

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Dear Parents:

We are delighted that your daughter is interested in auditioning for the Gold Battalion Starstepper Dance Team. As the parent of a prospective dance team member, you should be fully aware of the tryout procedure and must also realize the commitment and dedication required of all young ladies once they become a Starstepper.

The following outline will familiarize you with our audition procedure and contains general information concerning dance and drill teams across the district that must be understood before your daughter auditions. Being selected as a Starstepper is an outstanding achievement and a great honor, it is a tremendous commitment that must be taken seriously. The decision to audition should be well thought out and discussed between you and your daughter.

The audition procedure can be rigorous, both physically and emotionally, parental support is essential.

A MANDATORY Parent Meeting for all NEW auditioning candidates will be held at 6:30 on Monday, March 27th & Tuesday, March 28th, in the foyer of Goldie Harris Gymnasium at Seguin High School.

You may attend on either of these days, the meeting will be the same.

I. AUDITION PROCEDURE

- A. Audition Clinic:** This is a four-day period in which the directors and the Starstepper seniors teach one dance involving both jazz and high kick techniques. The routine will be taught the first two days of clinic with Wednesday & Thursday being used for polishing, practicing in audition groups, and personal instruction. This routine will be performed before a panel of judges on the day of auditions. Each candidate must attend all days of clinic and be punctual. If a candidate is absent due to illness, a doctor's note must be presented and she must contact the directors before clinic starts that day. Candidates participating in the clinic past Wednesday are asked to complete the audition so as not to jeopardize the other candidates within their groups.
- B. Judging:** At the end of the audition clinic, a panel of judges will evaluate each student's performance. The judges are highly qualified dance/drill team directors and dance instructors from across the state. The candidates will tryout in a group of three or four girls. Candidates are judged on appearance, presentation, precision, timing, movement sharpness, kicks, splits, technique, knowledge of routine, showmanship, and overall performance. The girls with

the highest scores will be chosen to be a part of the Starstepper Dance Team. Acceptance will NOT be limited to a certain number of girls. The numbers vary based on the above criteria. The decision of the judges is final.

- C. What to Wear:** For the **clinic**, each student must wear appropriate dance or workout clothes (any color), socks, and tennis shoes (that will not scar the gym floor) or jazz shoes. Additionally, the students should keep their hair in a ponytail and not wear jewelry. For the **audition**, each candidate must wear a black leotard, black dance top, or black fitted t-shirt, black tights/leggings or black jazz pants. You may wear your choice of shoes, but please make sure they are not restricting your dance movement and will not scar the gym floor. Hair must be pulled back into a ponytail.
- D. Dates:** Audition clinic will begin Monday, March 27th, and last through Thursday, March 30th. The routine will be taught on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday will be used for practice. Auditions will be held on Friday, March 31st from 4:15 until approximately 7:30 or 8:00pm in the SHS Goldie Harris Gymnasium. Auditions are closed to the public. Each candidate will receive an envelope with the results of her audition. The decision of the judges will be final.
- E. If Selected:** All 2017-2018 Starsteppers will be weighed, measured, and fitted for uniforms from Monday, April 3rd or Tuesday, April 4^h. Returning members will be measured during class. New members will be measured & fitted from 4:00- 6:00 in the portables behind Goldie Harris. Once members are selected you will need to schedule your fitting through a Google document that will be emailed to all new members.

All team orders with payment are due on April 5th. Please turn in all other forms as well on April 5th.

A **required** practice/technique class will take place on the following Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30 in a location to be announced:

April 12th

April 19th – dress rehearsal for Spring Showcase

April 20th – **Spring Showcase (2017-2018 Starsteppers will perform)**

April 26th

May 3rd

May 10th

May 17th

May 24th

Scheduled uniform fittings will take place on **April 3rd and 4th** after school until 6:00 in the portables behind Goldie Harris Gym.

New Team Group & Individual Pictures will be taken on **June 2nd at 9:00am**
2017-2018 Starstepper Camp will be held **June 12th through June 16th.**

II. GENERAL INFORMATION: You and your daughter should fully understand the following information. If she makes Starsteppers, both of you would be expected to adhere to the policies and procedures of the Gold Battalion Constitution.

- A. Constitution:** A constitution or a handbook governs every drill team and/or dance team in our district. Drill and dance team members are expected to read it, study it, know it, and adhere to its every detail almost immediately upon making the team.
- B. Demerit &/or Run Tab System:** Every drill and dance team employs their own demerit/discipline system as a means of developing self-discipline in order to maintain efficient team operation. Demerits are given for tardiness, absenteeism, chewing gum, forgetting items or money due, disrespect, not fulfilling obligations, and various other minor and major offenses. Merits are used to make up demerits. The number of demerits and merits accumulated during a semester directly affects drill and dance team member's grades. The grading system will be explained in detail in the Gold Battalion Spirit Organization Constitution.
- C. Absenteeism:** In order to maintain the high standards of any dance and/or drill team, absenteeism must be kept to a minimum. Routine doctor appointments must not be made during practice time. A drill or dance team member must attend all practices and performances unless she is ill with a doctor's excuse. If she misses practice, she will not be allowed to perform that week. All absences must be reported to the director before the class or practice to be excused.
- D. Health & Wellness Program:** Each Starstepper should make a conscience effort to keep her weight within the weight range according to her height and body frame. A Starstepper may lose performing opportunities if she is unable to fit into her issued uniform, or becomes unfit, consequently jeopardizing safe performances for herself and/or fellow team members. This action is not meant to punish the member, but to better ensure safe performances for everyone involved.
- E. Academics:** You and your daughter should be familiar with the "No Pass/No Play" rule. Drill and dance teams also fall under this rule. No failing grades are allowed in any subject area. Failure to meet this requirement will result in academic probation for a time period established by the state. If a student is on academic probation for the majority of a semester she will be removed from Starsteppers. This action is taken so that the student may better concentrate on her academic studies.

- F. Weekly Auditions:** Mastery of each routine/dance must be achieved prior to performance. The Starsteppers may have weekly auditions for each dance they perform. Each member is judged on projection, technique, precision, and memory. Mistakes from a previous performance, projection, and attitude may also be considered. It is very possible and even probable that a Starstepper will not perform in every dance at every football game or in every dance we take to competition. It must be fully understood that any weekly auditions are for the good of the team and are not meant to punish the student.
- G. Practice:** Team members are **required** to attend one week of camp, scheduled for June 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, & 16th with several days of practice prior to the start of school to learn football season routines and to develop their technical skills. The Starsteppers will practice during the school year as needed. **Starsteppers will be required to stay at least until 4:20 each day.** Additional practice times and dates will be set as soon as possible but prior to August. Calendars and practice times for the fall will be passed out during camp the first week of June.
- H. Quotas:** Each Starstepper will be expected to raise a certain amount of money through fund raising activities. Monies will be used for costume pieces and for the general operation of the Gold Battalion. Sales quotas will be set in accordance with projected yearly expenses and are expected to be around \$100.00 per girl. Each member is responsible for meeting her quota.
- I. Competition Costuming:** Additional costumes are needed for competition. These costumes can become quite elaborate and expensive. In order for us to keep cost at a minimum and to ensure unique costumes we sometimes construct many of these ourselves. Should this occur, a rental fee will be established by the parents of the Starsteppers in Gold Battalion Booster Club. These rental fees may be worked off by each hour spent on actual costume making or by exceeding your fund raising quota.
- J. Standards and Conduct:** Gold Battalion members are official representatives of their high school and Seguin I.S.D. Each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards and use good judgment at all times. Conduct must always be lady-like and above reproach. Membership may be terminated for unacceptable standards or conduct.

This is only a brief outline of the very intricate system of a drill and/or dance team. We feel that it is necessary for both you and your daughter to fully understand what would be expected of her, should she make Starsteppers. If either of you do not think that you could adhere to the procedures and rules of the Starsteppers, then she should not audition. Gold Battalion represents the school, community, parents, and past members with excellence and pride. The young ladies who make Starsteppers will have an obligation to uphold this excellence.

The Starstepper seniors and the directors will do everything possible to make tryouts a beneficial experience for your daughter. Self-discipline, good attendance and a positive attitude on your daughter's part will help. Encourage your daughter to stretch every evening, practice when possible and keep smiling. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email.

Sincerely,

Cathy Hawes
Seguin High School Starstepper Director
372-5770 ext. 20134
chawes@seguin.k12.tx.us

Candidate Name _____

Candidate phone # _____

Candidate email _____

Current Grade Level _____

Parent Name _____

Parent phone # _____

Parent email _____

I have read the letter outlining the Gold Battalion Constitution and tryout procedures, as well as the attached expense sheet. Fully understanding the expense, time, and discipline necessary to maintain the high standards of the Starsteppers, I grant permission for my daughter _____ to audition for the Seguin High School Gold Battalion Starstepper Dance Team.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

I have read the letter outlining the Gold Battalion Constitution and tryout procedures. Fully understanding the expense, time, discipline, dedication, and commitment required of a Starstepper, I wish to audition for the Seguin High School Gold Battalion Starstepper Dance Team.

Student Signature

Date

PLEASE NOTE:

All fees must be paid and balances cleared for the current year and/or any previous years of membership in Gold Battalion prior to auditioning.

EXPENSE SHEET for 2016-2017

This should give you a good idea of what expenses to expect.

***Please note: Prices listed are from the 2016 – 2017 order form. Prices will be adjusted as needed to reflect current pricing on the following items.**

New Starstepper - No experience

(ordering one of everything for this current year) \$467.50 + Registration Fee of \$300.00

Previous Starstepper – supplies carry over from previous year Registration Fee of \$300.00

(above prices are based on the cost of ordering only one of each item and provided nothing has been damaged or lost and that nothing new was added)

Starstepper Supplies – 2016-2017

(items are ordered and purchased through Seguin High School)

Starstepper Friday Shirt	\$12.00
Windsuit Bottoms	\$25.00
Windsuit Jacket w/mono.	\$51.00
Black Team Leotard	\$21.00
Blue Team Top	\$21.00
Black St. Leg Jazz Pants	\$31.00
Clam Digger Pants	\$23.00
Black Bermuda Shorts	\$21.00
Suntan Conv. Tights	\$12.00
Black Tights	\$12.00
Black Bow	\$ 1.00
Black Jazz Shoes	\$28.00
Field Make-Up	\$25.00
4 th of July Shirt	\$12.50
WeeStepper Staff Shirt	\$ 9.00
Black Boy Short	\$ 20.00
Performance Bra	\$25.00
Nude Leo	\$22.00
Team Jazz Sneaker	\$35.00
Field Boots	\$61.00
Optional Field Hat Purchase	\$49.50 (this item can be borrowed from the school)

Total \$467.50 without optional hat purchase

Again these are last year's expenses. Totals will change slightly for 2017-2018

(Any of the above items may be resold if taken care of - some of the items may be bought at a reduced price from previous Gold Battalion members –

ESTIMATED YEARLY EXPENSES

April Payment for ordered supplies due (may be split into two payments if needed)
May \$300.00 Registration Fee – registration fee includes the following:
Camp fee \$180.00, uniform rental fee \$25.00,
End of the Year Party \$10.00, Secret Sister Gifts \$85.00
(Booster Club will sponsor a fundraiser to offset expenses)

Members needing a payment plan will need to call the director to set up a payment schedule. All fees must be paid prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Ordered items will not be distributed and members will not be allowed to perform until all fees are paid.

December Secret Sister Christmas present approx. \$5.00
January Contest Trip Expenses approx. \$250.00 (if we travel)
(Booster Club will sponsor a fundraiser to offset contest expenses)
Possible competition uniform pieces & contest shirts \$0.00 - \$60.00
Any costume rental fees not worked off - \$?.00
April/May Cost for following year's supplies usually paid

Audition Calendar

Monday – March 27th 4:15 - 6:30 SHS Goldie Harris Gym
first day of audition clinic – begin learning audition routine

6:30

**MANDATORY Parent/Guardian Meeting for NEW
auditioning candidates – foyer of Goldie Harris Gym**

Tuesday – March 28th 4:15 - 6:30 SHS Goldie Harris Gym
continue learning audition material – **mandatory** attendance

All permission forms need to be turned in
All outstanding balances must be paid

6:30

**MANDATORY Parent/Guardian Meeting for NEW
auditioning candidates – foyer of Goldie Harris Gym**

Wednesday – March 29th 4:15 - 6:30 SHS Goldie Harris Gym
practice audition material – **mandatory** attendance
(anyone attending through today will be required to
complete the audition process – in order to not jeopardize the other
members of your group) – (judges will be informed not to score anyone
that is not wearing a number and no longer auditioning for membership)

Thursday – March 30th 4:15 - 6:30 SHS Goldie Harris Gym
continue practicing for auditions/ mock auditions in groups

Friday – March 31st 4:15-?
Starstepper Auditions – GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!!!!

Seniors will be available to help anyone requesting assistance.
You will be allowed to schedule additional practices with the
seniors – on your own time – any additional practices will not be
scheduled or supervised by directors