

FCA DRILL TEAM
SILHOUETTES
Varsity and Junior Varsity
Tryout Packet



2024-2025

Dear Parents,

First off, we are so excited that your daughter has expressed interest in auditioning for the Silhouettes! Our FCA Varsity and Junior Varsity drill team is a wonderful organization that requires time, commitment, hard work and dedication. We feel that you should know what will be expected of the girls in terms of complete participation, the practice time involved, and the responsibility she is taking on should your daughter make the team this year.

This packet is full of important information that you will need to review regarding our tryout requirements, required summer practice dates, and expectations. Please read this tryout packet. It contains a summarized view of the Silhouettes Constitution, Code of Conduct, Demerit Document and our Social Media guidelines. Please review and discuss this with your daughter. This packet will give you and your daughter an idea on what our expectations for the team and individual members of the Silhouettes are.

If your daughter has your consent to participate in drill team tryouts, she will need to hand in the following forms by March 22nd to the Middle School Office. You can find these forms on our team website under tryouts: www.fcadrillteam.com

- Tryout Application Form
- Intent to Participate – Waiver and Release for Tryouts
- Athletic Physical form filled out by a doctor
- 2 Teacher Recommendation forms

All other forms will be required on April 10th at our team uniform fitting.

The second important item concerns responsibility. Dancers must understand that teamwork and regulations are the keys to success for our dance program. To help maintain discipline, promote reliability, and uphold fairness for all, we have a demerit system and a consequence system which helps to set an example of good behavior, unity, and pride. It is our hope that we will be able to set up a traditional environment that we can be proud of for years to come.

The third important item concerns what being a part of the Silhouettes Drill Team means for both the member and her family. Our drill team is more than an after-school activity. It requires hard work, determination, responsibility, commitment, sacrifice, loyalty, and sometimes disappointment. It is also a sister hood, a family, and a support network. The coaching staff and I will try to instill positive attitudes, self-worth, and self-esteem in our members.

The final important item is a big one! Once the tryout process is complete and we have our new team, we will need a parent to volunteer for the position of “team mom” or “team dad.” This role will involve your help communicating upcoming events and possible costs to the rest of the team parents. This will allow everyone to be always in the know!

Again, we are excited that your daughter is joining us for the audition process and hopefully the FCA Drill Team for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Jackie Dietzler
fcadrillteam@gmail.com

Expectations

If selected to be a member of the 2024-2025 Silhouette Drill Team, you will be committing to your coaches and teammates to value upstanding character, role model behavior, excellence, high work ethic and a positive attitude. You commit to this team by signing the contract, attending all team functions on time and being prepared to focus on the needs and excellence of the team.

FCA Silhouette Dancers support both the curricular and extracurricular activities of Founders Classical Academy High School by promoting school spirit, sportsmanship, and pride in your school. Being on the Drill Team is an honor and a privilege not a right. Dance team members will exemplify both individual and group behaviors in accordance with Founders Classical Academy and Responsive School rules. Team members have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping their team and their school, achieve their goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, dance team members are expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement better than that of their peers.

Forms due before tryout by March 22nd:

- * Tryout Application Form
- * Intent to Participate – Waiver and Release Tryouts
- * Athletic Physical form filled out by a doctor
- * Teacher recommendation forms – 2

Required Forms Once You Make the Team

Once you make the team, you and your daughter will be given access to our team web site. It has our calendar and team information. You will also find the Silhouettes Code of Conduct, Constitution, Social Media and Demerit documents. We encourage you to review these documents with your daughter. All of these forms need to be filled out and signed by April 10th.

Forms and first payment due at team fitting on April 10th for all new members.

(You will find these forms on our team site account after tryouts.)

- Intent to Participate Waiver and Release for 2023 – 2024 Drill Team Season
- FCA Silhouette Code of Conduct Form
- FCA Silhouette Constitution Form
- FCA Silhouette Social Media Form
- Demerit Form
- Signature Page

Junior Varsity and Varsity Tryout Week

March 25th – March 28th - Tryouts will be held in the Middle School Gym and cafeteria.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 3:45– 6:00 and Thursday - 3:45 – 6:30.

*** All Varsity and Junior Varsity candidates will be required to attend EVERY day of the tryout week in order to addition before the judges on March 28th.

Tryouts are closed to the public. Parents, friends, etc., may not attend tryouts.

What to wear for your tryout week on Monday – Wednesday:

Wear clothes that allow you to move freely. This may include t-shirts – modest please, jazz pants/athletic leggings and tennis shoes or jazz shoes. No jewelry, shorts, midriffs showing or gum. Hair must be pulled back away from your face in a bun or a ponytail.

What to wear for your tryout on Thursday?

You need to be dressed in mostly to all black. A black t-shirt or leotard, black athletic leggings, black socks and jazz shoes or tennis shoes are appropriate. Wear your hair in a ponytail and assigned audition number. No bra straps or midriffs showing. No jewelry

Requirements:

1. Attend the parent meeting on March 6th or contact the me at fcadrillteam@gmail.com
2. You must turn in required forms by March 22nd. **No Forms – No Tryout.** The remaining forms will be due at our team fitting on April 10th.
3. **You must attend every day of the tryout week.**

Questions and Answers**Who judges the tryouts?**

A panel of 3-6 judges will score each candidate. Scores will be tabulated in conjunction with daily scores from the week.

How is my score determined?

Audition scores will be based on judges' scores (precision/sharpness, rhythm/timing, musicality, memory, showmanship including smiling, energy and eye contact in both dance, kick, as well as splits) in conjunction with daily audition scores (attitude, teamwork and work ethic).

Will I tryout alone in front of the judges?

No, on Monday or Tuesday of tryout week, you will be assigned a number. You will be placed in a tryout group. That will be your group and assigned number for the remainder of the week.

Will there be callbacks?

At the end of tryouts there may be callbacks. Callbacks are not a bad thing. It is just another opportunity for the judges to see the girls again as needed, for a variety of reasons. When we are approaching the last few groups, each girl should be sure she is stretched and ready. Should she get a callback, she will be expected to perform right then.

How many girls will make each team?

There is no set number. A natural break will be determined in the scores.

When will I find out if I made the team?

The team will be named on our home page of our FCA Drill Team website @ www.fcadrillteam.com.

What if I don't make the team?

There are times when we do not make the team the first time. However, if you want something bad enough, you can continue to practice and tryout again the following year. Or you may apply for our team manager position.

Practice requirements once you make the team

Spring 2024 Practices - All practices are MANDATORY.

The new members will begin to practice on Wednesdays following tryouts and will attend dress rehearsals for spring show. They will dance their tryout routine and will assist during the show on May 4th.

We may have team practices if there is a spring football game.

Mandatory Formal Uniform Fitting

After School on April 10th in the Middle School Cafeteria.

Mandatory Drill Team Summer Camp 9:30 am- 3:30 pm

July 22nd - July 26th in the Grammar School Gym

** Camp is mandatory for all drill team members.

Mandatory Summer Practices 12:00 - 4:00 Upper, Grammar Gym or Middle School Cafeteria 7/29/24, 7/31/24, 8/2/24, 8/5/24, 8/7/24, 8/9/24, 8/12/24

You may miss up to two days of summer practices due to sickness, injury, weddings, funerals, or an unavoidable scheduling conflict that has been approved by the Directors in writing prior to the team orientation meeting. However, it is the dancer's responsibility to learn the choreography missed. We realize it isn't always avoidable. Each practice missed will put the dancer behind.

Regular Season Practices 3:30 - 6:00

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Begins the first day of school

Veteran JV dancers can attend 2 practices or more a week.

Rookie JV dancers will be required to practice with the team on Wednesdays. The other days are optional unless there is a special circumstance - pep rally, parade etc.,

**There may be additional practice days called if they are needed.

COMMITMENT

Drill Team is a yearlong commitment. We are a four-season dance team. Dancers are expected to make a *total commitment* to their school and their team. It is a big commitment, but we guarantee it is worth it.

- Making a total commitment is not an easy task; it involves self-discipline, respect, honor, and time management.
- Dancers must maintain physical readiness through practices, healthful eating, continuous stretching, and proper amounts of sleep even during the summer months.
- Drill team is a priority, and you show it even through individual choices when you are not on the practice or performance floor.
- Vacations, Drivers-education, appointments, days-off, birthdays, work schedules and personal time are not reasons to miss, or be excused from, practice or performance and is not an excuse to come late or leave early. Dance team must be your priority when planning your social and work schedules.
- Other sports and/or extra-curricular activities must not conflict with dance team responsibilities including, but not limited to practice, games, competitions, events, fundraising or community service.

- Anything less than total commitment can result in dismissal from the team.

CHARACTER

As a drill team member, you represent not only yourself and your family, but also your team, your school and your community.

- Dancers are visible role models to all students who attend Founders Classical Academy.
- Dancers will be courteous and respectful when speaking with fellow students, teachers, administrators, director, and the coaching staff and will represent your school by always demonstrating respect for yourself and others.
- Team members are expected to abide by rules of public displays of affection and to dress according to the dress code of FCA, setting an example for other students.
- Back-talking, inappropriate language and disrespectful behavior is considered grounds for dismissal from the team.
- Unsupportive behavior from a member or her family of how the program is managed will not be accepted.

DEDICATION

Being on the Silhouettes Drill Team involves personal sacrifice and is demonstrated by a dancer's unselfishness and loyalty to their school, team and community. It is also a privilege.

- Throughout the year, there will be trying times as well as rewarding times; it is essential that team members maintain their loyalty to their team, director, coaches, and school.
- Any team is only as strong as its weakest member and cannot grow and survive without the loyalty and dedication of all members.
- Dancers must remember that no individual is more important than the team.
- Dancers and parents may find that they disagree with coaching decisions and policies, but they both must support and respect the decisions made.
- Dancers are expected to maintain a positive attitude and build school spirit on and off the field/court/competition floor without anything in return other than the satisfaction of a job well done.

RESPONSIBILITY

As a team member, it is your responsibility to be physically and mentally prepared for school, practices, games, performances, competitions, and team activities.

- Dancers must follow up on all assignments in and out of the classroom, check for announcements, and be present and active at all practices and other activities.
- Drill team members show up prepared and appropriately engaged at all times for all activities.
- Dancers must arrive on time, with all their gear, dressed appropriately, with the right attitude, and prepared to be accountable.
- It is the dancer's responsibility to keep up with provided schedules; there will not be constant reminders.
- As a drill team member, you will be responsible for yourself, your attitude, appearance and performance at all times.
- You must respect yourself and conduct yourself in an appropriate manner even when others do not.

SPIRIT

- Dancers demonstrate school and team spirit whether their team wins or loses. Team members never participate or encourage cheering against referees.
- Dancer will, at all times, speak positively about FCA and the Silhouette organization and NEVER complain about “having to sit/travel/support the team.”
- Dancers work to encourage other students to come out and support their teams.
- Dancers do not whine about lack of attendance; they improve it.
- Dancers are honored to be asked to participate in extra events by the community; not inconvenienced because of a lack of their own personal recognition.
- Dancers are responsible for promoting school pride year-round including in the halls, at assemblies or pep rallies, at games and at community events.
- Be respectful.
- Make each teacher feel his/her class is important.
- Set a positive example for other students by your words and actions.

LEADERSHIP

- Dancers speak positively about other teammates, officers, the coaching staff, and the director.
- Dancers must be known as a positive leader who adds value to the reputation of your team, school and community.
- Drill team is made up of leaders who dance.
- Dancers must present themselves as leaders and commit to positively influencing those around them.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the #1 way to have a successful season.

We have a Team website Account that each dancer and at least one parent needs to be a member of. This is how we will communicate important information as well as events, activities, and performances. Once you make the team, the account information will be given to you.

UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT / APPEARANCE

Each team member will be required to purchase a formal field uniform that she will own. The Silhouette Drill Team owns the additional drill team uniforms pieces that may be used throughout the year.

- If a dancer loses her uniforms or equipment, she will be required to pay for a replacement or fines are placed on that student's account.
- Uniforms must be cleaned according to the laundering instructions as provided when the uniform and performance pieces are distributed, including performance shoes.
- Dancers must have the same uniform look, including hair, makeup, accessories, and all pieces of the uniform.
- For safety reasons, absolutely no jewelry is allowed during practices or performances.
- Colored fingernail polish is not to be worn when in uniform. Clear is the only allowed color.
- Hair must be worn off the shoulders and away from the face during practices, performances – pending the performance hair style.

- Dancers will not “share” any piece of their uniform to be worn by anyone other than another team member. Current warm-ups and sweatshirts are considered to be part of the uniform and are not to be worn by anyone other than the team member.
- When representing the team officially, dancers are to be in the selected and communicated uniform.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT - The Silhouette Drill Team and the Director are supported by parent contributions and parent/student fundraising efforts.

- Dance Team is an expensive activity, and the cost needs to be considered and understood before committing to the team.
- Parent contributions, both monetary and through fundraising activities make up the bulk of the costs associated with being on a team.
- Dancers removed from the team or have made the decision to leave, will not receive any reimbursement of funds paid or fundraised.
- Dancer/parent participation is expected in helping the team with various activities such as spring show, team travel, team dinners and fundraising.

We have multiple uniform pieces that are owned by the Silhouettes and will be signed out/loaned to each team member for the performance. They must be returned in great condition when given a return date. Other expenses will come up during the season such as team pictures, snacks/dinners, hair accessories, etc. Pending performance style, additional uniform pieces may be needed.

Personal “Must Haves” if your student makes the team:

- Appropriate undergarments for team uniform & practices
- Full black leggings for practice
- Full length t-shirts
- Plain black form fitting tank top - needs to be long.
- Black tennis shoes
- Black hair ties, bobby pins, hairspray, gel, etc.
- Other cosmetic items as necessary (deodorant, nail clippers, nail polish remover, safety pins, etc.)
- Performance make-up, foundation, black mascara, black eyeliner, blush,
- eyeshadow and lipstick to match the costume being worn.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Misuse is defined by something verbally or visually posted, texted, tweeted, blogged, snapped, etc. that portrays the dancer and/or the drill team in a negative way and/or violates FCA and the Silhouette Team Code of Conduct. (See Social Media document for more details)

- Photos of the dance team are taken at every performance, during practice, and team activities by coaches, team members, parents, fans, school staff, etc. By signing our team code of conduct, you are allowing photos of your dancer to be used on the team Facebook page, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media outlets. Coaches will not be held liable for photos posted by parents, fans, school staff, etc. but will stand to ensure all drill team photos are appropriately used.
- Inappropriate social media use or knowledge of is grounds for dismissal from the drill team as fast as the first occurrence.
- Any social misuse brought to the director or coaching staff will be reviewed with the dancer’s parent.

PRACTICE / PERFORMANCE / TEAM ACTIVITY

Dancers at practice, performances or team activities, you are with the team 100%.

- The Director and coaching staff expect 100% of the team members time and attention during practices, games, team activities, competitions, travel, etc. That means when the dancer is under the direction of the Coaching staff, they are not under the direction of anyone else.
- Phones are not to be used during practices, performances, team meetings or team activities.
- Various team activities will be planned throughout the year such as community service, academic projects, team dinners, etc.

Practices

Practice is to be considered performance time, only dressed down. You will practice full out as though you are in front of a crowd. You will give your best.

- Practice time cannot be made up and missing practice is a serious offense. It changes the entire practice for the team and formations.
- It is the drill team member's responsibility to learn what was discussed and decided and to fulfill the duties that may be assigned as well as learn any new performance material.
- Homework assignments may be assigned to team members in place of missed practice(s).
- Practice attire is leggings and a full-length t-shirt with either jazz shoes or tennis shoes.
- If it is a no school day, we may still have practice (Saturdays, Veteran's Day, etc.) The team website and calendar will reflect required activities at least 1 week in advance.
- If you are sick/injured and not able to fully participate at practice, you must receive permission from the Director to be at practice and sit out. Attending practice and sitting out is not an option.
- Dancers who are not performing a routine that is being practiced are required to practice in the back/on the side to keep up on their skills.
- There are legitimate reasons for missing practice; those must be cleared with the director in writing by a parent or guardian. Such as: religious holidays, illness or extreme family-related emergencies.
- These do NOT include last minute family plans, reunions, gatherings, or homework.
- All appointments must be scheduled on a non-practice day.
- All practices are 'Closed'. Parents, family members, friends, etc. are not allowed at practices unless invited by, or approved by, the director prior to arrival.
- Parents, please make sure you can pick up your daughter at 6:00 pm or make other arrangements.

School Performances, Community Performances, & Team Activities

- There will be performance tryouts. Any member may be pulled from a performance. This may be because of technique, memorization, or performance deficiencies.
- Performing for our school is our primary function such as football halftimes, basketball halftimes, assemblies, or pep rallies. Other performances to be determined.
- All team members must check-in with the director or team lead by the assigned time and remain in attendance for the entire length of the team performance or activity until the team's dismissal.
- Once each team member has checked in, there will be a team inspection line to determine if each team member is performance ready. (Uniform, hair, makeup, etc.)
- Parents, boyfriends, and girlfriends will not be allowed to sit with the dancers during the wait time for a performance unless otherwise noted by the director.

- When traveling to performances or events, all team members will be required to caravan together and leave as a team unless arrangements and approval is granted by the director. Parents will be responsible for getting their daughter to and from the team event.
- Negative, insubordinate, disrespectful or rude behavior at a game/performance is grounds for dismissal from the team.

What are some of the drill team responsibilities during the year?

- Perform dance routines at football games, basketball games, school events, and community events (Only for Varsity and Veteran JV Dancers)
- Perform stand dances/sideline dances
- Perform at school Pep rallies and showdowns
- Assist in planning and participating in homecoming week activities/decorations
- Dance and participate at school functions
- Assist in planning and participating in fundraising opportunities – mini-camp/fall fest, Easter Grams, Kick-a-thon, Fill My Hat, and restaurant fundraisers.
- Participate in camps, workshops, competitions, parades, or community events.
- Participate and assist in spring show
- Encourage participation of the student body in cheering on other school teams
- Other activities as assigned by the director and coaches.

Silhouette Member Requirements

- Each member must commit to either taking a drill team prep class or a dance class during the summer months unless given permission not to do so by the director.
- Each member must commit to stretching, exercising and or taking a weight training class during the summer months
- Each member must have by summer camp.
 - Single pirouette
 - Splits
 - Proper technique for kicks and a kick height at chest level
 - Be able to do a leap
 - Know and understand what a Chasse is
 - Know and understand what a Pas de Bourrée is
 - Know and understand what a Pivot turns is
 - Know and understand what Timing means when practicing and performing
 - Know and understand what placement means
 - Know and understand what projection is
 - Know and understand what performing means
 - Know and understand what guiding means

** (All of the above skills will be taught and practiced with each member before the end of this school year)