It is time for Dance Team tryouts for Ringgold Middle School! Parents should read this entire packet before giving their consent. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN March 22nd**

We will not take late applications. The application can be accessed at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KmPyeJU5hZJkDqJnzkBGHcFvh-1WFHdgGlyVXYTGZXS/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KmPyeJU5hZJkDqJnzkBGHcFvh-1WFHdgGlyVXYTGZXS/)

Tryouts are the week of March 27-29th. Tryouts will be held at Ringgold Middle School in the Auxiliary Gym Wednesday time is from 4:45-6:15 and Thursday and Friday 3:30-5:30. Girls will be taught tryout material on **March 27th and 28th with tryout being the 29th.** Attendance is NOT mandatory for the 27th & 28th; however material will only be taught once and your score is based off of this material.

March 27 & 28 girls should wear shorts and tee shirts with hair up and away from face.

For tryouts on March 29th girls should wear black shorts, white tee shirts, tennis shoes or jazz shoes and plain white hair bow (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Results will be posted on March 29th by 9pm on the RMS webpage. Instructions on how to see results will be given to each girl after tryouts. Score sheets are confidential and will not be open for review.

The RMS Dance team will be a competition team this year as well as performing at Football and Basketball games.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. A candidate must currently be enrolled or planning to attend RMS during the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.
2. A candidate must meet No Pass/No Play guidelines.
3. A candidate must have a good attendance record. (Not missing more than 5 days per semester excused/unexcused).
4. **A candidate must have satisfactory conduct report.**
5. Each candidate must carry school insurance or present a signed waiver by parents stating they have adequate insurance.
6. Each candidate must turn in a Parental Permission Form to tryout.(Google Form)
7. Each candidate must turn in a physical on the school form. These forms can be picked up in the main office or downloaded/printed from [http://ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/forms/GHSA-PPE-4.pdf](http://ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/forms/GHSA-PPE-4.pdf)
8. A candidate must request 2 teacher recommendations and have those returned by March 20th. It is the candidate’s responsibility to follow through and make sure they were received. These will be shared between teachers through Google Forms.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts are conducted as fairly as possible. Judges' rating on performance of the jazz dance, hip hop dance, pom motions and KLT will be used to score the candidates as well as teacher recommendations. Judges' decisions are final, and the scores will NOT be open for inspection. The number of girls to be on the squad has not been predetermined, and no member of the squad has been pre-selected. Please be advised, special consideration will not be given to those who have previously danced at RMS or any other school. Even though experience may help your child to do a better job, it will not matter to the judges, since they will not know how many years of dance or gymnastics she has received. Keep in mind that if your child does not make the squad, she may try out again next year as long as she is still eligible.

Girls should wear tennis shoes, socks, and a comfortable shorts outfit to every practice for tryouts. Please pick your child up promptly after each session. All practices for tryouts are strictly closed sessions, this also includes the final judging. This means no one other than the girls trying out, judges, and coaches are allowed to observe. No exceptions will be made for any reason.

1. The tryouts consist of performing skills in front of a panel of judges.
2. All skills will be graded on the basis of the level of perfected execution. There are 5 categories that the judges will be scoring. The 5 categories are as follows:
   - Jazz Dance
   - Hip Hop Dance
   - Pom Motions
   - KLT
   - Teacher recommendations, behavior record, and attendance
3. The judges are chosen on the basis of their expertise in dance. They are selected from outside of the RMS community if possible.
4. All dances and motions necessary for tryouts are taught at the clinic conducted by previous dancers (upcoming 9th graders).

Requirements

A. Coaches' Scores: During tryouts cheerleaders are observed for the following qualities:

   1. A positive attitude
   2. Willingness to work hard
   3. Leadership potential
   4. Responsibility
   5. Willingness to cooperate with others
   6. Ability to listen well and follow instructions quickly
B. Judges’ Scores: During tryouts each cheerleader is expected to perform the following:
   1. Jazz Dance
   2. Hip Hop Dance
   3. Series of different leaps (jete’, leap in second, toe touch, turning center and )
   4. Pom motions and Flexibility (Heel stretch, front extension, needle)
   5. General Qualities (Spirit, Facials, etc.)

Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines
- No profanity or obscene language – EVER!
- All social media posts inside and outside of school must be appropriate. Any posts or comments unbecoming of a young lady will be addressed.
- No profanity, vulgar, obscene language or pictures on social media.
- No gum while in team attire or during practice/games
- No cell phones. Phones must be turned off at practice and games
- No friends, parents or boyfriends are allowed at practice. Please do not ask for exceptions to be made.
- Negative/bad attitudes absolutely will not be tolerated
- Coaches will always be treated with respect
- Always always be on time!!!!!!!!! This is for arriving to practice as well as leaving.
- Attendance is mandatory.
- Tardiness will not be tolerated.
- Dancers that do not follow instructions will sit out of games.
- Dancers are responsible for the replacement cost of any property that is lost or damaged. (Uniforms)
- All personal matters must be dealt with outside of practice. Squad unity is a primary goal.

Contact Information
Michael Dawn Blackwell
mdbblackwell.rms@catosa.k12.ga.us

Candidate Signature:________________________________________Date:__________

Parent Signature:___________________________________________Date:__________

Required Dance Practice Policy
All dancers are expected to be at **EVERY** practice.

- With **prior arrangements**, up to two practices may be missed.
- 3 practices = Benched 1 games and/or competitions, must sit in uniform with coach
- 4 practices = Benched 2 games and/or competitions, must sit in uniform with coach
- 5 or more = Benched 3 games/and or possible dismissal from squad.

**The practice schedule is tentatively set for the following:**

1. Calendar!
   a. Important DATES!
      i. **March 27-29**: Tryouts at RMS Times noted above. Final tryouts will be on Friday March 29. Tryout results will be revealed through link student is given on Friday before leaving.
      ii. **April 10th** Mandatory fitting in room 6808 3:45. **$200 payment is due**
      iii. **April 17th** Mandatory Ballet training begins
   iv. **July 10-12** UDA Camp at RMS Mandatory
   v. Summer practices will begin **June 3rd ** *Monday, and Wednesday from 10:45-12:30
   vi. Team pictures for program book **June 13** 11:00 Mandatory
   vii. **Dead weeks for Vacation June 24-28 and July 1-8**

We strongly recommend scheduling vacations during these off weeks. All other absences will be accounted for. I understand scheduling around family activities are important, however it is very difficult to practice with missing squad members.

I agree to have my daughter at every cheer practice on time and picked-up on time.

**Parent signature**

_________________________________________________________ date________________

b. During school:
   i. We practice 3-4 days per week during the school year. We may have to practice over Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.
   ii. **Our Schedule will be Monday 6:15 am -7:15 Tuesday 3:45-5:00 Wednesday Ballet 4:00-5:00--This could change slightly. Friday 6:15am-7:15**

c. Performances:
We perform at all home football and basketball games.

We will attend 3 competitions (2 school sponsored and 1 studio caliber)

We may have other opportunities to perform throughout the year at various events.

2. **Requirements (skills):**
   a. Judges will look at each dancer’s ability to memorize and execute choreographed dance routines.
   b. They will also look at technical skills (leaps, turns, motions, etc.)
   c. Dancers should be prepared to show skills such as
      - **Head spring**
      - **Double Pirouette**
      - **Leap in Second and Grande Jete’**
      - **Extensions (front and side)**
   d. Energy and overall appeal will be HUGE! Dancers should demonstrate confidence and excitement when dancing.

3. Requirements (financial):
   a. Please look at the attached overview of the RMS Dance Team expenses.
   b. All payments are expected to be made on time.

4. Permission form and behavior reports:
   a. Please complete the tryout application through Google Forms no later than March 22.
   b. Please have your dancer give me the names of 2 teachers they wish to have the behavior form sent to. This is done electronically between myself and the teacher.

I look forward to an exciting tryout week and a fresh new group of RMS Dancers!

Thank you,

Michael Dawn Blackwell

Mdblackwell.rms@catosa.k12.ga.us

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of trying out for the RMS Dance Squads is $10 this helps us to cover the cost of judges’ fees and other materials needed. The check must be made out to RMS Dance. Please be sure your check has a phone number on it, this is a school policy. This payment is due by March 22nd, along with signing off and agreeing to terms in packet.
Parents must assume all costs for their daughter. Payments must be made on time. There will be a payment of $200 due April 10th to order campwear and deposit on camp. If for any reason the squad is dissolved, your child quits, or is dismissed from the squad, there will be no way to recover any money spent.

Last year’s dues were about $875 for each participant. **This does NOT include the coaches fee or the ballet/klt class.** We offer various fundraisers throughout the summer to help pay this balance. I encourage everyone to participate in the individual fundraisers offered so that you are not paying too much out of pocket.

If you feel you may not be able to meet these expenses, then please do not let your child try out for the dance team. It will be disappointing for her and the team.

If you have read this and wish to have your daughter participate in the tryouts, please sign below.

**Parent Signature _________________________________ Date ________________**

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Covered by</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Home Camp</td>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warm-up</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
<td>150.00 New Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tights and Leo</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Clothes</td>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Bag</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
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<td>Jazz Costume</td>
<td>Team account</td>
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<td>Competition entry fees</td>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
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<td>Team banner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rain Jacket</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
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<td>Water Jug and Decal</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td>*Coaches Fee</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
<td>$35.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ballet/KLT technique class</td>
<td>Parent Payment</td>
<td>$25.00 per month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Parent Payment 518.00 per girl Returning Dancers $318 Monthly Payments not included in total. Fundraisers- $400 per girl If you choose not to do the fundraiser, this amount comes out of pocket.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1510.00 covered by team acct. This account is replenished with Holly Ball funds.</td>
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</table>

A list of fundraisers will be given to those who make the team. Payments are due by the 5th of each month. 1st payment is due April 10th and each to follow on the 5th of each month.

May 5th $250
June 5th $250
July 5th $225 returning dancers will have an adjusted rate

Portions of payments may come from fundraisers.