



**DANCE TEAM TRYOUT PACKET**  
**Tryouts: March 24-27, 2025 (4:15-6:00 PM)**

**Dear Parents:**

We are so excited that your child has expressed an interest in trying out for Garcia Middle School's Dance Team. This is a huge commitment of both time and money. We dance at select football (2), basketball (2), volleyball (2) games, all pep rallies, FBISD Dance Classic, and an end of year showcase. Other possible performances may become available.

The objectives of the Garcia Middle School teams are to: instill teamwork and discipline in all of its members, provide leadership opportunities and foster personal growth, equip its members with the resources necessary for joining their high school dance team, inspire its members to join their high school dance team, serve as a safe and welcoming environment for artistic expression, create a feeling of sisterhood that continues even after graduating from Garcia, and establish a strong alumnae network to continue the Gems legacy.

This is a year-long commitment. Since there is no such thing as a substitute dancer, every member's attendance is mandatory and vital to the success of the team. This is to ensure that the dance team will be as successful as possible.

Of course, whenever you try out for a team, there is always the possibility of not making the final team roster. Thus, how we choose to handle the results of the tryout process as candidates and parents is the most important aspect of any tryout experience. Even in cases of not making the team, these experiences make us stronger. In no way, shape, or form do we wish to allow this experience to demoralize a candidate or make her shy away from participating in the future. This can only happen when candidates and parents accept tryout results as merely a point of feedback for future experiences.

Candidates, if you do not make this year's Garcia Middle School team, it does not mean that you are not a great dancer. It also does not mean that you will not be able to make next year's team or your high school team in the future. The only thing that matters is your willingness to continue to work to get better. A parent's positive approach throughout this process will be necessary to ensure that their child continues to love dancing.

As you begin this application, please note that this is very much a full-year team. We do not have an "off season". In other words, the responsibilities are as numerous as the hours involved, so the decision to tryout and accept a spot on this team should not be taken lightly.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and willingness to try out for the Garcia Middle School Gems. We wish every candidate the very best of luck.

**Mrs. Amy Stinson**

*Director*

amy.stinson@fortbendisd.gov

**Please submit an application online via the form below:**

Officer Applicants: **DUE March 21**

Non-Officer and New Applicants: **DUE March 23** (closes at midnight)

1. [All Gems Application](#) (Link in Schoology- Code: QTGR-R3SB-NP3ZD)
2. Review tryout information in this document.

**Please turn-in the following things before tryouts!**

1. Online Application
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks report card (or copy of)
3. Send recommendation forms to 2 teachers with enough time for them to submit (links to the form are in the Schoology Course)

Clinic and Tryout Information:

- The clinic will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will be a mock tryout to prepare for Thursday's audition.
- The clinics & mock tryouts will last from 4:20-6:00 PM.
- Tryouts on Thursday will begin at 4:30 and will be over at approximately 6:00, depending on the number of dancers trying out.
- Candidates for the dance team should be dressed in black biker shorts or jazz pants/black leggings, and a solid black tank top or fitted black t-shirt.
- No jewelry at all! (this includes stud earrings)
- Hair must be completely pulled out of face, including bangs. No exceptions.
- On Monday and Tuesday, we will learn a short routine and review technique and fundamentals of dance.
- The tryout music will be shared with applicants via Schoology.
- All dancers from the 2024-2025 will need to try out again for a spot on the 2025-2026 team. No spots are guaranteed, and the judges' decisions are final.
- Both the clinics and tryouts are CLOSED to the public. Friends and parents will not be permitted to watch.
- There will be 3 judges who will do the scoring. Top Scorers will be given spots on the team. The team Directors, Ms. Stinson will not be part of the panel.
- All dancers trying out will receive an email detailing whether they received a spot on the team following tryouts. We will aim to get these to you by the end of the weekend.
- Candidates chosen for the team should be prepared to attend a team meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> until 5:30 pm. Officers will be announced at this meeting!

**Your tryout score will be comprised of the following:**

|                         |                   |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Grades                  | 20 points         |                        |
| Teacher Recommendations | 30 points         | (average of the three) |
| <u>Judge's Score</u>    | <u>50 points</u>  | (average of the three) |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>100 points</b> |                        |

**Dance Team Tryout Clinic  
March 24-27, 2025**

**Monday – Tuesday (4:15 – 6:00 PM)**

Candidates will learn 2-3 short routines that will be performed at tryouts. There may be sections of Pom, Jazz, and Hip-hop. Each candidate may be required to demonstrate her splits. She should be working towards her splits on one or both legs. We will spend time stretching each day of the clinic to teach the girls proper stretching technique and to avoid injuries.

**Wednesday (4:15 – 6:00 PM)**

Rehearsal from 4:15 to 6:00 and mock tryouts will start around 5:00. Each candidate will be given a number and placed in her tryout group; you will be trying out in groups of two – three people. We will run through the entire tryout process this day.

**Thursday (4:30 until finished)**

TRYOUTS! Tryouts are closed to the public. We will start promptly at 4:30 and will hopefully be finished by 6:00. All girls should meet in the rehearsal gym at 4:15 ready to go. You should have your hair pulled back in a tight ponytail for tryouts. Be sure we can see your beautiful face, no bangs falling over your eyes! Make-up is not mandatory; you should just have a very neat appearance for tryouts!

**VERY IMPORTANT—PARENTS MUST BE ON TIME TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD  
EACH DAY OR THEIR CHILD MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRYOUT.**

**What to Wear**

Monday – Thursday

Candidates will wear ALL BLACK. (Black bike shorts are ok. Tank tops cannot be spaghetti straps and must have proper undergarment.)

SHOES

Candidates must wear shoes: jazz shoes or dance paws are preferred, but tennis shoes are acceptable. NO socks!

**Judges' Points**

- 10 points – technique: leaps, turns
- 10 points – sharpness, full-out, fluid motions
- 10 points – facials, energy, stage presence
- 10 points – coordination, balance, rhythm
- 10 points – memory, timing

**Additional Points**

- 20 points – teacher recommendations (10 points per teacher- 20 points MAX)
- 20 points – grades (20- all A's, 15- A/B's, 10- A/B/C's, 5- if lower than a C)

## What to expect if your child makes the team.

### Estimated Expenses:

- **Required** - Purchased Through Revtrak:
  - **\$50 Yearly Team Dues** (pays for misc. items) **PAYMENT DUE 8/29/25**
  - **Camp Fees – Camp is required for all dancers: PAYMENT DUE 5/2/25**
    - \$200 non-officers
    - \$225 officers
    - Dates of camp: July 21-24 **\*tentative**
    - Camp will be held @ Garcia MS in the girl's gym
  
- **Required ALL Gems** - Purchased Through Revtrak: **PAYMENT DUE 5/2/25**  
*\*prices include tax! \*\*Items are for ALL Gems unless noted*
  - \$24 rehearsal tanks w/ Gems logo (there are TWO!)
  - \$135 performance set (Gems top and sequin skirt w/short)- **NEW** Gems
  - \$55 sequin skirt w/short (**ONLY** returning Gems)
  - \$15 blue bow (*subject to change*)
  - \$5 performance earrings
  - \$25 Game Day/Spirit Shirt (Parents may also purchase!)
  
- **Required** - Purchase on Own Items **DUE by camp- July 21**  
*See the emailed Purchase Guide. It is also in the GEMS Schoology Page.*
  - Full length black leggings, high waisted
  - Convertible dance tights (close to natural skin tone, for performances)
  - Tan jazz shoes
  - Solid white tennis shoes (no/low profile logos; for performances)
  - White, no-show socks (for performances)
  - Well-fitted undergarments
    - Clear strap dance bra for performances
    - Sports bra for practices and camp
  
- **Optional Items**- Purchased Through Revtrak: **PAYMENT DUE 8/29/25**
  - \$60 *personalized* warm-up jacket; same style/color, NEW logo design for 25-26
    - Parents may also purchase!
  - \$50 *personalized* Gems dance backpack- **NEW** this year!
  - \$45 poms (personal pair to keep, otherwise loaned)
  - \$35 Long Sleeve Dance Shirt- **NEW** this year!
    - Parents may also purchase!

We will have a fundraiser in April 2025 to help defray costs!  
We know it gets expensive!

## **GMS GEMS Dance Team Rules**

The Garcia Gems is not a UIL organization. However, we will follow the UIL rules and regulations concerning extracurricular school organizations.

### **I. Maintenance of Membership**

- a. Students who make the dance team are eligible for membership.
- b. Membership for the dance team must be made official by the specified date: any money or forms received after this date will not be accepted.
- c. Dues of \$50.00 must be paid for official membership, as well as other monies due for uniforms and camp.

### **II. Academic**

- a. All participants must keep a minimum of a 70 average in each enrolled class.
- b. If a dancer is failing at progress report time, she will not be allowed to dance until the following progress report AND if she is passing.
- c. If a 69 or lower is received on a nine-weeks grade report, the student will be placed on probation for 3 weeks.
- d. The dancer will be required to attend rehearsal during probation and expected to work on homework or arrange tutoring with teacher in exchange, but not allowed to perform.

### **III. Conduct**

- a. Out of school suspension will result in immediate dismissal from the team. Receiving ISS will result in dismissal from the team if given for the following reasons: drugs, theft, violent behavior, defacing school property.
- b. Dancer is not allowed to attend rehearsal on day(s) of ISS.
- c. Dancer is suspended from team for one week for ISS. Suspension starts first day of ISS.
- d. Receiving ISS more than one time in a calendar year, for any reason, will result in dismissal from the team.
- e. Receiving detention more than 3 days in a calendar year will result in dismissal from the team.
- f. An unsatisfactory conduct grade (U) or poor conduct grade (N) will result in a three-week probationary period.
- g. Excessive disciplinary warning may result in probation or dismissal (see Demerit System).
- h. The dance team coach reserves the right to enforce school wide disciplinary procedures during rehearsal and at any dance team performance or function.
- i. Conduct when representing the GMS Gems is to be exemplary. Director will refer to Discipline System at all GMS functions or when dancers are in uniform.

#### IV. Attendance

- a. Regular attendance is **MANDATORY**. Please notify the Coach, Asst. Coach, and Captain in writing via BAND of any upcoming absences.
- b. You must communicate to **both** coaches **and** your grade-level captain in one message. Failure to do so will not count as prior notice.
- c. Last-minute absences might be excused with a parent email up to 48 hours after missed rehearsal. See excusable absences below.
- d. Excused absences will be accepted only in the form of a BAND message as stated above or email from a parent/guardian.
- e. Excused absences include those accepted by the district.
- f. Most school functions are counted as excused and will not be counted towards the dancers 3 excused absence limit. However, prior notice and approval must still be secured.
- g. Only 2 unexcused absences are allowed. Upon the third unexcused absence, the student will be dismissed from the team.
- h. **Students must be present for the entire week before a performance to be allowed to perform at an event (regardless of the reason).**
- i. Any student who “no-shows” a performance will be dismissed from the team.
- j. Students may request a “leave of absence” during the calendar year. A conference with a parent prior to the “leave of absence” will be required.
- k. **Mrs. Stinson will allow 1 late pick up per dancer per semester. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> late pick up, the dancer will be placed on probation. A 3<sup>rd</sup> late pick up will result in removal from the team.**

#### V. Financial Obligations

- a. The member must meet all financial obligations listed in this packet to be a participating member. Dancers with outstanding payments will be allowed to practice but will not be allowed to perform.
- b. Refer to uniform requirements above for listing of prices.

#### VI. Fundraising

- a. Two fundraisers will be held throughout the calendar year.
- b. Each dancer will be required to participate in fundraisers.

#### VII. Rehearsals

- a. Rehearsals will be scheduled in the BAND app.
- b. Most rehearsals will be from 4:15-6:00 p.m. afterschool. Dancers should start warming up at 4:15 p.m.
- c. Dancers are required to have transportation ready at 6:00 p.m. Dancers will not be allowed to walk home!
- d. The director reserves the right to call additional or longer rehearsals if necessary. Parents will have notification prior to any changes/additions ASAP.

## **VIII. Rehearsal Attire**

- a. Dancers are required to wear the assigned rehearsal outfit: rehearsal tank with sports bra, full length black leggings, tan jazz shoes. White sneakers and personal poms should be brought.
- b. A piece of rehearsal attire missing will result in demerits.
- c. Hair out of face at all times, no bangs!
- d. No jewelry or gum.
- e. No piece of the GEMS uniform shall be worn to school, except for the Game Day/Spirit shirt or warm-up jacket.

## **IX. Performances**

- a. GMS Dance Team will perform at pep rallies, football games, basketball games, etc.
- b. All performance dates, times and required attire will be announced as soon as the information becomes available and posted in the BAND app.

## **School Year Rehearsal Schedule**

The Gems work very hard, and rehearsals should not be viewed as a “dance class” but a time of learning routines and developing basic dance skills. All rehearsals are mandatory. Demerits will be issued for missed rehearsals and performances. The calendar will be available and updated in BAND in August for the rehearsal and performance schedule through October.

- After school rehearsals will generally run Monday & Wednesday 4:15-6:00 PM. Students must have a ride ready at 6 PM.
- Before school rehearsals will run 7:45 AM – 8:35 AM, as needed.

Rehearsal schedule may vary in order to prepare for performances or adjusted to allow for school sports. Any added rehearsals will be mandatory, and dancers will receive at least one week notice.

## **Expectations of a Dance Team Member**

1. Maintain passing nine weeks grades to remain eligible.
2. Maintain an O or S for conduct on report cards.
3. Attend all rehearsals and practices.
4. Have no more than 2 unexcused absences during the calendar year.
5. Participate in all fundraisers and encourage parents to help.
6. Wear required rehearsal attire.
7. Meet financial obligations by required deadlines.
8. Attend all performances.
9. Not receive Detention or ISS; could result in removal from the team.
10. Attend summer dance camp in July. Dancers who do not attend will not continue with the team.

## GEMS DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

All GEMS will adhere to the rules and regulations of the constitution, as well as the demerit system.

The demerit log will be brought to each rehearsal and performance. Dancers will sign the log, with the date and reason for signing. The log can be signed for infractions at both rehearsal and performances. There are two types of demerits: removable and non-removable. Removable demerits can be removed with merits. It takes 5 merits to remove a removable demerit.

8 demerits = probation for 3 weeks

15 demerits = dismissal from team, no allowance to tryout next year

**The following is a list of activities for which merits may be received and the number of merits available for each activity:**

| Activity   | # of Merits             |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 hour of non-required service to our school (note required from school official or teacher)                 | 1 per hour              |
| Earning an <b>A</b> on a report card in Math, Science, Social Studies, or ELA (not on the progress report)   | 1 per A                 |
| Participating in a studio dance class (documented by studio teacher/owner)                                   | 0.5 per ½ hour of class |
| Tutoring another student (note required from teacher in that course)   | 1 per ½ hour            |
| Service to community (signed note from service director)<br>**cannot use PALS or NJHS hours as dance hours** | 1 per hour              |
| Any other opportunity that the director offers, or dancer comes up with                                      | varies                  |

The following is a list of Removable Demerits:

| Offense  | # of Demerits       |
|--|---------------------|
| Chewing gum  | 1 + 8 sets of kicks |
| Late pick up (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> time)                    | 1 + 8 sets of kicks |
| Talking after being called to attention                                    | 1 + 8 sets of kicks |
| Wrong rehearsal uniform/hair not pulled back                               | 1 + 8 sets of kicks |
| Missing a piece of performance attire                                      | 1 per piece         |
| Eating or drinking in uniform without permission                           | 1                   |
| Being late to a performance  | 2 + 8 sets of kicks |
| Using profanity – on campus or at a dance event                            | 5                   |
| Deliberate disrespect or unladylike conduct<br>***director's discretion*** | 3-15                |

The following is a list of NON-REMOVABLE demerits:

| Offense   | # of Demerits     |
|---|-------------------|
| Being assigned Saturday School/Wednesday Detention              | 3                 |
| Being assigned ISS  | 5 per day         |
| Leaving a rehearsal or performance without permission           | 3                 |
| Unexcused absence from rehearsal                                | 3                 |
| Skipping class @ GMS  | 10                |
| Missing scheduled performance without permission                | 10                |
| Disrespect/insubordination to director or other school employee | 3 – 15            |
| Any offense of local, state, or federal laws                    | Immediate removal |

# ✦ Garcia Gems ✦

By signing below, I agree to the Gems Dance Team expectations. In addition, the team expectations, I understand:

- the application, clinic, and tryout process, along with the attendance policy and judges' decisions for tryout outs (p. 2-3)
- the financial obligations for my dancer to remain on the dance team (p. 4)
- The GMS Dance Team Rules and Expectations (p. 5-7)
- The Gems Dance Team **late** pick up policy (p. 6- IV, k.)
- The Gems Dance Team Discipline System (p. 8-9)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_