

COTTONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PERFORMING ART DANCE COMPANY CONSTITUTION

2025-2026

We, the members of the Cottonwood High School Dance Company, join together to promote high standards of individual self, academic achievement, creative expression, and school pride. Once selected, **a team member should not quit (you take the spot of someone else that auditioned when you do this, and it is not a good show of character)**. It is assumed that those students selected will fulfill the duties and commitments for the entire school year. We join together in this dance organization for two purposes:

- I. To partake of the inner satisfaction and mutual accomplishments that are received from working together and from participating in dance as a form of artistic expression.
- II. To provide a favorable environment for the creation of dances, this may be performed for our own artistic growth and for the enjoyment and education of others.

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1.** Regular members are admitted to the company through audition and acceptance by a selected group of judges.
- Section 2.** Regular members must be actively enrolled students of Cottonwood High School or AMES.
- Section 3.** Once a member has been auditioned and accepted, she/he is then required to have a 2.5 GPA at the end of every term. If this is not achieved she/he will be placed on probation until the next midterm if grades have proven satisfactory. Failure to achieve a 2.5 GPA the following term will result in a dismissal from the company. **Students will not perform if they have an F in any class during the week of a performance. If a student is on probation during the same quarter that we go on tour, that student may not go on tour.**
- Section 4.** Dance Company should have precedence over outside jobs and activities.
1. If Dance Company has a performance, it is expected that this will take precedence over outside jobs and activities.
 2. Dance Company rehearsals may be missed for outside meets/auditions/testing/performances/etc.
 3. Dance Company performances should never be missed for outside practices.

4. If a Dance Company member is a cross athlete, it is expected that they divide time evenly between the two groups. Timely communication between members and coaches is a requirement.

Section 5. Basic Company requirements include proficiency in each of the following:

1. Dance Technique
2. Improvisation and Composition
3. Dedication and Motivation
4. Academic achievement in Dance Company and All Classes.

Section 6. Dancers will be held accountable for online and social media postings. Company members may not engage in illegal activity or cyber bullying. If caught, members will be removed from Dance Company.

Section 8. If a company member quits, their grade for that quarter will result in an F on their transcript; no exceptions. **Quitting is detrimental for the entire company and puts pressure on everyone else to change and accommodate another member's lack of commitment.**

ARTICLE II. ATTENDANCE

Section 1. Each member will enroll in the Dance Company class during 4th period on B days (4th and 5th period for AMES). Credit and grades will be received for this class. Rehearsal will follow each B day class until 3:30pm all year. After school A day rehearsals will be announced as they are set (2:15-3:30). Evening and Saturday rehearsals will be announced as they are set. AMES students are expected to be available for all after school rehearsals. Members will not be released early to catch buses. **Members will have mandatory assignments to be completed that will count toward their dance company grade. Members will receive participation points for every class, rehearsal, and performance to count toward their dance company grade.**

Section 2. Members are expected to be present at all rehearsals, meetings, performances, classes and special activities unless discussed with the advisor **beforehand**. Officers and Advisors will make every attempt to hand schedules of all of these activities out at least two weeks prior to the date.

Section 3. Members are expected to be prepared on arrival to all company activities.

Section 4. A tardy to class is arriving to class from the locker room more than 7 minutes after the tardy bell has rang, or being more than 5 minutes late to any rehearsals, meetings or special activities. These tardies will be dealt with as necessary by the Director- such as dismissal from performances or current routines

- Section 5.** Absences will be dealt with as seen necessary by the Director such as:
- 1 Unexcused Absence=Dismissal from current routine
 - 2 Unexcused Absences=Put on probation
 - 3 Unexcused Absences=Dismissal from company
- Excused Absences are as follows: (Angela must be notified, before the rehearsal/performance is missed by the student. Parent emails, texts, or phone calls must accompany this notification shortly after). ***A student will only be excused if notice is given before the absence!**
- Illness with parent, guardian, or doctor excusal.
 - Wedding in the family
 - Funeral in the family
 - Family emergency
 - Family Vacations (with plenty of notice)
 - Any structured academic testing dates (i.e. SAT, ACT, AP testing etc.)
- Unexcused Absences are as follows:
- Non-Contagious Illness
 - Work
 - Problems with cars, etc.
 - General Truancy

- Section 6.** **Members are encouraged to take a dance class from Cottonwood High School the entire year (Intermediate or Advance).** Enrollment in an outside studio at least 1 time per week would be the same as taking class. This is a recommendation, not a requirement.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

- Section 1.** The officers of Cottonwood High School Dance Company, elected annually, shall be (up to) president, vice-president, two public relations/activities officers, one or two choreographers, costumer, and class representatives.
- Section 2.** Officers are required to fulfill their specific duties and set a high-quality example for the other members of the company.
- Section 3.** President: The President will see to all things related to Dance Company and its members. She/He will work closely with the Director to plan and organize the year. The President must set a positive example for the rest of the team. She/He must enforce the rules and procedures when asked by the Director or in place of the Director. The President will work with the Director and the co. officers to develop agendas and company meetings. She/He is responsible for problem solving, assigning committees, fundraising, and function reserving. The President is in charge of organizing and hosting the year end Banquet. The President represents the company.

Vice President: The Vice President will see to all things related to Dance Company and its members. She/He is responsible for relaying any information to the members, co. officers, and the Director. The Vice President will work with the Director and the co. officers to develop agendas and company meetings. She/He will work with the President to enforce rules and procedures. Along with the President She/He is responsible for problem solving, assigning committees, fundraising, and function reserving. The Vice President represents the company

Public Relation Representative: The representatives are to head all publicity pertaining to the company. They are responsible for press releases, public service announcements, and social media posts. The Public Relations officer will be the main contact to the student body, faculty, administration, and community. The Public Relations officer represents the company. The Representatives are responsible for arranging and documenting company activities. They are to compile scrapbooks, photographs, and video work of any events pertaining to the company. They are to represent and involve the company in company events and events pertaining to the school and the community. The Public Relations representatives represent the company.

Choreographer: The choreographer is responsible for all of the choreography needed by officers. They will be asked to set pieces for the company, complete pieces for company, and clean pieces for company. They will also assist Angela with any choreography needed. They will collaborate with Angela for music and themes. The Choreography Mistress represents the company.

Production and Graphics Assistant: The Production and Graphics Assistant is responsible for designing, setting, and sometimes running lights at performances. The Production Assistant assumes the role of house manager for each performance at Cottonwood. They are also responsible for the creation of programs, posters, flyers, and ticketing. The Production Assistant represents the company.

Costumer: The Costumer is responsible for designing, picking, and staging the costumes for each dance company performs. The Costumer is in charge of the costume closet, as well as knowing who has what costume and if they turn it back in. The Costumer represents the company.

Director: There shall be a director of the dance company. She/He will oversee all performances, rehearsals, special projects, and school sanctioned activities. The Director will work with the school administration, faculty and parents to keep them informed of the dance company activities. The Director will also be responsible for music selection, choreography, and teaching. **The Director will have the last word in all instances.**

ARTICLE V. PRACTICES

- Section 1.** During all practices, members are to wear all black! Members are not to wear school or street clothes. The members are to wear NO shoes or socks, only bare feet. No shoes in the dance studio. Hair should be pulled back unless you are completely comfortable dancing with it down, and your movement is not hindered by it.
- Section 2.** No oversized dangling jewelry during rehearsals.
- Section 3.** When members are learning a routine, they will show respect and their full attention to the individual in charge.
- Section 4.** Members will not talk, chew gum, eat, or do other disruptive/disrespectful things during practices. **Members are expected to have the utmost respect for their advisor, peers, guest artists, choreographers, teachers, office staff, and administration.**

ARTICLE VI. EXPENSES AND FINANCES (Fees are subject to change.)

- Section 1.** Each member will be responsible for paying fees associated with the Dance Co. The general fee is approximately \$725.00. The fee could change depending on the number of company members. This is not optional and is covered by fee waiver. This fee covers all expenses other than camp, including camp, warmups, and pictures.
- Section 2.** Participation from each member in all fundraising activities is necessary in order to raise thousands of dollars needed for costumes, stage fees, music, choreographers, motivations, parties, and all other necessary supplies to run our program.
- Students may fundraise to pay for a dance tour. Fees must be paid at time of due payment.
 - Fundraising is necessary but optional. Parents/guardians must communicate with me if they choose to not have their child participate in fundraising.
- Section 3.** Dance Company may attend a dance tour during the school year. The destination will be chosen and organized by Angela. Company may miss a total of 3 school days for the tour. Out of pocket expenses are \$400.00 and must be paid as a deposit for the tour. Members will be encouraged to fundraise for the expenses of the tour. Tour is optional.

ARTICLE VII. PERFORMANCES AND PRACTICES

- Section 1.** Inspection will be taken by the Costumer prior to each performance. Please adhere to the following requirements:
- i. Hair finished before the performance. This will usually be done as a company so that all hair is the same.
 - ii. No jewelry, including piercing.
 - iii. No colored fingernail or toenail polish.
 - iv. Correct stage makeup.
 - v. Correct/lack of bra and underwear depending.
 - vi. Male dancers are encouraged to own a dance belt for all performances.
- Section 2.** All performances and adjudication dates will be announced as they are set.
- Section 3.** All members are required to perform/attend each and every performance including: concerts, festivals, galas, showcases, assemblies, half times, guest performances, etc. Even if you are not performing you must attend.
- Section 4.** **Carpooling is never allowed.** Students must be dropped off/picked up to and from performances by parents/guardians, unless the student has a valid driver's license and an insured vehicle to use.

ARTICLE VIII. GRADING

- Section 4.** Grading is based on Proficiency Based Learning. Standards include: Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect. Performances and Rehearsals will be tied to Proficiency Based Standards. The grading scale is 0-4, the only way to get a 0 is to not complete the assessment. Assessments may be made up, below is a list of alternate assessments. It is the students responsibility to communicate in advance when they will miss an assessment, unless it is an extenuating circumstance. With proper communication, the alternative will be given with a deadline. **Missing a performance has to be communicated before the performance happens, within at least 1 week.**
1. If a performance is missed, the dancer must choreograph a solo based on the original dance(s) and perform the solo(s) in front of their company no later than two weeks after the missed performance.
 2. If three or more rehearsals are missed for both excused or unexcused reasons, the dancer must write a two page paper about the personal and collaborative experience of being on Dance Company. The paper must be turned in no later than two weeks after the missed practices. They must analyze and explain the artistic, cultural, and accountable context of being a company member in the paper.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMUNICATION

Section 1. Communication will be kept through email, text, and phone calls. Students and parents will have access to coaches' contact information and vice versa. All contact will be professional in manner regarding important company info. Students will also contact each other in regard to company matters. Angela is happy to discuss questions and concerns with parents/guardians during school time (7:10-2:40), please call and text during school time only.

***I agree to follow through with my dance company responsibilities throughout the entire school year.**

***I agree that I will be unable to perform if I have unexcused absences and/or tardies the week of a performance.**

***I agree that I will not be able to perform if I have accumulated 3 or more unexcused absences and/or tardies in between performances.**

***I agree to be at all rehearsals and performances as my dance company grade depends on it. If there is an extenuating circumstance and I must miss, my parents/guardians and I will communicate with Angela well in advance.**

***I will not carpool with other students to and from required dance company events.**

***I agree to keep my quarterly grade point average at or above a 2.5. If I do not I will be placed on probation until I have recovered my grades.**

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

