

AUDIE MURPHY MIDDLE SCHOOL FALCONETTE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of the drill team shall be (1) to perform and entertain audiences through dance and (2) to compete in team dance competitions (3) to be a supportive group to boost morale and spirit of the school. The purpose shall also be to develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility in each member while maintaining high standards. It is the individual and responsibility in each member while maintaining high standards. It is the drill team's purpose to represent the school in a manner, which will reflect credit upon the school as well as upon the members of the organization. Each team member agrees to abide by the rules and regulation as set forth in this constitution.

ARTICLE 2: QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- a. Candidates and members shall not have any outstanding financial obligations with KISD. Returning members must have all outstanding financial obligations accrued from the year cleared, or make arrangements with the director to do so, in order to be eligible to return to the team for the next year.
- b. Program dues will need to be paid in full.
- c. If tryouts are deemed necessary, candidates will be expected to perform a specific required routine at auditions. Judging will be based on appearance, showmanship, rhythm, flexibility and dance technique.
- d. Candidates who have been dismissed or who have resigned from the drill team will only be eligible to re-audition at the discretion of the director and the administration.
- e. Candidates and returning members must have on file, prior to auditions, the following forms:
 - Audition Application
 - Signed Constitution
 - Medical Release form
- f. A candidate that has been suspended, placed in LTISS, or DAEP will not be eligible to tryout that year. Candidate's placed in STISS may not be eligible to tryout – each candidate will be up for review.

ARTICLE 3: PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- a. You must want to be a drill team member. If you really want to be a drill team member, you will gladly accept criticisms that will help you attain quality dance technique and work will become play for you.
- b. You must be willing to abide by the rules and follow direction.
- c. You must enjoy learning and performing dances.
- d. You must demonstrate responsibility at all times.
- e. You must have good coordination and be in good athletic condition.
- f. You must demonstrate good showmanship.
- g. You must be willing to participate in fundraising activities and projects.
- h. You must understand that any decision made by the director is in the best interest of the team, as a whole.
- i. You must be willing to perform in unison with a team.
- j. You must have excellence as your goal and understand that the schedule of a drill team member demands a high degree of determination, hard work, strength, dedication and self-discipline.
- k. You must maintain a positive attitude towards your team members, Director, and all adults.

ARTICLE 4: APPEARANCE

In keeping with the pride of AMMS, good physical appearance, grooming and dress are vital. The Falconettes are feature members of halftime shows and frequently in the public. The appearance of the

Falconettes must be one of pride, not only for the Falconettes organization, but also for the pride of the school and to the individual.

- a. Members of the Falconettes will be asked to keep themselves groomed in a neat and orderly fashion.
- b. Any uniform/costume issued to a member is to be treated with pride and respect. The uniforms/costumes should be returned. They will be signed out in the beginning of the year and signed in when they are returned. They should be returned in the same condition in which they were signed out. Failure to do so will result in the full asking price of the costume.
- c. Uniforms are the property of AMMS and will be checked out to the members at the beginning of the year and returned at the end of the year.
- d. Uniforms must be returned in the same conditions as they were issued.
- e. Any damage done to a uniform will be charged to the member whom it was issued. The member must pay for the full amount of the damaged uniform.
- f. Personal items of the uniform must be kept clean (i.e. jazz shoes, tights, sports bras, etc).
- g. A complete uniform check will be held prior to any activity/performance. This includes hair and make-up. If the costume/makeup is as expected, the member will not perform on that given day.
- h. Only drill team members may wear the uniform and attire representing the team (sweat shirts, t-shirts, earrings, costumes, etc.) Do not lend Falconette apparel to friends.
- i. No jewelry shall be worn to practice, performances or while in uniform – unless it is part of the uniform.
- j. All members must label their personal uniform items.
- k. If an item is bought for a member, and the member loses it, then the member is responsible for the replacement item(s). If the items are not replaced, they will not perform.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP

- a. There is no set number of members. Membership depends on how many students enroll.
- b. Members must participate in all activities in which the organization is involved.
- c. Members must exhibit and maintain satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations. Please be familiar with the school policies. AMMS Student Handbooks are available in the AMMS main office or online.
- d. A member who chooses to drop off of the team may only re-audition for the team at the discretion of the director. No refund will be given to those who voluntarily quit the team or are removed from the team for any given reason.
- e. Negative attitudes will result in removal from the team without a refund.

ARTICLE 6: PARENTS/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Parents/Guardians must give their permission for their child to tryout before they may sign up and/or tryout, and fulfill all of the responsibilities of being a drill team member before official acceptances.
- b. Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having their child as a member of the drill team.
- c. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to all activities, except when transportation is provided by the school and Director.
- d. Falconettes must be picked up within 10 minutes of practice ending or demerits will be given. After being late 5 times, the Falconette will be placed on probation. After being late 8 times, the Falconette will be removed from the team without refund.
- e. There may be additional costs that are related to personal needs of the Falconette (makeup, tights, sports bra, hair accessories, etc).
- f. Of the \$200.00 cost, no refunds will be given for any reason.

- g. Parents are expected to be respectful towards the Director, the team, and other teams. Any disrespect will result in the member being removed from the team without refund.
- h. Parents will not participate in the coaching process.

ARTICLE 7: PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Falconettes is a full year commitment.
- b. Every member must be present for all practices after school, weekends, and summer camp practices.
- c. Every member must be present for all performances including games, pep rallies, parades, competitions, etc. Only excuses approved by the Director will be accepted and each will be evaluated individually.
- d. Prior notice must be given 48 hours in advance to excuse doctor's appointments, etc. A note from the doctor must be provided upon return to be considered excused.
- e. All excuses must be written (email or hand) to be considered excusable.
- f. Members will arrive on time to practices and performances and stay until dismissed by the director.
- g. Members must attend school all day in order to be eligible to perform at pep rallies, halftime, or contest performances.
- h. Members must stay the entire time of the performance, competition, or fundraising activity unless otherwise excused in advance.
- i. Members must attend the practice before a performance.
- j. All practices are closed to the public – including family, friends, relatives, etc.
- k. Members must sit/stand with the team during all contests, games, and pep rallies. Members should not socialize or leave the designated area without an approved chaperone – this includes parents.
- l. If a member has a health condition that the Director determines may be adversely affected by participation in dance team activities, the Director may require the member to provide a doctor's note authorizing participation in practices in performances. The Director may prohibit a member from participation in dance team activities until such a doctor's note is received. Thus, releasing any liability from Audie Murphy Middle School, Killeen ISD, or the Director for any injury or illness resulting from such participation.
- m. As stated above, Falconettes must be picked up within 10 minutes of practice ending or demerits will be given. After being late 5 times, the Falconette will be placed on probation. After being late 8 times, the Falconette will be removed from the team without refund.

ARTICLE 8: GRADING AND DEMERIT/MERIT SYSTEM

- a. Demerits are the means by which the director determines which member are not fulfilling their team obligations. Demerits are in effect the entire year.
- b. Those members receiving demerits will have to sign a demerit form stating how many demerits were issued and the reason for the demerits.
- c. Demerits must be worked off within one week of being given otherwise they are kept on file.
- d. Demerits are accumulated over all grading periods. Demerits are also earned during the summer.
- e. Demerits may be given by reasons stated in this constitution.
- f. Members receiving or accumulating 10 or more demerits shall be subject to probationary action. Members receiving or accumulating 20 or more demerits shall be subject to dismissal from the organization. (See Article 12 and 13)
- g. Merits are means by which a member may work off her demerits. Each team member will be required to keep record of her merits the Director. The Director must approve all merits received. If a merit is not recorded and approved, the member will not receive credit for that particular merit.
- h. Merits may be earned as stated in the by-laws of the Falconette Constitution.

ARTICLE 9: PROBATION

- a. A member may not perform or participate in any drill team performances/extra practices beginning the day they are placed on probation, but the member must attend all regular practices and fulfill all duties and responsibilities of a Falconette. They may not wear any uniform to school, practice, performances, or pep rallies. The member may not sit or travel with the team.
- b. A member may be placed on probation if they do not meet the grade or conduct requirements. They will not be eligible to perform for the grading or disciplinary period. At the end of the period, if grades and/or conduct continue to fall below the requirements, the members will be subject to dismissal. This is stated in the UIL rules. A member who is on probation due to grades, may be assigned to mandatory study periods by the Director.
- c. A member will be placed on probation if they receive 10 or more demerits and fail to work them off.
- d. A member will be placed on probation for any conduct that does not reflect a favorable impression of the team (this is at the discretion of the director and the administration). If the conduct continues, the member may be subject to dismissal.
- e. A member will be placed on probation for receiving any ISS days.
- f. A member will be placed on probation for bad conduct, negative attitude or not following drill team rules or policies of the school.
- g. A member will be placed on probation for excessive public display of affection.
- h. A member will be placed on probation for lack of participation in the Falconette program.
- i. A member will be placed on probation for violating school rules defined in the Code of Conduct for Audie Murphy Middle School.
- j. The Director and administration will determine the length of the probationary period.
- k. Disrespect toward the Director, teacher, parent, student or member of the team is grounds for probation.
- l. A member will be placed on probation for excessive use of profanity.
- m. A member will be placed on probation if they are caught cheating in school.

ARTICLE 10: DISMISSAL

- a. A dismissal will have no refund.
- b. A member will be dismissed if they receive 20 or more demerits and fail to work them off.
- c. A member will be dismissed if they fail to correct issues with the grade and conduct requirements after being placed on probation.
- d. A member will be dismissed if probation is received more than twice a year.
- e. A member will be dismissed for insubordination toward or not cooperation with the Director.
- f. A member will be dismissed for chronic misbehavior in classrooms (in or outside of Falconettes).
- g. A member will be dismissed for suspension from school.
- h. A member will be dismissed after her 10th drill team absence, this means practice, performance or function – excused or not.
- i. A member will be dismissed for serious offenses.
- j. Of the \$200.00 cost, no refunds will be given.

ARTICLE 11: GAME AND BUS CONDUCT:

- a. All members will remain in a group throughout the entire game.
- b. Members are not allowed to leave their designated seats unless given permission by the Director.
- c. No other persons will be allowed to sit with the team members. Approved chaperones sit to the side of the team or in front to the Director.
- d. Members must pay attention to the event and the Director.

- e. No food is allowed in the drill team stands at any time, except water.
- f. On the bus (if applicable):
 - No standing in the aisles or seats,
 - No sitting on the backs of seats or backwards in seats
 - No sticking or throwing anything out of the windows
 - Be polite to the driver
 - Keep isles clear
 - And **pick up your trash before exiting the bus**
- g. Members will receive demerits for disorderly bus conduct.
- h. Members travel in full uniform unless otherwise advised by the director.

ARTICLE 12: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- a. The constitution is subject to change at any time due to school administration rules and/or the approval of the Director and administration.
- b. The Director may enforce other rules, as they become necessary, for the benefit of the drill team organization.
- c. This constitution is a living document. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in the constitution, the Director and an administrator will address the incident on an individual basis. The Director and an administrator reserve the right to amend this constitution at any time.

ARTICLE 13: SUCCESS OF THE DRILL TEAM ORGANIZATION

This drill team organization strives to teach its members a sense of responsibility, leadership, self-respect, self-respect for others, self-discipline, grooming, the ability to accept constructive criticism, the art of learning to be flexible and the ability to learn from defeat as well as from success.

This drill team's success stems from the dedicated young individuals and parents/guardian support whom believe that the achievement of these qualities will be an important part of the member's future endeavors.

ARTICLE 14: RESIGNATION

Resignation from the Falconettes at any time after the selection process will result in the inability to try out until the next school year. A resignation in writing will be required, addressed to the Director and a copy given to the Principal. No refund will be given.

ARTICLE 15: PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

- a. Any questions or concerns regarding any dance team matter need to be first addressed with the Director before contacting alternate sources.
- b. The Director may be reached by calling the AMMS front office, and is available for parent-teacher conferencing during her scheduled conference period.

ARTICLE 16: RANDOM DRUG TESTING

- a. According to the FNF policy, the district requires students in grades 7 – 12 who choose to participate in drill team are required to take random drug tests.
- b. Failure to have a signed form on file will result in removal from the team immediately.

The purposes of the random drug-testing program are:

 - 1. To prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal substances, performance-enhancing drugs, and alcohol.

2. To help enforce a drug-free educational environment.
3. To deter student use of illegal substances, performance enhancing drugs, and alcohol.
4. To educate and increase students' awareness regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal substances, performance enhancing drugs, and alcohol. The purposes of the random drug-testing program are:

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Falconette Constitution By-Laws

GRADING

Demerits and merits will be considered in determining status on the team. Merits can be earned to erase demerits. Merits will be recorded and kept by the Director. It is the team member's responsibility to keep a regular check of her merits and demerits. Merits must be presented **within 2 days** of the activity in which they were obtained.

A. MERIT SYSTEM (ONLY GIVEN WHEN DEMERITS ARE ON FILE – THEY CANNOT BE CREDITED TOWARDS FUTURE DEMERITS)

- (2) Perfect Week (no demerits/no absences).
- (2) Attending a non-required school function for AMMS.
- (2) 50 high kicks.
- (2) Cleaning.
- (2) Any 3 Week grade that goes up.
- (5) 100 on a major grade (Must show Director proof).
- (5) Straight A's.
- (5) Honor Roll.
- (5) Attending dance concerts or events.
- (5) Enrolling in a dance studio class (please provide proof – receipt/ schedule).
- (5) Any individual award earned at camp or contest.
- (1-15) Helping Director with a project.

B. DEMERIT SYSTEM

Demerits will be recorded and kept by the Officers and the Director. It is the responsibility of each member to keep a regular check of her demerits though the Officer and Director. Members receiving or accumulating 10 or more demerits will be placed on probation. Members receiving or accumulation 20 or more demerits shall be subject to dismissal from the organization.

UNIFORM DEMERITS

- (1) Soiled hat, shoes, torn hose, etc.
- (1) Missing an accessory to the uniform.
- (1) Having nail polish / uncurled-uncombed hair.
- (1) Wearing unauthorized items with uniform (jewelry, pins, etc.).
- (1) Dirty or unpressed uniforms.
- (1) Failure to suit out for practice (Unexcused).
- (2) Wearing any part of the uniform at a time not specified by the Director.
- (2) Failure to bring any part of uniform / costume for practice / performance.
- (2) Not wearing the drill team uniform in an appropriate manner.
- (2) Eating while in uniform.
- (3) Removal of any part of the uniform before reaching the designated area for change or given prior instruction.
- (3) Failure to apply correct practice make-up or wear hair in designated style.
- (5) Failure to bring uniform when required for practice or any designated activity.
- (5) Failure to wear designated Game Day / performance attire to school.
- (5) Abusing / misusing the drill team uniform or items belonging to the drill team.

ATTENDANCE DEMERITS

- (0) Absence excused in advance.
- (1) Absence excused after absence.
- (1) Late for practice – 5 minutes or less.
- (2) Late for practice – more than 5 minutes.
- (3) Absence unexcused from practice.
- (5) Late for a performance/required activity.
- (10) Absence unexcused from performance.

CONDUCT DEMERITS

- (1) Talking while at attention.
- (1) Moving while at attention.
- (2) Chewing gum at a performance.
- (2) Not in assigned position on the field or in the stands at a practice / performance.
- (2) Talking during a performance.
- (3) Disruptive behavior at a practice / performance.
- (5) Public display of affection at school function in or out of uniform.
- (5) Disorderly conduct of behavior .
- (5) Insubordination to an Officer.
- (8) Insubordination to a parent, chaperone, or teacher.
- (10) Insubordination to the Director.
- (10) Disrespect to the Director, parent, faculty, staff, chaperone, another student, officer or line member.

MISCELLANEOUS DEMERITS

- (1) Everyday late to turn in money unless arrangements have been made with Director.
- (1) Wearing anything to practice that hinders performance (jewelry, sweats, hair not pulled up, etc.).
- (1) Not paying attention at games or pep-rallies.
- (1) Not cheering for other groups at a game, pep-rally or contest.
- (1) Failure to meet responsibilities (ex. Not following through on a volunteer act).
- (1) Officers not assigning earned demerits.
- (2) Returning any item late.
- (2) Disorderly conduct on the bus.
- (2) Unsportsman like conduct.
- (3) Unladylike conduct.
- (3) Excessive complaining.
- (3) Leaving trash in studio, dressing room, practice area, stand, bus, classroom, or office.
- (5) Use of profanity.
- (1-15) Any other behavior or action that is deemed fit will also receive demerits.

DISCIPLINE DEMERITS: SEVERITY DICTATES NUMBER OF DEMERITS ISSUED

- (3-10) Any school detention – varies on the offense and type of detention.
- (5-20) Violation of rules and regulations of the Falconettes Constitution – varies on offense.
- (10-20) Use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or illegal drugs.
- (10-20) Violation of KISD rules not mentioned, or public laws not mentioned.
- (10-20) Not following instructions depending on severity of the offense.

This constitution is a living document. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in the constitution, the Director and an administrator will address the incident on an individual basis. The Director and an administrator reserve the right to amend this constitution at any time.

By signing this constitution, you understand the information stated in this document, and agree to follow the rules and regulations here in. After the signature has been provided, a copy of this page will be returned for your documentation purposes.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Director Signature

Date

This form needs to be signed by all named parties and returned to the Director. If the form is not returned within the allotted time (before October, 2014), the student will be suspended from the team until the Director receives this form back.

(Constitution revised May, 2015)