

Dance Team Auditions

2025-2026

AUDITION CHECKLIST

Please bring the following items to the first day of clinics.

YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN CLINICS WITHOUT A COMPLETED PACKET.

- 1) A clear headshot so that the judges know who you are.
- 2) Completed application with all questions answered.
- 3) Wear jazz shoes or athletic shoes, all black attire with your hair pulled back. Please bring water.
- 4) Contract. I only need the signed last page. You will hold on to the rest of the contract as reference throughout the year.

NHHS Dance Team Audition Application

Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ ID #: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Parent Home Phone: _____

Parent Cell: _____

Candidate Cell Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

Candidate Email : _____

Emergency

Name: _____

Number: _____

Medical Information: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy #: _____

Doctor: _____

Doctor Phone Number: _____

Allergic to any medications? _____

Food Allergies? _____

Previous injuries or surgeries? _____

Dance Questionnaire

Answer all questions thoroughly on a separate piece of paper. Additional information can be attached as needed.

- 1) **Dance background (please tell us about your dance history.) How long have you been dancing, the types of dance you have studied, and where you have taken class? If you have been part of a performing group or competition team, please tell us what types of performances you did?**
- 2) **Current Training: Where are you taking class now and studying?**
- 3) **Why do you want to be a part of the dance program at NHHS? What do you hope to learn here from this specific team/ program?**
- 4) **How do you handle constructive criticism or feedback during practice?**
- 5) **How do you handle missing a practice or performance due to personal reasons?**
- 6) **How do you stay motivated when you're not feeling your best, either physically or mentally?**
- 7) **Being in this class is a privilege, where you are a role model, need a great attitude and to be a great teammate. Please tell us how this describes you? What makes you a good leader for others?**

Grade Check

Period	Class:	Grade: (%)	Notes:	Teacher Signature:
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEAM CONTRACT (2025-2026)

IN ORDER FOR THE DANCE TEAM TO THRIVE, EACH MEMBER MUST BE COMMITTED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE, DEDICATION, PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND RESPECT FOR THE SCHOOL, DANCE DIRECTOR, COACHES AND CAPTAIN/S. THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS ARE NECESSARY TO CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS AND TO MAKE DANCE TEAM A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL:

I. PURPOSE-

The purpose of the Dance Team is:

- To provide students with the opportunity to study, choreograph, learn from professional dancers, and to perform creative dance in professional shows, school rallies, and football games.
- To stimulate interest and foster standards of performance, appreciation, and understanding of dance and choreography as an art form.
- To meet the California State Standards for dance education.
- To produce and perform two dance shows showcasing diverse styles of dance at a professional level.
- To promote school spirit and entertain the student body and community at rallies and athletic events.
- To participate in the district dance day and community events with other high schools such as HALO.
- To become better dancers, performers and artists.
- To provide a team experience encouraging support, cooperation and personal accountability.

II. TIME COMMITMENT-

Dance Team activities will begin with camp in August and take place during the school year until June on the last day of school. Attendance and participation in **ALL** scheduled classes, meetings, rehearsals and performances is **mandatory** for all team members. All outside activities including but not limited to work, social functions, concerts, vacations, studio teams and classes, tutors, standardized tests, and doctor appointments must be scheduled around dance team activities. **None of these are excused absences.** It is the members' responsibility to contact the director or coach directly if, for any reason, you will be late or absent. Attendance is expected even if you are injured. This can be case specific based on the injury/illness and if injured or sick, communication is required. This allows us to deal with the personal circumstance properly.

A. Summer Camp- All members are expected to attend a 4-day summer dance intensive. Cost of camp and team gear is separate from the yearly budget. Cost \$400 and is separate from team gear.

B. Class attendance- All Varsity and JV dance team members will be enrolled in "Dance Production 1-EF" during 7th and 8th periods.

- Dancers will come into practice dressed and have a small personal locker for their things.
- They will wear appropriate dance attire and footwear. No excess jewelry or gum.
- Dancers will be mindful of the school dress code and cover themselves whenever they are outside the dance room. (going to the bathroom, practicing outside, walking to your car, getting water)
- Dancers will bring their own water and snacks to practice.
- Dancers will be in the dance room ready and warming up @ 2:20 (2:30 on late start days).

C. Rehearsals-

Throughout the year there will be after school rehearsals to learn and clean choreography. Monthly calendars with full details will be distributed as far ahead of time *as possible*. Rehearsals are usually scheduled until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Practices may need to be extended as necessary. This is to be expected and accepted for the dancers to be ready to their full potential. Weekend practices are occasionally necessary and those are communicated in advance. *Potential conflicts need to be communicated 6 weeks in advance and there is NO guarantee they can be accommodated. These requests should be only for emergency purposes.* **Missing a practice can result in the removal from the piece.** Calendar changes may occur due to unforeseen circumstances. **There is always a mandatory rehearsal Saturday and Sunday before ARREIS show week ALL DAY.**

D. Performances/Dates- All team members are required to perform at the following events:

Dance Camp- August 7th-10th, 2025

- Kid Clinic (November)
- Dancing With the Staff- end of November or early December (dress rehearsal the day before)
- Halo Dance for Autism-February-TBD
- Magic Days- Thur/Fri (Feb 12 and 13th)
- Two weeks before the show (March 9th) extended practices and **all teams** every day. **The weekend before the show is a tech all day Saturday and Sunday.**
- Boys Dance- Juniors and Seniors (6-9pm starting in February 3x a week)
- “ArreiS 2026” dates = March 25th to March 28th
- Rallies: October- (Homecoming-rally and Game/Varsity)-TBD
- October -Battle of the Bay Game (all team)-TBD
- January-all team hip hop rally
- Clippers- TBD
- Training Clinics for Newcomers- 2x a year (January/April)
- Prom Rally- April/ May
- Evening of the Arts- TBD May
- Tryouts- April/May
- Banquet- April/ May

III. CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY-

Membership on the dance team is a privilege to be honored and appreciated. In order for us to function as a cohesive unit, and ensure a positive experience for all, each member must commit to:

- A. Respect the team’s abilities and weaknesses valuing each member as essential to the whole.
- B. Respect advisors, coaches, and choreographer’s time and authority by working hard and staying focused at all times.
- C. Maintaining a positive attitude and a spirit of cooperation. Never using words or actions to discredit another teammate, the team, coaches or Director (this includes facebook, snapchat, instagram and all other social networking). Failure to do so can result in removal from the team.
- D. Settling differences with kindness, compromise, and respect not bringing other uninvolved persons into a conflict.
- E. Accept decisions of the director, coaches, captains, and majorities with respect.
- F. Representing the dance program, school, and the Newport Harbor Community with class displaying good sportsmanship, humility, and modesty.

G. Personal accountability in regard to:

- **Being organized and knowledgeable about times and dates of activities and rehearsals.**
- **Being on time and ready to dance.**
- **Keeping track of and being prepared with all costuming pieces.**
- **Balancing academic, family, and social commitments.**
- **Being aware of and on track with fundraising goals and outside class verification forms.**
- **Maintaining a 2.5 GPA.**

IV. GRADING-

Grades for the Dance Team will be based on the Merit/Demerit system. Grades are based on attendance, punctuality, attitude, integrity and effort.

A total of 10 demerits per year will be allowed. At the issuance of the 11th demerit the member will be dismissed from the dance team. At 5 demerits, the member will be benched from performances.

Demerits will be issued for the following:

- 1) Unexcused absence from practice (defined in the time commitment section) (5 demerits)
- 2) Excused absence from practice –approved sickness (1 demerit)
- 3) Excused absence on new choreography days (2 demerits)
- 4) Tardy to class or scheduled rehearsal (1 demerit)
- 5) Late to an event, tech or performance (1 demerit)
- 6) Not properly dressed to participate (1 demerit per item)
- 7) Failure to bring complete costume to any performance (1 demerit/item)
- 8) Failure to return costumes on time (1 demerit/item)
- 9) Inappropriate language, negative or disrespectful attitude or behavior in or out of the dance room/ including social media choices (1-3 demerits)
- 10) Excessive talking during practices or meetings (1-3 demerits)
- 11) Use of cell phone without permission during practice (1 demerit)
- 12) Missed deadlines (paperwork costumes, etc. (2 demerit per instance)
- 13) Failure to turn in verification of outside summer classes-(2 demerits)
- 14) Absence from mandatory rehearsals, performances, or camp (we reserve the right to remove the member from the team)

Demerits may be made up for excused absences and some offenses. See Director for make-up project(s).

Grades:

1-2 demerits = A

2-3 demerits = B

3-4 demerits= C

4-5 demerits= D (benched)

6-11 demerits = F (at 11-removal from team)

*Students who are removed from the team, or who quit, will not be eligible to try out for the following year (special consideration will be given for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the director and coaches).

V. OUTSIDE CLASSES-

It is important that each dancer be physically fit and technically sound in order to perform the demanding choreography required on the dance team. Therefore, it is recommended that dancers take at least two additional dance classes per week, preferably a ballet class and a technique class. Signed verification will be required for summer months only where two classes per week must be taken (If this is a financial hardship, options will be discussed).

VI. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS- All funds raised by and/or contributed to the dance team will be deposited into the NHHS Dance account. We also have a parent support group. Most expenses will be paid through the ASB office. Valid, original, itemized receipts or invoices are required for reimbursement.

A. Each member is expected to participate in fundraising efforts and or contribute towards her own portion of the costs associated with the dance team. Funds raised, or contributed, will be used for:

- Choreography
- Costumes
- Coaching
- Props
- Extra production hours
- Team meals & parties

***payment of coaches and extra production hours is the first priority. Without coaches, we do not have a program. It is the director and coaches' decision on how to purchase costumes, props, and other equipment that is needed.

Fundraising projects and opportunities will be provided throughout the year through the parent support group and the director.

B. Money earned or contributed to the team is non-refundable.

C. Estimated expenses for the 2025-2026 Dance Team are:

= \$105,000

***Newport Harbor High School is a public institution that promises “inclusion of all students” who are members of the dance program and at no time will a student be dismissed from the program due to financial hardship. Please contact Mackenzie MacFarlane with any questions or concerns mmacfarlane@nmusd.us.

VII. DIRECTOR AND COACHES ROLES-

The Director of the dance team will:

- Plan and implement all activities, rehearsals and productions.
- Supervise students at all activities and rehearsals (or make sure qualified coach is present)
- Act as instructor and guide treating each dancer with dignity and respect.
- Communicate and collaborate with parents regarding rehearsal schedules, fundraising, meetings, calendars & activities.
- Coach during times needed
- Produce 2 professional level annual productions and the elements the production elements that involves
- Work to secure vendors for productions, costumes, and all elements of production with parent support team
- Act as Director and guide treating each dancer with dignity and respect and modeling good sportsmanship and humility.
- Guide the team as a creative director

The Coaches of the dance team will:

- Guide dancers through the entire process of choreographing a dance.
- Teach the dancers proper technique and style according to NHHS Dance Team standards.
- Clean dances to be performance ready.
- Act as instructor and guide treating each dancer with dignity and respect and modeling good sportsmanship and humility.

PARENTS ROLE- The parent liaison (s) will:

- Support the Director and Coaches in communicating information to other parents and working with Director as needed
- Head of the Parent Support Group: available to help Director and help oversee all parents and committees
- Explain, delegate, and facilitate parent roles as needed for shows and team events
- Hold the parent group to the highest standards of team excellence and unity

All parents/guardians of dance team members are considered “Dance Team Supporters” and are expected to participate in all efforts to support the team. Leaders will be assigned to organize and delegate responsibilities that will include:

- Fundraising projects
- Photographer
- Performances: “Dancing with the Staff”, “ArreiS 2026” and other dance team performance events (ticket sales, concessions, etc)
- ArreiS Program liaisons/coordinators (works with Director for shows)
- Costume Help
- Provide food/decorations/drinks for team dinners and parties.
- Plan and execute an awards banquet at the end of the year.

* In addition to participating in team support activities with the parent support group, each parent/guardian needs to:

- Be aware of dates and times of all rehearsals and activities.
- Be available for communication through BAND.
- Help to organize costumes and accessories.
- Stay on track with fundraising goals & timelines.
- Support all of the dancers while maintaining proper perspective.
- Treat the director, coaches and fellow parents, and all team members with the highest level of respect, integrity, and kindness.
- Have an all hands-on deck attitude
- Each parent needs to understand that all final decisions regarding the management of the NHHS Dance Team Program are to be given to the Program Director and/or Coach. These individuals are employees of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and are expected to have this responsibility as assigned to them within their respective job descriptions.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEAM MEMBERS:

The team has the following roles for leadership opportunities:

Team Captain(s), Historians, Secretary & Public Relations.

Team members also have leadership opportunities to serve on the HALO Board.

To run for historians, secretary & public relations a formal interview process and application will be held once dancers make the team. These are all excellent opportunities to play an extra role in the function of the team, show leadership, and are excellent for college applications. Details will follow about the description of each role and how to apply after auditions.

In order to be considered as a Dance Team Captain, candidates must be a returner on the Varsity Dance Team. Potential Captains will be chosen based on:

- Experience of number of years on the team
- Commitment to the team shown through exemplary attendance, promptness, attitude of excellence, leadership, and work ethic (these qualities will be observed and evaluated by the Director and the Coach beginning on the candidates first day on the team from the first year they join)
- Leadership potential and ability to be a role model at all times
- Eligible candidates will submit a written essay describing their qualifications, desire and intention to become Captain. An application packet can be picked up after dancers make the team. This process will be decided by the end of the school year.
- Eligible candidates will also be interviewed by the Director and the Coach.
- The Director and the Coach will select the Captain(s) based on the above criteria and best interests of the team as a whole.
- Decisions are final.

I. Role of the Captain(s)- The role of the Captain(s) is to serve, encourage and lead the team with humility and dedication, to support and assist the Director and the Coach with respect and diligence and uphold the Dance Team Contract to the highest standards at all times.

Captain(s) Responsibilities to Coach and Director-

- Setting the standard for the rest of the team by treating the Coach and Director with the utmost respect in their actions and communications.
- Showing responsibility by helping to keep practices focused and effective.
- Being available to assist with: finding music, costuming and other necessary odds and ends.
- Helping to communicate with the rest of the team when necessary.

Captain(s) Responsibility to Teammates-

- Leading by example in: positive attitude, work ethic, attendance, promptness, responsibility (costume return, preparedness, fundraising), kindness, inclusiveness, humility and focus.
- Creating team unity and upholding the family values.
- Leading warm-ups and, when necessary, leading teammates during rehearsals.
- Taking extra time to help struggling teammates with love and integrity.
- Taking extra time to express love, encouragement and appreciation for each team member.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE-

There is an inherent risk of injury with dance as in any physical activity. All dancers and parents are required to:

- Inform advisor and coach of any medical condition or limitations concerning individual dancers. Dr. clearance is required following a serious illness or injury.
- Provide accurate information regarding medical contacts, insurance coverage, and previous conditions.
- Complete and have on file a NMUSD activities certificate by the start of school (students will not be allowed to participate without one). This form requires a physical exam, parent permission to participate, and proof of insurance. Contact the Athletic Director for details.
- If a student is injured, the advisor or coach will assess the situation and call the NHHS trainer. If necessary, emergency personnel will be called to treat your student.

NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT-

For Athletics, ASB, Performance & Competition Groups

An important aspect of involvement in high school athletics and activities is learning behavior that is appropriate to circumstance. Athletes, ASB members, performance and competition groups (Band, Choir, Cheerleading, Drama, Dance, Yearbook, The Beacon, Culinary Arts) represent the school publicly, causing their behavior to be subject to more than the usual scrutiny. Keeping in mind that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, some behaviors are subject to removal from the program.

Upon a second suspension from school for any reason within the current school year, the student will be removed from the athletic program, ASB, and performance and competition groups for the remainder of the school year. An athlete will be ineligible to participate in all sports for the remainder of the school year. The student will also be withdrawn from the course immediately.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We have read the entire “Dance Team Contract” and agree to abide by the rules, regulations, and requirements set forth. We understand the time and financial commitments as well as the expectations of conduct and accountability. We have also read, understand, and agree with the “Dance Team Tryout Information” distributed at the information meeting and at the tryout clinics.

We are committed to being a productive part of the Newport Harbor Dance Team and will fully support all aspects of the program under the direction of Coach Claudia and Coach Mac.

*Please keep a copy for your records and sign and submit by the time of the first day of clinics.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Student Dancer

Date