

Dear Parents and Prospective P15 Member,

Thank you for your interest in Project 15 Dance Company. The following is a letter you and your child will need to read before making a decision to participate in this program. If your child is selected to be a member of the company, there are specific responsibilities and obligations that must be taken on in order to qualify and remain a part of the company. In the interest of building a strong and technically accurate program, we have auditions to come to a consensus of your ability to be a member of this company. Project 15 believes in having a positive and respectful reputation on campus and in the community, it will provide you with the opportunity to build on your performance skill set, build lasting relationships, and be involved with your school.

Team size will vary depending on the natural break in points and Coach's decision on size of the team. All team members will need coach approval to perform in any routine and performance. The final decision on the membership of any team and eligibility to perform in routines is made by the coach. All members of the team will be responsible for fees that include clothing, choreography, costuming, etc.

Project 15 Dance Company's members are required to:

- **Be an incoming 9th Grader or Higher**
- Be enrolled in Company Dance at Casteel
- Attend summer practices/ intensive at Casteel (Dates TBD once the team is formed)
- Perform in 2 school concerts- one first semester, one second semester
- Perform in our benefit concert with Campo Verde HS (tentatively set in January)
- Perform in assemblies, at home football/ basketball games, and possible invitational concerts
- Attend any of our after-school rehearsals, Tuesdays from 2:45 until 4:00pm
- Attend events scheduled for the team (U of A, master class teachers, etc. TBD)
- Attend our **out of state*** dance experience trip (Dates TBA, Location: NY)
 - *Not required but highly encouraged
- Maintain a positive attitude, work to create a warm and encouraging class, a fun but disciplined rehearsal environment, maintain a positive image for Casteel High School on and off campus, maintain appropriate grades, and to work to be the best you can be for yourself and the company.

Audition Requirements

P15 looks for members that possess more than just strong technique and performance qualities. **You will be required to submit a dance resume, non-returnable headshot, grade form (attached), and teacher and coach recommendations, as well as this packet completed.** Your resume, headshot, grade form, audition permission slip, costume usage agreement, financial agreement, behavioral contract signature sheet, social media agreement, completed packet, and recommendations are due the Friday before the first day of auditions (May 10th, 2019). Recommendation Letters need to be from **ALL CORE school- teachers the dancer had in the 2018- 2019 school year.** Coach Recommendations need to be completed by any school coach the dancer had in the 2018- 2019 school year, and one from a studio teacher the dancer had in the 2018- 2019 season (if the dancer does not attend a studio currently, they do not need one). **Recommendations MUST be given or emailed to Coach Sammons by the teachers.** Sammons.rylee@cusd80.com. They should address responsibility, leadership, and other attributes.

The audition will consist of a number of technical elements, two center combinations, creative movement, and interview questions. You will need to create a solo piece of your own choreography that consists of the things you can bring to P15. It can be any style of dance that showcases your talents best. Your solo should be a minimum of 1 min 15 seconds and a maximum of 1 min 30 seconds. Your music should be clean/ school appropriate. **NO YOUTUBE VIDEOS.** You need to be prepared with the music file downloaded. Solos will be performed on Thursday, May 16th and possibly Friday at the judge's request. If the dancer does not make it past cuts on Tuesday, and Wednesday, they will not perform their solo. Cuts can happen on any of the scheduled clinic days. A list will be posted on the website each evening- <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/8584>

Please remember you are being judged the moment you enter the dance studio, and the way you act and present yourself is of great importance. For the audition, please wear appropriate dance attire (fitted) that presents you in a positive light and have your hair neat. No crop tops, no mesh cutouts that reveal midriff, no briefs, etc. Looser dance/ athletic shorts require spandex underneath. Anyone who violates the dress code will not be allowed to participate/ will reflect poorly on their tryout.

MANDATORY H.S. ADVANCED and P15 CLINIC AND AUDITION SCHEDULE:

Monday, May 13th 3:15 – 5 PM in Dance Room

Tuesday, May 14th 3:15 – 5 PM in Dance Room

Wednesday, May 15th 4:30– 6:30 in Main Gym

Thursday, May 16th 4:30– 7:30 in Main Gym

Friday, May 17th 4:30– Until Finished (approximately 7:30) in Main Gym

Try Outs may run over time. Be prepared to stay until dismissed.

Final Posting of Dance Placement and Project 15 Dance Company 2019- 2020 will be by Sunday, May 19th at <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/8584>

1. The 2019- 2020 Project 15 auditions will be open to all students entering their 9th grade, sophomore, junior, or senior year in the fall. **There will be no other audition in the fall.**
2. You will be evaluated throughout the entire time. Each person auditioning must attend all days of the clinic, not being in attendance will reflect poorly on their final scoring. All audition days will be held at Casteel High School in the dance room and main gym and are closed to all spectators. Report ALL injuries to the coach immediately.
3. Clinic clothes should consist of **fitted black** workout/ dance clothes- Remember, when attending an audition you want to leave a lasting impression. All clothing should be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. NO OVERLY BAGGY CLOTHING. Fitted is highly suggested. Shoes (tennis shoes, turners, etc.) are not required, but are welcomed. Hair should be neat and pulled up and away from the face. Appearance counts! Friday's Audition attire may consist of colors other than black.
4. Wearing big pieces of jewelry and chewing gum is not allowed during auditions or practices.
5. Advanced dance skills are required to make the team. Any loss of skill may lead to removal of a routine.

You must be able to demonstrate: Rhythm, sharp and precise movements, flexibility, well rounded technique in multiple styles of dance.
6. Final Audition Day: You will be judged 3-4 at a time. You will demonstrate technical skills, combos, creative task, interview questions, and anything else the judges feel they need to see.
7. AUDITION APPLICATION MUST BE THOROUGHLY FILLED OUT, SIGNED & RETURNED TO THE DANCE INSTRUCTOR THE FRIDAY, MAY 10TH, 2019. LATE PACKETS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE START OF AUDITIONS ON MONDAY, MAY 13TH 2019, BUT IT WILL BE NOTED. ALL SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS ARE ALSO DUE. NO EXCUSES! IF NOT RETURNED, YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUDITION!!
8. Upon making the team a parent/ guardian will be emailed with the season handbook and will need to sign and send back in before school let's out on May 31st. This will confirm your spot on the team. Team dues will also be needed at this time so the proper items can be ordered and received by the start of our school year.

I am delighted to have your child join in the experience. I look forward to a great and successful year! If you have any questions concerning this letter or tryouts, please email Coach Sammons at- sammons.rylee@cusd80.com

Thank you!

R. Sammons

Dance Director

Project 15 Dance Co.

P15 Audition Application

Please return this packet signed, along with supplemental items to Ms. Sammons on the Friday before Auditions.

Prospective Members Name _____ ID Number _____

Current Grade Level _____ Current GPA _____

Parent Name/s: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Student Phone Number: _____ Student Email: _____

T Shirt Size (Adult) _____

Permission Slip/ Behavior Contract Agreement

I understand that my child has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Project 15 Dance Company, and I give my child permission to audition for the company. I further understand that if selected for the company/team my child will not be allowed to be on Casteel Cheer. I also understand that after school practices and events are mandatory, and students will not be excused for things such as studio dance, work, and other commitments.

Being a member of P15 requires exemplary behavior in all aspects. Dancers are held to high standards and should follow all school rules at all times. Along with displaying Courage, Character and Commitment, members of the company must be **respectful**, kind, and display honesty and leadership. Failure to do so in any way/ circumstance can result in removal of dances, privileges, performances, and even the company. Bad behavior WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

I, and my child, have read and agree to abide by the behavioral expectations.

Print Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Print Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Financial Agreement

Project 15 Dance Company will require members to have warm up jacket and pants, backpack, and other team clothing. If you already own some of the P15 items, you will not be required to order them again. Upon making the team you will receive a list of items and expenses. Costume fees will occur each semester. Other costs include travel fees, master class and choreography expenses.

Total expenses and detailed outline of costs will be determined and given after auditions but are estimated to \$400 a girl (not including out of state trip). All consideration is given to the cost of each required item, and costs will be kept to a minimum wherever possible. Fees will be due by May 31st, 2019. P15 will engage in fundraisers to help pay for expenses but should not be depended upon.

By signing this you acknowledge to support and follow the financial requirements of the team.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Costume Usage Agreement

Project 15 Dance Company will be providing most costumes to dancers. The dancer will sign for each costume that they have received. This will be an understanding that if the costume is lost, stolen, or damaged while in the custody of your child, that you and your child will be responsible for the replacement, repair, or cleaning cost of said costume. Notification will be sent home.

By signing this you acknowledge to support and follow the costume usage agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Social and Electronic Media Policy for Casteel High Project 15 Dance Co. 2019- 2020

Training and performing with the Casteel High Project 15 Dance Co. is a privilege. Dancers are held in the highest regard and are observed as role models in the community. It is an expectation of all dancers on the team to be responsible for your actions and your attitude. Your actions, words, and thoughts shared with others are a portrayal of yourself and of the entire company.

As a member on the company, I will not use electronic or social media of any kind other than positive comments and pictures. This includes messages to other dancers and students from Casteel as well as other schools, teams, coaches, teachers or my own teammates and classmates. If I am sending messages as a joke but a member or instructor could read or interpret it as a mean or derogatory comment, I will not send it. There should be no comments, symbols, or insinuations regarding the use of drugs or alcohol, smoking, vaping, parties, or anything that could mean dismissal from the company. Even if I feel the comment is in jest, it should not be written. If you add/create an additional account (other than the ones listed below), it is my responsibility to notify and share my username with my instructor immediately. **I understand that if I disregard these rules I can and will be dismissed from the team.**

All members are required to follow the Instagram social media account with all of the student's accounts:
Instagram: @Project15_Casteel

Parents, if you have a Facebook, please follow: Project15 Booster Club

All dancers accounts will be monitored.
Student Accounts:

Instagram: _____

Twitter: _____

Facebook: _____

SnapChat: _____

Other Social Media Accounts: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

As a **parent or guardian**, I will make sure that I am aware of my child's electronic correspondence with other members of the team, teachers/coaches, as well as other schools, classmates, and friends. If anything is intended to be sent out that is defaming, hurtful or could be misconstrued by the recipient, I will not allow my child to send or post. I understand and support the social media policy listed above.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

CCHS P15 Dance Co. Constitution and Bylaws

Preamble

The P15 constitution has been written in the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play, qualities which are to be exemplified by all who become members of this organization. It is expected that all company members extend to one another courtesy, respect, and sportsmanship. All members of P15 must:

1. Meet academic requirements
2. Abide by this constitution and the bylaws set forth in the P15 Handbook (to be given out after the company is made).
3. Fulfill all responsibilities and obligations with being a member of the organization.

Name/teams

The Dance Company is made up of one team that consists of 9th- 12th grade. The name of the team is Project 15 Dance Company. We represent the highest level of dance on campus and are also recognized as a Dance Team. There are some events and opportunities that only some grade levels will be allowed to participate in.

Instructor/ Coach

There is one Dance Director- Instructor/ Coach for the Dance Company. Coach Sammons will be the point of contact for anything and will always help as needed. She is highly qualified and meets all requirements in the Dance Education and Performance field. She, as well as every teacher a company member comes into contact with is expected to be given respect by a P15 member.

Purpose of Project 15 Dance Co.

The purpose of P15 Dance Co. is to bring individuals together as a team to grow in artistic and performance ways. We work to promote and uphold school spirit as well as represent Casteel High School by providing entertainment at assemblies, games, shows, competitions, etc. Each member is encouraged to develop leadership qualities and develop life- long social skills. A P15 member will be provided opportunities to develop and increase self-confidence and promote consistent academic performance, develop and deepen choreography and performance skills, and practice kindness, respect, and acceptance for all individuals.

Auditions

Auditions will be held in April/May of each school year for the following year's company. Additional auditions will **not** be held in July/August or at any other time.

Tryout Eligibility

All students, within the CCHS attendance boundaries, as well as approved open enrollment students, are eligible to tryout out if they meet the following requirements:

1. Must submit completed application and constitution with parent signature for permission to audition on or before the first day of auditions. .
2. Must have all supplemental items (Teacher Recommendations, Headshot, etc.) and must be turned in on or before the first day of auditions.
3. A student that does not have everything turned in may be required to sit out and not participate until everything is completed.
4. If a member was removed from or quit the team the previous year, they may be ineligible to audition or make the team. This is under the coach's discretion.

Clothing

You will be required to purchase required company apparel and keep them in good shape throughout the season. Company clothing should not be shared or borrowed with any other Casteel Dancer or students. This clothing is a representation of company members only. Dancers will be required to wear certain items on certain days. Looking the same builds unity and respect for the team. It also helps the cleaning and perfecting dance process.

Costumes/ Locks

Any school provided costuming and locks are the schools property. If a P15 member loses his/her costume or lock, he/she will be required to pay for a replacement within 2 weeks of losing it. Dancers and their parents are expected to pay for cleaning expenses and/or replacement costs for costumes that are returned soiled and/or damaged.

Dues

Students must pay their class fees and dues in a timely manner. A more detailed list of payments for activities and dates will be released upon making the team.

Meetings

Company member meetings will be conducted at the start of class/ rehearsal when necessary.

Selection process

1. All candidates must participate in auditions.
2. All candidates will be judged on attributes, physical coordination, ability to learn, technical, artistic, and performance talent, attitude, and other criteria as determined prior to the workshop, judging, and selection process.
3. Judging will be handled in a professional manner. Coach will not discuss audition selection or company after the list is posted with students and/or parents (Unless a parent wants to discuss **ONLY** their daughter/son).
4. All score reviews and selection process is done by the coach and guest judges.
5. **Along with scores, grades, attitudes, dedication, and commitment from the previous year WILL count towards selection for the following year.**
6. Participants will be informed if they have made the company 2 days after auditions.

Lettering

Company members will have the opportunity to letter. They represent the highest level of dance at the school. Upon making the team, dancers will receive the lettering policy and procedures.

Merits and Demerits

The quality of the company's appearance and success depends upon unified rehearsals, commitment, and dedication. The company will utilize a merit/demerit system in order to hold Dancers accountable for attendance, timeliness, and cohesion.

P15 members are allowed a total of **7 demerits**, beginning with the first day of class in the Fall. There may be scheduled events and/or activities per quarter that the coach will excuse dancers from receiving demerits, but that should not be counted on. All members should do their best to participate in everything we do as a team. Demerit counts will be as follows:

Missing an After School Practice = 1 demerit

Missing an After School Hours Event, Game, Competition, Performance, Etc. = 2 demerits

Missing Assemblies = 2 demerits

Being 10+ min. late = ½ demerit

If ½ or more of class/ rehearsal/ event has been missed = 1 demerit

Leaving 10+ min. early = ½ demerit

Missing a class period = ½ demerit

Missing a block day = 1 demerit

Not having correct performance attire = 1 demerit (could also result in removal from the dance)

Being unprepared to teach choreography = ½ demerit

2 warnings for excessive talking = 1 demerit

2 warnings for disrespectful/ disruptive behavior = 1 demerit

Not dressed out or in correct attire for rehearsal or class = Team Burpees. Excessive incorrect attire will lead to demerits at the coach's discretion.

Demerit numbers will be provided at the end of each quarter. P15 members can request to find out their total number of demerits at any time. It is the Company Member's responsibility to check in throughout the quarter. Parents are also welcomed to ask and receive their child's demerits.

After more than 7 demerits, you will forfeit the privilege of being on our company and no refunds will be given. If it becomes necessary to suspend or remove a Dancer, the parent or guardian will be notified. The dance director reserves the right to determine each case on an individual basis.

Absence Policy

P15 classes, rehearsals and schedules are expected to be put first and made a priority.

- Absences include “excused” and “unexcused” absences. The coach is the one responsible for excusing absences. An excused absence will not result in a demerit. Dancers are expected to be present at rehearsals, performances, and other/ all P15 events. Sick and injured dancers are required to be at every practice, as appropriate. Being absent from a contagious illness, having a doctor’s note, as well as other circumstances may not be counted against the dancer. Instructor will deem when a demerit is appropriate.
- P15 rehearsals, performances, and events cannot always be sacrificed for other sports and activities (such as studio dance). There needs to be an equal balance. Schedule of additional sports or activities should be provided at the beginning of the season, or as soon as you receive them. Dancers should not expect team commitments to be scheduled around their other commitments.
- Extenuating circumstances and/or emergencies will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Tutoring, test make-ups, school events/activities should be utilized outside of practice times if possible.
- If a P15 member misses a part, or all, of practice, it is his/her responsibility to ask a teammate or Sammons to find out what was missed. If a dancer misses material, Coach has the rights to remove from any routine or performance.
- All P15 members competing are expected to be present every day 2 weeks prior to a competition. If a practice during this time frame is missed, the dancer may be asked to not participate in the upcoming competition. This is at the Coach’s discretion.

Season Commitment

1. Summer Practices
2. Company Dance Class during the school day at Casteel
3. Designated football/ basketball games
4. All Assemblies
5. Casteel Dance Concerts and rehearsals
6. 2 Competitions
7. Weekly rehearsals
8. All related fundraiser events
9. P15 Dance Experience Trips
10. P15 guest teachers and choreography

Expectations for Rehearsals/ Class Periods

Along with company class, dancers may be required to meet 1 day a week extra. (Tuesdays).

Students will be informed when they will be required to stay for the after school rehearsals.

Missing an outside of class rehearsal can result in removal from the routine. If the choreographer misses, the routine may be removed from the show line up.

If you walk out of a rehearsal you will be removed from that number.

If the choreographer feels that their piece is being hindered by a dancer(s) inability to pick up and maintain steps, and the instructor agrees, that student will be removed from the piece.

If a choreographer is not prepared to teach their piece it will be removed from the show line up.

It is the responsibility of dancers to practice dances outside of class time for memory if necessary. This includes over breaks.

The instructor will have the final say for choosing the dancers for any piece.

The choreographer will choose formations for their dance. The instructor can move dancers in a piece at anytime based on memory, ability, and effort. All choreographed moves and music are subject to change by the instructor without explanation, and these decisions will be final.

The instructor reserves the right to prohibit a member from performing if it appears they are not performance ready. Dancers are expected to be fully dressed out in required attire or may receive consequence/ demerit as listed above.

Any negative comments to another member or teacher will result in warnings/ demerits. We are all members of a team and we will respect each other. Repetitive occurrences will result in removal from team.

Members should be ready to go at the start of practice time, not lingering in, chatting with others, still putting hair up, etc. All hair must be completely pulled back and secured in an elastic band. Big pieces of jewelry must be taken off. Dancers should have proper shoes if required and called for by the teacher.

Fundraising

All Booster Club fundraisers will be a group effort and will go in one Project 15 Dance Company pot. Each Dancer is encouraged to sell or work at each event. The more we raise together, the more that can be provided.

Grades

1. In order to establish a tradition of being a successful company, we need to stress the importance of student **before** dancer. Members of the program shall maintain a C average or higher. Falling below this average may result in removal from routines, performances, or the company.
2. Grade checks may take place at any time.
3. An F on a progress or report card will render the student ineligible for any performance taking place that week. The student will be able to do grade checks on Fridays to become eligible. If grade is not brought up by the following grade check, the student may be dismissed.

Injured Company Members

Injured dancers are still considered part of our team; therefore, they are required to attend all rehearsals, performance, and events as appropriate to watch, learn material, and support his/her company (unless health-care provider says otherwise). Absences will be counted as demerits. If injury restricts the member from dancing, the dancer is excused to miss only what is cleared through the instructor. Despite being injured and unable to participate, the dancer should still be in attendance with the team. Not being in attendance due to injury could result in demerits and or loss of lettering ability.

Removal

A P15 member may be dismissed from the team for the following reasons:

1. Not abiding by the requirements or disciplinary actions as listed in this constitution and P15 Handbook.
2. 7+ total demerits (or excessive excused absences).
3. Dancers are chosen based on ability and commitment. If a dancer fails to maintain skills or demonstrate commitment, he/she may be removed from the company.
4. Profanity in public, public display of affection at inappropriate levels, ditching school, or breaking school rules.
5. Any behavior or activity that is deemed inappropriate or embarrassing to yourself or to Casteel High School will result in possible dismissal from the company and mandatory substance abuse class and/or community service. This includes, but is not limited to, drinking, smoking, vaping, illegal activity and/or drug use, posting inappropriate pictures on the internet/social media, inappropriate social media posts, hazing, bullying, out-of-school suspension and outside of school arrests or trouble with the law. These rules are enforced for the entire school year including breaks, weekends and during summer.
6. P15 members are not allowed to participate in any outside competitive cheer organization during our season (tryout week through the final practice), or Casteel Cheer.
7. Consuming or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs is grounds for immediate removal from the company as well as school disciplinary action. Going anywhere with anyone without permission from the instructor during an off campus school related function is grounds for removal of the company.
8. Please be aware that your social media is also a representation of you and the school. Your posts should adhere to the standards of this contract.
9. ***A dismissed member must turn in their lock immediately (within one week). Dismissed members cannot receive "End of the Year" awards, or attend an End of Season Celebration.

Judges scoring sheets will not be available to students; however, judge's comments/ feedback will be available upon request the week after auditions.

Being a Project 15 member one year in no way guarantees placement on the company for the following year. All members must go through the audition process in the spring. There may be exceptions for incoming students from other schools, districts, etc. who were unaware of the audition, but not guaranteed an audition. Company is a yearlong class and new members will not be accepted second semester. In addition to ability, each company member's cooperation, effort, and attitude will be considered. Judges choose the company and decisions are final.

This constitution will be abided by and followed. In addition to this constitution, it is also understood that the Company Member will be held to the P15 Handbook and CUSD participant code of conduct.

Project 15 proudly represents Casteel High School as the Company Dance Company on campus. Members must not only have the desire and dedication to give their best effort during each practice and performance, but they must also serve as exemplary students in behavior and academic achievement. No student is required to be a member of this team, therefore; participation is considered a privilege and an honor. It is imperative that students and parent/ guardian understand the contract and rules.

My child and I have read the above Project 15 Dance Company constitution and we are aware of all rules and guidelines for the upcoming season.

I (parent) understand that my child cannot participate unless this constitution is agreed to and signed. Once a part of the team, you will receive the Project 15 Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Name

Dancer Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Dancer Signature

Date Signed _____

Please keep a personal record/ copy of these rules so you can refer to them.

Dancers Name: _____

Class	Grade/ Percentage	Comments	Teacher Signature

Answer the following questions-

1. Why do you want to be a member of Project 15?

2. How do you plan to stay committed?

3. What will you bring to the team?

4. How do you deal with conflict, hardships, disagreements, etc.?

***FOLLOWING PLACEMENTS DANCER WOULD LIKE
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR:***

_____ ***PROJECT 15 DANCE COMPANY***

_____ ***ADVANCED DANCE***

_____ ***INTERMEDIATE DANCE***

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

Clarification: if you only select Project 15, and you do not make the team, you will not be placed into another dance class.

If you check advanced and Project 15, if you do not make Project 15, but you do qualify for advanced, you will be placed in advanced.

PROJECT 15

Skill Requirements (the following, but not limited to):

- Strong ballet, jazz, contemporary technique
- Knowledge and ability in hip hop/ street technique
- Correct Body Alignment in Skills
- Individual Style and Movement Technique
- Outstanding performance, style, and use of dynamics
- Diverse Expression
- Choreographic and improvisational ability
- Ability to Work and Mesh Styles with Others
- Ability to pick up choreography
- Display of Musicality
- Strong Presence and Positivity
- Energy
- Creativity and Originality
- Retention
- Double/ triple pirouettes
- Side and center leaps
- Turning leaps/ jumps
- Flexibility
- Leg extensions and control
- Strength
- A la seconde turns
- Aerials, head springs, tumbling and tricks

Audition Checklist

- Read Audition Requirements
- Complete Entire Audition Application Packet and Supplemental Materials
- Parent and Dancer Signatures
- Attach Headshot (please be sure this is a recent picture, with no overly done make up and hair, we need to be able to recognize you!)
- Resume
- Create Original Solo Choreography

Sammons.rylee@cusd80 for further questions. Good Luck to all auditioning!