

**Elkins High School Elite Dance Team
2016-2017 Try-outs
Information and Application Materials**

Dear Dance Team Candidate,

We are so excited that you have decided to try out for the Elite Dance Team! Attached you will find all the information you need for the 16-17 try-outs, including the application, cost information, parent agreement, and medical release.

Applications are due on or before March 7 to Ms. Wafer. You may bring them to the clinic or drop them off to Ms. Wafer in the Dance Room, or at the EHS Front Office; make sure the application is clearly marked to ensure delivery.

Try-out Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Must be on grade level with the required number of credits per UIL
- ✓ Must be a current 9th, 10th or 11th grade student enrolled at Elkins HS
- ✓ Must be cleared of all fines and fees
- ✓ Must attend all clinic sessions.
- ✓ **Turn in ALL application materials on or before March 7 at 2:45pm.**
 - Application
 - Medical release form
 - Parent permission form
 - You will not be able to participate in **ANY** part of the tryout process if your application materials are not turned in on time and/or signed by a parent/guardian.

Mandatory Clinic Dates

When: March 7-10

Where: EHS Boys Gym

Time: 2:45-4:30pm

Try-outs

When: Friday, March 11

Where: EHS Boys Gym

Time: 3:00pm until finished (an estimate will be given at clinic meetings)

Attire

- Clinic Sessions
 - Appropriate dance attire (must not show the midriff or cleavage) or workout wear.
 - If you do not have jazz shoes you may dance barefoot.
 - No leggings, tights, biker shorts, crop tops or running shoes.
 - Hair must be tied back at all times!
 - No food, gum or jewelry allowed!
- Try-outs
 - **ALL BLACK:** leotard or tank top, dance/yoga pants, socks, and jazz shoes (or barefoot).
 - Hair must be in a ponytail, no jewelry (**small studs only**), and appropriate make-up

Tryout Material

During the clinic you will be learning a jazz combination and splits from the current Senior Officers. Make sure you are ready to begin on time, pay close attention to the material and follow the instructions carefully. Clinic sessions will begin promptly at 2:45pm each day and are closed to the public.

Judges Scores

The 3 judges will evaluate each candidate for flexibility, technique and execution, timing, memory, showmanship and energy and give either a Yes, Maybe or No. You must be prepared to perform for the judges as many times as needed. Tryouts are closed the public.

Academic & Discipline Scores

This is a "paper" judge. Each candidate will start with a 0 and can earn a maximum of 100 points. For grades and conduct, scores will be taken from T1, T2 and T3. For attendance and discipline records, we will be looking at the 16-17 school year entirely. Scores will be converted to a Yes, Maybe or No (Y = 100-80, M = 79-60, N = 59 or below).

Grades: A = +6, B = +5, C = +2, D = +1, F = -10

Conduct: E = +2, S = +1, N = -5, U = -10

Attendance: Tardy = -5 per occurrence; Unexcused Absence = -10 per occurrence /day

Discipline: -10 per referral

Results

The number of girls chosen for each team depends on the scores of each individual candidate. Candidates with a Yes majority will be placed on the 16-17 Elite Dance Team. Candidates with a Maybe majority will be placed on the 16-17 JV Dance Team. Candidates with a No majority will not be selected. *(Please note – Seniors are not eligible for JV.)*

Results will be posted on our website within 4 hours after candidates are dismissed.

To access the results, go to Elkins High School, Elite Dance Team Page.

Mandatory Dates/Information for those who are selected for the Elite Dance Team.

- March 28: 16-17 Parent Meeting
 - 6:30pm, EHS Dance Room
 - \$200 Deposit (CASH ONLY) will be due at this meeting
 - Failure to attend will result in removal from team
- April 11, April 14, April 18, April 22: Team Practice; 2:40-4:30pm **(Mandatory!)**
- April 27: Spring Show Dress Rehearsal
- April 28-29: Spring Show
- May 9, May 11, May 18: Team practice; 2:40-4:30
- June 14-17: Team Camp (*TENTATIVE*)
- Summer Technique classes
 - All team members must complete at least 6 hours
 - A list of approved studio classes will be provided
 - Classes completed elsewhere must be pre-approved
- August 1: Summer practices begin
- August 22: After school practices begin
- Physicals must be completed and submitted upon return of summer classes on August 1st.

Mandatory Dates/Information for those who are selected for the JV Dance Team.

- *April 8: Tryouts for incoming Freshman (attendance is not necessary)*
- April 11: 16-17 Parent Meeting
 - 6:30pm, EHS Dance Room
 - \$200 Deposit (CASH ONLY) will be due at this meeting
 - Failure to attend will result in removal from team
- June 14-17: Team Camp (*TENTATIVE*)
- Summer Technique classes
 - All team members must complete at least 6 hours
 - A few classes will be offered at EHS for a small fee
 - A list of approved studio classes will be provided
 - Classes completed elsewhere must be pre-approved

- Physicals must be completed and submitted upon return of school on August 22nd

If you are selected, you MUST be able to attend all scheduled events/activities. All dates are subject to change, but we do everything we can to keep them.

If there are any additional questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Wafer.

Good Luck!!!

Ms. Wafer, Director
eboni.wafer@fortbendisd.com
281-634-2641

An Elite....

Earns good grades.
Has good attendance.
Has **NO** disciplinary referrals!!
Takes initiative.
Would rather have sore muscles than regrets.
Has never been to ISS or served a Saturday Detention.
Has a very strong work ethic.
Has drive and ambition.
Has patience.
Uses social media responsibly.
Uses their manners.
Understands that performing is a privilege and not a right.
Has *never* earned an N or U in conduct. **Ever**.
Manages their time very well.
Understands that there's no "I" in TEAM.
Is willing to give *110% every day*.
Is committed for our entire season.... *which runs from May to June of the next year!*
LOVES to dance and will do whatever it takes to master skills and choreography.
Is a better dancer today than they were yesterday.

Do YOU have what it takes??

Elite Dance Team

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q: What is Elite?

A: The Elite Dance Team is a Fine Arts organization that performs at various events at Elkins HS and in the community. These include, but are not limited to varsity football games, pep rallies, dance competitions, and our annual spring show.

Q: What is the JV Dance Team?

A: The JV Dance Team serves as a training program for Elite. JV team members focus on skills and technique over the course of the year. The JV team competes at contest and performs at spring show.

Q: Do I have to have dance experience to try out?

A: No! While previous training is preferred it is not required. A strong work ethic and determination can go a long way! The judges are able to determine potential and ability, but only if you SHOW them in your tryout. Remember that you can't "fake it" – they can tell when someone has been lazy and tried to "turn it on" at that moment, because that never works. How you practice will determine how you perform. Make sure you are giving it 110% every day. You should be a better dancer every day than you were the day before.

Q: What is the time commitment for Elite? For JV?

A: Dance Team is a year-round sport! Elite is a co-curricular activity, which means that we meet both during and outside of the school day. Summer practices begin in late August and continue through the year. The team has class 7th period and practices daily after school until 4:30pm or 5pm. The calendar is given in advance so that members are able to plan accordingly. JV is also a co-curricular activity and meets during 6th period; after school commitments are minimal.

Q: Why does Elite practice so much?

A: Our season never ends! There's always an upcoming performance. The "final product" can take weeks, even months, to prepare. We are a competitive program, and success is an absolute must.

Q: If I make Elite, will I be able to dance at every performance?

A: In athletics, not all players are on the field/court for every play. The same goes for a dance team. While we are not limited to a set number of dancers in each performance, team members must be able to correctly execute the skills in the choreography. In addition, correct placement, timing, precision, showmanship and energy are essential. This is to ensure accountability of all team members and to make sure that we present the best performance possible each and every time. Again, a strong work ethic and determination can make this happen!

Q: I've heard Elite works out a lot. Why?

A: Endurance and stamina are an absolute must – successfully executing a 2-3 minute dance would be impossible without it! It takes a lot of strength and power to make the really difficult skills work, and look easy, while preventing injury.

Q: If I make JV, when will I be able to perform?

A: JV focuses on technique in the fall. JV performs at contests and Spring Show in the Spring.

Q: What style of dance does Elite do?

A: Elite dances and competes at an advanced level, using ballet and jazz technique, performing in the genres of jazz, pom, prop, military, modern, lyrical and contemporary. The JV team trains in the same styles.

Q: Is it expensive to be on Elite?

A: The first year is the most expensive due to the cost of clothing, accessories and camp. There are additional expenses for team travel, big/lil sis gifts, etc. Payment plans help keep the financial strain to a minimum.

Q: Do I have to purchase the clothing, etc?

A: Yes. The dancewear is an absolute necessity. It ensures that all team members are wearing clothing that will allow them to move as needed. It also makes practices much more productive when everyone is wearing the same thing – the officers and Ms. Wafer are able to identify mistakes and give corrections much faster when they don't have to see through different clothing. We also pull pieces of practice wear for performances, including contest(s), where the team score includes appearance and uniformity.

Q: Same hair and make-up. Really?

A: Yes, again uniformity is necessary. Performance make-up is much different than your everyday make-up, and the colors need to match. All team members must be able to wear their hair as directed. This means that braids/cornrows/dreads are not always going to work – they may fall out or come down, which will cause distractions, safety issues, and penalties for the entire team at contest(s).

Q: What is a typical day like for Elite?

A: The team class meets 7th period. During this time, the team warms up with some conditioning exercises and stretching. The remainder of class is spent working on technique and skills needed for choreography. After a very short break, practice begins. This time is spent reviewing/polishing of choreography and preparing for upcoming performances.

Q: Can I participate in other activities while on Elite?

A: It is possible to be involved with other organizations on campus (Examples: National Honor Society, Red Cross Club). It is not possible to participate in athletic activities and some other organizations (Examples: Volleyball, Track, Band, Choir, Color Guard, ROTC) because of the conflicting practice times.

Q: I've heard there are a lot of rules that Elite has to follow. What are they?

A: All members of Elite and the JV team are expected to adhere to the FBISD Extracurricular Handbook. In addition, all team members must adhere to the team guidelines. This is to ensure personal responsibility amongst all team members, and to help preserve the team's positive reputation in the school and community.

Q: What happens if I make the team?

A: Make sure you and a parent at the mandatory meeting on March 28th. **Be on time** and bring your deposit for camp/clothing. Elite practices will begin on April 11, 2016 in the dance room at 2:40 – be on time, dressed and ready to dance!

Mandatory JV Parent Meeting will be held on April 11, 2016 in the dance room at 6:30pm.

Elkins HS Elite Dance Team
2016-2017 Estimated Supply & Price List

<u>Practice/Performance clothes:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Black/burgundy top	\$35.00
Black/raspberry top	\$26.00**
Black/teal top	\$35.00**
Black tank leotard	\$22.00**
Black Clamdiggers (2 pairs recommended)	\$33.00**
Black Silkskyn pants (2 pairs recommended)	\$37.00**
Black Velour Pants	\$41.00**
Black split sole jazz shoes	\$33.00
Tan split sole jazz shoes	\$33.00
Twyla shoes	\$18.50
Convertible tights (at least 2 recommended)	\$14.50
Clear Strap Bra	\$15.00**
Team hoodie	\$35.00**
Team T-shirt	\$36.00**
Contest T-shirt	\$15.00
Spring Show T-shirt	\$15.00
Team backpack	\$30.00**
Performance Makeup	\$50.00
Warm-ups	\$85.00
Rain Poncho	\$15.00
Team Tennis shoes	\$25.00
Team Camp	\$100.00
Team Dues	\$75.00

- Please note: All prices are estimated.
- **Additonal costs:** big/lil sis gifts, social events, travel and competition fees (amounts vary for each)
- Payments will be made over the course of the summer. Costs decrease dramatically for 2nd and 3rd year members.
- **These items may be purchased from graduating/former team members at a much cheaper price at the meeting on May 18.
- JV team members will need a minimal amount of items from this list. Fees for a JV team member are approximately \$250-\$300.

Elkins HS Elite Dance Team
2016-2017 Try-out Application

Important: Please PRINT neatly in black or blue ink! Please make sure all information is correct before submitting!

Candidate Name: _____ ID#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Candidate Cell phone: _____

16-17 Grade Level: _____ Birthdate: _____

Candidate's e-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name(s): _____

Cell phones: (Mom) _____ (Dad) _____

Mom's e-mail: _____

Dad's e-mail: _____

Please list any prior Dance experience:

What other clubs or activities do you plan to be active in during the 16-17 year?

Elkins HS Elite Dance Team

2016-2017 Medical Release

Candidate name: _____

I hereby give my consent for my child to participate in all events associated with the EHS Elite Dance Team and/or JV Dance Team. They may accompany the Elite Director(s) or other representatives of Elkins High School or FBISD to any and all team functions and activities.

I hereby grant permission for FBISD employees to secure medical services for my child if deemed necessary.

I understand that neither FBISD nor any of its employees assume any responsibility, including financial, in case an accident occurs.

Please list any significant illnesses, allergies or medical conditions that the Director(s) should know of. This information will remain confidential.

Physician: _____

Phone: _____

Insurance Company:

Policy #:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Elkins HS Elite Dance Team
2015-2016 Team Auditions
Student Agreement and Parent Consent

Candidate name: _____

- I agree to abide by the policies, schedules and procedures as set forth by FBISD, Elkins High School and the Director(s) for the Elite Dance Team.
- I am aware of the time, physical and financial commitment required to participate in this organization.
- I understand that all UIL and TEA rules apply, including “no pass, no play”.
- I agree to be responsible for the care and safe return of all uniforms and equipment issued to my child. I understand that financial costs will be incurred for the replacement/repair of damaged/ lost items.
- I understand my responsibilities and duties as a member of the Elite Dance Team and/or JV Dance Team, and understand that membership is considered a privilege and not a right.

Candidate Signature

Date

- I understand the policies as set forth by FBISD, Elkins HS and the Director(s) of the Elite Dance Team.
- I am aware of the time commitments for this organization and accept all physical and financial responsibilities.
- I hereby give my permission for my child to audition for and, upon acceptance, participate in the Elkins HS Elite Dance Team and/or JV Dance Team.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date