

## **2026-2027 OAKETTES & JUNIORS DANCE TEAM TRYOUTS**

*Friday, April 17th from 6:00-9:00 at C.O. Harrison*

*Saturday, April 18th from 10:00-2:00 at C.O. Harrison*

*Sunday, April 19th from 8:00-12:00 at Oak Hills High School (south gym)*

*\*There will be a pre-season informational meeting on March 24th at 6:30pm at Rapid Run Middle School auditorium for parents and dancers to ask any questions and get more insight about the season and the OH Dance Organization\**

**Complete and bring the following forms to the first day of tryouts on Friday, April 17th. Dancers are unable to tryout without these completed forms:**

- 1. Permission Form**
- 2. Emergency Medical Form**
- 3. Completed Physical Form [Click Here](#) for form**
- 4. Current printout of 4th & 3rd quarter grades from Progress Book**

**Any dancer who previously participated on a team must have paid their dance fees in full in order to try out for this season.**

***All dancers who try out for the teams will be able to access tryout results on our website. The 2026-2027 team members will be posted, using tryout numbers, on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.***

### **[2026-2027 Team Lists](#)**

**All 2026-2027 Oakettes and Juniors, as well as at least one parent/guardian, are required to attend a meeting scheduled for April 27th from 7:30pm-8:30pm at Rapid Run Middle School (auditorium/commons). A non-refundable \$200 deposit is due at that time. Practices will begin Monday, May 18th for Oakettes and Juniors.**

***Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):***

Your dancer has expressed an interest in the Oakettes Varsity Dance Team or the Oak Hills Juniors Dance Team. The Oakettes compete in varsity pom and hip hop, both locally and nationally. The Oak Hills Juniors compete in pom and hip hop at the junior high level. The Oak Hills Dance Team Organization consists of teams with both state and national reputations for their dedication to excellence in grades K-12. The performance level that is displayed by these teams is achieved by the continued efforts of its members, parents and coaches.

Each dancer is expected to put forth his/her best effort, including practices, performances, fundraising and, most importantly, his/her responsibility to his/her schoolwork. Each member must maintain the academic standards set forth by the Oak Hills Local School District and also

abide by the Oak Hills Student Code of Conduct and the Oak Hills Dance Code of Conduct and Discipline to remain active with the team.

The Oakettes and Juniors have activities year-round. Therefore, a great deal of time is spent in this activity by members, parents and coaches.

Membership on the dance team gives each individual an opportunity to gain self-confidence, meet new friends, and learn leadership skills. To be selected as a member, each candidate must perform dance routines before a panel of qualified independent judges and/or Oak Hills Dance Team coaches. Each student trying out for a position on the teams has an equal opportunity to be selected. ***Although a student has been a member of a team in the past, this does not guarantee him/her a position. He/She must audition to be selected for the team again.*** We are sorry that we cannot select everyone who auditions but appreciate each person's ambition to try. Those who are not selected are always encouraged to try out again next year.

Please read through each section below for specific evaluation information, team structure, and a general schedule.

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### **Judging/Evaluation:**

**Tryouts will take place over the course of three days. It is important for the dancers and parents to understand that the prospective team members are being evaluated for the ENTIRE process.** The first day gives the coaches a working knowledge of how the individual dancers learn routines, follow directions, improve skills, and stay on task. The final day of tryouts is a formal process that gives the coaches and judges a better understanding of how a dancer will perform when in a performance situation.

Each candidate will be judged on the following criteria during the technical part of the tryout: coordination, knowledge of the routine, technique, timing, performance, appearance, confidence, attitude, and poise. Various parts of the tryout process, academic eligibility, and school attendance will all be taken into consideration as team members are chosen. Points will be given in each category of the actual tryout and the combined total of the scores will be the final score. All students wishing to be considered for the team must attend **ALL** days of the audition. Exceptions will be made only for students with extenuating circumstances (ex., illness, injury, school function that prohibits attendance, etc.) and will be made at the coaches' discretion. A candidate may be recalled to perform the routine if a judge feels the need to see the dancer again. All decisions made by the judging panel and coaches are final and no scores will be shared for any reason.

### **Attire For Tryouts:**

**Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:**

- Appropriate athletic clothing you feel comfortable in.
  - Pom/Jazz = tighter more fitting clothes
  - Hip Hop = more baggy, "street clothes".
- Dance shoes of any type and gym shoes
- Hair pulled back and out of face
- No jewelry (aside from post earrings)
- No gum
- Overall professional look

### **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>:**

- All black attire
  - Pom = leggings (required), tight fitting top
  - Hip Hop = sweatpants, oversized t-shirt, etc
- Dance shoes of any type and gym shoes
- Hair pulled back and out face
- No jewelry (aside from post earrings)
- No gum
- Overall professional look

*Please refrain from wearing any Oak Hills Dance attire to ANY of the tryout process. Remember that this is an audition, so dress for the part that you want.*

### **Evaluated Technical Skills:**

#### **Juniors:**

- Double (Right and Attempted Left)
- Triple (Right only)
- Three a la secondes into a double pirouette
- Leg hold (of your preference)
- Recommended: Aerial

#### **Oakettes:**

- Triple pirouette (Right and Left)
- Quad (Right only)
- Four a la secondes into a triple pirouette (Right only)
- Two à la seconds into 4,  $\frac{3}{4}$  changing spots into double
- Advanced turn sequence (taught at tryouts)
- Any switch leap of your choice (arabesque, tilt, etc)
- Tilt leg hold for full 8 count
- Arabesque leg hold for full 8 count
- Front hand spring
- **Highly** recommended: Aerial
- Other tumbling: not recommended

#### **Both Teams:**

- Right, left, & middle splits
- Split leap and second/open leap (Right and Left)
- Toe touch
- Kip up
- Headspring
- Skill of choice (one hip hop, one technical)

\*NEW- Oakettes only

1 paragraph must be written (5-6 sentences) with the prompt below that applies to you:

- New potential members: Why should we consider you to be an Oakette?
- Potential returning members: What does being on Oakettes mean to you?

This will be turned in on the last day of tryouts, **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, upon arrival.

### Team Structure:

*\*Incoming 6th graders are **STRONGLY** encouraged to audition for Juniors. It is up to the coaches/judges discretion if the dancer is ready for Juniors or needs another year on Youth\**  
Dancers in grade 6 who are selected for a team could be placed on either the Oak Hills Youth Dance Team or the Oak Hills Juniors Dance Team. Dancers in grades 7-8 who are selected for the team will be placed on the Oak Hills Juniors only.

Dancers in grades 9-12 who are selected for the team will be placed on the Oakettes only.

### General Practice/Performance/Event Schedule for the 2026-2027 Teams:

As you can see from the list below, **there is a heavy time commitment that comes with being on the Oakettes and the Juniors Dance Teams.** This schedule is meant to give you a fairly good idea of what will occur during the school year. Please carefully review the schedule for practices, competitions and performance for the team you are trying out for.

### Commitment of Time:

Below you will find a **general** schedule of the individual team activities for the year. We always attempt to give the students and families as much notice as possible regarding scheduling. As you read through the schedule, please check your calendars to make sure this is something that fits into your family's schedule. We expect members to be at all practices, games, events, competitions and required fundraisers. Please keep in mind that it is impossible for the coaches to make the team schedule around the activities/work schedules/social activities of all team members.

### Juniors:

- **Summer:**

Practices will be held two days per week throughout summer (Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-8:30 pm). Practices will begin May 18th, 2026. Summer practices are designed to develop dance technique, the ability to pick up and retain choreography, strength and stamina. Students who have planned vacations will be excused from practice. We ask that parents and dancers provide at least 2 weeks notice of planned vacations. Dancers must attend at least 75% of all summer practices. Information will be provided once this is finalized.

- **Choreography Weekends:**

There will be two scheduled choreography weekends to learn the competition routines. **These weekends are mandatory for all dancers.**

- **General Fall Schedule:**

Juniors will practice Monday, Wednesday, and one weekend day (competition depending) throughout the school year. All practices are mandatory throughout the school year. Dancers will also participate in other scheduled events, including team pictures, the Harvest Home Parade, halftime performances etc.

- **General Winter Schedule:**  
Juniors will practice Monday, Thursday, and one weekend day (competition depending) throughout the school year. All practices are mandatory throughout the school year. Dancers will also participate in other scheduled events, including team pictures, the Harvest Home Parade, etc.
- **Other Non-Competition Performances:**  
Dancers will also perform at other scheduled events such as pep rallies, football games, and other parades. All performances are mandatory for each dancer.
- **General Competition Practice Schedule :**  
Dancers will participate in practices 3 times per week from August through early March. All practices, competitions and performances are mandatory for every dancer. Dates and times will be announced at the mandatory parent/dancer meeting in April.

***Oakettes:***

- **Summer:**  
Practices will be held twice a week with the additional weight room days twice a week throughout the summer (Monday & Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm. Weight room days are TBD but will be from 5:30-6:30pm). Practices will begin May 18th, 2026. Summer practices are designed to develop dance technique, the ability to pick up and retain choreography, strength and stamina. Students who have planned vacations will be excused from practice. We ask that parents and dancers provide at least 2 weeks notice of planned vacations. Dancers must attend at least 75% of all summer practices (this will be recorded). Information will be provided once this is finalized.
- **Choreography Weekends:** There will be two scheduled choreography weekends to learn the competition routines, and one weekend for Oakette Band Camp. **These weekends are mandatory for ALL dancers.**
- **General Fall Schedule:** Oakettes will practice Monday, Thursday, Saturday during football season (between late August and early November). All practices are mandatory throughout the school year. Dancers will also participate in other scheduled events, including team pictures, the Harvest Home Parade, etc.
- **Other Non-Competition Performances:** Dancers will also perform at several home basketball games and other scheduled events such as pep rallies, and other parades. All performances are mandatory for each dancer.
- **General Competition Practice Schedule:** Oakettes will practice Monday, Thursday, Friday once football season is over. All practices, competitions and performances are mandatory for every dancer. Dates and times will be announced at the mandatory parent/dancer meeting in April. Additional practices will be added closer to Nationals in February.

### ***Both Teams:***

- **NDA Camp:**

The Oakettes and Juniors will travel to Louisville to participate in a four day camp to qualify for Nationals. Dancers will learn, perform and compete in various routines. Dancers participate in a variety of classes, team building, and leadership activities. It is **MANDATORY** that all dancers attend this camp since it is vital for the team, as well as individual growth and success in the upcoming season. This is also a qualifier for Nationals. **Camp dates are July 15 through July 18th.** Dancers are responsible for their own transportation to and from camp. We recommend setting up carpools!

- **Youth Camp:** Both teams will participate in a **mandatory** fundraiser to spark interest and engage young dancers in our community. This will occur in early August. More details to follow.

- **Competition Schedule:** Dancers will compete at competitions both locally and out of town. These occur from November through March. Please be aware that a competition might be scheduled for the weekend immediately before or after Christmas break. Teams will practice during this week and team members will be required to be present.

- **Invitational:** The Oak Hills Dance Invitational is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2027. **Dancers and 2 adults (per family) are required to work the full day of the invitational.**

### **General Fee Information**

Each dancer is required to bring a \$200, non-refundable, deposit to the meeting on April 27th.

Budgets are subjected to change from previous years. While the fees themselves may be similar to past years, the payment schedule and obligations will look different. More information will be provided at the meeting on April 27th.

A complete itemized list with specific deadlines will be provided at the May meeting. Each dancer will receive an individual budget sheet that will be updated throughout the season. Payments can be made using cash, checks or EZ Pay.

Fundraising will be an important part of our season. It is imperative that all families be ready and willing to help. It would be incredibly helpful to find a parent or several parents who are willing to oversee all fundraising.

There are two team fundraisers that are **MANDATORY** for all dancers. The first is the annual invitational. Two adults are required to work per family. Should you not be able to provide two adults, a \$100 fee will be assessed to your balance sheet **for each adult spot you are unable to fill.** The second mandatory fundraiser is our annual youth camp, which is tentatively planned for the summer.

***Permission to Tryout  
2026-2027 Oak Hills Oakettes/Oak Hills Juniors Dance Team***

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

My child wishes to participate in the Oak Hills Oakettes/Oak Hills Juniors dance tryouts. I, along with my child, have read and understand the attached information pertaining to the tryout process and our obligations to the team.

I understand that:

1. The scores of the judges are final and no scores will be released. Please do not contact the coaches or judges.
2. My child, if chosen, will attend all required practices and events and will abide by the team rules and guidelines.
3. There is a financial obligation to fulfill.
4. Participation in fundraising is essential by both the dancer and parents.
5. Students who participate, as in all athletic activities, are exposed to the risk of injury. Safety will be a primary concern.
6. By signing this I confirm I have read the 2025-2026 Parent Letter and are familiar with the Oak Hills Student Code of Conduct as well as the Oak Hills Dance Code of Conduct.
7. There is a parent meeting on May 5th at Oak Hills High School in the media center. Each Oakettes/Oak Hills Junior dancer, as well as at least one parent/guardian are **required** to attend.
8. There is a \$200 deposit due at this meeting.
9. By signing, I confirm that the Oak Hills Dance Organization has permission to utilize photos and/or videos of my child on our public social media accounts.

My child has permission to try out for the 2025-2026 Oak Hills Oakettes/Oak Hills Juniors Dance Program.

Grade Next Year (please circle):    6        7        8        9        10        11        12

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date