

Dear Parents of Prospective Markettes and Minikettes,

We are very excited that your child has shown an interest in auditioning for the Markettes and Minikettes! There are many aspects of being a member that you and your child should consider before auditioning. Commitment and dedication are required to be a member, as well as understanding our rules, regulations and audition procedures.

Being a member of the dance team has been the highlight of many students' high school experience. The dance team prides itself on its tradition of excellence and continues to push its members to new heights. Through hard work and dedication, dance team members will gain character, scholarship, dance training, leadership and individual responsibility.

There is an optional parent Q&A session on Tuesday, April 22nd, from 6:00 - 6:30 pm in the auditorium at MHS. All information about the tryout can be found in this packet.

The Markettes is a wonderful organization filled with hard work, many laughs, plenty of awards and wonderful memories. If you ever have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time!

Good Luck!!

Keri Maddox & Mari Vega

Markette Directors

1. Fill out the tryout application Google Form. In order to submit the Google Form, you must answer all of the questions and upload a signed tryout and constitution agreement as well as a screenshot of your grade from Skyward. This Google Form must be submitted by **Saturday, April 26th**. Failure to have these items turned in on time will result in being ineligible for tryouts. ****Go to page 8 of this packet to find the Google Form info****

2. All candidates must have an overall average of 70 or higher AND no more than two recorded F's in the current school year, according to UIL eligibility standards.

3. Candidates may not have more than one N or any U's on their record for the current school year.

4. A student may not have more than 10 recorded absences during the current school year. Extenuating circumstances will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

5. Clinic and Tryouts Dates and Times:

Clinic Schedule

Monday 4/28: 4:30-6:00

Tuesday 4/29: 4:30-6:00

Wednesday 4/30: 4:30-6:00

Thursday 5/1: TRYOUTS

Current 9th-11th graders: tryout will begin at 3:45 pm

Current 8th graders: tryout will begin at 4:30 pm

- All clinic practices and tryouts are closed, NO OBSERVERS
- Everyone must be picked up by 6:00 pm every afternoon
- You may not leave tryouts without being formally dismissed, 5:30 is a tentative dismissal time

What to wear to the tryout clinic:

- Any type of fitted top, dance pants (leggings), jazz shoes, turners, barefoot. Hair worn in a ponytail.

What to wear to tryouts:

- Fitted black workout/dance top. Black dance leggings. NO SHORTS. Must be wearing all black. Jazz shoes, turners or barefoot.
- Full stage makeup, including red lipstick. No jewelry or gum allowed at any time.

- Hair in a center part low ponytail. No wispies.

Tryout Guidelines and Information

1. The tryout clinic and the tryout is for students interested in both Minikettes and Markettes. Current 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders will attend the clinic. Markettes are now able to take freshmen, and if chosen for Markettes based on your score, you will be given the choice between Minikettes and Markettes.
2. Current 8th and 9th graders may choose to try out only for Minikettes if they are not ready for the time and financial commitment of being on Markettes.
3. If a current 8th or 9th grader elected to audition for Markettes but the skill level is not where it needs to be to be a member of Markettes they may be placed into Minikettes or Dance I.
4. The tryout begins at 3:45 Thursday afternoon for current high school students. All current 8th graders will begin at 4:30. Current high school students will meet in the dance room to pass out numbers and current middle school students will meet in the cafeteria. The tryout will take place in the dance room and the holding area will be the cafeteria.
5. A panel of judges consisting of dance professionals will be scoring the candidates and the tabulation of scores will be completed with an administrator. The directors do not score candidates nor do they have any kind of vote in the team selection.
6. The tryouts are closed to everyone except those assisting in the tryout process and administrators. **NO parents or friends will be allowed inside the school.** The students will audition 4 or 5 at a time, depending on numbers. All candidates must stay the entire time due to potential call backs.. Candidates will find out the results the following evening. The tryout numbers of the new 2025-2026 Markettes and Minikettes will be posted on the Markette website at www.memorialmarkettes.com.
7. There will be **NO** videotaping during the tryout clinic unless otherwise specified. Dance music will be posted on the Markette website. Dancers will not receive any help from the director/s.

8. The Markette directors and dance officers will instruct the clinic and go over stretching technique, technical skills, kick technique and teach dance combinations.

Minikette Time and Financial Obligations

Minikette training and rehearsals will take place during the school day for the most part. There might be an occasional after-school practice or two in the fall to learn choreography (September and/or October) and during contest season (February) but we do our best to get as much of our work done during the class period as possible.

Minikettes pay team dues of \$115 to cover t-shirts, choreography and a portion of their costumes. Minikettes must also purchase basic dance attire if you do not already own our required items. These items normally cost between \$100-\$200 depending on what you already own

Minikettes have performance opportunities during the year; football season, contest season and spring show.

Minikettes are required to take a minimum of 8 hours of dance over the summer and turn them in on the first day of school. Class must be dance technique based; jazz, ballet, contemporary, leaps and turns, etc. Summer dance opportunities can be found on our website.

Markette Time Commitment

Summer practice and camps for the line are **MANDATORY** and are as follows:

- Pre-Camp Party July 27 (5:00-6:30)
- Line camp at MHS –July 28- August 8 (8:30-4:30)
- Company Wars August 1 (4:30-6:00)
- Choreography and Pool Party August 2 (8:00-2:00)

All members are required to attend summer camps. Any choreography they have missed will need to be learned on their OWN time. **If a Markette misses any part of team camp the following will result:**

- If you miss 4 hours or less: 2 hours of conditioning/technique (director will provide details)
- If you miss 4-7.5 hours: 4 hours of conditioning/technique (director will provide details)
- For every 2 full days of camp missed, you will sit out 1 halftime performance, of the director's choosing, plus the 4 hour conditioning/technique requirement for each day missed (director will provide details)
- If you miss 4 or more days: you will need to discuss with directors

EVERY Markette is required to take a minimum of 8 dance hours over the summer and turn them in on the first day of school (directors may assign additional hours to specific people if needed). Failure to turn in hours will result in being benched from football games (director discretion on how many games.) Class must be dance technique based; jazz, ballet, contemporary, leaps and turns, etc. Summer dance opportunities can be found on our website.

Discipline will be handled according to the Markette Constitution. Markettes will be issued demerits for infractions of the rules. If a member earns 11 demerits they will be placed on probation (must attend all practices but performance rights have been taken away.) They must still fully participate during the school day and during practice time but will not be allowed to perform. If a member reaches 17 demerits they will be expelled from the team.

Markettes is a **YEAR ROUND COMMITMENT**. We are ALWAYS in season. **We have a Markette Google calendar with all our dates for the entire year that needs to be synced to your phone.** We perform at many different functions throughout the year: football games and pep rallies in the fall, basketball games and competitions during the winter, and Spring Show in the spring. Be prepared to practice Monday-Friday every week before school. Most days practice will begin at 6:30 am. We will occasionally come later. Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing band practice (4 occasional short after-school practices during the fall in order to hear our live music) and may not interfere with the practice schedule. Doctor appointments (check-ups) are also not a legitimate excuse for missing practice. Morning tutorials will only be granted if the student has emailed Mrs. Maddox by 9:00 pm the evening prior to the tutorials and the student has checked with the teacher and the teacher is not offering afternoon tutorials. Any instance a Markette will not be at practice, the director and an officer must be notified before 6:00 am, failure to make contact will result in a demerit. To have a successful practice, we need everyone present.

Auditions will be held for “featured” more advanced skill sections in contest routines and for placement throughout the dance.

Fundraisers

The quality of the Markettes dance team program cannot be maintained without fundraising. The participation of each and every Markette family is needed! **Each Markette family (mom and/or dad) is expected to volunteer a minimum of 8 hours during the year.**

Below are the current fundraising activities the Markettes and Markettes Booster Club participate in. New fundraising ideas are always welcome!

- Underwriters Campaign
- Design, assembly, sale and distribution of Homecoming Mums and Garters
- Fall Junior Drill Clinic
- Markette For a Night
- Spring Show: sales of tickets, program business ads and personal tributes, and refreshments
 - If your child makes the Markettes as a new member for the 2025-2026 school year we ask that you volunteer to work at the 2026 spring show. As your child matures in the organization, you will be asked to work less for the spring show. We want our senior parents to enjoy and watch their child's last performance.

Markette Financial Obligations

Payment for camp and attire will be broken up into installment payments; Payment deadlines are listed later in this packet. **Your full balance must be paid off before camp at the end of July. You will place your order for practice attire directly with Memorial Dance Center. A few other items will be purchased through Markettes on our website. You may place your orders from May 2nd – May 12th.** Your child will not receive their items until they are paid for. If you find your family in need, please reach out to the director privately to see if financial aid is available. Other financial needs are likely to arise throughout the course of the year. You need to be able and willing to meet these obligations as well. A list of other financial commitments is listed later in this packet. **Below is a breakdown of the costs incurred for the 2024-2025 Markettes. Next year's payments will be similar.**

Markette Team Dues and Markette Booster Club (MBCI): \$275 per member. Dues provide funding for professional photography (used for the Markettes Directory, SBISD football program, MHS PTA Directory, and any publicity poster), August Line Camp refreshments, team building events, Social officer led projects, holiday parties, several t-shirts, awards dinner ticket, professional choreography and team supplies. This also includes membership in the Markette Booster Club Inc (MBCI). Each member will receive a pictorial Markettes Directory and photo button of their daughter (2 photo buttons for family membership), and an 8x10 professional photo headshot of their daughter from spring show. **Team dues are due in August.** If you need a payment plan please reach out to Mrs. Maddox.

Summer Technique Training and Choreography: The Markettes Booster Club sponsors a summer camp in early August. Technicians and professional choreographers work with students on football routines, pep rally dances and competition routines. **Each dancer will pay a \$150** fee for this. This fee does not cover the entire cost- the Markette Booster Club underwrites the remaining costs. **Payable in May.**

Practice Clothing and Performance Accessories: Approximately \$500 per rookie Markette, depending on number of items purchased. In subsequent years, the cost is approximately \$100. Costs include practice uniforms, undergarments, shoes, tights, backpack, warm-up jacket, field hat, and boots. Costs for new managers are approximately \$150-\$250. A few of these items can be purchased locally or online (tights and shoes) but the Markette attire is custom and not found in local dance stores. **Payable in May.**

Big/Lil Sister Gifts: During football season, girls are asked to bring themed gifts approximately 2 times. Students are asked to keep the cost per gift at \$10 or less.

Competition Solo and Small Group Entry Fees (Optional): Dancers choosing to perform in a solo, duet, trio or small ensemble entries at competition are responsible for those entry fees, which are typically \$100-\$110 for solos and somewhat less per dancer for duets and larger groups. **Payable December-February**

Markette Parent Fees

Awards Dinner Tickets: The Markettes have an Awards Dinner each May at a local restaurant, hotel or club. The cost of the meal for the girls is covered by their required team dues. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parent tickets may be purchased for \$45-\$50 each, depending on the venue. Minikettes are not yet eligible to attend.

MHS Booster Club: Parents are encouraged to join the Memorial High School booster club. The Markettes receive funding from the MHS booster club to help defray costume expenses.

Markette and Minikette Tryout Required Skills

Turns

- technically sound double (or more) pirouette
- chainés in relevé and plié (fast or slow)
- piqué turns
- Illusion

Leaps

- Chainé Calypso
 - Saut de chat (développé leap)
 - Press leap/stationary leap
 - Russian (leap in full 2nd)
 - Firebird leap
- *Must have all leaps on R and L with correct technique!

Kicks

We expect kicks and fans to be well above shoulder height, with straight knees and pointed ankles and toes. Work on your stamina, strength, technique, and endurance.

Splits

- Flat/close to flat on R/L side

In addition to the above skills, we will also allow dancers to showcase the following advanced skills in the tryout process:

- A la second turns
- Double pique turn
- Turning center leap
- Triple pirouette
- Switch Leap/Tilt R/L

Markette Candidate Personal Information

Please fill out the following personal information on the Google Form below. This form must be completed and submitted **by Saturday April 26th**.

LINK TO APPLICATION GOOGLE FORM:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQ0YykLUiNa3tzP59XZMiAUiIR15KNYUsTWjPW1gsUKQ6TOg/viewform?usp=sf_link

LINK TO SBISD DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION:

https://www.memorialmarkettes.com/uploads/4/7/9/0/47900413/23-24_markette_constitution.pdf

**Spring Branch ISD and Memorial Markettes
Constitutional Agreement and Tryout Agreement**

I, _____, understand the time commitment and financial obligations of being a Markette. By signing this I am guaranteeing that I will be able to meet those obligations. I also understand that all discipline will be dealt with according to the Markette's constitution and that the director's discretion will be final.

I have read and understand the SBISD and Memorial Markette Constitution and will abide by its rules and regulations. I understand what is expected of my child while they are a member of the dance team.

Parent signature

date

I have read and understand the SBISD and Memorial Markette Constitution and will abide by its rules and regulations. I understand what is expected of me while I am a member of this dance team.

Markette signature

date

Director signature

date

Memorial High School Markettes
DANCE TEAM AUDITION SCORESHEET

1= Above Average

2 = Average

3 = Below Average

Contestant Number										
Flexibility/Kick Height and Technique										
Memory										
Technique										
Rhythm and Coordination										
Execution of Movement										
Style and Dynamics										
Projection and Showmanship										
Overall Presentation										
Total Points										

8 – 14 =Accepted
15 – 19 =Call Back
20 + = Unaccepted

Judge's Signature