

# **West Mifflin Area School District**

## 122.1. SELECTION OF STARLETTES, SILKS AND BAND FRONT

ADOPTED: September 1992

REVISED: May 2019

### **1. PURPOSE**

This policy is applicable district-wide and will be published and made available to candidates in writing prior to tryout practices, effective with 2000-2001 participants.

### **2. GUIDLINES**

A copy of the written policy governing auxiliary group members is to be posted in a place accessible to the general student population and general public (e.g., bulletin board, library, and school office). Posting is to be done prior to tryouts. Upon selection, compliance with the rules is mandatory. Noncompliance is cause for suspension or expulsion from the group.

The school will utilize both oral and written media to make students and parents/guardians aware of the date, time, and place of tryouts, and the written policy governing the selection of high school Silks, Band Front, Starlettes, hereafter referred to as groups.

The faculty and other employees are to be made fully aware of this policy governing group members.

### **Before Tryouts**

Any student that presents a valid medical excuse by a certified doctor that s/he cannot participate in tryouts shall have the opportunity to try out two (2) weeks after the initial tryout. Parents/Guardians must make arrangements and pay for the same judges used in the initial tryouts.

The sponsor must be notified no later than the actual tryout date if a special tryout is to be considered.

The parents/guardians and other interested adult citizens (21 years or older) are permitted to attend the practices. Their role will be that of observers. In an effort to minimize and/or eliminate the possibility of any disruptions or interference with the work of the group, any communication with group members is to occur after the practice session. Tryouts will be closed.

The possibility of the purchase of additional apparel must be disclosed to the student/parent/guardian before the tryouts.

## **Tryouts**

Applicants should be able to do all of the following commands:

- Commands - attention, parade rest, all facing movements.
- Basic marching.
- Routines.

Any previous member of a squad (Silks, Starlettes & Band Front) with two (2) consecutive years of service immediately preceding the tryout and scoring at least seventy percent (70%) of the highest score will be guaranteed a slot on that particular squad equal to the position they held the preceding year (regular or alternate).

All applicants will be enrolled students.

Upon request, all students trying out will be given a personal copy of their scores after the compilation of the scores by the judges. Candidates will have their number and scores posted upon tabulation. If an applicant fails to try out (having a legitimate excuse, medical excuse or death in the immediate family), the group will not be announced for two (2) weeks.

Once a candidate has been successfully chosen for one (1) group, s/he cannot try out for another group that year.

## **Judges And Judging**

Independent judges are to be chosen from the surrounding school districts or from an independent judging association. The Judging Panel shall consist of at least one (1) minority. Three (3) judges shall be an adequate number.

A letter contacting and soliciting the services of judges for the various tryouts shall be over the signature of the building principal.

Tryouts will be closed. Parents/Guardians and sponsors should not converse with the judges once tryouts have begun or during the tallying of the scores.

Ink shall be used in scoring.

The scores and the decisions of the judges are final.

Posting the scores is to be done beginning with the highest score in descending numerical order. Selection to the group will be based on the candidate meeting attendance, scholarship, and numerical ranking.

The school is responsible for communicating in writing to the persons chosen to the group. It is recommended that personal letters of congratulations, with the signatures of the sponsor and the administrator, be sent to the students and parents/guardians. The names of group members are to be announced over the P.A. system to the student body.

### **Eligibility And Attendance**

1. Eligibility will continue to be based on a 1.5 grade point average as well as the standards set through the P.I.A.A. regulations concerning eligibility.
2. All eligibility for fall extracurricular activities will be determined on the basis of the fourth nine-week grading period.
3. Students may attend summer school to enhance their grade point average for **eligibility purposes only** based upon the fourth nine weeks:
  - a. For eligibility purposes only, the student must take the same or equivalent course required for graduation.
  - b. The grade for the summer school course will replace the fourth nine weeks grade for eligibility purposes only. This grade will not replace the original grade for class rank or academic grade point average.
4. The period of ineligibility will be thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the first day of practice as defined in the P.I.A.A. handbook for the corresponding season. Nonathletic ineligibility begins on the first day of each quarter for all other extracurricular activities.
5. Students must pass four (4) full credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period. Two (2) of the courses must be in mathematics, science, English or social studies.
6. Grade changes by teachers are permitted up to but not to exceed two (2) weeks after the report card distribution date for the first, second and third quarters. Grade changes will be permitted until and including the last day of June for the fourth quarter of the school year.
7. All school policies governing extracurricular activities and eligibility to perform will be enforced by the administration.

8. Students declared ineligible for interscholastic athletics may participate in conditioning activities only.

9. Students with any combination of twenty (20) tardies or absences in a semester will be declared ineligible. The length of ineligibility will be thirty (30) calendar days from the twentieth day of absence/tardy.

10. All other attendance issues should follow the current high school attendance policy.

### **Selection Criteria**

The school will be responsible to assure every student in the initial tryouts will be given equal and full consideration in preparation for judging.

Judges are to be informed orally and in writing that no selection will be made on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, ancestry, or national origin. There is to be no quota on the number of selectees from any racial, religious or ethnic group. The judges are to be informed in writing of the groups' policy. In the judging process, selections will be made on the candidate's ability. Judges will be given a copy of the Adopted Group Policy.

The parents/guardians and other interested adult citizens (21 years or older) are permitted to attend the practices. Their role will be that of observers. This opportunity and practice shall be communicated via media generally available to the schools, e.g., public address system, bulletin board, posting, school and school district publications and local news media outlets. Tryouts will be closed.

Groups will be judged on the following criteria:

### **Silks (Band Front)**

1. Poise and presentation (grooming, posture, make-up, hair).
2. Marching routine (parade-like).
3. Basic marching (to include Facings and Mark Time).
4. Instructed routine (to include twirls and tosses).

## **Starlettes (Band Front)**

1. Poise and presentation (grooming, posture, make-up, hair).
2. Basic marching to include Facing and Mark Time).
3. Marching routine (parade-like).
4. Instructed routines to include kicks.

## **Group Constitution**

The Groups of the West Mifflin Area School District shall be:

1. High School Starlettes (9-12).
2. High School Silks (9-12).
3. High School Band Front (9-12).

## **Purpose**

To promote school spirit, properly represent the school, and promote inter-school relations and good sportsmanship.

## **Size Of Groups**

The size of the various groups may vary from year to year. If the number of students trying out for any group is equal to or less than the maximum plus fifty percent (50%) permitted on the group, the sponsor will determine the size of the group before the judging begins. EXAMPLE: If more than 45 girls should tryout for Starlettes, then squad may consist of up to 30 members.

If the number of students trying out is fifty percent (50%) or less than the maximum number permitted on the group, the group will be eliminated for that year.

1. The Starlettes will consist of a maximum of 30 members, 24 regulars and the remainder alternates.
2. The Silks will consist of a maximum of 40 members, 32 regulars and the remainder alternates.
3. The Band Front will consist of a maximum of 10 members selected from the remainder of each group's tryout candidates.

## **Selection Of Captain And Co-Captain**

An additional audition and interview (on audition day) will be conducted to determine the Captain and Co-Captain for each group. The captains are responsible for working closely with the band director and sponsor of each group as well as the student members of the group. For this reason, the sponsor or band director will be present and will score each student in the Leadership Interview section of the audition.

Interested persons will be judged and scored from the following criteria:

### **Starlettes (captains)**

1. Poise and presentation (grooming, posture, make-up, hair).
2. Basic marching to include Facing and Mark Time).
3. Marching routine (parade-like).
4. Instructed routines to include kicks.
5. ORIGINAL ROUTINE TO INCLUDE KICKS
6. LEADERSHIP INTERVIEW—using judges and sponsor/director scores.

### **Silks (captains)**

1. Poise and presentation (grooming, posture, make-up, hair).
2. Marching routine (parade-like).
3. Basic marching (to include Facings and Mark Time).
4. Instructed routine (to include twirls and tosses).
5. ORIGINAL ROUTINE TO INCLUDE TWIRLS AND TOSSES.
6. LEADERSHIP INTERVIEW-- using judges and sponsor/director scores.

The Captain of each high school group shall be the highest scoring senior with one (1) year's experience **as a regular** on that particular group.

The Co-Captain shall be the second highest scoring person with at least one (1) year of experience **as a regular** on that particular group.

In the Event that there are no senior auxiliary members, the two highest scoring people with at least one (1) year of experience will share the role as Co-Captain.

### **Group Regulations**

A group member who, in writing to the sponsor, terminates their membership shall not be eligible for reinstatement.

The basic uniforms will be financed by the school district. (see Appendix A)

Uniforms are the responsibility of each student participant. The uniform is to be returned in a condition allowing for reasonable wear.

All special effect props purchased must be agreed upon by the group and purchased by each member.

All members must be in full uniform for performances (see Individual Responsibilities), or they will forfeit their chance to participate in that performance.

Any part of the uniform purchased by the school district is to be returned to the school district at the end of the season. If the uniform or equipment is not returned at the end of the season, the student shall have to pay the full price at purchase.

All members of the group will be required to meet financial quotas in fundraising activities.

### **Behavior That Will Result In Expulsion From The Group**

The following student behavior will result in expulsion from the group for the remainder of the student's present school year:

1. Violating Board policy regarding the use of drugs and alcohol as stated in the Student Handbook. (Pol. 227)
2. Smoking while in uniform. (Pol. 222)
3. Challenging group sponsors' authority.

### **Suspension (1 - 10 school days)**

Suspension from participating as a group member shall occur in the following cases:

1. Chewing gum while performing.
2. Untidy or incomplete uniform and sloppy appearance (upon inspection at the school before performance).
3. Unnecessary conversations or inappropriate interaction with crowd or team.
4. Insufficient knowledge of routine as determined by sponsor and Band Staff.
5. Failing to serve detention.

6. Failure to fulfill assigned responsibilities.
7. Failure to attend scheduled practice or games.
8. Uncooperative attitude.
9. Any act or deed that harms the reputation of the school during a public performance or practice.
10. Violation of the standards and regulations of the school as adopted by the school authorities.
11. Proven intimidation of other group members.
12. Any member suspended from participation must still attend performances and practices. They will not dress in uniform.

### **Individual Responsibilities**

#### *Appearance –*

1. Maintain uniformity in make-up and hair style as defined by sponsors. Make-up and hair style are to be kept moderate and simple. Hair should not be hanging in the face.
2. No gum may be chewed at any time while the member is in uniform and publicly representing the school.
3. Gloves and uniform are to be clean for each public performance. Boots and shoes are always to be polished. Regulation gloves are to be worn at every public performance.
4. Each member will be checked before each performance for full uniform defined as proper hair, gloves, tights, character shoes, white tennis shoes, wind suit, tee-shirt, shorts, winter jacket (when required), uniform, equipment and make-up are to be presentable to the sponsor. Violations of any of the above will result in a group member forfeiting his/her position for that performance.
5. For summer and fall practices, all members are required to wear suitable clothes for marching. Any member not properly attired or equipped for practice will be considered "absent" .

*Absence –*

1. All members must be present for summer band camp, which occurs during the month of August before the beginning of the fall school term. All members must be in band camp for the entire day (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). All members will be notified of the exact dates on or before the time of tryouts. Anyone electing to absent him/herself these days will be terminated from the group. Any absence (unexcused) during band camp will result in alternate status for the show(s) taught during that time. That member also will not participate in the Kennywood Parade.
2. Excusable absences are confined to death in the immediate family, make-up work for school, dress rehearsal for other school activities, wedding of an **immediate family member**, or illness accompanied by a doctor's excuse. School approved absences (field trips, college visitation, etc.) will also be counted as excusable absences. Absences for reasons other than those listed above are considered unexcused. If excused, the student will still be permitted to march the Kennywood Parade if they are able to demonstrate knowledge of the routine and at the discretion of the sponsor.
3. No group member may have more than five (5) absences from practices or performances (excused or unexcused) at any time throughout the entire marching band season. Any subsequent absence will result in that member being disqualified for the next immediate performance. Three (3) unexcused absences will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the group. Work, detention, and other school meetings are not excusable. Band practice supersedes all other rehearsals or meetings.
4. Arriving late to scheduled practices without prior permission by group coordinator will be considered one (1) late. The accumulation of two (2) lates will be considered one (1) unexcused absence.
5. Absences from school on the day of a scheduled activity or failure to participate in a dress rehearsal for that specific activity will prohibit a student from performing (see Appearance #5). Exceptions include participation in a religious activity, death in the immediate family, and attending an **emergency** doctor's appointment through written documentation by a physician is mandatory. Scheduled exams/appointments **will not** be an considered excused unless an emergency situation exists.

## **Definitions**

1. Dress rehearsal is the last full practice the day before the performance AND the final rehearsal the day of the performance.
2. Doctor or dental appointments should be scheduled on days other than rehearsal days. Rehearsals are scheduled enough in advance to make this adjustment.
3. Any member not present at the time specified by the sponsor or band director will be considered late. The accumulation of two (2) lates will be considered an unexcused absence.
4. Attendance will be taken at all practices and performances by the group sponsor, including summer band.
5. Excusable absences are confined to death in the immediate family, make-up work for school, dress rehearsal for other school activities, wedding of an immediate family member, or illness accompanied by a doctor's excuse. School approved absences (field trips, college visitation, etc.), with notice, will also be counted as excusable absences.
6. Absences for reasons other than those listed above are considered unexcused.
7. All group members must travel with the band to all functions. Only a parent or legal guardian may report to the sponsor at a function in order to take a member home with him/her. No student may leave the group without being accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Prior written permission to the sponsor from the parent/guardian to leave early is required. Each member is then responsible for all his/her equipment if s/he leaves early.
8. If, for any reason, a group member is dismissed from or leaves the group on his/her own, the position will be filled prior to the first day of band camp. After that time the position may be filled by an alternate and the alternate may be filled by band front. Open position will remain vacant.
9. Any extenuating circumstances regarding absences and/or enrollment will be reviewed by the band staff and building level administrators on a case-by-case basis.

## **Pep Assemblies**

Attendance in school the day of a scheduled pep assembly requires full uniform and participation. Failure to comply will be considered an unexcused absence.

## Alternates

### *Selection of Alternates –*

The selection of alternates is based on:

1. Attendance, scholarship, and numeric ranking at tryouts.

EXAMPLE: The Silks Group is made up of 40 qualified persons. The first 36 are regular members and the last 4 are alternate members (i.e. the last 4 will always be alternates).

2. In the event a person does not wish to be an alternate, the next qualified person will be eligible for the position.

3. The alternates will be used at the discretion of the sponsor.

### *Attendance of Alternates –*

Alternates are required to attend every practice that a regular member must attend. Thus, all regulations regarding attendance for regular members apply to all members.

### *When an Alternate Practices for Performance –*

If an alternate replaces a regular member for one (1) full practice, it does not necessarily mean that the alternate will perform that week in that spot. Only if the alternate takes the place of a regular member and adequately performs the routine in the dress rehearsal will the alternate march for that performance.

### *When an Alternate Performs –*

Every attempt will be made to rotate alternates. However, at the discretion of the sponsor, the choice of an alternate will primarily be based on routine knowledge and how that student fits in the established routine. Alternates will perform all pep assemblies.

EXAMPLE: Starlette Kick-line is based on height. An alternate closest to size and who has acceptable knowledge of the routine will be chosen.

It will be the duty of the sponsor of the group to keep an accurate written record of the performances of the alternates. This record must be available to the principal upon request, at all times.

*Exceptions to the Rotation of Alternates –*

1. At the performances designated to recognize senior members during homecoming activities, alternates will have the opportunity to perform.
2. If an alternate has more than three (3) absences (excused or unexcused), s/he will forfeit his/her turn in rotation and be placed at the end of the rotation.
3. In the event of an unforeseen circumstance which is not covered in this constitution, the sponsor will designate the alternate.
4. Adverse effects on the Kick-Line.
5. Insufficient knowledge of routine as determined by sponsor and band staff.

*Duties --*

Alternates not performing are required to be at games or performances to assist the group. Sponsors will designate duties of the alternates.

Alternates are responsible for shadowing other members of their squad, leaning drill, routine and **actively participating** in all rehearsals.

Alternates are governed by all regulations pertaining to the group.

**Letters**

1. Squad members are eligible to receive a letter following his/her second "good" year on the squad.
2. Each squad member will receive a pin after each good year.
3. Jackets will be ordered at the end of June (3<sup>rd</sup>) year camp to be delivered during that fall.
  - a. A "good" year is constituted by attendance.
  - b. No unexcused absences.
  - c. One or less excused absence.
4. You must place a request for the letter through the band director using the Letter Request Form.

## APPENDIX A

### Starlettes' Uniform

#### **District Purchased**

#### **Must return to graduate!!!**

Sequin Vest (\$111.08)  
Shorts (\$64.64)  
Sequin Cuffs (\$20.40 per pair)  
Sequin Leg Warmers (\$46.00 per pair)  
Pollies (\$50.00 per pair)

### Silks and Band Front Uniform and Equipment

#### **District Purchased**

#### **Must return to graduate!!!**

Shorts (\$64.64)  
Sequin Vest (\$111.08)  
Sequin Cuffs (\$20.40 per pair)  
Sequin Leg Warmers (\$46.00 per pair)  
Practice Flag (\$20.00)  
Performance Flag (\$40.00)  
Flag Pole (\$30.00)

#### **Member Purchased**

Leotard  
Tights  
Character Shoes  
Tennis Shoes  
Gloves  
(Colors determined by the sponsor)

#### **Group Fundraising**

Shorts  
T-Shirt  
Windsuit  
Winter Jacket

#### **Member Purchased**

Leotard  
Gloves  
Tights  
Character Shoes  
Tennis Shoes  
(Colors determined by the sponsor)

#### **Group Fundraising**

Shorts  
T-Shirt  
Windsuit  
Winter Jacket