamwork with solos being secondary.

There will be 7 competitions selected, including a National Competition in Florida (**dates TBD**). Competition season is mid-December through early April. Competitions are full day events and all dancers are required to stay until awards. The Dance Team also performs at selected football and basketball games, school rallies, and community events.

Please remember that dance competitions make up only a part of the Dance Production Class, but competition season is our high profile time. For more information on the class itself, please see the SMCHS Course Description Handbook.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The Dance Team has a strong reputation for being comprised of exemplary SMCHS community members. In order to maintain this standing, Dance Team members are expected to live the school's charism (*Caritas Christi*), and to be the *love of Christ* to those around them always. In addition to the aforementioned circumstances, Dance Team members can also be put on probation for any action that contradicts the school's values, or the Dance Team values described below, as determined by the coach and director:

Integrity

Dance Team members are expected to be honest, maintain strong moral principles and encourage them in others.

Consideration

Dance Team members are expected to be aware of those around them and to take specific actions to be respectful and inclusive.

Respect

Dance Team members are expected to treat others with the kindness and courtesy they would hope to be treated with themselves.

Responsibility

Dance Team members are expected to follow through with their commitments to the very best of their ability and to address conflicts *before* they escalate into complicated problems.

Professionalism

Dance Team members are expected to be prompt, follow directions, perform to the best of their ability, and be an exemplary role model for those around them at all times.

Dance Team members must remain “in good standing” with the Dean’s Office. Any student that engages in behavior that gets them on probation with the Dean’s Office is also on probation with the Dance Team. In this case, a dancer will not perform at any event until they are off probation.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND THE ATTACHED DISCIPLINE OFFICE LETTER TO THE SM DANCE OFFICE **BEFORE THE AUDITION.**

I _____ (STUDENT) and _____ (PARENT) have read the attached information regarding the SMCHS Dance Team and understand the required commitments for being a Dance Team member. We understand that a \$10 cash fee is required on the day of the audition (**WHICH IS SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 2018, AT 9AM**), and that individual audition results/scores will not be discussed.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Grade: _____

Please provide the information requested below:

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Phone _____

Please describe all injuries (current or previous below):

Describe injury:

Date initial injury took place:

Describe your doctor's assessment of the injury:

Describe your plan of action in recuperating the injury:

Describe current status of injury:

OUTLINE OF DANCE TRAINING:

Please outline your previous dance training below (Where have you studied? For how long have you trained? What techniques/style have you studied?):

SUMMER AVAILABILITY

Summer rehearsals will begin on June 18th and go through July 25th. Practices will be on Monday and Wednesday from 3-5 pm. **The USA Camp Dates are July 19th-22nd and are MANDATORY.**

Please list any summer conflicts you may have below; include vacations planned, studio recitals/rehearsals, and summer intensives. Summer practice is VERY important for establishing a successful year. **If you are going to be missing more than 3 practices, there needs to be a meeting between the director, coach, dancer, and parent.**

Please attach a separate sheet of paper with a short composition on why you are a good candidate for the SMCHS Dance Team.

To Whom it May Concern in the Discipline Office:

The following student is considering auditioning for the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Dance Team for the 2018-2019 school-year. While fun and exciting, the Dance Team is a highly disciplined activity. There are many rules that need to be followed in order for all team members to have a successful year. Too often, individual dancers forget that their actions can greatly impact the rest of the team. I would like to be aware of any recorded behaviors that might present a cause for concern when considering this student as a potential team member. Please provide the information requested below so that I may make an informed decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Arielle Kalina
Director of Dance
Santa Margarita Catholic High School

Name of Student

Status with the Dean's Office/# of demerits:

Would you recommend this student for Dance Team participation? Please circle Yes or No:

Yes

No

Signature of Dean's Office Representative