

BAKER HIGH SCHOOL
Dance Team

2023-2024
AUDITION PACKET

The award-winning Baker High School Dance Team serves to promote school pride as part of the visual ensemble within the Pride of Baker Marching Band. The team also performs at pep rallies, various community functions, and other Baker High School sporting events and performances.

The team has won numerous “best in class dance team” and superior awards at band competitions. Since 2017, the team has competed on the state level winning several 1st place titles for their Jazz routines and top 5 finishes for their Hip Hop routines. They brought home the Grand Champion Award in 2020 for their Jazz routine. The team has also competed on the national level in Jazz and Hip Hop since 2019 and has been ranked as high as 2nd place for their Spirit Showdown routine at DTU Nationals in 2022.

Potential candidates for the Baker Dance Team should understand the time and financial commitment required for membership. This is a year-round sport! All team members will practice May through February. Fall season fees are typically around \$1,500 and Competition season fees are around \$1,500. Fundraising opportunities are provided throughout the year to cover the costs of being a member of the team. Fee money covers uniforms and costumes, camp, choreography, registration fees and travel/accommodations.

**To be eligible for auditions, the following information must be turned in by
Friday March 3rd, 2023**

**Audition Application
Copy of Current Physical
Signed Dancer/Parent Agreement
\$30 Audition Fee
Copy of 1st Semester Report Card**

All items listed above must be turned in to Coach Kylie Williamson in a sealed envelope with your name printed on the outside. The audition fee should be cash or check made to Baker High School.

Students currently at Baker should turn in their packets to Coach Kylie Williamson in room 306 (back of gym) during 7th or 8th periods only. Students not currently at Baker may drop their completed packets off to the Baker front office, or mail to:

**Baker High School (Attn: Kylie Williamson)
8901 Airport Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36608**

2023-2024 Audition Process and Details

Audition Clinic

Wednesday March 15th – Thursday March 16th 3:30pm-5:30pm Baker Gym

During these three days, candidates will learn all required audition material.

Each day is mandatory and is closed to the public.

Formal Audition

Friday March 17th 3:30pm-until finished Baker Gym

All candidates will audition in front of a panel of judges. Formal auditions are closed to the public and all dancers must remain on campus until the conclusion of auditions.

What to Wear

Clinic Days:

Solid black tops & bottoms

(no logos or writing on clothing)

Jazz Shoes (tan or black – no bare feet!)

Tennis Shoes

Formal Audition:

Solid Black Ankle Length Leggings

Solid Black Leotard or Top (no crop tops)

**Performance makeup & hair

*No crop/bra tops and no shorts without tights

*Hair should be worn neatly off face

What to Expect:

Prior to auditions you should be able to perform the following technical skills on the right and left:

Grande Jete/Saut de chat

Leap in Second

Surprise Leap

Reverse Leap

Switch Arabesque

Calypso Leap

Turning Disc

Multiple Pirouettes

A la seconde Turns

Grande Battements

Kip Up

Front Headspring

Along with technical elements, dancers should be well rounded performers in jazz, hip-hop, and game-day styles. Performance qualities such as facial expression and projection are highly important, as well as flexibility, memorization, rhythm, strength and stamina, and overall execution of movement.

Candidates will be evaluated on a maximum of 3 progressions and 3 routines. Progressions may include any of the technical elements listed above. The three routines will be in the styles of Pom/Kick, Jazz, and Hip Hop. All progressions and routines will be performed in front of a panel of judges on Friday March 17th.

Call backs may be used if the judges wish to see a dancer again to eliminate a tie or a large gap in scores. Judges may request to see any material again. All candidates are required to stay until auditions are complete. The names of the 2023-2024 Baker Dance Team will be posted no later than 9pm on Friday March 17th on the Baker website and the Baker Dance Team Facebook page.

A new team meeting will be held on Tuesday March 21st at 5:30pm in the Baker Gym. All team members and at least 1 parent are required to attend. A \$250 deposit will be due at this meeting.

Audition Eligibility Requirements

1. Potential Baker Dance Team candidates must have a “C” average for one semester prior to auditions. Furthermore, potential candidates must not receive an “E” or an “Incomplete” as a semester grade in any subject for one semester prior to auditions.
2. Potential candidates may not be permitted to audition if they have been placed in retract more than once during the current school year.
3. Potential candidates may not be permitted to audition if they have been suspended from school during the current school year.
4. If a potential candidate is injured or lives out of state at the time of auditions and will attend Baker High School for the upcoming school year, a video audition may be used to document the required skills and technique. A panel of judges will evaluate the dancers video performance and score accordingly.
 - a. For injured candidates, the video must have been filmed within the last calendar year and the material in the video must clearly represent similar skills and technical elements equivalent to the audition material.
 - b. For out of state candidates, videos of the audition material will be provided for you to perform and record your own video. *Arrangements must be made with Coach Kylie at least one week prior to the first day of auditions. Your video must be available for the judges to watch on the last day of auditions (Friday March 17th).
 - c. Dancers who need either of these options must communicate with Coach Williamson prior to the start of auditions. No videos or virtual auditions will be approved after Friday March 3rd.
5. Candidates must attend all 3 days of auditions and turn in the following to be eligible for auditions:
 - a. Audition Application
 - b. Current Physical
 - c. \$30.00 Fee (non-refundable/cash or check made to Baker High School)
 - d. Copy of 1st semester report card
 - e. Signed Dancer/Parent Agreement
 - f. Returning Candidates Only: you must participate in a 5-minute interview with Coach Williamson, which will reflect on your performance, grades, work ethic, and level of commitment from the previous season.

If you are selected for the team...

Dancers who are chosen for the 2023-2024 Baker High School Dance Team should expect to begin practice and workouts in May, attend a DTU Summer Camp in June, attend mandatory practices and workouts throughout the summer, attend 1 week of choreography camp to learn the halftime show at the end of July, and attend 1 week of full marching band camp at the end of July.

During the school year, dance team members are enrolled in a class with Coach Williamson to rehearse during school and are required to attend full band rehearsal on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3pm-5pm. Mondays are reserved for any additional after school practice time that may be required in the Fall. The dance team performs at school pep rallies, and with the Pride of Baker Marching Band at all Hornets Football games, in the Dawes Christmas parade, and several Mardi Gras parades. All practices and performances are mandatory unless otherwise approved by Coach Williamson.

The Baker Dance Team will also attend a DTU regional competition in January/February and a DTU Nationals in February/March. Additional fundraising opportunities will be available to assist with the costs of these trips. Auditions may be held for each competition routine. Dancers are not promised placement in any competition routine. Additional (after school on Tues/Thurs and some weekends) rehearsal time will be necessary, and all dancers are expected to attend.

Being a member of the Baker Dance Team is not only a huge time commitment but also a large financial commitment. Dancers who are chosen for the team will be required to make a \$250 payment at the dancer/parent meeting on **Tuesday March 21st at 5:30pm**. Fees will be divided into smaller payments beginning in April and must be paid in full by November. Fees will be approximately \$1,500 for the Fall season and \$1,500 for the competition season. Several fundraising opportunities are provided to ease the burden of paying these large amounts.

Baker High School Dance Team members are ambassadors of our school and are expected to follow all school rules and behave appropriately, maturely, and responsibly always. Academics should be a priority for all Baker Dance Team members. A dancer should be able to balance schoolwork and a busy dance schedule, as well as personal responsibilities.

A team member packet will be given at the meeting that will outline all requirements of dancers and parents, fundraising opportunities, summer schedule, and a tentative competition schedule. All 2023-2024 dance team members and at least one parent is required to attend the meeting.

Baker High School Dance Team
Coach Kylie Williamson
251-221-3000 ext. 10021 kwilliamson2@mcpss.com

2023-2024
BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

Dance Team

DANCER/PARENT AGREEMENT FORM

Dance Team Candidate Name (Please Print): _____

I, the parent/guardian of the above-named candidate, have read all information presented in this audition packet. I acknowledge the time and financial commitment involved in this team. I understand Coach Kylie Williamson has final say in my daughter making and remaining on the team. I understand Coach Kylie Williamson will have the ultimate decision on girls that will perform in pep rally routines, at football games, other performance opportunities, and if they will compete or not. I will support Coach Kylie Williamson's decisions when making formations and routines, I understand that my daughter will not always be highlighted or in the prime formation location. I understand I will be called upon to help (within my ability and capacity to help) in some way throughout the year. I will make every effort to do my share in assisting the dance team on behalf of my dancer. I also understand and will follow the appropriate chain of command (Coach then Principal) if I have a concern or question

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

As a potential member of a Baker High School Dance Team, I have fully read the audition packet and know what is expected of me to remain a team member in good standing. I understand that my role as a dancer goes beyond the athleticism and time commitment of the sport and that it includes the expectation that I will be a school leader of outstanding character. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all the rules and I realize that the consequences of defiant behavior could result in suspension or removal from the team. Finally, I promise to respect my Dance Team Coach, my teammates, my school, and all persons associated with Baker High School at all times. I will understand and respect coach's decisions regarding uniforms, routines, formations, and competition.

Dance Team Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

2023-2024
BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

Dance Team

AUDITION APPLICATION

Dancer's Name _____ Age _____

Current Grade Level _____ Current School _____

Your Cell Phone # _____ Your Email Address _____

Parent(s) Names _____

Parent Phone # _____

Parent Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone # _____

Why do you want to be a member of the Baker Dance Team?

Describe your dance experience (training, companies/teams, etc.)

Packet Checklist:

_____ \$30 Fee (cash/check – payable to Baker High School)

_____ Copy of Current Physical

_____ Copy of progress report/report card

_____ Signed Dancer/Parent Agreement