

**Westchester Academy for International Studies**  
**Silver Starz Dance Team Contract**

*Updated 09/09/09*

**The following are rules, regulations, responsibilities and criteria that all dance team members must adhere to in order to maintain his/her status as a member of the Silver Starz Dance Team. By signing this contract, the student & parent/guardian agree to abide by all rules, regulations, responsibilities and criteria as stated in this contract. If a team member is NOT following the rules, regulations, responsibilities and/or criteria of this contract the member shall be held responsible to the merit/demerit system that applies to the Silver Starz dance team.**

1. All members must have attended the 3 day open practice in September from 3:30 to 5:30 and mandatory parents' meeting as set in the information packets with the dance directors.
2. All members have the opportunity to audition for the Elite Team at the end of the school year as well as an officer position for the following year. Members may also have the opportunity to audition for select specialty dances by guest artists and/or directors. If a member is selected for any of these dances, they are expected to follow all team rules, regulations and responsibilities and expectations in regards to choreographer's practices, rehearsals and performances.
3. All members are expected to be at ALL set practice times that apply to each member in which they are a part of. The only excused absences that are acceptable are those that follow the approved reasons listed in the student handbook and/or academic. All other excuses are considered unacceptable (unless it constitutes an emergency) and could be reason for demerit. If a student must miss a practice due to the above reasons, they must notify the appropriate directors no later than 24 hours unless they have been assigned detention/homework hall, etc., in which they must follow proper procedure of team sign-in/out and notification to directors and/or captain; in an emergency, please let the director know ASAP.
4. All members have a responsibility to be **on time, warmed-up, focused** and ready for practice at the scheduled times. If a student must be tardy due to the reasons stated in the student handbook and/or an academic conflict, they must notify the appropriate directors. Tardiness is unacceptable and may be reason for demerit.
5. The directors reserve the right to understudy a member due to an injury/illness whatever the level of the injury and/or other viable situations. If a dancer is unable to participate due to an injury/illness, a doctor's note will be required prior to the dancer returning to any physical activity.

6. All members have a responsibility to **read** the dance team board outside of the team's office in the wood floor gym on a **daily** basis for any audition results, placement levels, scheduling and changes, announcements, costume fittings, job assignments and any other pertinent information. Team members will be held accountable for **NOT** reading the entirety of all information posted by dance directors and drill officers.
7. All members are encouraged to participate in all master classes, workshops, publicity and/or recruitment performances, program concert, and all tech and dress rehearsals associated with any given performance as directed by the directors, show/concert practices are mandatory for any member performing in an event, show or competition. The only excused absences that are acceptable are those that are approved reasons listed in the student handbook and/or academic. If a member has a conflict with any of the above mentioned expectations, he/she must notify the appropriate directors.
8. All members are required to attend practices that apply to each individual member based on involvement. Monday/Wednesday is Team practice 3:15 – 5:30, Tuesday is Elite team practice 3:15 – 5:30 and Thursday is Elite Team and Officer practice 3:15 – 6:30 with some Friday and Saturday practices scheduled ahead of time as necessary.
9. Explanation of Placement Levels within the Silver Starz Dance Team are as follows:
  - Drill Officer – includes captain, junior captain and lieutenants. Drill officer responsibilities can be found in the merit/demerit handout. Members must have been an officer for one year preceding the audition for a drill officer position, been a member of the team for one year (2 or more strongly encouraged), been a member of the Elite Team for one year and go through the officer audition and application process. Drill officers must be of 9<sup>th</sup> grade level to qualify. It is also encouraged that all Drill officers are leading performers, well rounded and technically strong in multiple genres of dance.
  - Team Production Officer – includes costume, public relations, historian, secretary, and events officers. TP officer responsibilities can be found in the merit/demerit handout. Members must have been a team member for one year preceding the audition for a TP officer position and encouraged to have either been an officer prior or have leadership experience, been a member of the Elite Team for one year and go through the officer audition and application process. TP officers must be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade level or higher to qualify. It is also encouraged that all TP officers are strong performers well rounded and technically strong in multiple genres of dance.
  - Level III Team Member – team members with several years of technical dance training and technically strong in multiple genres of dance and performance.
  - Level II Team Member – team members with 2-4 years of dance training and technically strong in at least two genres of dance and performance.
  - Level I Team Member – team members with 0-2 years of dance training and/or who needs continual technical study of dance under professional

teachers/directors and shows excellent potential in continuing his/her technical growth and performance abilities.

Understudy – to learn another’s role so as to be able to substitute and/or replace in that dance if necessary.

10. Members have the opportunity to be placed into a team level position which is chosen by the directors based upon dance training, experience, performance, interest and need. In addition, Drill officers and TP officers may be chosen to be a rehearsal assistant to the directors and/or guest for a dance.
  - Members may be asked by faculty or guest artists to be *rehearsal assistants* for any given dance. The role of the Student Rehearsal Assistant is to support the choreographer during rehearsal by taking care of the music, taking notes, teacher choreographer’s movement as instructed by choreographer, and/or anything else the choreographer may deem appropriate. This role is **NOT** the role of Rehearsal Director but rather an additional opportunity for the student. The role of Rehearsal Director will only be held by directors.
11. All members are responsible for a membership fee of \$50.00 and costume deposit of \$75.00. Members are also responsible for purchasing mandatory practice uniform including black dance pants, top, bra, tights, black jazz shoes, and 1 performance top. Members have the option to purchase black dance shorts, black Capri pants, and 1 additional top. Elite Team must purchase both black and tan jazz shoes for competitions, events, winter, spring concerts and multiple performances.
12. All members of the dance team are expected to act appropriately within the group as a whole and to respect each other as individuals and teammates. The Team’s goal is to work together as a unified group, enhance each other’s talents and individual potential, and benefit from performance opportunities in which continual growth and development as an individual team member/dancer can occur. Please note that any inappropriate representation, behavior and/or misuse of WAIS, the Silver Starz Dance Team, dance class/practice or towards the directors by way of verbal, written, internet or any other that deems as a threat, slander or defamation of the above listed as representative of the Silver Starz Dance Team, will be grounds for dismissal and action taken through the office and Westchester Academy for International Studies.
13. During performance, either on or off campus, all members are expected to act in a mature and professional manner as he/she is a representative of the Silver Starz Dance Team and Westchester Academy for International Studies. Students are responsible for staying with the group and must adhere to directors and WAIS rules and student handbook including student code of conduct. (*i.e. members are not allowed to leave the premises without prior permission from parent or guardian*).
14. Inappropriate behavior and/or a violation of rules/regulations can/may result in receiving demerits. Please refer to the merit/demerit handout for consequences.

15. All members of the team are entitled to give notice in writing to withdraw from the company for academic purposes, personal issues or any other situation that may arise. If this occurs, he/she must notify the directors within a timely manner (3 weeks) unless constituted as an emergency. If a member of the team chooses to leave based on personal or academic reasons, he/she is required to re-audition if he/she wants to rejoin the elite team and/or hold an officer position. Team members that withdraw can re-join the following school year.
16. If a member of the team is dismissed for his/her position, he/she is not allowed to re-audition nor rejoin the team the following consecutive year.
17. All members are required to sign a team contract every academic year and adhere to all team contract rules, regulations, responsibilities and criteria.
18. All members are required by the district to have a physical exam and submit proof of physical exam by the deadline scheduled at the beginning of each academic year. This is mandated to be on the dance team.