

# Star Dancers JV Dance Team



2021-2022 Handbook  
Directors: Leanne Bilnoski and Emily Davis

## Purpose of the Star Dancers

The Star Dancers is an exciting dance performance team that includes Bowie students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> who perform at an intermediate level. The purpose of the Star Dancers is to provide a positive high school experience through dance. Star Dancers will encourage loyal school spirit, high academic standards, and high moral values among its members. As a team we will work on the development of dance technique, self-confidence, self-discipline, and sportsmanship in each member. Star Dancers is the perfect choice for Bowie students who want to balance their passion for dance with time for other academic or extracurricular activities.

- To promote appropriate and good spirit
- To develop team-building, self-confidence, and self-discipline
- To promote leadership
- To develop and maintain exceptional dance qualities
- To represent the school, district, and community in an exemplary manner
- To serve as a role model for impeccable behavior and citizenship

### A year on Star Dancers will include:

Four team performances each semester  
Rehearsals primarily held during the school day  
Valuable technique-building classes in a single-block schedule  
Team community service projects  
Fun social events and activities  
Auditions held once a year

\* **March** (*JBHS students and incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders trying out for fall semester*)

## Star Dancers Junior Varsity Dance Team Expectations

Star Dancers members are expected to follow all rules and guidelines as written in the Star Dancers and JBHS handbook.

**TIME:** While we plan to make the time commitment for Star Dancers minimal, there will be functions that we require the members to be a part of. This is a team activity, so each member must be present for a rehearsal or a performance, etc. –if one member is late, the rest of the team is often left waiting. Parents may be asked to give a small amount of time to sew costumes, cook for one of social events, volunteer for various activities throughout the year, and more importantly, to attend as many of your student’s performances as possible.

**MONEY:** Every effort will be made to keep expenses for Star Dancers reasonable. No child will be turned away for financial reasons.

**EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT:** Each member will have triumphs and disappointments in Star Dancers and the love and support of their family will be important to them. Celebrate their triumphs- they worked hard to earn them. Console them during their disappointments. But remember, learning to deal with frustration and pressures are part of their maturation process. Your positive attitude will influence your student’s reactions to their experiences. You and your Star Dancer should always address your concerns and suggestions to the directors. Many problems arise from simple misunderstandings and there are always improvements to be made. **Communication is the only way to reach a solution.**

As each of you are a part of the Star Dancers family, Star Dancers is also a member of your family. Cherish it and protect it- your words and actions should reflect our new family’s positive image. We must always consider what is best for the individual, while recognizing that we must always consider what is best for the whole.

**Please reference this handbook. It is designed to be used as a guideline to make the Star Dancers Team the best it can be. Common sense and good judgement will be used when events NOT covered in the handbook arise. It is our hope that the experiences taught within the Star Dancers organization are life-long, rewarding lessons that will resonate with these students long after they graduate from Bowie High School.**

# Star Dancer Qualifications

## Team Qualifications

In order to be eligible to be a Star Dancer, a student must:

- Be in a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior standing at the time of membership.
- Have the correct number of credits for the number of years of attendance in high school. A member may not be behind in earning credits toward graduation.
- Have an overall scholastic average of 2.0 for all courses taken in the current year of high school.
- Turn in a complete audition application to be approved by the Directors.
- Audition before a panel of judges who will rate the candidate.
- Be willing to abide by the Star Dancer Code of Conduct.
- Attend all rehearsals and performances throughout the entire.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of Austin ISD.
- Cooperate with the Directors in promoting good citizenship in the school and in the community.
- Cooperate with Directors and the team in developing good sportsmanship among all students and between schools.
- Refrain from participation in any activity that would embarrass a fellow student or cause him/her physical or emotional discomfort or harm.
- Resign gracefully upon failure to live up to the requirements of membership.
- Demonstrate his/her ability to perform a given routine as determined by the Directors with the assistance of the Officers in an audition.
- Audition for every Star Dancers performance.

## Maintenance of Membership

**Grade Requirements:** Grades will be checked each nine weeks during the full term to determine if every member is eligible to remain on the team.

1. In accordance with UIL "no pass/no play" rules, any member failing a course (below a 70) will be ineligible for 9 weeks unless the student gains eligibility after 3 weeks, by passing ALL of their classes with a 70 or above. During that time the member will dress out and participate in all practices and events, but may not perform. *\*\*Pre-AP and AP classes will be waived upon the completion of the waiver form which can be picked up from the Directors.*
2. If a member fails the nine weeks reporting period two times in any cumulative year then they will be removed from the Star Dancers program for the remainder of the year. Special cases will be decided by the Directors.

## **Grade Probation – Failure:**

1. Probation will last for a period of 3 weeks (*or 9 weeks if eligibility is not regained*) for the date assigned, during which time, the member will not perform as a member of the group. However, they must attend all practices, events, and fundraisers with the group until eligibility has been regained. The member must continue to dress out in correct dance attire while on probation.
2. A member who is placed on grade probation two times within the current school year will be removed from the team.

## **Attendance Policy**

In order to maximize rehearsal time, a strict attendance policy must be in place. ***As a Star Dancer, you have an obligation to your fellow teammates to:***

- Be able to attend ALL scheduled rehearsals before and/or after school, nights, weekends and summer.
- Be at school the day of a performance.
- Attend additional rehearsals called by the Directors as deemed necessary for the quality of the performance.
- Agree to remain the entire length of a function unless prior arrangements are made with both Directors.
- Understand that work-related absences are unexcused.
- **Accept that if they are tardy or absent from a rehearsal during the week of a performance they may be replaced or cut from the dance piece.**
- **Contact BOTH Directors via email AND assigned Squad Leader by phone, or in person, in advance of an absence.**

- All Star Dancers must abide by the Bowie High School attendance policies.

**“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable”**

Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases – please notify the Directors IMMEDIATELY

- Medical emergency or personal injury
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Examples of UNEXCUSED absences/tardies include, but are not limited to:

- Work
- Oversleeping
- Transportation not arranged
- Anything deemed unexcused by Bowie Administration

**Appointments should not be scheduled during rehearsal times, performances, contests, or competitions. Unless they are an emergency, they are unexcused. Making up tests and other school work must be done on your own time and not during rehearsal.**

### **Injury and Illness**

When an accident or injury occurs, it must be reported to the teacher in charge. The teacher will then report it to the school nurse and any other necessary authorities. Proper medical referrals will be made when necessary.

## **Transportation and Student Behavior**

### **Bus Transportation**

The Austin ISD’s Student Behavior Code applies equally throughout the District, regardless of where the incident occurs. Inappropriate behavior on a bus or school trip will be treated with the same level of scrutiny as inappropriate behavior in the classroom and will lead to appropriate school consequences as spelled out in the Behavior Code and/or suspension or termination from bus riding. All bus riders receive a copy of the bus rules at the beginning of school.

- For safety, there are additional policies that apply to bus travel.
- Be on time.
- The Star Dancers will travel as a unit on all trips. If a Star Dancer has a good reason to return from a trip by other means of transportation, the student must submit a written permit to a Director, signed by the student’s parents/guardians. This permit must be provided **24 hours in advance. The parents/guardians must see the Directors at the time of departure in order to authenticate the note.**
- Students will not touch or hang onto the bus in any manner before boarding or after discharge.
- An adult chaperone will be on each bus.
- No one except Directors, Star Dancers, and chaperones will be permitted on the bus.
- Students will be held responsible for any destruction or vandalism to the seats, windows, or bus equipment.
- No glass containers will be allowed on buses.
- No animals or pets are allowed on the bus. Objects that the driver deems dangerous to other riders will not be allowed on the bus.
- No flash photography is allowed during team transportation.
- Throwing anything or hanging arms/heads/legs out of the window is prohibited. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Buses are to be treated with care and all trash is to be picked up before exiting the bus. Keep the bus clean!
- Talking must be limited to talking, no yelling or screaming, as this distracts the driver. No extreme noises will be tolerated. Any music devices will be listened to with personal headphones.
- Students must be quiet when the bus approaches and crosses railroad tracks.
- Follow bus driver’s directions at all times.

## **Star Dancer Trip Behavior**

Star Dancer trips are school sponsored and therefore also fall under school policy and rules. Only EXEMPLARY conduct will be acceptable from the Star Dancers **and chaperones** when at a football game, contest or day trip. Star Dancers will be polite and courteous to other teams, educators, and anyone they encounter. Inappropriate and overly boisterous behavior will not be tolerated by any Star Dancer at a football game, contest, or day trip. There will be NO smoking, use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time at any Star Dancer or Austin ISD sponsored function. No one is to leave the group for any reason, until properly dismissed by the Directors.

## **Parent Transportation of Students**

At times, parents will be asked to volunteer their time to help transport students to or from an event. Parents are asked to wait until all students are accounted for and then proceed in a caravan to the event. This ensures all of our students are together and safe for the duration of the ride. At no point should the caravan pull over, unless there is an emergency. If one car pulls over, then everyone in the caravan pulls over.

## **Staying Up-to-Date (Handling Forms)**

Students are responsible for taking home forms they receive from the Star Dancers Directors. These forms should be filled out in a timely manner and returned as soon as possible to the designated person.

Much of the information will be on the Star Dancers website. The calendar on the Star Dancers website, [www.JBHSStarDancers.weebly.com](http://www.JBHSStarDancers.weebly.com). The Star Dancers will sign up for 'Remind' texts, to keep the team 'in the know' should a change or adjustment in schedule be necessary. It is each individual's responsibility to check your email and the website regularly for new information.

## **Star Dancer Code of Conduct**

The administration, faculty and staff assume that secondary students are mature, behave responsibly while at school, and that all discipline manners can be handled in a calm and reasonable manner. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, certain standards of behavior are necessary. Standard procedures for disciplinary infractions will be enforced fairly, promptly, and equitably to every student. In order for you to know what standards of behavior are expected, the following information is provided.

- Students will be expected to have the proper frame of mind prior to and during rehearsals and performances, avoiding inappropriate behavior.
- Students will be prepared and on time for class and rehearsal.
- Food, gum, or drink (with the exception of water) is NEVER permitted in a rehearsal.
- **Knock before entering the Directors' offices. No student is to occupy the dance gym or studio without permission. No student is permitted to use the Directors' computers, telephones, or copy machine without permission.**
- Take care of the equipment and uniforms you are using.
- Loud and boisterous activity by a Star Dancer when in public is not appropriate.
- **PDA (Public Displays of Affection) will NOT be permitted in/near any dance facilities, on trips, or on official Star Dancer functions.**
- Use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco is strictly forbidden and is grounds for dismissal from the team.
- Star Dancers will keep an exceptional appearance. Hair colors that are unnatural, hairstyles that are distracting, and clothing that does not fall under Bowie High School dress-code are prohibited.
- While in uniform, there are to be no visible piercings. Spacers must be used. Band-aids will no longer be allowed as a form of covering up the piercing.
- The use of inappropriate language or profanity will not be tolerated.
- Star Dancers serve as good-will ambassadors for the school and community. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the Bowie High School Dance Department, the school, and to the parents. Be courteous and respectful at all times... there is always someone watching and listening.

Follow all school and district rules. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:

1. Conference with student
2. Conference with parent
3. Conference with grade-level principal

4. Probationary contract
5. Expulsion from the Star Dancers organization
6. Other, as designated by the administration

### **Social Media Policy**

As a Star Dancer, you are expected to maintain a pristine appearance, both in person and online. At no time will a Star Dancer infer or post anything online negative about the Star Dancer Organization, fellow students, teachers, teammates, parents, Directors or any contest or rehearsal outcome. Your presence on any social media platform is a direct reflection on the Star Dancer Organization that will never be erased from the internet. What you post today, can be found years later and can become a detriment to your character and the Star Dancers. Negative online activity will not be tolerated by the Star Dancers organization.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that members' personal websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as but not limited to Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, inappropriate texting, etc... appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Star Dancers are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any "finstagram" or spam accounts made by Star Dancers will not be tolerated. Any member who is caught with inappropriate, negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene, sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks will be removed from the extra-curricular portions of the program for a time period established between the Directors and the Administration. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.

### **Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy**

The Star Dancers pride themselves in being superior citizens to our community, to our school, and to ourselves. The possession, sale, distribution, or use, **of any amount** of alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, tobacco products, vaping or any other controlled substance is strictly prohibited. These offenses are not tolerated by our program. Any evidence (*public or private, including social networking sites, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.*) of the use or possession of alcohol, or illegal drugs at *any time* while a member of Bowie High School Star Dancers including weekends, evenings, holidays and summer will result in the following:

- If a Star Dancer is involved in any incident (on or off campus) including drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, they will permanently lose their membership on the team for the remainder of the school year. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.
- If a violation occurs on an official Star Dancer trip, the Star Dancers member will be sent home immediately at her own expense in accordance with school-wide travel policies.
- All principals and Directors are required to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and are to report to them any and all information that would be considered pertinent or beneficial in their efforts to stop the sale, possession, and use of illegal drugs and controlled substances.

An immediate student/parent conference with the Star Dancers Directors and the Bowie High School administration will occur. **No exceptions.** Possession or usage of these substances can have dire consequences for the student and also reflects upon the Star Dancers and Bowie High School. The Star Dancers member and their parents may be asked to enroll in an early intervention and prevention program. Attendance must be documented in writing and given to the Star Dancer Directors. Any expense will be the responsibility of the Star Dancers member, parents, or guardians. The Star Dancer will be permanently removed from the team.

A review board made up of the Star Dancer Directors and Bowie High School administrator shall make the determination of whether a violation of the Star Dancers Drug, Alcohol, & Tobacco Policy has occurred.

### **Bullying/Hazing**

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment,

harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Bullying and/or Hazing are not tolerated by the Star Dancers organization. If you feel as if you are being bullied or hazed, please notify parents and Directors immediately. Anyone found to be bullying or hazing will be removed from the extra-curricular portions of the program for a time period established between the Directors and the Administration. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.

### **The Demerit System**

Demerits help to reinforce the regulations set forth by the Star Dancer Handbook as well as the Bowie High School Code of Conduct.

### **Assignment and Records**

1. An accumulation of 15 demerits at any time in the year will be cause for removal from the organization.
2. Only the Directors can give demerits to team members. The Directors keep a log of the demerits. The team member must sign off on the demerit they received. Refusal to sign for the demerit will not negate the demerit.
3. A member can receive demerits anytime during membership on Star Dancers including weekends, evenings and school breaks/holidays.
4. Demerits start the first day of line camp and end the last day of school: June – June.
5. Demerits cannot be removed. They start over at the beginning of each dance team semester, (Summer/Fall and Spring).

### **Demerits**

Demerits will be assigned to Star Dancer members for the following, but are not limited to:

1. Tardiness:  
Less than 5 minutes= a warning (the third warning becomes a demerit)  
More than 5 minutes= 1 demerit  
To a performance= 2 demerits
2. Absences:  
Excused before absence= 0 demerits  
Excused after absence= 1 demerit (no advance email to the Directors) (after 1 warning)  
Unexcused from practice= 3 demerits  
Unexcused from performance= 5 demerits  
(Absences/tardies will be excused only with a written note or email from parent or doctor for reasons of personal illness, or illness or death in the immediate family. Any reason for absence, other than the above named, must be taken up with the directors **PRIOR** to the absence.)
3. Failure to show up for a required activity or performance without informing the directors...1-15
4. Leaving practice without permission...1-15
5. Receiving a negative report/email from a teacher...1-5
6. Talking back to the Directors...1-15
7. Failure to obey commands...1-15
8. Failure to meet deadlines (1 for each day)...1
9. Failure to wear Game Day shirt/required school outfit...1
10. Failure to bring required props, shoes, practice wear for practice...1
11. Chewing gum during practice or in uniform/costume...1
12. Leaving personal items in dance gym or bus which results in the directors or another member "picking up" after you...1
13. Failure to bring required props/costume for a performance...1-5
14. Wearing jewelry during a performance...1
15. Wearing unnatural nail color during a performance...1
16. Visible piercings in a performance...1
17. Eating or drinking in uniform or costume...1
18. Failure to comply with proper stand etiquette/expectations (for each offense)...1
19. Not signing the book promptly for any demerit given...1

**(These demerits will not be removed and will carry over into the next semester.)**

1. ISS assignment...1-15
2. Fighting (physical/verbal/social media)...1-15
3. Behavior that is unbecoming to a Star Dancer, will be decided on at the discretion of the Directors (INCLUDES FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, ETC)...1-15
  - a. Using profanity in or out of uniform
  - b. Excessive affection in public in or out of uniform
  - c. Disrespectful conduct in or out of uniform

**Consequences of Demerits**

After receiving **5 demerits**, a member will not perform in one upcoming routine chosen by the Directors, but they are required to fulfill all other responsibilities.

After receiving **10 demerits**, a member will not perform in two upcoming routines chosen by the Directors, but they are required to fulfill all other responsibilities. They will be placed on Conduct Probation.

After receiving **15 demerits**, a member may be dismissed from the dance team immediately.

**The Merit System**

**Requirements**

Merits are designed to recognize good work, extra effort, and special service.

- **10 Merits will cancel out 1 Demerit.** Please take advantage of all of the opportunities listed below.
- Top 10 Merit Earners for each 9 weeks will get a breakfast party with the Directors!
- In order to audition for Spirit Leader, a Star Dancer must have 100 merits (after the subtraction of demerits) by audition date.
- The Star Dancers with the most merits by the Friday before banquet will receive an award.

**Merits**

Star Dancers can earn merits in a variety of ways including but not limited to the following:

Merits	Points
Straight A's for the six weeks*	3
A and B's for the six weeks*	1
9 weeks grade of 95 or above in an academic class*	1
100 on any EXAM grade*	2
Receiving an A on a TEST* (Only 2 per class)	1
Any final 9 weeks grade that goes up from the prior 9 weeks*	1
Perfect attendance in all classes for a 9 weeks*	2
Directors' discretion	1-5
Performance of a solo, duet, or ensemble at contest (per contest)	3
Dance class outside of school (2 per hour of class)**	2
Fitness class outside of school (2 per hour of class)**	2
Attend an approved fine arts production (provide ticket stub/program)**	1
Participate in an approved fine arts production**	2
Receiving a special Star Dancer award	2
Attending an extra practice/rehearsal	1
Bring supplies for dance gym/Star Dancers	1
Cleaning, organizing, helping in the dance gym, office or cages	1
Attending a non-required sporting event in <u>Star Dancer attire</u> (warm-ups, Star Dancer shirt, etc.)	2
**	
Proof of community service outside of school time (2 per hour) This excludes hours used for other organizations. **	2

\* Attach highlighted Teams print out

\*\* Signature from teacher/sponsor required

## Star Dancer Uniforms

All Uniforms purchased by the Star Dancers Organization are the property of James Bowie High School.

### Practice Uniforms

- Practice uniforms purchased by the individual are property of that individual
- Practice uniforms will be determined yearly by the Directors
- The required practice uniform must be worn at all times
- Practice uniforms should be labeled with first and last names

### Performance Uniform

- The performance uniform will be worn on special performance days
- Each member will purchase a performance uniform designated by the Directors
- Some of the uniform pieces are furnished by the District
- Uniforms are to be cleaned, maintained, and in good repair.
- Members will be responsible for their issued uniform, which will be turned in at the end of each year served.
- The entire uniform must be returned in its original condition, all parts cleaned and repaired.
- If you damage or lose a piece of the uniform, it is your responsibility for pay for the replacement.

## Star Dancer Expenses

There are two separate types of expenses for Star Dancers.

1. **Uniforms**– Required items that must be paid in full at the beginning of the school year. There are required items that must be purchased once selected as a member of the dance team. There will be fundraising opportunities provided throughout the school year.
2. **Fairshare**– Fundraised or paid throughout the school year. Due dates directly correlate with fundraising opportunities. There will be two Fair Share payments, one per semester. Fair Share will cover the cost of contest entry fees, costumes, props, and choreography for the team.

After giving 100% effort in fundraising, if any family is financially unable to fulfill the requirements for attire and equipment, parents should visit with the directors.

**If your student decides not to continue in the Star Dancer program after the first two weeks of school or is removed at ANY time during the school year, they are obligated to pay the full Fair Share amount for the entire year.**

### Payments

- All payment checks should be made payable to: Bowie Star Dancers.
- All checks should include the Star Dancer's name and the purpose for payment on the memo line.
- All expenses paid to the Bowie Silver Stars should be turned into the Directors for deposit.
- Payments should be made on time.

## The Directors

The constitution is subject to change at any time due to Texas Education Agency rule changes. If necessary, the Directors may alter rules in the constitution according to the situation. (EX: *A member becomes ill at an out-of-town football game. The member will be allowed to be transported home with friends after contacting the parent.*)

The Directors may be asked to make decisions about things not itemized in this constitution. In such cases, the Directors will follow the guidelines presented in the document to the extent possible. If at any time the Directors feel the need to alter any part of the constitution for the good of the organization, they may do so without prior notice or discussion. The Directors and administration will deal with any special situations that may arise and are not specifically addressed in this constitution on an individual basis. These decisions will be made in a manner that they feel best benefits the **ENTIRE** organization.

**Star Dancer Student and Parent/Guardian  
Handbook Acknowledgement Form  
2021-2022**

I, (printed Star Dancer name): \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Handbook of the James Bowie High School Star Dancers and understand the rules and guidelines it sets forth. I will uphold and follow the handbook to the best of my ability with the understanding that in order to function successfully as a team, each member must commit to these standards of behavior. I also understand and will accept the consequences stated in the constitution if I do not follow its guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Star Dancer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, (printed Parent/Guardian name): \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Handbook of the Bowie High School Star Dancers and understand the rules and guidelines it sets forth. I will encourage my Star Dancer to uphold and follow the handbook to the best of my ability with the understanding that in order to function successfully as a team, each member must commit to these standards of behavior. I also understand and will accept the consequences my daughter will be given should they not follow its guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please upload this page to the Google Form for the Star Dancers Directors.*