

2020 - 2021

MARK  
KEPPEL  
DANCE COMPANY  
Audition Application

**Application Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2020**

[www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts](http://www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts)

Instagram: @MKHSDANCE

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mkhsdance](http://www.facebook.com/mkhsdance)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/mkhsdance](http://www.youtube.com/mkhsdance)

## Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a member of the MKHS Dance Company. This application packet is meant to provide you and your family with all the details and information regarding the dance company VIRTUAL audition process, as well as discuss the expectations of all dance company student members for the coming school year. The Dance Company & **Honors** Dance Company classes at Mark Keppel High School are composed of both the Dance Team AND All-Male Hip Hop Team (MKAM).

Students who are accepted onto the *Dance Team* will create polished choreographic works in a variety of styles and genres (i.e. jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip-hop, kick, character, pom, military, etc). The Dance Team is sub-divided into 3 different company levels that will be assigned to students who make it onto the team following our virtual tryouts:

Diamond Elite: students who are cast onto at least 3 competition routines after tryouts and have mastered a double pirouette

Platinum: students who are cast onto at least 1 competition routine after tryouts; must cast for participation in additional comp routines

Gold: students who prefer to train/perform in one style only (i.e. hip hop), and must cast for participation in competition routines

Students who are accepted onto the *All-Male Team (MKAM)* will create and perform dance works mostly in the style of hip hop, but will still receive training in all styles of dance. All members work with fellow teammates to create complex movement projects that reflect their own ideas and creativity, while acquiring and incorporating advanced-level movement skills (i.e. gymnastics, tumbling, tricks, etc).

Students who are accepted onto Dance Team or All Male after tryouts will automatically be enrolled in either "Dance Company" or "Honors Dance Company" in 7th/8th Period (All incoming 9th graders will be enrolled in both Dance Company **and** Intermediate Dance - instead of the required general P.E. class). The Dance Company class counts for P.E. credit, Fine Art credit, or Elective credit. Students who will be starting grades 10-12 in the fall are eligible to be enrolled in "Honors Dance Company" (dependent on their performance at auditions and/or permission from Mr. Arroyo, the MKHS Dance Teacher). MKHS is one of the only high schools in L.A. County that offers a UC-weighted HONORS dance curriculum. Any students who wish to transfer from other schools to MKHS for enrollment in the "Honors Dance Company" course must go through the Dance Team or All Male tryout process to be considered.

## Expectations

Throughout the school year, Dance Company teams perform at school functions (i.e. athletic games, pep rallies, assemblies). Students also perform in the community, throughout Southern California, and out-of-state. During the Winter and Spring seasons, we represent MKHS at regional, state, and national competitions. Next year we plan to perform at events in San Diego (CA), Las Vegas (NV), and possibly Texas (to teach students about maintaining professionalism while touring as an ensemble). In Spring, we produce our annual dance concert which is the main highlight of our year. With so many performance opportunities to work towards, students and families must understand that this level of dedication requires many extra hours of rehearsal time and other commitments. **Please Note...**

1. Regardless of any Dance Company responsibilities, a student's first and foremost obligation is their commitment to academics. School comes first, and you must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA all year long to perform as a member of the MKHS Dance Company. This is an Alhambra Unified School District policy. You will not perform if your GPA falls below this threshold.
2. After auditions, some students will be invited to participate in Hip Hop Training in Van Nuys (during the month of June), as well as Dance Camp (required for Dance Team Diamond Elite members, and optional for all others).
3. Depending on California state guidelines regarding COVID-19 quarantine laws, dance company members will be **REQUIRED** to attend mandatory summer practice starting July 13, 2020 through August 6, 2020 (only if social distancing guidelines are deemed safe for students, and approved by Alhambra Unified School District. If we are allowed to have summer rehearsals, these practices will occur Monday thru Thursday during the above-mentioned dates (2pm-6pm). You will also have the opportunity to attend additional dance workshops located throughout California. More information will be provided to selected students after auditions. If you are going on family vacation during this time, you will be excused from participating in this summer training opportunity.
4. During the school year, students are **REQUIRED** to participate in mandatory after-school rehearsals beginning during 7th period at 2:45pm and ending at 6:00pm (Mon-Thurs), and Saturday practices every other weekend from 9am-12:30pm. We also attend 5-6 competitions per year. Please DO NOT schedule SAT prep classes or other activities on these days! Special exceptions can be made for students receiving private dance studio training outside of school, but only occasionally.

### 2020-2021 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<b>JULY 13 - AUGUST 6</b>	MON - TUES - WED - THURS	2PM - 6PM
<b>SCHOOL YEAR</b>	MON - TUES - WED - THURS (SAT)	2:45PM - 6PM (SAT 9AM - 12:30PM)

There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the above expectations and rehearsal schedule. Chronic absences or tardies **WILL** result in immediate removal from the Dance Company class. Students may not enroll in any other academic course during 7th period next year. If you are planning to take a summer family trip that conflicts with the summer rehearsal schedule please notify me after tryouts so I can excuse the absence. Please use the above dates and expectations to plan your personal life schedules in advance. This is a graded class! Do not let your team down! There are no rehearsals during official days off from school, fall break, winter break, or spring break.

## Financial Considerations

It is important to clarify some details regarding costs associated with performance uniforms and rehearsal supplies. Families are encouraged to voluntarily contribute the below requested donation amounts to help their students make our annual fundraising goals more affordable for everyone else on the team. Each student's donated funds help pay for uniforms, team spiritwear, rehearsal/performance footwear, and dance competition entry fees. The requested donation for Dance Company members is different for Dance Team and All-Male. For *Dance Team*, the requested donation for new members is \$400 for the year (\$275 for returning members). For *All-Male*, the requested donation for new members is \$250 for the year (\$200 for returning members). PARENTS: Please remember that your student's team donation amount is TAX-DEDUCTIBLE! We will issue you a tax-deductible receipt!

All students shall participate in fundraisers throughout the school year to help us afford additional items not included above, such as: performance costumes, dance workshops, travel/airfare, hotel lodging, choreographers, dance concert production, music production, set/prop design, and touring. Our first team fundraiser will begin once all Dance Company participants go through the audition process and have been selected. As students raise money during this first fundraiser, any money they raise can go towards lowering their requested donation amount as listed above (or can go towards their team account). You may donate in one payment OR use the following schedule to break-up any requested donations into multiple installments:

<b>DONATION DUE DATE</b>	<b>DANCE TEAM (New Member)</b>	<b>DANCE TEAM (Returning)</b>	<b>ALL MALE HIP HOP (New Member)</b>	<b>ALL MALE HIP HOP (Returning)</b>
<b>July 13</b>	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
<b>August 10</b>	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	-
<b>September 7</b>	\$100.00	-	-	-

Students who lack supplies and/or uniforms may still participate in daily rehearsals during the school day as a member of the team, but may not be allowed to perform at other events outside of the school day. Students with questions or concerns regarding donations should see me privately *before* auditioning. If your family is experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, please email me!

## Audition Requirements

1) Download this application, print out the last page, fill it out with parent and student signatures. Then take a picture or scan it as a PDF file. Either option is fine.

2) Choose **ONLY ONE** of the following three options for tryouts:

**OPTION #A:** Learn a dance routine taught by this year's graduating seniors in the video provided. The video will be uploaded to our youtube channel, and also to our website ([www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts](http://www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts)). We will also provide the music for download. Learn the routine, and then record yourself performing the routine FULL OUT! Make sure to perform everything that is expected of you depending on which team you are auditioning for (i.e. Dance Team or All Male Hip Hop).

**OPTION #B:** Choreograph and perform your own dance routine that is AT LEAST 30 SECONDS in length. Record this as a video. You may use any music you choose, but must include the following dance elements. If you don't know what these dance elements are, then choose a different option:

*Dance Team Routine Requirements: Your routine must include a double pirouette AND toe touch*

*All Male Hip Hop Routine Requirements: Your routine must include a Kip-Up*

**OPTION #C:** Submit a video of a past dance performance in which you demonstrate advanced dance movement skills in hip hop OR any technical dance genre (i.e. jazz, contemporary, lyrical, ballet, acro-dance/gymnastics). You may send multiple videos if you wish. This option is best for students with previous dance training or advanced dance experience.

3) Upload your signed application and video option from above to either a dropbox folder, google drive folder, or email attachment. Email everything you are submitting to: [arroyo\\_activate@ausd.us](mailto:arroyo_activate@ausd.us)

## Audition Results

Results will be posted on INSTAGRAM @MKHSDANCE on Monday, May 18, 2020. Students who are selected for the 2020-2021 MKHS Dance Company **MUST** attend a mandatory ZOOM meeting which will be held Monday, May 18, 2020 from 6pm-7pm. A zoom link will be emailed AND sent through the Remind app for everyone accepted into dance company, **ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!** So please keep that evening free (in case you are selected).

### **Conclusion**

These are challenging times. But we will get through this. And I truly look forward to continue developing this program over the coming years with the support of the school administration, dance company student members, and their families. I wish all the applicants the best of luck in the audition process. As we say in the dance world, good luck and break a leg!

Go Aztecs!!!

Sincerely,

**Mr. Activate Arroyo**

Teacher | Dance Arts Department

Director | MKHS Dance Company (Dance Team & All-Male)

Mark Keppel High School

501 E. Hellman Ave.

Alhambra, CA 91801

[www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts](http://www.mkhsdance.com/tryouts)

P.S. – The Dance Company audition application form is attached on the next page! Remember, the signed form and your videos must be received no later than Friday, May 15, 2020. NO EXCEPTIONS! Late applications will not be accepted! We will hold auditions again in the fall once school starts. But spots will be limited. Again, best of luck to all applicants.

# ***HEY PARENTS!***



## **DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MKHS DANCE COMPANY...**

- 1. Keeps your child out of trouble after-school**
- 2. Forces your child to stay committed to academics! Recent studies show a correlation between improved grades, behavior and work habits as a result of students' involvement in after-school activities.**
- 3. Helps your child maintain physical fitness by staying active after-school (and allows 9th graders to pass the required federal physical fitness test).**
- 4. Teaches your child how to manage their time and prioritize various tasks and commitments, which is important for college life and career plans.**
- 5. Builds self-esteem and a healthy self-image in your child.**
- 6. Allows your child to make a contribution to their school and local community (which is an important step in preparing them for life outside of academics).**
- 7. Helps your child develop the skills they need in order to successfully work with others.**
- 8. Counts for P.E. credit, Fine Art Credit, and Elective Credit towards high school graduation and A-G UC/CSU requirements.**
- 9. Gives your child an opportunity to develop social skills and build self-esteem with other students who have the same work ethic and common interests.**
- 10. Can be used to earn service hours with the National Honors Society for Dance Arts (and earn an honor cord to wear with their cap & gown at MKHS graduation).**

# MKHS Dance Company Application

(Application Deadline: Friday, 5/15) - PRINT & EMAIL THIS APPLICATION & VIDEOS TO: [aroyo\\_activate@ausd.us](mailto:aroyo_activate@ausd.us)

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Current School \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

1) Which dance company "team" are you auditioning for? **Please Circle:** DANCE TEAM or ALL-MALE

2) If applying for DANCE TEAM, do you wish to participate in Hip Hop routines only? **Please Circle:** YES or NO

3) If you don't get accepted, do you want to enroll in our **Intermediate Dance** class? YES or NO

## **STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I have read this application packet with my parent/guardian, and am aware of all the responsibilities and rehearsal obligations that are expected of me as a potential Dance Company member. I understand all the requirements necessary to participate in the audition process. If I am absent from school on the date of the audition, or if I am not prepared for my audition (i.e. missing music), I forfeit this application and will not be given a make-up audition. In the event that I am accepted onto the MKHS Dance Company, I agree to comply with the attached rehearsal and voluntary donation schedule. Failure to do so may result in probation (performance suspension), as well as possible removal from the team. If I do not maintain the academic requirements listed in this application on my final report card this year, I will be removed from the team immediately. In the event that I am dismissed from the team for any reason, I understand that any dance company donations will be forfeited by me and my parents, and I will not receive a refund.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION**

I have read this application packet with my son/daughter, and am aware of all the responsibilities that are expected as an MKHS Dance Company member. I hereby give permission for my child to participate in the audition. In the event that my son/daughter is accepted onto the MKHS Dance Company, I understand that both myself and my child will be asked to sign a contract that outlines all of the responsibilities and guidelines for successful participation. I also agree that my child comply with the rehearsal days/times, mandatory performance dates, and voluntary donation schedule. Failure to do so may result in my child's probation from participation in Dance Company activities, as well as possible removal from the team. As a result of removal from the Dance Company for any reason (i.e. eligibility, contract violations, behavior, etc), I understand that any previously made donations will be forfeited and neither myself, nor my child, will receive a refund.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address (REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Cell Phone Number (REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Primary Language (REQUIRED)