

Joshua ISD
Extracurricular UIL Handbook
2019-2020



JISD Vision Statement

*Joshua ISD will be a highly acclaimed
model of educational excellence.*

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Extracurricular Forward

Joshua Independent School District (JISD) is establishing an extremely competitive, highly recognized and well-respected extracurricular program. Achieving this reputation for excellence takes the diligent efforts of coaches, sponsors, students, parents, and community supporters, as well as the support and encouragement of an outstanding administration. It is up to each of us in the district to continue to meet the demands placed on us to maintain this high standard of distinction. JISD offers a well-balanced, comprehensive extracurricular program consisting of band, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, choir, color guard, cross country, dance, football, golf, power-lifting, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, UIL academics, and volleyball. At the middle school level, band, basketball, cheerleading, choir, cross country, track, football, soccer (8th grade), and volleyball are offered. This handbook has been designed to aid the coach/sponsor, students and parents in the knowledge of policies and procedures of the extracurricular program in JISD, which will help us maintain this level of prestige among other districts. Each coach/sponsor is responsible for following the guidelines and procedures set forth in this handbook.

Extracurricular Philosophy

Joshua Independent School District is dedicated to giving all students the opportunity to participate in a highly competitive and comprehensive extracurricular program by employing

dedicated professionals and providing appropriate funding through fairly administered and conducted activities. We believe that extracurricular activities are a microcosm of society and that through participation in our programs, students will inherently learn life skills enabling them to be productive members of society, capable of managing time, striving to set and obtain goals, and developing an enhanced self-discipline. Three main themes are apparent in all successful extracurricular programs: integrity, character, and honesty. The extracurricular program at JISD is a privilege and as such, the student is held to a much higher standard than that of the general school population; therefore, the guidelines and rules that each coach/sponsor sets for the team may be stricter than those delineated in the Student Code of Conduct.

Extracurricular Departmental Objectives

The Directors of Athletics and Program Sponsors are dedicated to JISD being recognized as a premier extracurricular program in the state of Texas. In order to obtain this extraordinary level of competence in an incredibly competitive area, each person within the extracurricular program must demand excellence of himself/herself, as well as each individual for whom he/she is responsible.

The Directors of Athletics and Program Sponsors are firmly committed to the following general objectives, which must be present in each activity and on every level, in order to continue in the pursuit of excellence for which our community has grown to expect.

- Increasing participation in all activities
- Including as many activities as possible to meet the needs of the students
- Providing adequate and equitable funding for all programs
- Affording all students the opportunity to try out for all activities
- Treating all students, parents, coaches/sponsors, district employees, opponents, and community supporters with dignity and respect
- Recruiting and hiring the best coaches/sponsors possible
- Encouraging continual development of coaches/sponsors
- Exhibiting outstanding sportsmanship in victory and defeat
- Developing lifelong skills needed in a competitive society
- Stressing the importance of excellence in the classroom, as well as in competition
- Fielding competitive teams in each category

Extracurricular Code

Students selected to a Joshua ISD extracurricular team must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. The students involved in extracurricular activities are recognized as representatives of the individual school as well as the district, and as such, must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and each coach/sponsor to ensure this high level of expectation.

Coaches/sponsors must monitor the character and behavior of team members in and out of season, in and out of uniform, and on and off campus. The inordinate amount of time coaches/sponsors spend in various curricular and co-curricular activities provides a unique opportunity to observe, assist, and intercede to help the students make good decisions. JISD supports education and awareness training on adolescent chemical use issues, including

chemical dependency, substance abuse and special issues affecting district student athletes in a helpful, non-punitive way.

Specialization/Recruiting

1. Specialization in any one activity or sport is discouraged by Joshua ISD.
2. All students are encouraged to participate in all extracurricular activities in which they have an interest.
3. Students will not be restricted to any one activity by a coach/sponsor/director.
4. Students will not be recruited from one activity to another by a coach/sponsor/director.
5. Any student, parent, coach, director, or sponsor who suspects a violation of these rules is asked to notify the Director of Athletics or Principal at once.

Extracurricular Attendance Procedure

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor's excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students' time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

After the student meets one of the four above options, the student must also get signed approval from all of the following:

- Athletic Director (if participating in athletics)
- Team coach, sponsor or director
- Campus Principal

Extracurricular Practice Procedures

Participant requirements prior to first practice

- All eligibility requirements have been satisfied
- Completed physical examination form
- Completed emergency medical cards
- Completed parent-student responsibility acknowledgement forms
- Fees paid (if any)
- Parent and Student UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form

Practice Procedures

- Practice sessions shall be scheduled so as to create a minimum amount of daily conflict with normal family activities and study time.
- Practice sessions should be well planned, well structured, and not to exceed the eight-hour rule set by UIL.
- Coaches and sponsors should be the first to arrive and the last to leave the practice sessions. At no time are students to practice without supervision.
- All equipment used in practice sessions shall be returned to its proper storage location at the end of each practice. The practice area must be clean and secured.
- Off-campus practices must have approval of the campus coordinator.

Restricted Practice Days

- **Weekend and Holiday Practices**
 - Coaches/sponsors who wish to practice on Saturday and holidays must receive written approval from the program director.
 - Sub-varsity practices should be kept to a minimum
 - Practices held on vacation days such as over Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break should be scheduled with family commitments taken into consideration
- **Early Dismissal of School or Emergency Closing**
 - In the event there is a scheduled early dismissal of school, practices may be held if the building principal has given permission.

Extracurricular Quitting Procedures for Athletic and Non-Athletic Activities

Students will follow the appropriate procedure of the activity (Athletics or Non-Athletics) for which the student quit or was dismissed.

Athletic Activities

The privilege of participation in extracurricular activities should be cared for properly. Should a student quit or be dismissed from an athletic activity after the first two weeks of the season, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another athletic activity until the season of the athletic activity the student quit has been completed. If a student is involved in two athletic activities at the same time and quits one athletic activity, the student will not be allowed to participate in the other athletic activity as well. (This clause will be automatically reviewed by the head coaches involved and the athletic director if this circumstance may arise.)

Non-Athletic Activities

The privilege of participation in extracurricular activities should be cared for properly. Should a student quit or be dismissed from an activity after the first two weeks of the season, (please see below for season start dates), he/she will not be allowed to participate in another activity until the season of the activity the student quit has been completed or a probation of 6 weeks has been completed. If a student is involved in two activities at the same time and quits one activity, the student will not be allowed to participate in the other activity as well. (This clause will be automatically reviewed by all appropriate parties involved if this circumstance may arise.)

Season Start Dates:

Cheer: Tryouts

Band: First Day of Summer Band

Dance Team: First Rehearsal before Summer Camp

Choir: First Day of School

Extracurricular Conflicts with Other Activities

Students participating in more than one activity could possibly have conflicts from time to time. Please notify the coaches/sponsors as soon as the conflict arises. The following order will be used to help settle these conflicts:

- State

- Regional Events
- Area
- Bi-District
- District
- Non-District
- Scrimmages
- Practice

Student Dual Participation

All students participating in Joshua ISD Extracurricular Activities make a commitment to the activity, their teammates, and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of that commitment is to place the Joshua ISD Extracurricular Activity above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices, games, and contests scheduled by Joshua ISD Extracurricular coaches, sponsors, and directors.

If a student chooses to miss a Joshua ISD Extracurricular Practice because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of Joshua ISD, the student will be suspended for one game/contest. On the second offense, the student has chosen the outside activity over the Joshua ISD activity and will be released from the team/group. In the event a student misses a Joshua ISD contest or interscholastic competition to participate in an activity not under the direction of Joshua ISD; he/she will be suspended from ten percent of the games in that sport or contests in that activity. On the second offense, the student has chosen the outside activity over the Joshua ISD activity and will be released from the team/group.

Other Joshua ISD school sanctioned activities do not fall under this policy.

The Director for the extracurricular activity may make an exception to this policy if the student is participating on a national or international level and representing the United States; i.e. U. S. Olympic Team.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

A student involved in extracurricular activities in Joshua ISD could be subject to disciplinary action if he/she commits violations included in, but not limited to the following:

- Misuse of technology, including use of the internet and social networks as follows:
 - Send, post, or possess electronic messages that are obscene or sexually oriented, abusive, threatening, harassing or illegal
 - Anything that would damage another's reputation, including cyberbullying and sexting, either on or off school property
- Falsification of a signature or information on any UIL required pre-participation form
- Theft or vandalism of any property
- Placement in DAEP
- Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct during the sport/activity season in which the student is involved including, but not limited to cheating, fighting, verbal abuse of officials, contestants, coaches or spectators

- Acts of poor citizenship in the classroom or in the community, such as but not limited to disrespect of the teacher, the law, or other students
- Violation of dual participation policy
- Any acts deemed inappropriate in the student code of conduct
- Conduct which requires placement in OCS
- Possessing, smoking, selling or using tobacco products at any time
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia at any time
- Possessing, selling, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind
- Possession or use of e-cigarettes or “vaping” materials
- Attending any event at which underage drinking or illegal drug use is occurring (students will be allowed a slight concession for an amount of time long enough to determine that a violation is occurring and to leave the premises)
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Hazing
- Any conduct resulting in arrest and/or citations from law enforcement (traffic violations will be reviewed by the appropriate coach/sponsor/director or administrator to determine if Prohibited Conduct has occurred)

Any violation involving drugs and/or alcohol will be handled in accordance to the JISD Drug Policy, JISD Discipline Management Plan and in accordance with Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. Subsection 37.006 requires that a district place into a DAEP a student who commits a felony or any of the specific misdemeanors on or within 300 feet of school property or while the student is attending a school sponsored or school related activity on or off school property.

ANY STUDENT PLACED IN A DAEP or OCS FOR DISCIPLINE REASONS UNDER THIS SECTION IS INELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS OR ANY OTHER SCHOOL SPONSORED OR SCHOOL RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR OR SOCIAL ACTIVITY. THE STUDENT IS INELEGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ASPECT OF THAT PROGRAM UNTIL THE OCS or DAEP PLACEMENT IS COMPLETED. (Example: One day of OCS completion would be at 4 pm or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

No student shall, while on school premises or off school premises at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of:

- Marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. 901, *et seq.*
- A dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code.
- Alcohol

(See *Education Code 37.006, 37.007.*)

Extracurricular Drug Testing

Joshua ISD randomly tests all students who participate in extracurricular activity competitions for the use of various illegal drugs, K2, and alcohol. During the school year for which the student is to participate in any campus organization that engages in competition, the student in the Joshua ISD shall not at any time, possess, use, be under the influence of, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, unprescribed controlled substances, or other mood altering chemicals. Students who participate in campus organizations that engage in competition will be put into a random sample for the entire school year. It is not unusual for the same student to be tested

multiple times in a given year, even though the selection is random. Students testing positive will be tested again during the next random testing period and will continue to be tested until such time as they have completed the JISD requirements and receive a negative test result from a subsequent JISD drug test. Students remain in the testing pool for the entire school year.

Refusal to test is considered a positive test result and may deny the student the ability to participate in other school activities such as school banquets, proms, dances, band, choir or theater performances, vocational Ag. shows, etc. All school regulations regarding positive test results must be met in order to continue participation in school activities.

Removal from Testing List

Students that stop participating in extracurricular activities and wish to be removed from the testing list must submit a written request from a parent or guardian in order to acquire the written approval of the campus principal. Once removed from the list, the student will not be eligible to participate in any school sponsored activities until such time as they have passed a new drug test. The parent request must be submitted at least seven (7) calendar days prior to any subsequent drug test.

Consequences

- **First Violation**

After confirmation of a first violation, the student and the student's parents shall be notified of the test results. The student shall lose eligibility and shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities for ten school days from the date of notification. The student shall also be required to participate in four consecutive weeks of counseling. A parent or student may request a second analysis of the results that reflected a positive test result. The requested second analysis shall be conducted at the expense of the parent or person requesting the follow-up analysis. The cost of the test must be paid prior to the administration/analysis of the second test.

If the student participates in athletics during this suspension period, he or she shall be required to attend practices of the team on which he or she participates.

- **Second Violation**

After confirmation of a second violation, the student and the student's parents shall be notified of the test results. The student shall lose eligibility and shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities for 30 school days following notification. The student shall also be required to attend six consecutive counseling sessions offered by the District or at the parent's expense. These counseling sessions must relate to the specific chemical for which the student tested positive. If the student participates in athletics during this suspension period, he or she shall be required to attend practices of the team on which he or she participates.

- **Third Violation**

After confirmation of a third violation, the student and the student's parents shall be notified of the test results. The student shall lose eligibility and shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities for one calendar year following notification. The student shall also be required to participate in at least 12 drug or alcohol counseling sessions provided by the District or at the parents' expense prior to regaining eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.

If the student participates in athletics during this suspension period, he or she shall be required to attend practices of the team on which he or she participates.

In addition to the above prohibitions, no student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use, or possess an abusable glue, aerosol paint, or substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply, or use any of these in a manner:

- Contrary to directions for use, cautions, or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the glue, paint, or substance, and
- Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination, or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance, or coordination.

Parents and students must sign the release form permitting random drug testing before the students may participate.

Communications and Social Media

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each participant in extracurricular activities should be a leader within the school and should set a good example before the public at all times. Student participants are expected to set a good example for their classmates, be honest and truthful, show good sportsmanship, and show respect for the school, other team members, students, teachers, directors, and coaches at all times. Students engaging in inappropriate communications, including communications on social media, who do not uphold the standards and expectations of the JISD extracurricular programs, may be subject to disciplinary actions by the coach, director, or sponsor. Examples of conduct considered unbecoming include electronically transmitting inappropriate photographs or text material (i.e. photos showing nudity or undergarments, any inappropriate sexually explicit photo, photos showing drugs or alcohol, referring to drugs or alcohol, using vulgar language, threats, cyberbullying, or cursing). These consequences may include benching from activities, practices, and competitions, and removal from teams or activities, at the discretion of the coach, director, or sponsor.

Dress and Grooming Code

All students will follow the JISD Student Dress and Grooming Code from the first organized team activity, even if the event occurs before the school year starts.

Injuries and Concussions

Students who suffer injuries or illness in connection with extracurricular activities must consult a doctor or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits a student's performance and/or practice capabilities, that student will be required to provide doctor's note outlining the specific limitations. Injured athletes and participants are expected to attend all events and practices in accordance with their doctor's notes. A student with a concussion must follow the JISD concussion policy until he or she is cleared to participate under the standards set forth by the JISD concussion policy, to the same extent as if the extracurricular activity was an interscholastic athletic activity, under Board Policy FM (Legal).

Extracurricular Safety Regulations

Each student participating in an extracurricular athletic event must complete the UIL forms, “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation—Medical History” and “Acknowledgment of Rules.” The District, its staff, and students will comply with the safety regulations described in Texas Education Code Chapter 33, Subchapter F.

Procedures for JISD Staff and Student Safety Training

- Staff will, at a minimum, participate in the training provided by the University Interscholastic League (UIL), and may receive additional training at coach conferences and other professional development opportunities.
- JISD students will watch the videos provided by the UIL and facilitated by coaching and trainer staff. The training must be complete within the first two weeks of school. The drills will take place right after the fall cuts are made, but before the first competitions.
- In the fall semester students in the following extracurricular activities will participate in training: Football, volleyball, cross country, band, choir, cheerleading, dance, tennis, golf, basketball, and soccer.
- In the spring semester students in the following extracurricular activities will participate in training: baseball, softball, and track.
- All documentation will be turned in to the JHS Athletic Trainer, where it will be kept on file.

Extracurricular Transportation Policy/Procedure

Policy FMG (Local) states:

School Sponsored Trips in General

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Exceptions may be made in the following circumstances:

1. A student in prekindergarten–grade 5 may be allowed to ride home with a parent or other adult designated by the parent if a prior written request is submitted to the principal or designee.
2. A student in grades 6–12 may be allowed to ride home with a parent if the parent presents a written request to the coach or sponsor. A student shall only be permitted to ride home with another adult designated by the parent if the District travel release form is submitted to and approved by the principal or designee prior to the trip.
3. For students in grades 6 – 12 who are involved in multiple activities on the same day in different locations, the principal may approve alternative transportation options when requested in writing by the parents using the form provided by the District prior to the activities.

In-State Overnight Trips

The principal shall have authority to approve in-state overnight trips by student organizations and other student groups.

Out-of-State Trips

Any out-of-state trips by student organizations or other student groups shall require approval from the Superintendent.

Travel Release Procedure

Under certain circumstances or exceptional situations where it creates an inconvenience to the family, students may be excused from riding from an event on school-authorized transportation. Extension of this privilege is to be kept to a minimum.

- Travel release forms will be made available to all students.
- The students will be released to the parent(s) (designated adult) by the coach/sponsor upon presentation of a copy of the approved travel release at the contest.
- In no case will a student be allowed to ride home with another student driver.

Bus Procedure

Students who miss the bus and arrive at the contest later shall not be permitted to participate unless unusual circumstances have arisen. The coach/sponsor needs to report this to the appropriate campus administrator.

- The buses need to be left clean and litter free.
- Athletes are not to wear any type of spiked shoes on the bus.
- The emergency door will only be used in case of emergency unless instructed otherwise by the driver.
- All students shall return home on the same bus or vehicles in which they traveled to the contests. The only exceptions would be if they have secured a travel release, signed by the parent, prior to leaving the school.

Extracurricular Traveling Procedure (Dress/Behavior)

- All students are expected to dress appropriately and neatly for all events when representing Joshua Independent School District.
- All participants are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times on activity trips. Foul language or obscene actions will not be tolerated. Gambling in any form will not be allowed.

ATHLETICS

All students participating in JISD athletic activities make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of the commitment is to place the JISD team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by JISD coaches.

Attendance

Promptness and attendance are expected at all times. Missed practices or games due to unexcused reasons may result in dismissal from the team. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of your coaches before the athletic period. Coaches will have a reasonable make-up policy for absences from practice. This procedure will be clearly stated at the beginning of the season and have prior approval of the Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director.

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor's excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students' time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

After the student meets one of the four above options, the student must also get signed approval from all of the following:

- Athletic Director (if participating in athletics)
- Team coach, sponsor or director
- Campus Principal

Excusable absences

- Sick from school
- Doctor's appointment (If this is a check-up, try to schedule around practice.)
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Non-Excusable absences (examples)

- Homework (You must learn to manage your time well.)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday
- Didn't have a ride
- Job
- Other unapproved absences

Injury or Illness

Report any injury or illness to our athletic trainers. If you are injured or ill, we do not expect you to work out, but we do expect you to dress out and observe so as to learn unless directed otherwise by the head coach.

Pregnant Students

Under Title IX, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, 34 C.F.R. 106.40(b), the district shall not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational program if she should become pregnant. The district will abide by the following guideline if a student athlete should become pregnant:

- Once a student athlete finds she is pregnant, she must acquire a written release from her doctor stating that she is able to participate in an athletic program. This statement should specify the time that the student can participate and include an approximate date or time when the student will not be able to continue participation.

Code of Conduct

Poise during the course of competition is critical. We expect you to conduct yourself with class at all times. This means you are to follow all rules of our school district and community. You are expected to act right in class, giving all adults full courtesy and respect. Failure to adhere to our expectations will result in a conference, reasonable consequences, and possible dismissal from the program.

Disciplinary Action

In the event a student athlete violates athletic procedures, the disciplinary action will include one or more of the following.

- Extra Conditioning
- Game Suspension
- Dismissal from the Team
- Removal from the Athletic Program

Dress Code

All student athletes will adhere to the student dress code of the JISD. Everyone will wear competition uniforms and practice gear in the same manner. Take care of your equipment. Do not wear jewelry in practice or during competition. Your appearance away from the dressing room, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. All athletes will meet dress and grooming requirements for all mandatory activities beginning with the first scheduled activity, even if school has not started.

Suspension/Dismissal/Removal

No student athlete may be suspended, dismissed, or removed from the team or the athletic program before notifying the Athletic Director and parents of the recommended action. All parties involved must speak before any action will take place. All suspensions and removals need 24 hours of contemplation before decisions are final.

Parent-Coach Conference Guidelines

- Call the Athletic Director's office and request a meeting with said coach during his/her conference period.
- Provide three answers to the following questions as to the purpose of the conference.
 - o What is the issue to be discussed at the parent/coach conference?
 - o How are you suggesting that the issue is to be resolved?
 - o If this issue were to be resolved as you have stated in question #2, what negative impact could this possibly have on any of the players on the team?

Coaches may not discuss other members of the team or certain team personnel decisions, including playing time, with parents.

Conflict Resolution: The Next Step

If the parent-coach meeting procedure is unsatisfactory, contact the athletic director at (817) 202-2500, ext. 1007. If the matter is not resolved, the parent may file a formal complaint, under Board Policy FNG (Local).

The Director of Athletics will have the authority and final say in any manner concerning an athlete being removed from athletics or suspended from competition.

Eligibility (No Pass, No Play)

Athletes will be held to the UIL "No Pass, No Play" standards." Grades shall be checked and monitored regularly, at the end of each grading period and at other times (three weeks and six

weeks grading periods) as requested by the coach. Athletes will have to provide Grade Check reports to show evidence of their eligibility.

An athlete failing a course will be ineligible to participate in accordance with current UIL eligibility guidelines, *TEA & UIL Side by Side: Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, on-line at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/files/policy/TEA UIL Side by Side 18-19.pdf>. During the period of ineligibility, the member will dress out and participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies, games, performances, etc. In addition, the member may not travel with the team to such functions.

An athlete who fails a class during a six-week grading period may not participate until UIL eligibility requirements are met (No Pass, No Play) and will be considered to be on probation for 15 school days (3 weeks). If after 3 weeks, the athlete is passing all classes, then he or she becomes eligible again after 4:00 p.m. on that Friday. If failing any class at a subsequent six-week grading period, the athlete will receive an additional 15 school days of probation. Honors exemptions may be granted according to UIL policy and will not be subject to the 15 probation days.

Equipment and Facilities

Use of Equipment and Facilities

It is important to emphasize to all students their responsibility to take care of school equipment and facilities and to report any abuses to their coach/sponsor. Replacing equipment and repair to facilities can only result in a loss of funding that could be used elsewhere in the extracurricular program.

Athletics Department-issued equipment is to be worn only during practice sessions and interscholastic contests, or by permission of coaches. At no times are athletes to wear school-issued equipment or uniforms for:

- Work or Job
- Socially
- School Wear

Collection and Storage of Equipment

As students turn in their equipment, it should be checked off his/her equipment card noting the condition of all returned equipment.

Athletes are expected to:

- Keep their equipment within their locker as directed by coaches;
- Take ownership of school facilities and assist in making sure they are well cared for; and
- Be financially responsible for any lost items checked out to them by the Athletic Department.

If any equipment is lost or has abnormal usage, the student will be charged a replacement cost. The following actions will take place until all financial obligations are met:

- The athlete will not receive any Honors or awards; and
- The athlete will have his/her parking privileges revoked.
- A list of students still delinquent at the end of the school year will be turned in to the campus principal.

Lettering/Honor Guidelines

Athletes who exhibit outstanding team qualities such as regular participation in practices, dependability, following rules, maintaining eligibility and behaving in a manner that reflects positively on the Joshua ISD, the schools, the organizations and the community may be considered for a varsity letter. Seniors who have consistently followed all program and school rules and who have participated for four years at Joshua High School, as well as serving as a good role model for underclass athletes, may be given special consideration for letter awards or other honors. Transfer students may also be granted special consideration on a case-by-case basis. The head coach of the individual sport will make the final decision for this special consideration. This is not an exhaustive listing of awards qualifications. Other criteria may also be considered as deemed appropriate by the head coach of the sport and approved by the Athletic Director. Athletes must complete the season of the sport to be considered for letter awards or other honors.

Basketball

An athlete who completes a full varsity season shall be eligible to receive a varsity letter.

Cross Country

An athlete will earn a letter jacket if the student competes in the Varsity Division in at least four meets during the season. An athlete may also letter by earning a top five spot on the team in the Varsity Division at the District Meet, regardless of the previous Varsity participation.

Golf

An athlete must compete in four varsity tournaments or participate in the district tournament to be eligible for a letter.

Soccer

An athlete can be eligible for a varsity letter if he or she has attended all practices and/or participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of all games in a varsity season.

Baseball/Softball

An athlete must play in a minimum of twenty-one (21) innings or, at the coaches' discretion, makes a special contribution to the varsity team during district play to be eligible for a letter.

Tennis

An athlete must compete in all scheduled varsity events in order to be eligible for a varsity letter.

Track

A letter can be earned in two ways.

- Any athlete who scores ten or more points in the meets prior to the district meet may receive a letter.
- An athlete who scores points in the district track meet may receive a letter.

Volleyball

An athlete who completes a full varsity season shall be eligible to receive a varsity letter.

Athletic Trainers

Students must work a varsity sport for two full years to be eligible for a letter. The two years must include working football and one other sport during the course of the school year. The

student must be present and working for a minimum of ninety percent (90%) of the competitions and workouts to be counted as a “complete season.”

Football

An athlete in good standing on the varsity team during the season or a senior in good standing shall be eligible for a varsity letter.

Power Lifting

An athlete who is classified as an “A” lifter or that qualifies for the regional power lifting meet is eligible to receive a letter. (An “A” lifter is one of the ten athletes that is designated as a “point getter” at any meet.)

For specific questions regarding the criteria to letter in an individual sport, please contact the individual head coach.

Honors

Honors will be presented at the conclusion of a specific sport season at a post-season banquet. Honors will be determined by the head coach of that given sport. Coaches and players of the individual sport or team will be allowed to actively participate in the selection of the honors presented to deserving athletes of each sport for the role they played on the team during the season. A dual process will determine the honors. Varsity players will be asked to vote for team members they feel are most deserving for recognition in each category. The players’ ballots will be collected and counted by the coaches. All player ballots will be submitted and tallied by the coaching staff; the coaching staff will have the final vote and make the selections for special awards and honors.

Athletic Trainers

All students will be honored for their participation, efforts and hard work. The Commitment Honor is reserved for a senior student demonstrating the highest level of dedication to the athletic and training programs.

BAND

Spirit of Joshua Band

Attendance

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor’s excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students’ time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

Excusable absences

- Sick from school
- Doctor’s appointment (If this is a check-up, try to schedule around rehearsal.)

- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Non-Excusable absences (examples)

- Homework (You must learn to manage your time well.)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthdays or family events
- Select sports participation
- Unavailability of transportation-(Your section leader can help you find a carpool within the band.)
- Job
- Other unapproved absences

Students need to communicate with the band staff at least 24 hours in advance by using the band’s “Notice of Conflict” form.

Code of Conduct

Spirit of Joshua students are expected to follow the JISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. General classroom behavioral procedures are followed.

Grading

Students will be placed in the various concert bands based upon ability. In addition, students selected to the Honor band will be expected to adhere to the highest academic standards. Any student who receives a failing mark in any class will be removed from Honor band, and placed in either the Symphonic or Concert bands. Spirit of Joshua students will receive grades based on their participation. In addition, students may receive weekly assignments with set due dates. The staff encourages our students to participate in a wide variety of activities, and only require responsible communication to excuse a student from a rehearsal or performance. Students who do not attend rehearsals, sectionals, and performances will receive failing marks for these activities. All students, regardless of playing ability, can succeed in this program simply by putting forth their very best effort and attendance.

Eligibility (No Pass, No Play)

Band members will be held to the UIL “No Pass, No Play” standards.” Grades shall be checked and monitored regularly.

A band member failing a course will be ineligible to participate in accordance with current UIL eligibility guidelines, *TEA & UIL Side by Side: Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, on-line at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side> for UIL Marching Competition. During the period of ineligibility, the member will participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies, games, performances, etc. In addition, the member may not travel with the Band to such functions. There are new standards in regards to UIL Concert and Sight Reading; however, eligibility for this event is still at the discretion of District Policy.

A band member who fails a class during a six-week grading period may not participate until UIL eligibility requirements are met (No Pass, No Play) and will be considered to be on probation for 15 school days (3 weeks). If after 3 weeks, the band member is passing all classes, then he or she becomes eligible again after 4:00 p.m. on that Friday. If failing any class at a subsequent

six-week grading period, the band member will receive an additional 15 school days of probation. Honors exemptions may be granted according to UIL policy and will not be subject to the 15 probation days.

In addition, no students will be allowed into a “varsity” unit until they demonstrate a consistent ability to be eligible. They can be in non-varsity groups if those are available. The general rule will be that a student owes the same amount of six weeks passed as they were ineligible (fail one six weeks, owe one six weeks). The only exception to this rule is in regards to the Honor Band. Students will be removed from this group if they lose eligibility.

Selection of Officers

The Spirit of Joshua will select one to three drum majors each year. These students will be either juniors or seniors during their term, and are selected through an audition process that includes evaluation by a panel of judges. Students are evaluated on marching, playing, conducting, interviews, past leadership, and student confidence. In addition, a Junior Drum major (or drum major in training) may be selected through the same process. These students must attend a drum major camp selected by the staff to maintain their status as drum major. Other officers may include President (elected), Vice President (elected), Secretary/Treasurer (selected from volunteers), Historian (selected from volunteers), Public Relations (selected from volunteers), Tutorial (selected from volunteers), and representatives from any class who does not already have an officer on the executive council.

Organization Membership Requirements

Marching Band

To be a member of the Spirit of Joshua Marching Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper band class. All SOJ Band members will audition for a spot in the Marching Band. Students will be evaluated based on their past performance, playing ability, attitude, work ethic, physical ability, and availability. Not every student will earn a spot in the performing ensemble.

Concert Bands

To be a member of one of the three concert bands, the student must be enrolled in the proper band class and meet all financial obligations. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only). Each member must meet all financial obligations and be in good standing within the band program.

Jazz Band

The NRG Jazz Band is open to all wind players who are also enrolled in band, as well as any rhythm players. It is important to note that this is not a class to teach you how to play an instrument, but rather how to perform jazz. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only). Each member must meet all financial obligations and be in good standing within the band program.

Color Guard

The Guard is a select group with membership through audition only. Students must be enrolled in the class. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances (Exceptions are approved in

advance by director only). Each member must meet all financial obligations and be in good standing within the band program.

Drumline

The M'Pulse Drumline is a group open to all members of the band program interested in learning, exploring, and performing on percussion instruments, and will be selected through an audition process. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only). Each member must meet all financial obligations and be in good standing within the band program.

Indoor Winds

The Spirit Indoor Wind Ensemble is a group open to all members of the band program interested in learning, exploring, and performing with the indoor marching ensemble, and will be selected through an audition process. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only). Each member must meet all financial obligations and be in good standing within the band program.

Any student who drops out of any of these organizations during the school year will be required to drop that specific class as soon as the administration deems possible. Any student who drops out will not be allowed to rejoin unless approved by the band staff. (See also Extracurricular Quitting Procedure in this Handbook.)

Individual Membership Requirements

Joshua ISD provides excellent support for the band program. However, there is expense beyond the scope of the bands' budgets. These expenses are the responsibility of the individual members and the booster organization. Fund-raising events are scheduled throughout the year to help each student offset these costs. Those who need to make special arrangements will need to speak with the directors on an individual basis.

No one will be denied participation because of financial hardship as long as steps are being taken to fulfill the obligations.

Band Dues

Marching Band

The band directors work to create a budget each year that is an estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. Some of these expenses are covered through the Band Budget, but it is necessary to charge each student to cover band camp, uniform rental and cleaning, band staff, band shirts, trips, and numerous other expenses. These expenses will be distributed in the form of an expense sheet at the beginning of each school year. The band will not order any item that has not been prepaid. Students who require the use of school owned instruments or equipment will need to pay an additional \$60 rental for each semester.

Winter Guard and Drumline

Winter Guard and Drumline fees will be determined each year based on the amount of students participating, staff that will need to be secured, uniforms, and other expenses to stage our production.

Financial Assistance

Students and parents who have financial difficulties will need to speak to the director. Payment plans will be available to ensure that ALL STUDENTS who wish to participate in the Spirit of Joshua Band program will be given the opportunity to do so.

Band Trips and Expenses

The Spirit of Joshua will be taking a trip every other year during concert season. Other trips are possible, and will be announced as the opportunities arise (for example—a college bowl game). Students are financially responsible for any trip they wish to participate in. Trips are meant to be educational, as well as meant to provide the band with competitive venues. Students are not obligated to participate in these trips, but are highly encouraged.

Band Staff

Paid professionals and technical assistants are a vital part of the band program. Without their help, the Spirit of Joshua Band would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect of all students and parents. Staff members are chosen by the directors and are directly responsible to their director.

Students should give these staff members the same respect they would give any member of the band faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the directors; do not confront a staff member directly.

Equipment and Instrument

Rental

Most band members are expected to provide their own instruments. In special cases such as percussion, color guard, low brass, or other larger instruments, school owned equipment may be available for rent. The county rental fee is \$60 per semester. Students who play more than one rented instrument in a semester pay only one rental fee. The fee may be waived if the family can demonstrate severe financial hardship or if the student is playing a secondary instrument at the specific request of the directors to help the band's instrumentation.

Care

School owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will need to be repaired at the student's expense. Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

Lettering/Band Honors and Banquet Guidelines

Annually in May, the Spirit of Joshua Band banquet will be held to recognize the achievements of the band, its members, boosters, and administration. A slide show highlighting the year's activities, special senior tributes, and a great meal will help us celebrate another successful year together. The band banquet is funded through ticket sales that may be purchased with money from student accounts. The Vice Presidents organize this event with assistance from others. Awards given out at this event include the John Phillip Sousa Award, the Louis Armstrong Award, the Spirit of Joshua Award, the Outstanding Color guard Award, the Most Improved Musician Award, the Most Improved Color guard Award, the Semper Fidelis Award, as well as, outstanding service and musicianship awards. Students will have the opportunity to earn their letter jackets throughout the high school years. Students receive points based on their service to the band and their individual attempts to represent this program. Below is an example of the point system. It will be modified each year to include additional activities that our students might participate in. Please note that a student must be eligible and participate in both marching and concert UIL competitions to receive their jackets. (Exception would be Color guard who will substitute UIL Concert with NTCA Championships.)

Please refer to the 2019 – 2020 example below.

2019-2020 Point Sheet

Please fill out all that apply, and total your sheet at the bottom. Please keep in mind that intentionally misrepresenting yourself could lead to the forfeiture of all points. Students who reach 12 point will receive a Spirit of Joshua Pin. Students who receive 30 points will receive a letter jacket. Students will receive a certificate for each level achieved above 30 points. Seniors are not automatically eligible for a letter jacket-you must have reached 30 points. No student will receive a letter jacket in the same year that they do not represent our school and our band on the field and stage in UIL Competition. Students can only receive one letter jacket from the school. If you have received a letter jacket from another organization, you will be awarded a band letter to add to your current jacket.

Name _____

Outside Summer Musical Camps (2 Points Each) _____

Membership in other music ensembles (2 Points Each) _____

USSBA Marching Festival-Burleson (1 Point) _____

Glen Rose (Grand Champions) (2 Points) _____

USSBA Marching Festival-Saginaw (1 Point) _____

UIL Marching (3 Points) _____

UIL Area Marching (3 Points-Finals earns you 5 total) _____

UIL State Marching (7 Points-Finals earns you 10 total) _____

All Region Tryouts (2 Points) _____

All Region Participation (3 Points) _____

All Area Tryouts (5 Points) _____

All State Band (10 Points) _____

1st Division-Class 2 Or 3 Solo or Ensemble (2 Points) _____

1st Division-Class 1 solo-Non State qualifying (3 Points) _____

1st Division-Class 1 Solo or Ensemble-State Qualifying (5 Points) _____

State Solo and Ensemble 2nd Division Medal (3 Points) _____

State Solo and Ensemble 1st Division Medal (5 Points) _____

UIL Concert Band –Concert and Sight-reading (1 Point) _____

UIL Symphonic Band-Concert and Sight-reading (2 Points) _____

UIL Honor Band-Concert and Sight-reading (3 Points) _____

Sweepstakes B (2 Points) _____

Sweepstakes A (3 Points) _____

Festivals (1 Point each) _____

Indoor Units (1 Point for every show including Championships) _____

Indoor Units (Championship Placement Award-1 point/Bronze, 2 points/Silver, 3 Points/Gold) _____

Indoor Units (1 Point for every promotion) _____

Jazz Festivals (1 Point for each) _____

Service Point (you will receive 1 point for every 5 hours of service such as working in concession stand. Please list the dates and times of your service below.

Total hours worked _____ Total points earned _____

Officer Position _____

(Drum Major and President=5 points, all other officers and section leaders=3 points)

Service Position _____

(Lead=5 Points, assistants= 3 points)

Anything else you wish for us to consider _____

Total _____

Were you a participant at both UIL Marching and Concert/Sight-reading _____YES _____NO

Have you received a letter jacket from any other organization _____YES _____NO

CHOIR

Joshua High School Choir

Attendance

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor’s excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students’ time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

After the student meets one of the four above options, the student must also get signed approval from all of the following:

- Athletic Director (if participating in athletics)
- Team coach, sponsor or director
- Campus Principal

Excusable absences

- Sick from school
- Doctor’s appointment (If this is a checkup, try to schedule around rehearsal.)
- Death in the family
- Important family engagement (wedding, vacation/trip)
- Religious holiday

An excused absence allows a student to make up the grade by completing an assignment determined by the director. Most of these assignments are written reports. An absence is a MAJOR grade loss, therefore the writing will be significant. Occasionally, the director will have a different assignment. The director’s decision about this assignment is final. A “zero” will be entered into the gradebook until the assignment is completed or if the deadline for turn in has passed.

Non-Excusable absences (examples)

- Homework (You must learn to manage your time well.)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event

- Birthday
- Didn't have a ride (Your director can help you find a carpool within the choir.)
- Job
- Other unapproved absences

Students need to communicate with the director about absences as early as possible.

Code of Conduct

Behavior affects instruction and poor behavior may affect your grade and jeopardize membership in choir.

Members are expected to follow the JISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct.

Grading

Choral students will receive grades based on their participation in class and at required performances. We have choir students who also participate in band, ROTC, athletics, dance team, cheer, and many other school activities. Many times, a student has been excused from a choir function for a JHS volleyball game or band requirement; however, these depend on responsible communication from the student. Excused absences from a rehearsal or performance will be at the director's discretion. Students who do not attend rehearsals, sectionals, and performances will receive failing marks for these activities. All students, regardless of vocal ability, can succeed in this program simply by putting forth their very best effort and attendance.

Eligibility (No Pass, No Play)

Choir members will be held to the UIL "No Pass, No Play" standards." Grades shall be checked and monitored regularly, at the end of each grading period and at other times (three weeks and six weeks grading periods) as requested by the instructor. Choir members will have to provide Grade Check reports to show evidence of their eligibility.

A choir member failing a course will be ineligible to participate in accordance with current UIL eligibility guidelines, *TEA & UIL Side by Side: Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, on-line at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/files/tea-uil-side-by-side-15-16.pdf>. During the period of ineligibility, the member will participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies, games, performances, etc. In addition, the member may not travel with the choir to such functions.

A choir member who fails a class during a six-week grading period may not participate until UIL eligibility requirements are met (No Pass, No Play) and will be considered to be on probation for 15 school days (3 weeks). If after 3 weeks, the choir member is passing all classes, then he or she becomes eligible again after 4:00 p.m. on that Friday. If failing any class at a subsequent six-week grading period, the choir member will receive an additional 15 school days of probation. Honors exemptions may be granted according to UIL policy and will not be subject to the 15 probation days.

Organization Membership Requirements

Student behavior affects student performance and our reputation as the Joshua High School Choir. We want to be known for our excellent performances and the excellent behavior of our students. If a student's behavior inside the classroom or outside the classroom affects the performance of our choirs, that student's membership will be jeopardized. We cannot have a quality learning environment when a student is consistently misbehaving and/or disrupting the class. Our reputation can also be questioned when a student is sent to OCS or DAEP. Each event will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A person deserves forgiveness and a second chance, but there must also be consequences. Some examples of unacceptable behavior are listed below, but this list is not exclusive.

- Assignment to DAEP
- Positive Drug Test
- Consistently disrupting class
- Consistently absent from sectionals, rehearsals or concerts
- Ineligibility

In most cases, a student involved in one of these areas will be moved to a non-varsity choir unless they are already in one. We welcome students who are struggling to improve their decision making process, however these types of issues cannot be consistently tolerated in a varsity choir.

Varsity Choir—Chorale

To be a member of the Joshua High School Chorale, the student must be enrolled in the proper choir class and maintain passing grades in all classes. Enrollment is by audition ONLY. Students will have the opportunity to participate in TMEA All Region tryouts and UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. This participation will improve the students' chances of advancing to a higher choir and earn letterman points for a letter jacket.

- Chorale—The student agrees to attend summer rehearsals and extra rehearsals during the school year whenever possible (exceptions through director approval). Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances. Fundraisers will be available to help meet financial obligations.
- Academic Probation—Selected students can be a member of the Chorale even though their grades are not satisfactory. This is based on sectional needs of the choir and past history in choir. This is a private determination of the director and the academic requirements vary depending on the student's situation. The director's decision on this is final.

Bel Canto

This is the Ninth Grade Choir. Some years, this will be a female only choir. Some years, this will be a mixed choir. The student must be enrolled in the proper choir class, sing for the director in a screening audition, and meet all financial obligations. Each student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only.) Students will have the opportunity to participate in TMEA All Region tryouts and UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. This participation will improve the students' chances of advancing to a higher choir and earn letterman points for a letter jacket.

Concert Choir/Boys, Girls, or Mixed

This choir is open to all students and is a training choir for students to become more proficient in choral skills. This will allow them to advance into a more competitive choral organization. The student must be enrolled in the proper choir class, sing for the director in a screening audition, and meet all financial obligations. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for this particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions are approved in advance by director only). Students will have the opportunity to participate in TMEA All Region tryouts and UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. This participation will improve the students' chances of advancing to a higher choir and earn letterman points for a letter jacket.

Show Choir

To be a member of the Joshua High School Show Choir, the student must be enrolled in the proper choir class and maintain passing grades in all classes. Enrollment is by audition ONLY. Students will have the opportunity to participate in TMEA All Region tryouts and UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. This participation will improve the students' chances of advancing to a higher choir and earn letterman points for a letter jacket.

- This class is open to all 10th – 12th graders. It is possible for a 9th grader to earn placement in this group, but that will be the exception. Many of the performances are extracurricular and therefore eligibility is essential. The students must have an advanced level of vocal ability and movement skills. Preference will be given to students with choral experience.
- The student agrees to attend summer rehearsals and extra rehearsals during the school year whenever possible (exceptions through director approval). Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances. Fundraisers will be available to help meet financial obligations.
- Academic Probation—Selected students can be a member of Show Choir even though their grades are not satisfactory. This is based on sectional needs of the choir and a past history in choir. This is a private determination of the director and the academic requirements vary depending on the student's situation. The director's decision on this is final.

Individual Membership Requirements

Joshua ISD provides excellent support for the choir program. However, there is expense beyond the scope of the choir's budget. These expenses are the responsibility of the individual member. Fund-raising events are scheduled throughout the year to help each student offset these costs; those who need to make special arrangements will need to speak with the director on an individual basis. No one will be denied participation because of financial hardship as long as steps are being taken to fulfill the obligations.

Choir Uniform Fee--\$40

This does not pay for the uniform. This helps to defer the cost of alterations and cleaning. If a student chooses to clean his/her own uniform, this does not reduce the cost of the uniform fee.

Trips and Expenses

The Joshua High School Choral Department tries to take an out-of-state trip every other year. Students are financially responsible for any trip they wish to participate in. Trips are meant to be educational, but also involve at least one performance and possibly a competition. Members of Chorale are expected to participate in competitions which are within the state of Texas, but exceptions can be made at the director's discretion. Students are not obligated to

participate in out of state trips, but are highly encouraged. Trips are open to all choir students (9 – 12).

Membership for any choir is at the director’s discretion. All decisions on membership, awarding solos, trip participation, & contest involvement are solely up to the director.

Lettering/Banquet and Honors

The choir department gives awards at the May concert for outstanding participation and leadership. We try to hold a choir banquet in May and sometimes give out “funny” awards. The choir banquet is almost always a “dress up” affair and semi-formal attire is required of students and parents. This is a ticketed event and students may bring immediate family plus one guest with director’s approval.

2019 JHS Choir Letter Jacket Point System Score Sheet

<u>Activity</u>		<u>1st yr.</u>	<u>2nd yr.</u>	<u>3rd yr.</u>	<u>4th yr.</u>
All-State Camp	3				
All-District Participation	2				
Top 40 cut	3				
2 nd Audition	1				
* All-District or Honor	3				
* All-Region	3				
Pre-Area Audition	1				
* Area	3				
All-Region Performance	2				
Area Audition	2				
*All-State	8				
*Perfect Madrigal					
		28			

Dinner Attendance	3
UIL Solo Participation	2
*UIL Solo (I or II)	3
*UIL Ensemble (I or II)	3
* TSSEC (I or II)	4
Participation in another Activity (class)	3
(Athletics, Band, Dance, etc.)	
<u>Showcase Reheasal & Concert</u>	
Perfect Attendance	3
Chorale	3
* UIL Concert & SR	4
*UIL rating of I Stage	4
*UIL rating of I S R	4
Festival Participation	2
Outstanding Officer	3
*Successful year in choir	3

TOTAL = _____ = _____

Must have participated in UIL concert & sightreading the year you receive jacket.

Points to be earned 1st yr. - 40, 2nd yr. - 45, 3rd yr. - 50, 4th yr. - 55

CHEERLEADERS

The purpose of the Joshua Cheerleaders is to promote school spirit and sportsmanship, to increase interest in school activities among students and the community, and to develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility while maintaining high moral standards.

All rules and regulations pertaining to cheerleaders will also apply to the spirit mascots and Blue Crew.

Attendance

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor's excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students' time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

After the student meets one of the four above options, the student must also get signed approval from all of the following:

- Athletic Director (if participating in athletics)
- Team coach, sponsor or director
- Campus Principal

Excusable absences

- Sick from school
- Doctor's appointment (2 doctor's appointments will be excused with a doctor's note. All subsequent absences due to doctor's appointments will be unexcused. If this is a check-up, try to schedule around practice.)
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Non-Excusable absences (examples)

- Homework (You must learn to manage your time well.)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday
- Didn't have a ride
- Cheerleaders are to be present at all school functions, practices, or athletic events during the school year in which the sponsor requires them to participate.
- Unexcused absences from school (INCLUDING CHEER CLASS), or cheerleading activities (INCLUDING AFTERSCHOOL PRACTICE) may result in disciplinary action by the coach.
- If a cheerleader will miss a practice or event because of injury or illness, she must notify the coach as soon as possible of the absence. In determining whether an absence is excused, the coach may consider whether the cheerleader missed other school activities because of illness, whether they sought medical care, and the nature of the illness. Under certain circumstances, the coach may request a doctor's note from a cheerleader who has an absence due to illness or injury. Any note must be returned to school within

three days of the absence. If a student had an excused absence from school, the absence would also be excused for the extracurricular activity.

- Any member suffering from injury or illness will be excused from workouts/performance upon receipt of a note from the school trainer or by physician's release. A statement from the school trainer or physician will be required for reinstatement.
- If an emergency should occur, the parent may write a note, email, or text/call within 24 hours of the absence to request that the absence be excused, at the sole discretion of the coach.
 - Cheerleaders must attend practice whether or not they are able to participate due to grades, injury, ineligibility, etc.
 - A job is not an excuse for neglecting one's duties.
 - Students who are involved in another school-sponsored activity must share time and notify the sponsor in advance of their conflict. Refer to the JISD Extracurricular Handbook for order of participation. (Extracurricular Conflicts With Other Activities)
 - If a cheer class is offered, cheerleaders are required to be enrolled in it.
 - All practices are closed. No one, including parents, boyfriends, sisters, brothers, girlfriends, etc. may attend practices unless the sponsor gives prior permission.
 - Exceptions to all of the practice regulations will be left to the discretion of the coach and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Code of Conduct

Standards of Conduct

Cheerleaders may incur disciplinary consequences for inappropriate behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her coach for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Cheerleaders must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the Joshua ISD Student Code of Conduct and other portions of this handbook. Cheerleaders will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein at all times, regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property, and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the cheerleader, up to and including removal from the squad.

- Cheerleaders shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including, but not limited to, inappropriate sexual conduct, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, criminal activity, or inappropriate activities on social media.
- Cheerleaders shall not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school.

Rules

- Cheerleaders must abide by all school rules and regulations and all rules set forth in these guidelines.
- All cheerleaders must have a physical completed by a doctor prior to cheerleading camp. Physicals will be available at Joshua High School, or you can obtain a physical by your own doctor. The cost of the physical is the responsibility of the cheerleader.
- If a student fails a six weeks grading period, he or she must regain eligibility at the 3-week grading period immediately following in order to secure the spot on the

team. If the student regains eligibility and fails a different six weeks, he or she will be removed from the team.

- If a candidate tumbles at tryouts, he/she will be expected and instructed to tumble throughout the cheerleading season.
- Grievances against the Joshua cheerleading program or coaches must follow the proper chain of command before the grievance will be discussed. Approaching the coach, principal, or superintendent regarding a grievance at a school event or non-related school event will not be tolerated or allowed. An appointment with the appropriate school official must be made to discuss any grievances. The proper chain of command is: (1) Cheerleading Coach; and (2) Principal. If the matter cannot be resolved informally, the parent may file a formal complaint under Board Policy FNG (Local).
- Cheerleaders will conduct themselves in a manner which promotes spirit, sportsmanship, and leadership at all times.
- Cheerleaders will follow the instructions of the coach or they will be subject to the appropriate punishment.
- Matching attire is REQUIRED for participation in cheerleader functions. If a cheerleader does not meet this requirement, she will attend the function and sit with the coach.
- All cheerleaders will ride in a group in a school vehicle to and from all away games unless alternate transportation is approved in advance by the coach and the principal. In such cases, the cheerleader is to give a signed permission slip to the coach prior to the cheerleader leaving.

Demerits and Discipline

- Sponsors will issue demerits.
- Demerits will be given for, but not limited to the following reasons:
 - Tardy to a cheerleader function—1 demerit
 - Leaving equipment in the work area or failure to clean up the work area—1 demerit
 - Wearing jewelry other than small stud earrings at a practice or a game—1 demerit
 - Tardy back after a break at a game—1 demerit
 - Leaving the group without the permission of the sponsor—1 demerit
 - Showing affection to boyfriend, other than hand holding, while in uniform—1 demerit
 - Not cheering at games or pep rallies—1 demerit
 - Failure of the head cheerleader to inform the sponsor when someone is in violation of a rule—1 demerit
 - Unexcused absence from cheer class or afterschool practice other than for another school event—2 demerits
 - Failure to wear matching attire at cheerleading functions—2 demerits
 - Not wearing appropriate attire to cheerleading practice —2 demerits
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing or degrading chants—3 demerits
 - Receiving school detention—3 demerits
 - Talking or moving during the National Anthem—4 demerits
 - Unexcused absence from a game or cheerleading function other than for another school event—5 demerits
 - Receiving one day of OCS, Wednesday/Saturday school (for discipline), or swats—5 demerits
 - Hazing—10 demerits

- Any behavior that causes embarrassment to our school (including but not limited to actions on social media)—10 demerits
- Criminal activity, including an adjudication of an offense, deferred adjudication, or pleading guilty or no contest (or the equivalent) to charges of substance abuse or illegal use of alcohol or controlled substances (such as minor-in-possession, etc.)—15 demerits
- Being arrested—15 demerits
- The sponsor may give a cheerleader an opportunity to work off demerits. However, the amount of work done and the availability is at the discretion of the sponsor. Furthermore, consistent and persistent infractions of cheerleader rules may result in demerits that are permanent.
- Cheerleaders will not make disparaging remarks in any manner, including in real life and on social media, about a fellow cheerleader, a sponsor, or Joshua High School. If he/she does, the consequences will be as follows:
 - First offense – sit out an event
 - Second offense – sit out an event
 - Third offense – removal from the squad

Dismissal/Removal

Cheerleaders will be dismissed from the squad for the following reasons:

- A cheerleader transfers to another school
- A cheerleader acquires 20 demerits
- A cheerleader makes a third disparaging remark about a fellow cheerleader, sponsor, or Joshua High School.

A cheerleader may be dismissed from the squad for the following reasons:

- Persistent misbehaviors that result in multiple OCS placements
- Other behavior which the coach deems inappropriate, including but not limited to, unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane behavior.

Placement in DAEP

If a student is placed in DAEP for a discretionary offense, the student is not allowed to participate in team activities while assigned to the DAEP. Upon return to the home campus, the student will be allowed to return to the team for the remainder of the year. If a student is placed in DAEP for a mandatory offense or a second DAEP placement for a discretionary offense, the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the year.

Eligibility (No Pass, No Play)

Cheerleaders will be held to the UIL “No Pass, No Play” standards.” Grades shall be checked and monitored regularly, at the end of each grading period and at other times (three weeks and six weeks grading periods) as requested by the coach. Cheerleaders will have to provide Grade Check reports to show evidence of their eligibility.

A cheerleader failing a course will be ineligible to cheer in accordance with current UIL eligibility guidelines, *TEA & UIL Side by Side: Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, on-line at: <https://www.uiltexas.org/files/tea-uil-side-by-side-15-16.pdf>. During the period of ineligibility, the member will dress out and participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies,

games, performances, etc. In addition, the member may not travel with the team to such functions.

A cheerleader who fails a class during a six-week grading period may not participate until UIL eligibility requirements are met (No Pass, No Play) and will be considered to be on probation for 15 school days (3 weeks). If after 3 weeks, the cheerleader is passing all classes, then he or she becomes eligible again after 4:00 p.m. on that Friday. If failing any class at a subsequent six-week grading period, the cheerleader will receive an additional 15 school days of probation. Honors exemptions may be granted according to UIL policy and will not be subject to the 15 probation days.

Grading

Cheerleaders receive grades based on participation in the completion of assigned duties.

Equipment/Uniforms and Camp Clothes

- Uniforms and camp clothes will be selected and ordered in the spring. The sponsor will make final selection decisions.
- Cost will not exceed \$600 and will be the responsibility of the cheerleader/mascot and his or her parents.
- ALL individual cheerleading bills are due by the designated date set by the sponsor of the current year. Unpaid balances are subject to a 10% charge.
- Uniforms and camp clothes will be PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO CAMP. Failure to pay will determine eligibility of the person to fill the cheerleader position. The final decision concerning eligibility will be the responsibility of the principal.

Elections

- Cheer/mascot candidates must meet UIL eligibility requirements in order to try out for any squad.
- Squad size will be determined by a natural break in the tryout scores. However, each squad will have a minimum number as follows:
 - JHS Varsity—14
 - Junior Varsity—8
 - NGC—8
 - LMS and NMS 8th grade—8
 - LMS and NMS 7th grade—8
- The candidates for the Varsity squad will be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade the following year.
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, candidates must be able to do a standing back-handspring and a round-off back-handspring to make the Varsity squad.
- Members of the JV and Varsity squads will be interchangeable during the school year.
- The sponsor of each squad will decide how the head cheerleaders are chosen.
- There will be 2 varsity spirit mascots elected, 1 junior varsity spirit mascot elected (if circumstances allow), 1 spirit mascot elected from the NGC and 1 spirit mascot elected for LMS and NMS. JHS candidates are students who will be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade the following year.

- All candidates should attend all practices and meetings. If for some reason they cannot attend, it is the candidate's responsibility to learn the given information and tryout material.
- All high school candidates are required to give a \$150 deposit prior to tryouts. Checks can be postdated for the week following tryouts. If a candidate is not selected, he or she can retrieve the deposit from the sponsor after tryouts.
- The election will be held during the fifth six weeks of the year. The cheerleaders will assume their responsibilities upon election for all squads.
- The High School squads will have two additional elections, if necessary, in August and November.
- The candidate's tryout score will be based on judges' score of performance; the coach's score of performance, attitude, work ethic, and other areas; faculty recommendations; and grades as reported for the first 4 six weeks periods of the school year. Scoring rubrics will be included in each campus's tryout packet.
- Cheerleader candidates must abide by all rules set forth in these guidelines as well as the JISD Student Handbook and other sections of the JISD Extracurricular Handbook. Extension: The rules and regulations in the handbooks are MINIMUM guidelines for the Joshua High School cheerleading program. Additional action regarding the rules and guidelines may occur if the coach deems it necessary.
- Any rule clarification questions need to be brought before the coach(s) prior to tryouts.
- Decision of the judges will be essential in determining each squad; however, the final decision will be made by the sponsors and campus administrators.
- A middle school cheerleading candidate must be currently enrolled in a JISD school. Students transferring to JISD after tryouts may not join the team. Cheerleaders who move into another JISD attendance zone after tryouts may not transfer teams. They must wait until tryouts next year.
- A middle school cheerleading candidate must provide proof of residency or approved transfer paperwork for the current school year. Students moving from one JISD middle school to another after tryouts may not join the team. They must wait until tryouts next year.
- A high school candidate must be currently enrolled in a JISD school at the time of the tryout.
- A student is not allowed to try out for cheerleader if he or she quits the cheerleading program the previous school year. A leave of absence or failure to complete the year due to circumstances beyond control will be considered a different matter, and will be reviewed by the cheerleading coach and principal prior to cheerleading tryouts.

Head Cheerleader

- The head cheerleaders will be subject to all requirements set forth for all cheerleaders.
- The head cheerleaders will direct all activities for which the cheerleaders are responsible.
- The head cheerleaders will decide what attire will be worn at each cheerleader function.
- The head cheerleaders will inspect each member of her squad prior to the event.
- If there is no head cheerleader elected, or if the head cheerleader is removed from the squad, the coach will either select a replacement or will assume these duties.

Lettering/Honors/Guidelines

Varsity cheerleaders/mascots who participate all year and carry out all duties in the cheerleader guidelines will be eligible for a letter jacket. However, only one letter jacket may be earned during enrollment at Joshua High School.

BLUE CREW

Blue Crew is an honorary Varsity group of male students whose members recommend future members. These recommendations are reviewed and a vetting takes place. Members must be academically excellent, and to ensure a level of physical fitness, they must also be a member of a JHS sports team or NJROTC. Candidates that pass the vetting process will be selected. Members must adhere to the JHS Cheerleaders' grade and behavior requirements.

DANCE/DRILL TEAM

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote interest in school activities, foster good fellowship, develop leadership, encourage school spirit, and provide entertainment at any activity deemed suitable by the director and principal. Being a dance team member is an honor and special privilege.

All rules and regulations pertaining to dance team members will also apply to managers.

Attendance

A student absent from school may not play or participate on that day unless:

- He/she attends school for a half day;
- An acceptable parent or doctor's excuse is submitted;
- The student is involved in a school activity; and
- The students' time in OCS (if applicable) is completed.
 - Example: one day of OCS (Completion will be from 8:25 a.m. to 4 p.m. or upon the end of the school day for that campus.)

After the student meets one of the four above options, the student must also get signed approval from all of the following:

- Athletic Director (if participating in athletics)
- Team coach, sponsor or director
- Campus Principal

Excusable absences

- Sick from school
- Doctor's appointment (If this is a check-up, try to schedule around practice.)
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday

Non-Excusable absences (examples)

- Homework (You must learn to manage your time well.)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday

- Didn't have a ride
 - Job
 - Other unapproved absences
-
- Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. Therefore, an unexcused absence from any practice will result in two (2) demerits.
 - In the event of an absence, the member must:
 - Contact her officer to let her know why she will not be at rehearsal
 - When a member is absent, it is the member's responsibility to find out what she missed and get the information for the next day's rehearsal or performance.
 - A job is not an excuse for neglecting one's duties.
 - Members are to be present at all school functions, practices, or athletic events throughout the school year in which the director requires them to participate.
 - If a member will miss a practice or event because of injury or illness, she must notify the coach as soon as possible of the absence. In determining whether an absence is excused, the coach may consider whether the member missed other school activities because of illness, whether they sought medical care, and the nature of the illness. Under certain circumstances, the coach may request a doctor's note from a member who has an absence due to illness or injury. Any note must be returned to school within three days of the absence. If a student had an excused absence from school, the absence would also be excused for the extracurricular activity.
 - If an emergency should occur, the parent may write a note, email, or text/call within 24 hours of the absence to request that the absence be excused, at the sole discretion of the director.
 - Any member who is injured and cannot practice is required to attend all practices in workout clothing. Those members who are not seriously injured will be required to practice as much as they are physically able. A doctor's note is required after two consecutive days of nonparticipation.
 - Any member suffering from injury or illness will be excused from workouts/performance upon receipt of a note from the school trainer or by physician's release. A statement from the school trainer or physician will be required for reinstatement.
 - If you are absent the week of a performance, you will be removed from the routine that is being performed that week.
 - If a girl has an unexcused absence from a game or performance, she will not be allowed to perform in the following game or performance.
 - During contest and fall/spring show season, any member who misses 1.5 hours of rehearsal will be pulled from contest/show routine of director's choice. Every 1.5 hours will equal one routine pulled. The dancer will be subject to replacement in any or all contest/show performances provided a qualified alternate is available.
 - Missing half of practice is considered an absence.
 - Failure to comply with absence procedures or falsifying reasons for absences may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal.
 - Members are expected to always have a ride to and from all practices and performances. Prompt delivery and pick-up is expected. It is up to the member to make sure her ride is punctual and dependable.

- Students who are involved in another school sponsored activity must share time and notify the sponsor in advance of their conflict. Refer to the JISD Extracurricular Handbook for order of participation. (Extracurricular Conflicts With Other Activities)

Expectations

- **Membership in the dance team organization IS a PRIVILEGE.**
- Each member must have a doctor's written permission verifying that the member's physical condition enables participation in all drill team activities, performances, and practices. This must be attained before the last day of school.
- Varsity team members register for the designated Sweetheart (Fine Arts/PE/Elective) class periods for the fall and spring semesters of their membership year.
- Members, pending eligibility status, will participate in all practices and fundraisers in which the organization is involved.
- Members must exhibit and maintain an above satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations.
- Members will be placed on alternate status for the first pep rally and football game if they have an unexcused absence or not met the workout requirement as set by the director.

Game and Performances

- No friends or family members may sit in the assigned drill team area at any time.
- Water will be allowed before and after a performance. NO food, drinks, or gum will be allowed without approval from the director.
- No team member will leave her seat without permission from the director and without a chaperone.
- Team members are not to converse with those outside of the designated drill team area unless authorized by the director.
- No one is allowed to leave a game or activity early without prior permission the day before the activity.
- You will dress for the game at your campus. You must be in full uniform including hats and boots when you step outside of the gym and stay full dressed until the game is over and you have turned your uniform back in. Dance team members are not permitted to wear the uniform anywhere but the designated activity.
- During any designated break, you must stay in the assigned area and return to your seat at the designated time.

Code of Conduct

Standards of Conduct

Dance team members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and her director for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Dance team members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the Joshua ISD Student Code of Conduct and other portions of this handbook.

Dance team members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein at all times regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property, and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the dance team member, up to and including removal from the team.

- Dance team members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including, but not limited to, inappropriate sexual conduct, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity.

Manners

Manners should be used at all times toward any one you come across without age discrimination. Practice time should not be used to settle personal problems. If there is a problem between members, it is their responsibility to work it out on their own time. If necessary, members may use the director's assistance. Mutual respect and politeness among members is expected. Responses to director, school officials and teammates are as follows:

- Yes, ma'am/sir
- No, ma'am/sir
- Thank you
- Excuse me
- Please

The use of respectful language is not meant to belittle any member. It is meant to teach the importance and benefits of being polite, respecting those of higher rank, and using the mannerisms of a sophisticated young lady. Failure to conduct one's self in a proper manner may result in disciplinary action, such as demerit, probation, or dismissal.

Rules

- Dance team members must abide by all school rules and regulations and all rules set forth in these guidelines.
- Grievances against the Joshua dance program or directors must follow the proper chain of command before the grievance will be discussed. Approaching the director, principal, or superintendent regarding a grievance at a school event or non-related school event will not be tolerated or allowed. An appointment with the appropriate school official must be made to discuss any grievances. The proper chain of command is: (1) Dance director: and (2) Principal. If the matter cannot be resolved informally, the parent may file a formal complaint under Board Policy FNG (Local).
- Dance team members will conduct themselves in a manner which promotes spirit, sportsmanship, and leadership at all times.
- Dance team members will follow the instructions of the director or they will be subject to the appropriate punishment. Matching attire is REQUIRED for participation in dance team member functions. If a dance team member does not meet this requirement, she will attend the function and sit with the director.
- All dance team members will ride as a group to all functions unless prior arrangements have been made and the director has approved.

Demerits and Discipline

- Officers will issue demerits, however the director will have the final say on all demerits.
- Demerits will be given for, but not limited to the following reasons:
 - Tardy to a dance team member function—1 demerit

- Leaving equipment in the work area or failure to clean up the work area—1 demerit
- Any item found not marked with a name- 1 demerit
- Each day an item is past due-includes but not limited to reports, fundraisers, items – 1 demerit
- Wearing jewelry other than dance team earrings at a practice or a game—1 demerit
- Tardy back after a break at a game—1 demerit
- Leaving the group without the permission of the director—1 demerit
- Showing affection to boyfriend, other than hand holding, while in uniform—1 demerit
- Not cheering at games or pep rallies—1 demerit
- Failure of the officers to inform the director when someone is in violation of a rule—1 demerit
- Unexcused absence from a practice other than for another school event—2 demerits
- Not wearing appropriate attire to dance practice –1 demerit per item
- Improper care of uniform- 1 demerit
- Wearing colored nail polish with any part of uniform/costume- 1 demerit
- Hair styled not according to expectation for rehearsal, performance, etc.- 1 demerit
- Negative teacher comments made FORMALLY to the director or assistant- 1 demerit
- Failure to cover any exposed body tattoos or piercing in any team performance attire- 1 demerit
- Unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing or degrading chants—3 demerits
- Receiving school detention—3 demerits
- Talking or moving during the National Anthem—4 demerits
- Unexcused absence from a game or dance function other than for another school event—5 demerits
- Receiving one day of OCS, Wednesday/Saturday school (for discipline), or swats—5 demerits
- Hazing—15 demerits
- Any behavior that causes embarrassment to our school (including actions on social media)—10 demerits
- Criminal activity, including an adjudication of an offense, deferred adjudication, or pleading guilty or no contest (or the equivalent) to charges of substance abuse or illegal use of alcohol or controlled substances (such as minor-in-possession, etc.)—15 demerits
- Being arrested—15 demerits
- Football season will have a separate expectation form and requirements. It will be handed out prior to football season.

The director may give a dance team member an opportunity to work off demerits within one week of receiving it; however, the amount of work done and the availability is at the discretion of the director. Furthermore, consistent and persistent infractions of dance team rules may result in demerits that are permanent.

Dance team members will not make disparaging remarks in any manner, including social media, about a fellow dance team member, a director, or Joshua High School. If he/she does, the consequences will be as follows:

- First offense – sit out an event
- Second offense – sit out an event
- Third offense – removal from the team

Dismissal/Removal

Dance team members will be immediately dismissed from the team for the following reasons.

- A dance team member transfers to another school
- A dance team member acquires 15 demerits
- A dance team member makes a third disparaging remark about a fellow teammate, sponsor, or Joshua High School.

Dance team members may be removed for the following:

- Persistent misbehaviors that result in multiple OCS placements.
- Behavior which the director deems inappropriate, including but not limited to, unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane behavior.

Placement in DAEP

If a student is placed in DAEP for a discretionary offense, the student is not allowed to participate in team activities while assigned to the DAEP. Upon return to the home campus, the student will be allowed to return to the team for the remainder of the year. If a student is placed in DAEP for a mandatory offense or a second DAEP placement for a discretionary offense, the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the year.

Director

The director may be allowed to place certain restrictions upon the members of the drill team at any time. This handbook is designed to be used as a guideline toward being the best you can be. Good judgment and common sense will be used when events are not covered in this handbook.

Grading

Dance team members receive grades based on participation in the completion of assigned duties.

Eligibility (No Pass, No Play)

Dance team members will be held to the UIL “No Pass, No Play” standards.” Grades shall be checked and monitored regularly, at the end of each grading period and at other times (three weeks and six weeks grading periods) as requested by the coach. Dance team members will have to provide Grade Check reports to show evidence of their eligibility.

A member failing a course will be ineligible to participate in accordance with current UIL eligibility guidelines, *TEA & UIL Side by Side: Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, on-line at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/files/tea-uil-side-by-side-15-16.pdf>. During the period of ineligibility, the member will dress out and participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies,

games, performances, etc. In addition, the member may not travel with the team to such functions.

A member who fails a class during a six-week grading period may not participate until UIL eligibility requirements are met (No Pass, No Play) and will be considered to be on probation for 15 school days (3 weeks). If after 3 weeks, the member is passing all classes, then he or she becomes eligible again after 4:00 p.m. on that Friday. If failing any class at a subsequent six-week grading period, the member will receive an additional 15 school days of probation. Honors exemptions may be granted according to UIL policy and will not be subject to the 15 probation days.

Equipment/Uniforms and Camp Clothes

- Uniforms and camp clothes will be selected and ordered in the spring. The director will make final selection decisions.
- Cost will not exceed \$1200 and will be the responsibility of the dance team member/manager and her parents.
- ALL individual dance bills are due by the designated date set by the director of the current year. Unpaid balances are subject to a 10% charge.
- Middle School invoices must be paid in full at the first summer practice.
- High School invoices must be paid in full by the date agreed upon in the payment understanding agreement.
- Failure to pay will determine eligibility of the person to fill the dance team member position. You can contact the director to make an appropriate payment plan. The final decision concerning eligibility will be the responsibility of the principal.

Elections

- Team size will be determined by the director with input from the judges.
- The candidates for the Varsity team will be in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade the following year.
- The candidates for the Middle School team will be in 7th & 8th grade the following year.
- The director of each team will decide how the leaders are chosen.
- All candidates should attend all practices and meetings. If for some reason they cannot attend, it is the candidate's responsibility to learn the given information and tryout material.
- The election will be held during the fifth six weeks of the year for the Varsity and dates will be made available for the Middle School elections. The dance team members will assume their responsibilities upon election.
- The candidate's tryout score will be based on judges' scores of performance and faculty recommendations. Scoring rubrics will be included in the campus tryout packet.
- All elected dance team members will be full time students in Joshua ISD and be able to participate in ALL dance team member functions.
- Dance team candidates must abide by all rules set forth in these guidelines as well as the JISD Student Handbook and other sections of the JISD Extracurricular Handbook. Extension: The rules and regulations in the handbooks are MINIMUM guidelines for the Joshua High School dance

program. Additional action regarding the rules and guidelines may occur if the director deems it necessary.

- Any rule clarification questions need to be brought before the director(s) prior to tryouts.
- Decision of the judges will be essential in determining each team; however, the final decision will be made by the directors and campus administrators.
- Transfer students from a previous drill team will be allowed to audition with a letter of recommendation from previous dance director. All individual auditions are left up to the director.
- A student is not allowed to try out for dance team if he or she quits the dance program the previous school year. A leave of absence or failure to complete the year due to circumstances beyond control will be considered a different matter, and will be reviewed by the dance director and principal prior to dance tryouts.

Varsity Dance Team Officer Elections

- The offices will consist of a Captain and Lieutenants as decided by the judges. Filling of vacancies during the year will be left to the discretion of the director.
- Eligibility: Tryouts are open to any returning Sweetheart who meets the following criteria:
 - Have been a member in good standing throughout the entire tryout year.
 - Make proper application and turn in by the date specified.
 - Be classified as a sophomore, junior or senior for the year in which they are auditioning.
 - Must prove worthy in leadership, character, and sportsmanship.
 - Must not have been suspended from any performance for a disciplinary reason.
 - Must not have a job that interferes with office duties.
- Officers are selected in a **closed** session by a panel of judges each school year with the seniors assisting with tryouts. Three outside judges will be contracted to judge the tryouts. Decision of the judges will be final.
- Duties and expectations will be defined in a contract between the officer and director.
- Additional Camps and Clothes will be required. The director will notify you of the fees as they come up.
- Social Officers and New Member Rep. will be given guidelines and application a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their scheduled audition.

Weekly Tryouts and Performances

- Weekly tryouts are required in order to participate in an upcoming performance.
- Tryouts will be announced and held at a time designated by the director.
- Tryouts are mandatory unless prior approval has been given by the director for extenuating circumstances.
- Factors such as attitude, manners, effort, number of demerits, as well as ability will be taken into consideration during tryouts. You are really trying out EVERY DAY of practice.
- If tryouts are missed, a member may not be allowed to perform due to adjusting choreography and renumbering the routine.
- Members not selected to perform will be designated as alternates and must participate in all practices and are required to attend the function as a part of the group in uniform.

- The only way a member may miss a practice after making the performance is a preapproved school activity. Doctor's appointments should NOT be scheduled during practice hours.
- The head officers with the help of the director/assistant director will judge weekly tryouts.
- Any member who is missing a part of their performance uniform or prop may not be allowed to perform.
- Transportation will be provided to away games, and ALL members will ride to the performance on the bus. ALL members will return on the bus. Bus rules MUST be followed.

Lettering/Honor Guidelines

Lettering in any extracurricular activity is an earned award. Only Varsity members are allowed to letter in any activity and a point system is used in order to make it a proud accomplishment. To letter in drill team a member must accumulate 40 points and meet the criteria listed below. Points will be awarded according to the following scale:

- Participating on the team for a full year and returning for the next year—5 points
- Participating as an officer/social officer for a full year—5 points
- Participating in Spring Show—5 points
- Participating in Christmas Show- 5 points
- Participating in the Children's Holiday Parade—5 points
- Participating in Football Season- 1 points per game/pep rally, not to exceed 15 points a season
- Receiving individual Kick or Dance recognition at camp—2 points
- Sweetheart of the Week—2 points
- Sweetheart of the Year—5 points
- All points earned will roll over to the next school year

The following criteria must also be met in order to letter:

- Must have completed one full year as a Sweetheart
- 25 merit points
- Pass ALL classes each six weeks
- Must have no more than 3 permanent demerits at time letter is awarded

Extracurricular UIL Handbook Acknowledgement Form

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information that will help with questions and pave the way for a successful year. This handbook supplements District and campus policies and procedures, and it does not replace them. Suggestions for additions and improvements to this handbook are welcome and may be sent to the appropriate administration.

This handbook is neither a contract nor a substitute for the official District policy manual. Rather, it is a guide and brief explanation of District extracurricular procedures. District procedures can change at any time. This manual is not meant to be all encompassing, and administration discretion may be used when deemed appropriate.

Student's Name _____

Year of Graduation _____

I hereby acknowledge receipt of my personal copy of the Joshua ISD Extracurricular Procedure Handbook. I agree to read the handbook and abide by the standards, policies, and procedures, defined or referenced in this document.

The information in the handbook is subject to change. I understand that changes in the District policies may supersede, modify, or eliminate the information summarized in this booklet. As the district provides updated policy information, I accept responsibility for reading and abiding by the changes.

I understand that I have an obligation to inform my extracurricular coaches/sponsors of any changes in personal information, such as phone numbers, address, etc. I also accept responsibility for contacting my extracurricular sponsor/coach or Directors of Athletics if I have any questions, concerns, or need further explanation.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent (Guardian)

Date

Please sign and date this form and return it to the appropriate coach/sponsor. Please keep the second copy for your personal records.