

Anderson High School

2021-2022 Handbook



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Purpose

Trojan Belles is...

A tradition of excellence

High performance standards

Commitment

Friendship

Hard work

Leadership in the school and community

Dancing

Challenging

Rewarding

Amazing

Fun

Life lessons

Determination

Organization

Worth it!!

Purpose of Trojan Belles

The purpose of the Trojan Belles Dance Team is to encourage quality performance, high academic standards, loyal school spirit, and high personal values among its members. Through the development of dance technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline and sportsmanship in each individual member, the Belles will fulfill its purpose for the benefit of Anderson High School and the community of the Austin Independent School District.

Trojan Belles Poem

Recited by the team before every performance

Thank you for each girl here,
Help her realize that she's dear.
Let each girl know that we all care,
And problems we will gladly share.
We are a Trojan Belle family,
We love each other equally.
Through every trial and every test,
Help the Belles to do their best.
In all we do we will prevail,
For as a team WE CANNOT FAIL!

Welcome to Trojan Belles!!

Belles is for the entire family, not just the Belle herself! Family is involved as supporters, spectators, and helpers. Belles demands a lot of time, money, and emotional involvement, but we know you will find it a rewarding and enriching experience.

TIME

Your family's schedule will have to be adjusted to accommodate your daughter's commitments in Belles. **This is a team activity, so each girl must be present for every rehearsal and performance in order for the team to be at its best.** If one girl is late, the rest of the team is often left waiting. Parents will also be asked to give their time to sew costumes, cook or bake for special events, volunteer for various committees throughout the year, and perhaps most importantly, attend as many of the Belles' performances as possible.

MONEY

Every effort is made to keep expenses reasonable, but there are considerable costs associated with Belles. Each girl and her family must support these events by giving their time and talent because each family directly benefits. We provide fundraising opportunities to benefit the team as a whole, as well as fundraisers that help raise money to help lower the individual cost.

EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Each girl will have her triumphs and disappointments in Belles and the love and support of her family will be important to her. Celebrate her triumphs – she worked hard to earn them. Console her during times of disappointment. Remember, learning to deal with frustration and pressures are part of her maturation process. Your positive attitude will influence your daughter's reactions to her experiences.

COMMUNICATION

You and your daughter should always address concerns with the Belles Director, Kayla Orton. Many problems arise from simple misunderstandings that can be solved through effective communication between parties. Communication is the only way to reach a solution. As a general rule, we encourage Belles to communicate directly (via phone, email, or in person) with the directors if they have questions or concerns. This is not to say we don't value parental communication and support, rather, we wish to encourage responsibility in our Belles.

*****If a parent requests a meeting with the directors, the content must always be disclosed prior, and it will be held with the Belle, both directors, and parent(s). Meetings will not be held with multiple Belle families. This is a policy to ensure quality communication and confidentiality between all parties involved.*****

As each of you are a part of the Belles family, Belles is also a member of your family. Cherish and protect your place in our family – your words and actions not only affect you, but also reflect our team image. We are a big family and must consider what is best for the individual while recognizing that we must always consider what is best for the team as a whole. What might work well for one individual might be disastrous if everyone did it. We must all be willing to “give and take” for the greater good of the team. By working together, we will have a wonderful Trojan Belles family.

General Information

The Seasons

Summer

Officer & Social Officer Camp & training is June 5-7. The officers attend an intense camp on leadership, technique, and performance in the Dallas area.

Team Camp is June 9-11. This 3-day dance camp is held at Anderson High School. The Belles will learn several of their routines for the upcoming season and will work with several outside choreographers and teachers. This camp is a great time for the new team to gel as a squad before football season!

Trojan Belles Summer Dance Camp is June 14-17. Each summer we host a dance camp for K-11th graders. This is our largest team fundraiser. All Belles assist with this event.

Team Practices are August 2-6 & August 9-13. These practice times are spent learning new material for football season, perfecting and trying out for fall performances, learning stand routines, pep rally routines/procedures, etc.

4 Jazz & 4 Ballet Technique Classes are required for all members of the team to help further dance training, gain new knowledge from outside instructors, as well as keep our bodies moving during extended time off. We are working with studios in the area for discounted class rates, more information will be shared.

Football Season

The circumstances surrounding COVID-19 will be closely monitored, the following information is tentative.

Football Games:

We encourage all parents to attend all football games, both away and home. Belles will stay after school on game days, eat dinner, get ready together, and take the bus to and from all football games. Don't forget to invest in a clear bag to enter all AISD stadiums!

Pep Rallies:

Several parents attend pep rallies on Thursday/Friday mornings. Parents have a special section where they tend to sit and video. Due to space limitations during actual pep rallies, Belles and cheer parents are invited to a special parent preview at 8:30am on pep rally mornings.

Spring Season

The circumstances surrounding COVID-19 will be closely monitored, the following information is tentative

Competitions:

Dance teams from all over Texas and beyond compete with one another at dance competitions late January–February. The Belles compete as a team and as an officer line as well as duets, and individual solos. Competitions on trip years typically take place in Central Texas.

Basketball games:

The team will perform at 2 basketball games during contest season. The games are usually on Tuesdays.

Trips:

Every three years the Belles take a trip, usually occurring in the spring. The destinations are chosen by cost, time, and opportunities for the Belles in each specific city. More information about this year's trip will be provided when we return in August or September.

Spring Show:

An annual production coordinated, choreographed, and presented by the Trojan Belles and the directors. Parents play an integral part in pulling off this event: from concessions and ticket sales to producing the elaborate program...everyone plays a part! Spring Show 2022 is **currently** slated for the last weekend in April but these dates are not yet finalized.

Practices

What do I wear?

- Monday—Blue Belle VNeck with compression shorts
- Tuesday—Grey ‘United We Stand...’ Tank with compression shorts
- Wednesday—Black ‘Belles’ Tank with compression shorts
- Thursday—Black & White ‘Trojan Belles’ VNeck with compression shorts
- Friday—Free Day! ***Depending on the season***

Hair should be pulled back out of the face in such a way that it will not be a distraction—we recommend using multiple hair ties to keep pony tails in tight!

Don’t forget to bring a full water bottle!

Always come prepared with tennis shoes for kicking, field dances, & hip hop, foot paws for technique, jazz & contemporary, and other specialty shoes when specified (practice boots, Reeboks, etc.)

It’s always a good idea to pack your bag & lay out your clothes the night before! Another helpful hint is to set reminders on your phone or use a planner to help you remember due dates.

If there is a document, payment, etc. due, it is always due **before** practice and should be placed on the desk at the front of the dance gym.

Plan to arrive about 10 minutes (or more!) early to practice to allow you time to both physically and mentally prepare. If you are walking in the door when practice time ‘begins’, you are still considered tardy. Plan to be dressed, prepared, and ready for practice in Rank & File right when practice is scheduled to start!

Rookie Year Survival Guide

Welcome to Belles!! Here are a couple of tips to make your first year on Belles the absolute best it can be. Rule of thumb: when in doubt, just ASK!! Don't be shy to ask the officers, social officers, your big sisters, or directors because we are all here for you!

Tips

- Sadly, the locker room is not big enough for everyone to have room to change and get ready so Rookies should always get ready in the main varsity locker room area. We recently added a large mirror to provide extra space! That being said, the locker room is for ALL Belles, you should feel comfortable going back and forth between your locker and this extended varsity changing area.
- Respect seniority when lining up for food, getting water during practice, boarding buses, getting poms/arm bands, etc.
- Order of seniority
 - Directors
 - Dance Officers
 - Social Officers
 - Seniors
 - Juniors
 - Rookies
- Always get the cart out **prior** to the beginning of practice (unless told otherwise) and put it away after practice, **before** you go get ready. Be ready to help take out the mirrors if they're needed.
- Hold the doors in the morning before practice, on the way to the locker room, etc.
- Respect everyone at all times (parent volunteers, directors, guest choreographers, etc.)—say your “*Yes Ma'am's*” and “*Thank You's*”
- Always say “*Sorry Belles*” after making a mistake in practice
- Volunteer for team tasks (opening the door, getting out mirrors, putting away props, getting poms, etc.)
- Give 100% effort in practice, especially on the sides as an alternate, you never know when you will be put in! Go in for corrections with the directors so you know specifically what to work on!
- Maintain the Belle reputation in AND outside of practice (including all forms of social media as well as events)
- Do not correct or make suggestions to an older girl, officer, or director
- Documents, forms, money, etc. is always due **before** practice begins, on the DG desk
- Always remember your yes ma'am's, 'sorry Belles', and watch your body language in practice, and to raise your hand if your name is called out during corrections
- If you are going to be late/miss a practice, let your officer know in addition to the directors
- Remember that Belles is a family and treat everyone with love and respect ☺
- Always walk with your hands behind your back at football games & at contests.
- When it is your rank's turn to get the seat covers, you are responsible for getting them off the bus and into the stands. Your entire rank will help put them on the bleachers. Don't forget to bring them back to the bus at the end of the game as well. You will also be responsible for poms and any props that are used throughout the season.

Love, the Senior Officers

Captain Annika Tracy, 1st. Lieutenant Caroline Hanley, 2nd Lieutenant Kara Moy

Uniform & Costume Washing Guidelines

Shirt, Skirt, Bloomers, & Scarf:

Wash all items with like colors (wash the blue items and the white & leotard top separately) using **Eucalan laundry wash** (provided at vendor night & available at Petticoat Affair).

Eucalan is a lanolin based (vs chemical based), no rinse delicate wash. This will also protect the elasticity in the material.

Additional specifics for the shirt, sequin leotard, and scalloped sequin skirt:

- Wash by hand or use machine soak/spin cycle
- Turn the shirt inside out to protect the sequins
- Lingerie bag recommended if using a machine soak/spin
- Use 1 tsp of Eucalan -- Soak for 15 minutes by hand or 30 minutes in machine... no rinse necessary
- Use low spin or carefully roll in a towel to remove excess water -- Hang or lay flat to drydo not use a metal hanger, do not put it in a dryer

****Shirts, leotards, and skirts should ALWAYS be on a hanger. Please steam or iron shirts and skirts on low heat as needed to eliminate wrinkles.****

Boots:

Use a damp paper towel and a little Comet cleaner or a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser to remove all dirt and debris as soon as possible after each performance. Please clean the bottoms of the boots as well as the leather portion. Use white shoe polish on the leather for a perfect finish.

Gauntlets, Belts, Belt Strings, & Hat Strings:

These items should be cleaned as needed using a damp paper towel and a little Comet cleaner or a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. For tougher stains (lipstick on hatstrings!), a little non-colored nail polish remover on a cotton ball works best.

Hats:

Our hats are delicate and can lose shape easily if not stored properly.

- Hats should always be stored in your plastic hatbox with the cardboard shape-holder. No Exceptions.
- Hatboxes need to be stored flat, not on the side. This helps the hats keep their shape.
- Excessive heat is not good for the hats - do not leave hatboxes in the car before or after games.
- Belles should exercise extreme caution when handling their hats. Make-up and food stains are very hard to remove. In the event of a serious stain, please consult with the directors for proper care. All replacement hats will be purchased at the expense of the Belle in need.

Clothing Shields:

Clothing shields are to be worn with the short sleeved uniform shirt at all times to prevent armpit staining. These are one use, very thin pads that are applied by adhesive to the underarms of the sleeves. They can be trimmed to fit, if necessary.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our uniforms & team looking their best at all times! These uniforms are expected to last 10-15 years so proper care is crucial!

Policies & Expectations

Trojan Belles Expectations

Trojan Belles are expected to follow all rules and guidelines as written in the Belles and Anderson HS handbook.

BE A RESPONSIBLE STUDENT

- Make sure you are aware of the academic policies in the handbook. You are expected to take the initiative to come to the director **BEFORE** you find yourself in a serious situation with grades. We will work with you and allow you to go to tutorials if you have exhausted all other resources. **Academics comes before Trojan Belles**, and we would much rather you miss a couple of weeks of football season to pull a grade up, instead of sitting out an entire 6 weeks or being dismissed from the team. Make up your work/ go to tutoring during lunch, FIT, or after school. Teachers **WILL** work with you if you are a hard worker.
 - If a teacher cannot give you a make-up time other than practice time, you do run the risk of being cut from that week's performance. **The Belle must come talk to the directors in person before the date occurs AND you will need to have your teacher email the directors explaining that no other time could be found for the makeup. Failure to do so will result in a demerit.**
- Always check the Belle calendar before registering for the ACT or SAT. We include all testing dates on the calendar to help you plan ahead. We will share all Belle-conflicts with test dates on the Belle calendar at our first booster club meeting in the Fall.
 - There are a few football games the night before the ACT & SAT. All Belles are permitted to leave football games after halftime, but must provide a parent note (or email) stating they will be leaving early at least 24 hours prior.
 - If for some reason you need to take the ACT or SAT during one of the conflicting dates listed above, please communicate with the directors **at least 3 weeks in advance** to allow adequate time to plan. Next steps will be handled as a case by case situation.

BE A RESPONSIBLE TROJAN BELLE

- Know your deadlines, what to bring every day, and what you should be wearing. If you stay organized, there should be no reason for you to receive demerits. If you are ever in doubt, call your social officer or officer. Be responsible with the handouts that are given to you. Make sure that you are giving the appropriate forms to your parents when necessary, hand forms back in on time, and update your Trojan Belles calendar as needed.
- Because we all want to be a part of a very successful dance experience, it is important to realize and understand the ground rules that must be followed when 30+ girls are involved. Unfortunately, some girls think that the rules don't apply to them. But, in large groups, success depends on all of us pulling together in the same direction, at the exact same time, in the exact same way. That is why we are called a **TEAM!** Rules work best when everyone knows them, understands them, and most importantly, follows them. When this occurs, the group is empowered by a common vision. We hope that you find the rules strict, but logical; for if you do, we are in for an incredible year!!
- Everything you say, everything you do, reflects on you, your family, and the organizations you participate in therefore your actions are put through a test everyday by others. Remember – **actions DO speak louder than words.**

BE A RESPECTFUL STUDENT

- One of the most important qualities in a Trojan Belle is respect, and you are expected to exhibit this at all times. The faculty and administration should be able to count on the Trojan Belles as leaders and role models at Anderson, and we also expect you to behave in an exemplary manner that supports the reputation of our dance team.
- Make sure you get your schoolwork **DONE**, especially during our hectic times of the year. Never sleep in class, have your phone out when you are not supposed to, roll your eyes, etc. and do not disrespect your teachers. Always use your “yes ma’ams” and “yes sirs!” **Do not use Belles as an excuse to get favors out of your teachers** (i.e. tardy to class, late papers, etc.) We expect you to hold yourselves accountable for the rules of the Anderson HS handbook, as well as ours.

DO NOT GOSSIP

- Every person has passed on gossip, and every person has been hurt by it. If we want to be a family we cannot afford idle words. *Be careful of your words and protect your thoughts. So often your thoughts change without benefit of taking your words back.*
- There are years where the team is a “kinder, gentler” group of young ladies, and those are the years that bring back the most incredible memories for everyone. Acceptance of others in a group this size is a tall task that we can tackle if we want to. We will be close if our hearts are big and our spirits forgiving. When starting a conversation, always ask yourself, “If she walked into the room, would I continue to say these things?” If not, then you should reconsider the benefit of the conversation. Someone is always listening and you never know how your words can be construed.

SOCIAL NETWORKING:

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, Zoom, and whatever they think of next (!), are a regular part of our daily lives, especially now. There are many positive benefits of social networking including its ability to connect us with friends, family and acquaintances across the globe. We are able to share our memories, photos, and our every waking thoughts with anyone willing to follow us. The negative side of social networking is the false sense of privacy and the false sense of confidence we feel in typing words we might never say in real life. Please consider the image you portray through your wall posts, statuses, snap stories, & picture comments regardless of who is and isn’t in your social network. Refrain from postings/comments that are hurtful, damaging, racially insensitive, bullying, etc. Additionally, refrain from negative comments about Belles in general or about your teammates. Do not use profanity or vulgar language or post photos ANYWHERE that could damage your reputation or our team’s reputation (ex: PDA with boyfriend, etc). You are held accountable for your virtual words, images, and actions just as you are in person. You are part of a **TEAM** and we must be united in our goal to be classy young ladies and positive role models.

TALK TO YOUR DIRECTORS

- Please feel free to visit with us if you think that by sharing your feelings we will gain insight on problems that may be occurring on the team, or even your personal concerns about a situation. It is important to communicate, even though it may not be the easiest thing to do. We definitely don’t need to know about every small argument that occurs, but if you feel like we should be aware of something, please let us know. We may not be able to fix the problem, but if we don’t know it exists, there is no possible way we can even try to fix it!

WORK ON YOUR DANCE SKILL

- Every dancer comes into Belles at their own level of technique and training. From there, it is up to you to apply yourself & work your hardest to be the best dancer you can be. Your work ethic will directly impact your improvement as a dancer and performer. Seek out opportunities to train outside of Belles (online classes, weekly dance classes and special conventions and camps). There is no such thing as a perfect dancer and there is always room to grow if you give yourself the opportunity to do so.
- **To improve as a team, each member must be willing to do her part as an individual.** When a new dance is taught, you are expected to work on it outside of practice to commit the routine to memory. When we clean, polish, and make changes, pay attention and be adaptable. Whenever there is free time, such as after water breaks, go over movement that you are struggling with. Don't be afraid to ask your directors, officers, or fellow team members for help. If you don't make a dance, **ALWAYS** keep working your hardest on the side. You never know when a spot might open up – you will want to be ready to be pulled in!

ALWAYS GIVE 100%

- We expect this in your attitude, your moral, and your work ethic. The atmosphere of any activity you do is affected by your attitude. As your directors, we promise to give you our very best energy as well as a positive and motivating attitude in practice. We expect the very same from all of you. We promise to push you to be your best and will give you constructive feedback along the way. There is a tradition of excellence and high standards in our organization, and we must work together to keep this tradition going. We expect you to dance your hardest every day and never settle for “good enough.” Encourage your teammates. *Look for opportunities to pat each other on the back or cheer for the team as a whole.* Your positivity will go a long way towards boosting morale.

GRADING POLICY

YOUR TROJAN BELLES GRADE IS MADE UP OF:

- A daily grade is based on participation (on time, on task, giving full effort)
- This grade will be a base grade of 100. If a Belle receives a demerit during the grading period, 5 points per demerit will be deducted from the base grade of 100.
- For grading purposes only, demerits can be worked off by earning merits (1 point per merit).
- The daily grade returns to 100 at the beginning of each grading period.
- Once a merit has been used to replace demerit points, it is permanently deducted from the overall merit count.

Important Policies

Rehearsal Rules

- If you are not at rehearsal, you should not expect to perform.
- A member must be present at all rehearsals from Monday through Friday, regardless of making the dance, unless previous arrangements are made with the director.
- If a member is absent or tardy to a rehearsal, performance or work session, she is held responsible for all announcements, information missed, and deadlines.
- A member may be pulled from a performance due to missing a practice depending on the circumstance, time of year, and proximity to the performance.
- You CANNOT miss a Thursday or Friday rehearsal during football season and still perform UNLESS there is an extenuating circumstance (i.e.- field trip, funeral)
- **Given current circumstances regarding COVID-19, any member who is ill should not come to rehearsal to sit and observe.** We expect this to be a more common instance than most years and there will be **no penalty** for repeated illness related absences to ensure each Belle is making a responsible decision for herself and the team as a whole. That being said, continued absence due to illness *may* result in being pulled from a performance. If a member is truly injured or ill, it is in her best interest, and the team's, that she not rehearse or perform until she is well. **This should not be viewed as a punishment & no demerit will be issued.** When working with a performance-based group, it is important to ensure the group as a whole is performance ready. Belles that are not able to attend practice in person are expected to join via Zoom unless extenuating circumstances are discussed with directors in advance.
- Work cannot interfere with scheduled rehearsals. Work is not an excused absence from rehearsal or an excuse to leave early or arrive late.
- Regular doctor, dentist, or driving exam appointments should not interfere with any rehearsals scheduled. These appointments are not excused. Emergency appointments are treated with an exception.
- Family vacations should not be scheduled during Belle functions, rehearsals or performances. There will be consequences for missing these rehearsals to protect everyone's time. If you are absolutely unable to participate in an event, it is required that you give the Director notice two months in advance.
- College visits must be approved 3 weeks prior to the date you will miss. Failure to give a timely notice will result in 2 demerits. College visits may not take place during contest or spring show week(s). You must provide documentation if you are notifying Mrs. Orton of a new conflict to a college after the 3-week mark (it must be an acceptance event, not just a visit). There are multiple opportunities to visit colleges (nearly one a month) so we expect that you take advantage of those times provided.
- We expect you to fully dedicate your time during rehearsal to Belles. No breakfast, homework, or studying will be permitted during the scheduled rehearsal hours. This includes warm-up. We expect you to be ready to go when you arrive. Warm up attire should be a pullover, zip up jacket, and sweatpants. No PJs or excessively oversized clothing.
- Extended periods of absence will result in being placed on probation from participation on Belles. This could include being pulled from as many dances and/or performances that Directors see is best for the team as a whole. The Directors have the full discretion to decide how long the member will be on probation, based on the health and best interest of the entire team. In these cases, the Directors may present the member with a contract that will allow her to return onto the team.

Performance Rules

- Absence from part of summer camp/summer rehearsals or other required rehearsal or event. If a Belle chooses to miss team camp, she will not participate in one game for each day missed.
- During football season, Belles must be present for the entire game (including any post-game performances that may occur). The **ONLY** excused absence for leaving after halftime is for the ACT or SAT (other than unexpected illness), and Belles are required to give a parent note stating they will be leaving early. This will be **STRICTLY** adhered to, and if this rule is broken, there will be a performance penalty given at the discretion of the directors.
- During football season, if a circumstance comes up and a Belle has to miss a game, she will be expected to sit out the next half-time performance, even if it is an excused absence (for example, speech and debate tournaments or other school functions, family member's wedding, religious ceremonies, etc.). Excused absences do not incur demerits and must be approved in advance.
- The directors make the final decision on who makes each performance. The officers assist in taking notes and recording corrections so that the individual team member can receive the very best feedback. The officers do not pick who makes the dances.
- A member can be cut from a dance at any time for the following reasons: lack of memory, technique, projection, flexibility, coordination, strength, endurance, or if they are not maintaining the polish.
- A member can be cut from a season (spring show, contest, etc.) if she is unable to be present for **ALL** performances scheduled.
- All Belles must ride the bus to and from all football games and other applicable performances (ex. Competition trips, etc.)
- Belles should never complain about where they are placed in a formation. The bigger picture is that you are on this team. Dances are not always placed with seniority in mind.
- Any member put on probation is subject to a performance penalty to be decided at the discretion of the directors.
- Any member that becomes injured enough to consistently miss rehearsal and affect their performance of herself and the team may be pulled from the performance by the directors. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis. Factors such as proximity to the performance, severity of the injury, and availability of alternates are considered.

“It may seem easier for our life to remain constant. But change, really, is the only constant. We cannot stop it and we cannot escape it. Change is the engine of growth and the muse of creativity. Change makes the adrenaline kick in and motivates us towards achievement.”

Virtual Practice Guidelines

- Arrive on time, be in the waiting room 5 minutes early so everyone can be let in at time of event. Directors will ‘admit’ all members in the waiting room at the time ‘practice’ is set to begin. For example, in preparation for a 7:30am practice, please enter the virtual waiting room on Zoom at 7:25am; at 7:30am, you will be admitted into the ‘meeting’ for practice to begin.
 - It is realistic to assume that we will have technical difficulties along the way. Please communicate with the directors via email if you are unable to join a meeting. If your internet connection will not allow you to email the directors, please plan to call or text your rank’s officer.
 - More information about our tardy and absence policies can be found on page 23.
- In order for us to provide detailed & individualized feedback, please be sure to stay on screen the whole time. This might mean you need to angle your camera up or down to provide the best view on screen with potential adjustments throughout practice (before or after a combination rather than in the middle of choreography).
- Set your computer/phone/device up so that you are set up for success. For example, looking down at a screen propped up on the floor will not help with your balance or posture.
- Interact when appropriate--giving feedback when prompted (verbally or non-verbally), asking questions, giving thumbs up/thumbs down cues, staying involved in team building activities.
- Give it your all! It is easy to take a step back as we are working from home. Instead, look at this as an amazing opportunity to push yourself in an environment that may offer more privacy than a traditional practice setting. What a great opportunity for us to focus on individuals’ personal areas of strength & weakness. Personal drive is the only way we will return to our traditional rehearsals, not just prepared, but stronger than ever!
- Treat every critique as a personal critique in a group setting, don’t assume the feedback doesn’t apply to you.
- Attire:
 - Practice attire should align with normal, in person attire (see page 10). Cover ups & free-day Friday attire should not be overly baggy & please wear the appropriate shoes given the style of dance and the floor you are dancing on.
 - Example--hip hop should be practiced in tennis shoes, ballet should be practiced in ballet shoes or potentially socks to allow you to use the floor to work your feet (tendus, etc.), a stylized contemporary combo may be performed barefoot depending on the technical elements. Make smart choices for your home dance setting!

COVID-19 Precautions & Guidelines

After a year of constantly evolving guidelines and regulations stemming from the district, the City of Austin, and the State of Texas, we are hoping for more consistency in the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to abide by the aforementioned guidelines, in addition to using air purifiers, wearing masks, utilizing open air facilities, and socially distancing when possible. We will provide more detailed information about each season’s policies as we approach new environments and circumstances. Please be aware that the AISD COVID-19 Risk Waiver found at the end of this handbook is mandatory to participate in Belles and should be submitted no later than May 17th at 7:00am.

Audition Processes Through The Year

There are several times throughout the year that we will hold auditions for various dances. Football halftimes, pep rallies, competition pieces and spring show dances will all have separate tryouts. **HOWEVER...**there is no tradition to our method. The directors reserve the right to change what pieces will be auditioned from year to year.

In auditions, the following elements are assessed:

- **Technique**: arm placement, use of center, use of spot, toe point, body angles, overall extension
- **Execution**: knowledge of CORRECT execution of movement must be exhibited, control of energy
- **Strength**: power of execution, use of pli , relev , and saut  to utilize strength, use of floor space while dancing
- **Flexibility**: technique and extension of splits, extension and height of kicks and leaps
- **Memory**: knowledge of steps and confidence with execution of movement in the correct placement using correct pathways
- **Performance Ability/Style**: use of style in movements that is specific to the TYPE of dance being performed, performance energy and attitude/expression appropriate for the style/theme of dance

All Belles practice all routines for all performances, even if they do not hold a spot in the formation. At any time, a performer can become injured and the need for an alternate dancer will arise. The Belles that work hard on the sides and improve on the dances will always be considered for placement in a routine **if an alternate is performance ready.**

All Belles are an important part of the **TEAM**. If a Belle is not dancing in a given performance, she still plays an integral role in the success of the routine by being the Belles' version of the "12th Man."

If a Belle is absent from learning any company tryout dance from a choreographer she will not be eligible to audition for that routine. There are no make-up auditions after auditions have been completed (football, contest, or spring show dances), therefore if you are not present you are not eligible to be selected to perform. Even if a Belle makes an auditioned piece, if she is not present when we are placing the routine, she might be removed. All of these rules apply, even if this absence is excused.

Tryout Feedback:

Detailed feedback is recorded for each candidate during auditions. We provide many opportunities for all Belles to come receive helpful critiques regarding all of the above listed components of a tryout. While it is not mandatory to come to what we call 'Tryout Corrections', we feel that it is a valuable resource that should be taken advantage of regardless of placement in the dance.

Eligibility

What happens if I fail a class?

1. All members must pass all of their classes to be eligible to perform, as mandated by the state of Texas.
2. Failing consists of a grade below 70 for regular classes and below a 60 for honors/Pre-AP/AP classes.
3. Failure to pass all classes will result in a three to six-week ineligibility period, as mandated by the state of Texas.
4. If after three weeks the member is passing all classes, the ineligibility period is over, as mandated by the state of Texas.
5. If after three weeks the member is failing any one class or more, the ineligibility period continues until the end of the six-week period, as mandated by the state of Texas.
6. All members must maintain all required academic standards for eligibility to maintain membership as mandated by the state of Texas.
7. If a member is academically ineligible for two consecutive six weeks periods, the member will be placed on probation and must pass the next two consecutive six weeks before gaining her eligibility back in Belles. A Belle can only be put on academic probation once in her Belle career. Any subsequent two consecutive six weeks ineligibilities will result in removal from the team.

What role do I play on the team if I am academically ineligible?

You are still a member of Belles. You continue to attend all classes, practices and social events. You continue to dress out and learn movement, but the state of Texas mandates that members:

- cannot perform
- cannot ride with/participate with the team in football games or competitions
- cannot get in free to football games, competitions or spring shows
- cannot sit with the group at football games or competition, or backstage during spring show
- cannot wear either district-owned field uniform or school-owned costumes

What roll do I play on the team if I am on academic probation?

You are an inactive member of Belles. You will not attend social events or performances, but will attend Belles rehearsal and the class during the school day (tutorials will be taken into consideration). In addition, you:

- cannot ride with/participate with the team in football games or competitions
- cannot get in free to football games, competitions or spring shows
- cannot perform
- cannot sit with the group at football games or competition, or backstage during spring show
- cannot wear either district-owned field uniform or school-owned costumes

Discipline &
Merits

Disciplinary System

In order to achieve the greatest amount of teamwork and responsible social behavior, the following regulations will be enforced. All warnings & demerits will be recorded by Mrs. Orton/Ms. Mraz in the demerit log book so that they can be kept track of efficiently. Failure to come in and sign for your demerit (no more than 2 days after assigned) will result in an automatic 2nd demerit.

TARDIES:

- You may receive without penalty two warnings per year (car trouble, overslept, wifi trouble, etc.)
- Less than 5 minutes = a warning (the third warning becomes a demerit)
- More than 5 minutes = 1 Demerit

Please note, late warnings do **not** count for performances or special appearances, this policy applies exclusively to practices

ABSENCES:

- Excused in advance = 0 demerits
- Excused AFTER absence = 1 demerit (no advance call to office phone or email to Mrs. Orton)
- Unexcused from practice = 3 demerits
- Unexcused from performance = 5 demerits

*** If you come back to school the next day with an excused explanation, your parent forgot to call for you while you were sick, or you called your officer to tell her that you were sick but didn't call or email Mrs. Orton **before** practice, you will still receive a demerit. ***

PROBATION:

- A total of 5 demerits will bench a member for a period to be determined by directors
- Any officer or social officer that receives 5 demerits and is put on probation will forfeit their officer position in Belles permanently
- Academic ineligibility for two consecutive six weeks in a year
- Probation means that you will be taken out of a performance, Belles function, or possibly a season, in some capacity. If a member is on probationary status, that member will be informed of its duration, guidelines and conditions of maintaining their membership. Each member's probationary status will be handled individually while always considering what is best for the whole.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Home suspension from school
- A total of 10 demerits (accumulated during one year June through May)
- Academic Ineligibility Removal
- Violation of the Trojan Belles Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy

Demerit Listings

- Demerits help to reinforce the regulations set forth by the Trojan Belles Handbook as well as the Anderson HS Code of Conduct.
- You can receive demerits any time during your membership on Belles including weekends, evenings and school breaks/holidays.
- Only the directors can give demerits to team members.
- Demerits begin upon submission of the handbook contract in June 2020 and will end at next year's handbook meeting in May 2021 (specific dates will be announced after we have a finalized school calendar).

- (1) Failure to call the office (512-414-6321) or email Mrs. Orton **prior** to any rehearsal, performance, work session, or meeting which you will be absent from- whether we are dancing that day or not
- (1) Unprepared for rehearsal (hair not out of face, wrong clothes or shoes, wearing jewelry)
- (1) Failure to wear appropriate cover-ups to & from rehearsal and failure to take cover-ups off during rehearsal
- (1) Failure to have teacher email directors about tutoring/makeup work
- (1) Wearing incorrect practice attire (ex. wearing Monday's outfit on Tuesday)
- (1) Failure to meet responsibilities (turning in money, gift deadlines)
- (1) Creating a distraction in rehearsal (talking, off-task, cell phone rings, etc.)
- (1) Leaving practice, performance, or shared space untidy
- (1) Leaving rehearsal or performance without asking permission
- (1) Being seen in an incomplete uniform BEFORE or AFTER a performance (hats and leather can be taken off once you are on the bus on the way home)
- (1) Tardy to any Trojan Belles activity/rehearsal (it's always a good idea to be early!)
- (1) Chewing gum, eating, or drinking (other than water) at inappropriate times in rehearsal or at a performance or while wearing any Belles uniform/costume (unless permission has been given)
- (1) Not signing the book promptly (within two days of demerit assigned) for any demerit given will result in another demerit
- (1) Hair falling down, losing part of a uniform, or costume during a performance
- (1) Leaving behind school owned property (on the bus, at the contest site, etc.)
- (1) Unnatural hair color in any Belles setting
- (2) Using Belles as an excuse/leaving class early
- (2) Arriving tardy to performance
- (2) Not having a piece of a uniform at a performance
- (2) Unprepared for a performance (costume, hair, make-up, nail polish, jewelry, etc.)
- (2) Taking items from the closet without permission from the directors, and/or without signing it out with the google form. Communication must be made with both managers AND directors.
- (2-3) Any referral or disciplinary assignment to Saturday Detention
- (3) Failure to attend a committed function/event
- (2-3) Profanity/disrespect/unladylike conduct (behavior that is unbecoming to a Belle, will be decided on at the discretion of the director), INCLUDING online activity like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, Zoom, etc.
- (3) Visible piercings at any time – including tongue, belly button, and all facial piercings (nose, eyebrow, lip, etc). Clear retainers are not okay. Ear piercings are permitted; however, **ear studs** are acceptable for practice only--small hoops/huggies are not acceptable as they are a safety hazard.
- (3+) Missing a performance without prior approval
- (5) Visible tattoos (including practice & performance as well as inside & outside of school)
- (1-5) Actions of disrespect or dishonesty (includes withholding information) towards directors/officers/teammates/teachers
- (1-5) Failure to follow school rules (ex. Going off campus for lunch as an underclassman, skipping class, in school suspension, etc.), actions of disrespect towards a teacher, school official, or adult
- (1-5) Demerits for any act committed after a director's warning
- (1-5) Demerits for not following the drug, tobacco, and alcohol policy

Drug, Alcohol, & Tobacco Policy

Trojan Belles shall be an organization that encourages healthy decisions and positive lifestyle choices. Drug, alcohol, tobacco use, and any other illegal activity will not be tolerated.

1. **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO on school property and at school sponsored events, including but not limited to AISD sporting events, on campus, school dances, field trips, competitions, & travel:**

From the Austin Independent School District Student Code of Conduct:

A student must be placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program if the student commits any of the following offenses on school property, including a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area owned by the school district, or on a school bus, or within 300 feet of the school's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property [TEC 37.006]: Selling, giving, delivering, possessing, using or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense; selling, giving, or delivering an alcoholic beverage; possessing, using, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

If a Belle is involved in any incident including drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, which results in suspension or expulsion from Anderson High School, they will permanently lose their membership on the team. In addition, if a violation occurs on an official Trojan Belles trip, the Trojan Belle member will be sent home immediately at her own expense in accordance with school-wide travel policies.

2. **DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO outside of school:**

Any substantiated physical evidence of the use, possession, or association with or around alcohol, tobacco, vapes/Juuls/E-cigarettes, or illegal drugs at any time while a member of the Trojan Belles will result in the following:

First Offense

- **Step One:** Immediate conference with Belles directors and Belle in question.
- **Step Two:** Email to parents/guardians directly following the conference to schedule a meeting with the Belles Director & Assistant Director, AHS Administration, the Belle in question, and the parent/guardian(s) of the Belle.
 - The Belle will have an opportunity to recount the incident for all parties before any final decisions are made by the Belles directors
- **Step Three:** The Belles directors, with counsel of AHS administration, will make a determination within two business days of the final meeting pertaining to the incident. This determination may involve *up to 5* demerits, exclusion from a dance, and/or probation, etc.
- **Step Four:** Any Belle found to be in violation of the policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to the principal of Anderson High School within two business days of the original determination. There shall be no right to appeal from the principal's decision and his/her decision shall be conclusive in all respects.

Second Offense:

The Trojan Belle will be permanently removed from the team.

A review board made up of the Trojan Belles directors, an administrator, and the principal shall make the initial determination of whether a violation of the Trojan Belles Drug, Alcohol, & Tobacco Policy has occurred.

Merits

Throughout the year, Belles have several opportunities to earn merits. Merits are designed to recognize good work, extra effort, and special service. Belles earn credit in a variety of ways including but not limited to the following:

# of Merits	Description		
5	Straight A's (per six weeks)	2	Meet the teacher
5	Belle of the Week/Officers' Choice Awards	2	Vendor Night Sizers
		1	Mock Audition
5	Fall Dance Concert	1	Attending a non-required school activity in Belles attire (warm-ups, Belles shirt, etc.)
5	Bar Mitzvah Performance		
1-5	Director's discretion		
4	Dance Convention (per convention)	1	**needs photo proof**
3	6 weeks grade of 100 (academic class – not office aide, Belles, etc.)	1	Camp recognitions (stickers, ribbons, awards, etc)
		1	Dance class outside of school (1/class)
3	All City Dance Team	1	Summer Dance hours (1/class)
3	Attend Professional Event or Performance	1	Donation
3	Fall Dance Concert Duet/Ensemble	1	Dress up for Spirit Week (1/day)
3	Hill Carnival	1	Demonstrator pulled out in class
3	Performance of a solo, duet, or ensemble at contest (3 per contest)	1	Extra Cards (1/card)
		1	EAK (extraordinary acts of kindness)
2	100 on any MAJOR test		
2	any 6 weeks grade that goes up the next 6 weeks	1	Taco shack spirit contest
		1	Kicked Hat
2	Band Cookies	1	Macho Nacho at Hill with Band
2	Extra Rehearsal		
2	Attend approved dance productions (provide ticket stub/program)	1	Open Gym
		1	Solo finalist
		1	Proof of community service outside of school time (1 per hour) (<i>excluding hours used for other organizations: NHS, Leadership Council, etc.</i>)
2	Cleaning, organizing, helping in the office or locker room		
2	Attending an extra practice/rehearsal		
2	AHS Teacher Help Shift	*	Extra Belle duty

Reporting of Merits:

Belles will track their merits for each six weeks using an online merit tracking form (link provided below). Merits can be submitted at any time; however, they must be submitted one week prior to the end of the grading period for them to be applied to any negative balances received from a demerit.

<https://forms.gle/Yt6sSwX4pD9VuK6L6>

***You must provide a photo of a ticket stub or have a signature for all outside performances to be submitted via email (lauren.mraz@austinisd.org).

***You may NOT work off demerits with merits...merits "erase" demerits for grading purposes only. Merits used towards grades will be removed from your merit count.

ALL Belles must acquire 20 merits from June 9 – April 6 to be in good standing for Spring Show. Any member who does not meet this requirement by April 6 will be removed from one spring show team dance.

Fundraising

Fundraising & Expenses

2021-2022 TEAM FUNDRAISERS:

- Belles Summer Dance Camp (page 30)
- Business Sponsorships (page 31)
- Community Partners & Alumni Support (Page 32)
- Poinsettia Sales (Page 29)
- Jingle Belles (Page 33)
- Scrip & Randalls Account (Page 33)

Additional fundraisers vary from year to year based on necessity.

DISTRICT FUNDING: (district *typically* provides money for the following expenses)

SCHOOL BUSES TO DISTRICT FOOTBALL GAMES

TEAM ENTRY FEES FOR ONE COMPETITION

FIELD UNIFORMS (every 9-10 years)

TROJAN BELLES EXPENSES: (district provides NO money for the following expenses)

- Costumes (Pep rallies, competitions, spring show, etc.)
- Accessories
- Printing expenses
- Transportation to out of district football games, competitions, trips, etc.
- Music & music editing
- Meals & snacks
- Spirit appreciation gifts to other teams and groups
- Choreography
- Contest entry fees
- Motivational activities
- Social activities and goodwill
- Video/Filming capabilities
- Sound systems
- Props for spring show and competitions
- Lighting/Projection/Sound for spring show
- Publicity costs for spring show
- Artwork for spring show program
- Script writing for spring show
- Tshirts -football, contest, spring show, etc.
- Banquet awards, DVDS/digital access, etc.
- In-state & out-of-state trips

What does Fair Share provide?

Fair share provides funding for items that directly benefit the individual—meals, transportation, trip expenses (lodging, transportation, activities, etc.), tshirts, etc. The Fair Share amount differs from year to year, mostly depending on where we are traveling as a team. Please read through the Poinsettia Sale information below for information about how to offset this expense!

INDIVIDUAL TROJAN BELLES EXPENSES (APPROXIMATE):

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Due</u>
1. Rehearsal clothes, shoes, cover-up <i>*The first year establishes your Belles wardrobe. Returning years' clothing expenses decrease Drastically</i>	\$100-\$200	February 2021
2. Summer Camp	\$175	May 2021
3. Misc. Spirit Gifts (Big Sis/Lil Sis, Secret Belle)	\$75-\$100	Throughout
4. Fall Fair Share	TBA	November 2021
5. Spring Trip/Fair Share	TBA	Installments

Fair Share & Trip payments vary from year to year, this year's will be announced in August or September with our Big Trip information

Poinsettia Sales

Selling poinsettias is an incredible way to help offset your individual contribution to Belles through Fair Share! The Fair Share amount differs from year to year, mostly depending on where we are traveling as a team but Belles always have the opportunity to reduce their personal financial commitment by selling Poinsettias. Basically, the more poinsettias you sell, the less you owe! These selling periods occur in September and October with a delivery date in December. Poinsettia delivery is an all-hands-on-deck morning to help unload the truck, sort the plants, and prepare for each Belle family to deliver them to their buyers. More information will be provided at the booster club meeting in early September!

Belles Summer Dance Camp

Belles Summer Dance Camp is our largest fundraiser in Belles, bringing in over \$30,000 to jump start our year. We are working to modify our traditional camp structure to provide a safe environment to host this camp at Anderson this year! More information will be provided in May.

Business Sponsorships

Our new Business Sponsorship Program is a great way for our organization to utilize financial support from local businesses in exchange for providing advertising opportunities! Please see a breakdown of our sponsorship tiers listed below. A flyer to share with the community as well as a digital file intended for use on social media will also be provided via email and on our website under 'For Belles & Boosters'.

Tiers	Bronze: \$100-\$249	Silver: \$250-\$499	Gold: \$500-\$999	Platinum: \$1,000-1,999	Diamond: \$2,000 +
Listed on Sponsorship Page of Spring Show Program	X	X	X	X	X
Name Listed on Trojan Belles Website	X	X	X	X	X
Proud Sponsor Poster of Team	X	X	X	X	X
Quarter Page Ad in Spring Show Program		X			
Half Page Ad in Spring Show Program			X		
Full Page Ad in Spring Show Program				X	
Full Page Inside Cover Ad in Spring Show Program					X
Complimentary Pair of Tickets to Spring Show			X	X	X
Company Logo On Trojan Belles Website			X	X	X
Recognition on Social Media			X	X	X
Name Announced at all Trojans Home Football Games, Contest Showcase, & Spring Show				X	X
Official Sponsor of the AHS Trojan Belles					X

Community Partners

Community Partners are a great way for members of our Anderson & Belle communities to support the Trojan Belles! Unlike Business Sponsorships, there are not tiers or levels of support and we are thankful for any support we can get!

Our goal is for each Trojan Belle family to bring in a minimum of \$250 in Community Partnerships. This \$250 contribution is in no way mandatory, and is not intended to be paid out of pocket. Instead, use this number as a personal target to help the Belles to reach our fundraising goals! Each Trojan Belle/Trojan Belle family should plan to reach out to friends and families and/or post the provided digital flyer to your personal social media accounts!

There are a large number of businesses that have **Employee Match Programs** set up for qualified charitable organizations. Use the following link to see a list of businesses in Austin that are willing to match donations in some capacity. Depending on the size of the donation, the company's matched donation might qualify for a sponsorship! Be sure to check out our Business Sponsorship page for more information.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oEpbHWZiC7S87tNmNkvP51ABDk7wJI2f/view?usp=sharing>

Jingle Belles

Jingle Belles is our one day, holiday themed dance camp that occurs in December! This clinic provides campers with an opportunity to learn dances from the Belles, participate in Arts & Crafts, and take pictures with Olaf or Santa Claus! Since we typically have a smaller turn out at Jingle Belles than we do for Belles Summer Dance Camp, we usually split the day in to 2 or 3 shifts so Belles are only responsible for a few hours instead of the whole day.

Scrip

Scrip is an online gift card fundraising program that allows your family to offset personal and organizational expenses! With over 750 retail partners, shopping at your everyday stores using the Scrip program allows immediate rebates on your purchases.

How does this work?

- Go to <http://www.shopwithscrip.com>
- Click on “Join a Program”
- Enter enrollment code: **DA89B2EF69L16**
- Cards will be offered as either eGift cards that can be scanned on your phone at checkout or physical cards that will be sent to your Scrip coordinator to be passed out
- Once money is loaded onto the cards of your choice, spending money at stores you would typically shop at also now allows you to fundraise for Belles!
- Convenience fees-
 - Credit cards- 2.6%
 - Bank account- 0.15%
- Example stores/places
 - Amazon, Starbucks, Target, HEB, Exxon, Shell, Ulta, Walgreens, Southwest Airlines, etc.

Using Scrip is completely optional, but can be a great way to earn money towards your Fair Share and towards the team as a whole.

Randalls Account SetUp

Randalls has a great Good Neighbor Program that allows you to link your existing Randalls loyalty account to the AHS Trojan Belles. Our GNP/charity # is: 4177. You can use the form found on the following link to set up your account:

https://www.randalls.com/content/dam/store/good-neighbor/GOOD_NEIGHBOR_CHARITY_RAN.pdf

AHS Trojan

Belles Boosten

Organization

AHS Trojan Belles Booster Organization

The AHS Trojan Belles Booster Organization actively supports the Belles program; the Belles, the Directors, and all Belle activities.

SOME of the things the Boosters do include:

- Sponsor a summer kick-off party for Belles and their Families
- Organize and facilitate fundraisers
- Provide snacks at practices, meals on game days and spring show rehearsals/shows, and many other spirit and social events
- Communicate valuable information to Belle families throughout the year
- Boosters try to sit together at football games and contests to cheer for the Belles, and provide moral support when needed
- Assist with organizing, mending, and sewing uniforms and costumes
- Assist the Belles with game day, contest, and spring show preparations
- Funds all spirit, social events, and the end of year banquet

The Belles Booster Club provides all of these services to benefit ALL BELLES.

WE NEED YOU...More importantly, your daughter needs you!

Please join the boosters and volunteer for a committee, we'd love to have you and it'll be FUN!

Booster Club meetings are typically in the Anderson cafeteria, and all members are requested to attend. Dates and times are on the Belle's website: www.TrojanBelles.com, found on the "For Belles & Boosters" Page under the "Calendar" tab.

For more information about the Belles Booster Club, please contact our 2021-2022 Booster Club President, Laura Burkhart.

All Checks should be made out to AHS with *Belles* in the memo line.

MONEY HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR TROJAN BELLES ACTIVITY ACCOUNT:

Purchases Made on Behalf of the Trojan Belles

Prior approval is required for all purchases. School checks must be cut directly to the vendor/business therefore it is necessary to plan well in advance of the date when the purchase is needed. Reimbursement is a last resort and may be used only in instances where prior approval has been granted. Remember, **AISS cannot reimburse sales tax** so please pick up a tax-exemption form if you need to make a purchase. This form can also be found at www.trojanbelles.com

In the event you need to submit an approved reimbursement request, please submit original itemized receipts only and attach the Reimbursement Request Form found on the Belles website (Handouts page). Photo copied receipts are not accepted by the bookkeeper.

Leadership

Trojan Belle Chain of Command

1.) **Anderson High School Administration**

2.) **Anderson Trojan Belles Director**

Director: Kayla Orton
Asst. Director: Lauren Mraz

3.) **Officers**

Captain: Annika Tracy
1st Lieutenant: Caroline Hanley
2nd Lieutenant: Kara Moy
Jr. Lieutenant: Leilani Mate

4.) **Social Officers**

Senior Social: Avery Burkhart
Junior Social: Arabella French
Junior Social: Alexis Friedman
Junior Social: Lauren Hoffman

5.) **Third Year Returning Members**

6.) **Second Year Returning Members**

7.) **First Year Members**

Trojan Belles Officers

OFFICER CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a sophomore or junior and at least a one-year member of Trojan Belles
- Must have a minimum of 50 merits acquired from June 9 – April 6 (Used to “erase” demerits do not count toward officer tryouts)
- Must perform/compete a solo (at least 1 competition)
- Cannot be placed on probation (academic or disciplinary) at any point during the audition year.
- Must complete all officer tryout requirements: dances, notebook, interviews, team presentation, teacher recommendation forms from all teachers, director interview and judges’ tryout as detailed in the Officer Tryout Packet
- Must be able to attend officer, team, and Belles Summer Dance Camp to be eligible for auditions.

AUDITION PROCESS:

- There are various audition requirements and all interested candidates will receive a more informative packet in February.
- The selection process entails combining the votes of the team, judges, directors, and teachers’ evaluations, & finding the candidates that fall above the natural break in scores.
- The candidate with the highest score receives the position of Captain, and the rest of the eligible candidates will fill Lieutenant positions.

OFFICER REQUIREMENTS:

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team
- Compete in three* officer routines for competition
- Must be 10 minutes early to all Belles functions
- Responsible for setting up/putting away sound equipment and having music ready for all routines (daily)
- Stay after rehearsal until dismissed by the director
- Responsible for daily warm-ups, teaching, choreography, polishing, and leading practice in the absence of the directors
- Responsible for general team productivity (making sure the team is on task when they are supposed to be)
- Other duties as assigned

Although officer tryouts do not occur until May, the “audition” process is a yearlong endeavor. If you are considering trying out for officer you are advised to take as many studio classes as possible outside of Belles to hone your technique, style, and confidence as a performer. In addition, a strong work ethic, respectable reputation, and motivating presence in practice will be noted by your teammates as well as your general dependability, responsibility, and maturity. While it is important to think ahead about your leadership desires, it is imperative to refrain from talking or gossiping about who you think next year’s officers could be/will be.

Trojan Belles Social Officers

SOCIAL OFFICER CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team
- Must be a sophomore or junior and at least a one-year member of Trojan Belles
- Must have a minimum of 50 merits acquired from June 9– April 6 (Merits used to “erase” demerits do not count toward officer tryouts)
- Cannot be placed on probation (academic or disciplinary) at any point during the audition year- up to director’s discretion.
- Must complete all officer tryout requirements: visual aids, team presentation, teacher recommendation forms from all teachers, and director interview as detailed in the Social Officer Tryout Packet

AUDITION PROCESS:

- There are various audition requirements and all interested candidates will receive a more informative packet in February.
- Each candidate’s score will combine the team vote, the directors’ vote, judges’ vote, and the teachers’ recommendation score.
- The candidates that fall above the natural break in scores will be given a position as a social officer.

SOCIAL OFFICER REQUIREMENTS:

- Responsible for encouraging the team and creating a motivated environment in Belles
- Recognizing and celebrating birthdays
- Public relations: sports team & other AHS organization recognition (football cards, posters, locker decorating, etc) and thank you cards
- Decorating and maintaining locker room and hallway bulletin boards.
- Locker room organization and cleanliness (maintaining rank cleaning rotation)
- Social events/get-togethers (Holiday Party, summer parties, etc), Banquet
- Organizing and coordinating community service opportunities
- General team moral boosters including but not limited to: sister gifts, secret Belle, daily motivations, holiday books, rank gifts, etc.
- Slideshow creation, photo organization
- Each social officer is expected to fulfill those responsibilities to her utmost ability.

Although officer tryouts do not occur until May, the “audition” process is a yearlong endeavor. A strong work ethic and motivating presence in practice will be noted by your teammates as well as your general dependability, responsibility, and maturity. While it is important to think ahead about your leadership desires, it is imperative to refrain from talking or gossiping about who you think next year’s officers/social officers could be/will be.

Trojan Belle Managers Roles & Responsibilities

Trojan Belle managers serve as important helpers to the Belles Dance Team and to the directors. Managers are non-dancing team members that play an integral role in the following capacities:

DAILY:

- Managers are expected to check in with the directors each morning to see if there are any specific tasks or jobs. Managers will maintain the organization of the small gym closet/Belle closet and should proactively look for things that are out of place, need to be put away, laundry to do, etc.
- Managers are responsible for organizing costumes, facilitating costume pass out/return, and maintaining accurate record keeping for all inventory.

FOOTBALL SEASON:

- Managers must attend all football games and will follow all Belle game day procedures (eating dinner after school, riding the bus, etc.).
- Managers are responsible for bringing an ‘extras’ bag and first aid bag to the games, as well as returning these items back to the closet at the end of the evening.
- Managers will keep an eye on the Belles’ section during pre-game and halftime, tidy up seat covers, straighten bags, etc.
- Managers will assist with halftime and pre-game videotaping as needed.
- Managers will assist with all other game duties as instructed by the Directors.
- Managers will attend Fall Dance Concert as the stage manager
- Managers will attend all pep rallies and will play music and/or video performances

CONTEST SEASON:

- Managers attend all Belles competitions and competition trips.
- Managers will assist with videotaping as needed.
- Managers are responsible for all other contest duties as assigned by the Directors.

SPRING SHOW:

- Managers will attend all Belle after school rehearsals *as needed*.
- Managers will assist as part of the stage crew during each show.
- Managers are responsible for all other Spring Show duties as assigned by the Directors.

SUMMER:

- Managers will attend Belles Summer Dance Camp (“kiddie camp”) and assist with any other summer camp practice days as assigned.
- Managers will utilize extra time during summer camps to organize and prepare the small gym closet and locker room costume closet for the year ahead.

GENERAL:

- Managers attend all performances, social events, and team trips.
- Managers are responsible for upholding the standards of the Trojan Belles handbook. They are an important part of the Belle organization and are held to the same expectations as performing members. Managers CAN receive demerits. Please see the disciplinary section of the handbook for more information.
- Managers are invited to participate in all fundraising activities (poinsettia sales, etc.) to help earn funds for contest travel, team trips, etc.

ARE YOU A CLASSY LADY?

A classy lady. . .

- . . . respects the feelings and opinions of others and thinks before she speaks.
- . . . is well-mannered, courteous, knows proper etiquette, and has respectable moral values.
- . . . dresses tastefully and appropriately.
- . . . does not overdo her makeup, but keeps it simple and lets her true beauty shine through.
- . . . does not need, or use, swear words and bad language to express herself.
- . . . is careful not to offend the sensibilities of others.
- . . . tries to do her very best at all times.
- . . . knows the meaning of good sportsmanship and displays it in competition and in life.
- . . . is respectful of her fellow competitors and never belittles her opponent.
- . . . accepts defeat with grace, dignity, and style, knowing she did her best.
- . . . never openly displays resentment.
- . . . is humble and never acts arrogant in victory or boasts of her own accomplishments.
- . . . takes no pleasure in others' misfortune.
- . . . gives generously of her time and talents to others.
- . . . acts in a mature and responsible manner.
- . . . wins respect from all who know her.
- . . . is a woman who is admired and whom others want to emulate.
- . . . stands out head and shoulders above the rest.

Trojan Belles Handbook Contract

As an Anderson High School Trojan Belle, I, _____, recognize that I set an example for others to follow. High standards are expected of me. I have read and understand my responsibilities to abide by the policies set forth in the Anderson High School Trojan Belles Dance Team Handbook 2021-2022.

Belle Signature

Date

I, _____ have read and acknowledged the Anderson High School Trojan Belles Dance Team Handbook 2021-2022. I am fully aware of what is expected of my daughter as a member of the Trojan Belles Dance Team.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

A signed copy of this document must be on file before participation in any Belles function or performance. **DUE MONDAY, May 17¹⁷ @ 7:00am**

Anderson High School

Private Transportation Permit

We (I) are the parents (legal guardians) of _____, a child enrolled in the Austin Independent School District.

We (I) hereby grant permission for the student named above to travel by a vehicle driven or operated by an employee of the School District acting within the scope of his or her duties, or gratuitously by individuals or by an independent contractor. This transportation may be a privately owned vehicle or privately owned charter bus.

We (I) accept responsibility to determine that the transportation provided is safe and reasonable for the purpose intended. We (I) agree that the Austin Independent School District, its officers, trustees, and employees are not negligent in their choice of the transportation and that we (I) have freely chosen the transportation provided herein. We (I) understand that we have the option to provide our own transportation method.

We (I) hereby waive, release and discharge the Austin Independent School District, its trustees, officers, and employees from any claim, demand, or cause of action arising out of the transportation herein provided and agree to indemnify and save harmless the Austin Independent School District and its employees from all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by us (me) or by our (my) child whether the same be caused by the negligence of the Austin Independent School District or its officers, agents, employees, or otherwise.

We (I) give our (my) permission to the Anderson High School Dance Directors or designated personnel to seek emergency medical assistance for my child in the event that it becomes necessary while traveling with the Anderson High School Trojan Belles during the 2021-2022 school year.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability - COVID-19

COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19, is extremely contagious, and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Austin Independent School District (AISD) has put in place protective measures to protect the spread of COVID-19 and is following Texas Education Agency (TEA) and University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines; however, AISD cannot guarantee that you, your child, or close contacts will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending/participating in extra-curricular activities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19 not only to the student but also the student’s household. Extra-curricular activities including UIL activities are voluntary activities.

I acknowledge that my child’s participation in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to UIL activities, (hereafter extra-curricular activities including UIL activities are the “Activities”) is voluntary. I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, and on behalf of myself and my child, I voluntarily assume the risk that my child, and I, and any member of my family/close contact may be exposed to or infected with COVID-19 by participating in Activities and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or death. I acknowledge that I am being advised my child should practice physical distancing and wearing of a mask while at home to protect family members. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while attending/participating in Activities may result from the actions or omissions of myself and/or others, including, but not limited to AISD employees, agents and representatives, volunteers, participants and their families and/or any other individual who may be present or in attendance.

I voluntarily agree to assume, on behalf of myself and my child, all risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child, myself and any member of my family (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I, my child and/or members of my family may experience or incur in connection with my child’s participation in the Activities.

With full awareness and appreciation of the risks involved, I, as the parent/guardian, hereby forever release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue Austin Independent School District, its board members, officers, agents, servants, independent contractors, affiliates, employees, successors and assigns (collectively the “Released Parties”) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me or my child(ren) related to COVID-19 or other injury/disease whether caused by the acts, omissions, and/or negligence of the Released Parties, any third-party using AISD facilities, or otherwise, while participating in any activity while in, on, or around AISD facilities, and/or Activities, and/or while using any AISD facilities, tools, equipment, or materials. I understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of AISD, its board members, officers, employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in Activity.

Additionally, the laws of the State of Texas provide immunities for school districts and employees and agents. In addition to this Agreement, these immunities remain intact and are not altered or waived in any manner.

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Student Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Grade Level