

**Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School
Dance Team**

By-laws

The name of the organization shall be "Sparklers".

Purpose

The purpose of Sparklers is to provide an outlet for students to develop and perform dance skills and to build leadership skills and friendships.

Membership

Membership in Sparklers will be determined through a tryout process based on the following:

Bruner Middle School
Dance Team Tryout Requirements and Criteria

A four day mandatory dance clinic from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. will start on Monday, May 10, 2010, and conclude on Thursday, May 13, 2010. During the clinic applicants will learn all the necessary technique and the tryout dance to be judged on the last day. The maximum number of points available for tryouts is 535. The following criteria will determine the applicants' final scores:

1. Grades: 0-30 points times 1 = 30
2. Teach Evaluations Average: 0-40 points times 1 = 40
3. Technique: 0-80 points times 3 = 240
4. Dance: 0-75 points times 3 = 225
5. Grand total = 535

Component 1: Grades

Based on each 9 weeks grades through the 3rd grading period, starting with 30 points, two points will be subtracted for every C. Four points will be subtracted for every D, and six points will be subtracted for an F. A student must maintain a 2.0 GPA on their report card to try out for Sparklers. Regardless of overall GPA, more than one F over the first three nine weeks grading periods will eliminate a student from trying out.

Component 2: Teacher Evaluations

Six teacher evaluations must be completed by each candidate's current teachers. If in elementary school, past teachers, librarians, and administrators may be used. Each evaluation is worth 40 points. The six evaluations will be averaged for a maximum of 40 points.

Component 3: Technique

Technique consists of all the fundamentals of dance. Technique evaluations will include splits, leaps, Arabian leaps, barrel leaps, axles, pirouettes, chaine' turns, and toe touches. This portion of the tryout will be judged as an individual category, and will also be judged in the context of the dance as well. The maximum amount of points for the individual category is 80 points per judge, times three judges, to equal 240 points.

Component 4: Dance

A dance will be taught the first three days of clinic. The applicants will perform the dance with a partner on the day of the tryout. The maximum amount of points available for the dance is 75 points, times three judges, for a total of 225 points. Points are based on remembering the choreography, timing, execution of technique, facial expressions, and overall impression.

There is only one day for tryouts. There will be no make-up tryouts. Parents cannot be present during the clinic or tryouts. Clinic applicants should wear: shorts, sweat pants, or jazz pants; a tee shirt or tank; and tennis or jazz shoes. Please do not wear jewelry, and make sure your hair is pulled away from your face. **In order to try out, all applicants must have: student and parent commitment application, a copy of your current physical examination form, medical release waiver, six teacher evaluations, a non-refundable clinic fee of \$20, and a copy of your report card through the third nine weeks grading period.**

Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School
Dance Team Tryout Commitment Application

Student Commitment

I have read and understand the information provided in this packet concerning the students who are trying out for the Sparklers Dance Team. I understand that there is a three day clinic and fourth day tryout, and no make-up tryout will given. If selected to be a member of the team, I will abide by the regulations to the best of my ability. At all times I will conduct myself in a manner that best represents the students and faculty at Bruner Middle School.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Commitment

My child, _____, has my permission to try out for the Sparklers. I have read and understand the information provided in this packet. If my child becomes a member of the team, I will encourage my Sparkler to maintain academic eligibility and abide by the rules. I understand that the school and sponsor/coach assume no financial obligation due to expenses, uniforms, or any injury/accident that might occur at tryouts, school, practice, camps, parades, games, competitions, or any event associated with the team. I understand that my child must be covered by

school or private insurance to try out and be on the team; a medical release waiver and physical examination are required, too. I understand that I cannot watch clinic or tryouts.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership in Sparklers after being accepted through the tryout process implies acceptance of and adherence to the standards described in the following contract:

Bruner Middle School Dance Team Contract

All team members and parents/guardians are responsible for understanding and adhering to this contract.

Academic Responsibilities

1. All Sparklers must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA on report cards for each 9 week grading period. If a Sparkler receives less than a 2.0 GPA on a report card, the dancer will be placed on probation until the next progress report (4 ½ weeks) shows improvement. If the progress report does not show improvement, the dancer will stay on probation until the 9 weeks report card shows improvement. Probation does not excuse the member from practices. It means that the team member will not be allowed to perform at any events during the probation period.
2. If a Sparkler receives an "F" on her report card, she will be placed on probation until the next progress report shows improvement. At the discretion of the coach, the dancer may have to attend extra instruction in the failed subject during 6th period dance class. If the progress report does not show improvement, the dancer will stay on probation until the 9 weeks report card shows improvement. If she receives another "F" on her report card during any 9 week grading period, she will be off the team permanently.
3. If a Sparkler earns two or more "F's" on her report card at any time, she will be excused from the team permanently.

General Information

1. All practices are mandatory. All other obligations should be planned accordingly. An absence, approved or unapproved, from practice will be justification for suspension from any or all future performances of the particular dance that was practiced on the day of the absence. If the absent dancer would like to be included in any future performance of the dance in question, it will be her responsibility to meet with another Sparkler on their time to learn the missed choreography. The Sparkler must then try out for the opportunity to be included in any future performances of the dance. All decisions regarding who will dance in a performance are left to the discretion of the coach.
2. Summer camp is mandatory. This is when we will learn all dances for the year.

3. Participation in performances is mandatory. Performances include, but are not limited to, home, football games, home basketball games, pep rallies, parades, competitions, exhibitions, and community performances.
4. Unexcused absences from performances hurt the rest of the team and will result in four weeks of probation and three demerits.
5. Any Sparkler who quits the team will not be allowed to try out the next year.
6. Any Sparkler who quits the team cannot wear any Sparkler-related attire.

Fundraisers

1. The dance team will participate in a variety of mandatory fundraisers. The ultimate goal of the fundraisers is to minimize the financial dependency on our team's parents.
2. Monies raised will go towards team expenses, social activities, competitions, awards, etc.
3. Items purchased with team money will be considered the property of Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School.
4. Any fundraising activity that involves contact with the general public should be heavily supervised by the parent/guardian of the Sparkler. Solicitations should be made to familiar individuals only.
5. The handling of all funds shall be governed by the rules established in the Internal Bookkeeping Manual developed by the Okaloosa County School Board.

Transportation

1. Please make sure you know exactly what time you will need rides to and from Sparkler events. Transportation is the responsibility of the Sparkler and parents/guardians. The sponsor/coach will not transport any dancers and will not be responsible for finding transportation to and from any of the practices or performances.
2. Transportation arrangements for practices and performances must be made in advance. The front office does not allow phone calls during school hours, and there is not a phone at most performance sites. Do not wait until an event is over to call for pickup or you will receive two demerits, and at the discretion of the coach may be excluded from one or more future performances to insure proper attention is given to timing in the future.
3. Sparklers are required to wait as a group after performances and practices. Parents must personally pick their Sparkler up from the designated meeting place after each performance. Dancers will not be able to meet parents in parking lots or any other location or ride home with anyone other than their parent or guardian. Any dancer or parent that does not want to personally come to the sponsor to pick up their Sparkler must sign a self-release agreement relieving the sponsor/coach of liability.
4. Parents, your actions and level of responsibility concerning transportation of your child will directly affect the number of demerits your dancer receives. Picking up your dancer late will result in 2 demerits per occurrence, and at the discretion of the coach may result in exclusion

from one or more future performances to insure proper attention is given to timing in the future.

5. If necessary, carpooling arrangements should be discussed amongst the parents as soon as possible. Self-release agreements will be required regarding this matter.

Committees

The levels of enjoyment and success of the team are totally dependent on the involvement of every Sparkler and parent/guardian on the various committees. The following committees will be formed at the first parent/dancer meeting, and the chairperson will be responsible for organizing and handling the arrangements for the events.

1. Social Committee – responsibilities include hosting or arranging for various social events outside of school. Three or four socials should be planned for the year.
2. Awards Banquet Committee – responsibilities include selecting a location and menu, preparing invitations, ordering awards, decorating, etc.
3. Photography Committee – responsibilities include taking pictures at events and sending them to the slide show committee and yearbook staff at Bruner.
4. Slide Show Committee – responsibilities include taking videos, collecting pictures, and preparing a slide show presentation for the banquet.

Responsibilities and Discipline

It is very important that all Sparklers display the core values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, cooperation, and consideration when representing Bruner Middle School. You have been selected because of a combination of your academic performance, behavior, and attitude in the classroom, and overall talent in dance. Exceptional behavior, including attitude, in school is required. Bruner teachers should enjoy Sparklers as students. Demerits issued for lack of social responsibility or respect for the teachers and staff at Bruner is left to the sole discretion of the sponsor.

Working as a team can be difficult if everyone is not giving 100%. Rules are established to help maintain unity. The actions of each and every Sparkler, as well as the actions of their parents/guardians, affect the whole team. Therefore, it is necessary to discipline the negative actions that are so disruptive to the natural flow of events. Disciplinary actions will be based upon a system of demerits seen below. If a Sparkler obtains 10 demerits, she will be placed on probation for four weeks. If she obtains 5 more demerits for a total of 15, then she will be required to go before the Bruner Middle School administration and sponsor/coach who will hear her case. At that time, the panel will decide whether or not she will be allowed to stay on the team under a signed behavior contract. All decisions concerning demerits and removal from the team are left to the discretion of the sponsor/coach and administrators of Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School. Demerits will be issued according to the offense as described below. If an offense is not specifically listed, the sponsor maintains the right to determine the number of demerits issued based on the severity of the offense.

Examples of one demerit offenses:

Excessive talking

Public display of affection

Arguing
Negative attitude
Wearing jewelry
Wrong practice uniform
Forgetting parts of uniform

Tardy
Profanity
Chewing gum
Poor sportsmanship

Examples of two demerit offenses:

Tardy for performance	Minor office referral
Lack of honesty	Behavior problems
Cheating	Late pickup
Detention	Out of assigned area
Wearing uniform unnecessarily	Transportation issues

Examples of three demerit offenses:

Unexcused absence from performance + 4 weeks probation
Major office referral

Examples of offenses that will result in immediate, permanent removal from the team:

Possession and/or use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
Suspension
Expulsion

Dance Team Contract Agreement

Parent Commitment:

I have read, understood, and agreed to the conditions set forth in the dance team contract at Bruner Middle School. I know that the rules are put in place to help make our squad a success. Mrs. Satterfield has thoroughly explained to me the importance of my role as a parent, with respect to the dance team. I understand that my actions will affect my daughter's ability to stay on the team, and I will make every effort to be a positive role model for my daughter and other team members. I am aware that I am expected to participate in fundraisers and chaperoning, and I will apply for volunteer approval with the county. I am aware that Mrs. Satterfield and the Bruner administration have the right to administer demerits to my Sparkler in any manner they see fit and that all decisions regarding my daughter's participation in any dance, fundraiser, performance, or event are left to the sole discretion of said persons.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sparkler Commitment:

I have read, understood, and agreed to the conditions set forth in the Bruner Middle School dance team contract. I know that the rules are put in place to help make our squad a success. Mrs. Satterfield has thoroughly explained to me the importance of my role on the team. I understand that my actions at and away from school will affect my ability to stay on the team, and I will make every effort to be a positive role model for other Bruner students. I am aware that I am expected to fully participate in all fundraisers, practices, performances, parades, and other events sponsored by the Sparklers. I am aware that Mrs. Satterfield and the Bruner administration have the right to administer demerits to me in any manner they see fit and that all decisions are left to the sole discretion of said persons.

Sparkler Signature: _____ Date: _____

General Meeting

General meetings of the membership shall be held Monday through Friday during sixth period and after school on an as needed basis. Informational meetings for parents will be held on an as needed basis and will be announced in advance via written communication. Minutes will be kept by the sponsor for public review.

Officers

1. There shall be a sponsor/coach who will be selected by the Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School administration.
 - a. Duties shall be handling all operational elements of the team to include, but not limited to, tryouts, parent meetings, choreography, uniform selection and ordering, competitions, games, performances, etc.
 - b. Vacancies will be filled by the Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School administration.
2. There shall be one or two captains who will be selected by the sponsor/coach.
 - a. Duties will be year-round and shall include leading practices and other small duties as determined by the sponsor/coach.
 - b. Vacancies will be filled by the sponsor/coach.
3. There shall be one or two co-captains who will be selected by the sponsor/coach.
 - a. Duties will be year-round and shall include assisting with practices and other small duties as determined by the sponsor/coach.
 - b. Vacancies will be filled by the sponsor/coach.

Amendments and Review

The By-Laws may be amended by the sponsor/coach or administration of Max Bruner, Jr., Middle School at any time provided that all changes become approved through the general meeting of the School Advisory Council. By-laws should be submitted to the By-laws committee for review no later than March 1 of each year in accordance with Florida Statute 4-39 of Statutory Authority: Sections 1001.41; 1001.42. This will insure organizational by-laws will be reviewed well before tryouts.