



ARTISTRY IN MOTION

IHS DTA

Let the Dancing Begin!

Volume 4, Edition 1

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Special points of interest:

- The southern regional is February 18 and the northern and central regional dates are February 25th. Make note of this.
- The IHS DTA is looking for feature teams for our newsletter- contact our secretary, Tami Haas at thaas@tms.cville.k12.in.us if you are interested.

By:Tami Haas

Crawfordsville HS Dance Coach

IHS DTA Secretary

As a new dance season starts for the IHS DTA it often brings back a flood of memories to me. Looking back on my many dance teams that have come and gone, I can see that as a coach, I have had the opportunity to impact many young people through an art form that is often under appreciated.

For me the summer brought on a weddings, engagements, and other exciting news from abroad as my dancers that have graduated from my team continue to share their lives with me. All the while, I built a new team who is young and excited and eager to prove themselves to me and their teammates. My summer like yours also involved many hours of camps, practices and performances.

Now, as the leaves turn, and my dance team continues to grow and learn, I think about all of the things my dancers have taught me not only in the months we have been together this year, but over my past few years as a coach. It is hard for many people to imagine that teenage kids can have such an impact on one's live, but I can definitely say that every dancer has changed my heart in some way.

I have learned valuable lessons about dealing with parents, finances, school administration, emotional teens, injuries, family crisis, and even death. I sometimes wonder why dance coaches are even titled as such. Are we not also mothers, fathers, counselors, friends, psychologists, nurses, and teachers? What an awesome responsibility each of us has as sometimes we are the

only stable adult in a child's life!

As I look upon my own children I think, "dance team sure does take time away from my family." Then I realize that the dancers are also like my "adopted family." Making the job even more emotional and binding.

When asked, "how do you have time to do all of this. OR how do you keep your sanity working with teenage kids?" I always answer that you do it for the love of the activity and the kids. We all know it's not for the paycheck, luxurious practice facilities, or abounding budgets! The fact that we change and effects so many lives is far more precious than many people can ever imagine

So, as this season opens with exciting new costumes, dances, and music, stop and think; put your job and your dancers roles in perspective. Are you working to teach your dancers valuable life lessons, while helping them to grow as an artist? Are your dancers forming unforgettable relationships and making memories that they will hold dear for many years to come? If these are some of your main goals I don't think you can ever regret one minute that you sacrifice away from your other job, home, or family that you dedicate to being a dance team coach.

So, let the dancing begin. Let the paths that lead our teams to making beautiful memories and growing as responsible young people unveil themselves as they do each year we begin the IHS DTA contest season. Thanks to every coach who puts his/her life out there for young people to learn from. I hope that you are as blessed as I have been from the many years I have worked with my dance team and the IHS DTA.

A Word From Our Judges

Many times as coaches we wonder what judges are looking for. We often think that we have developed music, routines, and costumes that will take our team to another level, only to find that we didn't take every element into consideration. As we begin this new season, I thought it would be wise to consult our head judges on certain issues to see what kind of advice they can give us as coaches. The IHSDTA is very fortunate to have the quality audio feedbacks we are given at each competition. In addition, I don't know of any other organization where judges and the coordinators of judges are so approachable and able to help our teams grow. We are very lucky to have Laurie Carr and Cindy Oler as part of the IHSDTA. In this issue, we feature their take on:

"What Judges Don't Want to See"

1. Dancers who give up, show anger or frustration when something goes wrong
2. Performers who ignore the mood of the music

3. Bad music editing
4. The same trick shown three times (or more!) in one routine
5. Choreographers that ignore accents or sound levels found in the music
6. Routines that stay basically in one place or one formation
7. Hearing the same song five times in one competition!
8. Choreography that is way above the level of the students performing
9. Performers who lose focus and lip synch
10. In-appropriate lyrics/music, costumes or movement for a "G" rated audience

Thanks to Cindy and Laurie for this submission. We will continue to feature words from our judging coordinators in each edition



"Please pay close attention to time limits when having your music edited"



**"Winning isn't getting ahead of others. It is getting ahead of yourself."
Roger Staubach**

Contest Dates and Deadlines

Please observe all contest deadlines. We have many great hosts this year. Please come out and improve your dance team by supporting as many invitational competitions as you can!

December Contests and Deadlines

12/3-Marian

Deadline: November 3, applications still being accepted

12/10-Washington and Pierce MS

Deadline: November 11, applications still being accepted

12/17-Highland HS

Deadline: November 18

January Contests and Deadlines

1/7-Munster and Brown County

Deadline: December 9

1/14-Portage and Tuttle

Deadline: December 16

1/21-Northrop and Terre Haute

Deadline: December 23

1/28-Lake Central and Attica

Deadline: December 23

February Contests and Deadlines

2/4-Crawfordsville and Lincoln

Deadline: January 6

2/11-Greenfield and Lafayette Jefferson

Deadline: January 20

2/18-Homestead High School and Southern Regional

Deadline: Homestead January 20

Southern Regional January 13

2/25-Northern Regional and Central Regional

Deadline: January 13

March Contests

3/3 and 3/4-State Finals



**"The twin killers of success are impatience and greed."
Jim Rohn**

Need Your Help-Calling All Coaches

In an attempt to put out ideas, resources, and exciting ways for our teams to grow, I am looking for "guest columnists," for the IHSDDTA newsletters. Your articles might be about a new stretching technique that is working for your kids, effective practice planning, or exciting websites you have discovered that have helped your team. I am also looking for coaches who are willing to put their team in the spotlight as the IHSDDTA featured team. If you are interested in being a featured team, have an idea for an article, or other exciting news to share about the world of dance, please e-mail me, Tami Haas, at thaas@tms.cville.k12.in.us, and we will try to work your idea or article into our newsletter! It's always exciting to hear about other teams and learn how they are growing. Some of the best advice I've ever gotten is from other dance team coaches!

New Varsity Divisions Take the Floor in 2005-2006

At the 2005 fall conference the delegates voted to divide the former Division II into 2 separate categories. As a result, the new Varsity Divisions are:

Elite—Varsity: This ELITE division is open to any Indiana high school team in good standings that desires to compete at the premier level of varsity competition in the IHSDDTA. Dancers in this division should be accomplished in advanced skills with a varied range of expressive dynamics, involving space, time, weight and flow.

Advanced – Varsity: This ADVANCED division is open to any Indiana high school team in good standings that desires to compete at the advanced level of varsity competition in the IHSDDTA. Dancers in this division should be accomplished in some advanced skills with developing exploration at becoming increasingly expressive in dynamics, involving space, time, weight, and flow. If more than 1/3 of the team performs any elite skill, that team must compete in the elite division

Intermediate – Varsity: This Intermediate division is open to any Indiana high school team in good standings that desires to compete at the entry level of varsity competition in the IHSDDTA. This

division is designed to encourage and reward beginner level dance skills. Examples of intermediate skills are: battement, chasse, chaine, single pirouette, jete, pas de bourre, pas de chat, double turns, and switch leaps. Intermediate teams can not perform advanced or elite skills (i.e.: triple turns, jete in 2nd). Penalties or disqualification from competition will apply to those Division Intermediate teams who do not adhere to IHSDDTA guidelines.

Novice – Varsity: This BEGINNING division is open to any Indiana high school team in good standings that desires to compete at the entry level of varsity competition in the IHSDDTA. This division is designed to encourage and reward beginner level dance skills. Examples of novice skills are: battement, chasse, chaine, single pirouette, jete, pas de bourre, pas de chat. Division novice teams can not perform advanced or elite skills (i.e.: multiple turns or switch leaps, jete in 2nd, axle). Penalties or disqualification from competition will apply to those Division III teams who do not adhere to IHSDDTA guidelines.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DIVISIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ANY IHSDDTA BOARD MEMBER!

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW DIVISIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE IHSDDTA BOARD MEMBERS, WE WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST YOU!

IMPORTANT DATES!

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

The IHSDDTA scholarship packets are due by December 31st. Applications can be loaded from the internet. Any questions about the scholarship can be directed to jbay@sacs.k12.in.us.

ALL STATE REMINDER

Directors must turn in the name of any dancer who wishes to try out for the all-state team to Sandy Taylor, IHSDDTA Vice President by January 13.



IHSDTA

Artistry in Motion



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WE'RE ON THE WEB
IHSDTA.ORG

Sportsmanship Is Contagious.

Teach your dancers about the importance of being a honorable winner and a graceful loser. These lessons are as important to our dancers as technique, choreography, and stamina.

We Care! Contact Us!

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Send us an e-mail!