

Amici Chorea Dance Company Handbook and Contract



Emma Butler-Smith - Director
ejbutler@episd.org
www.burgesdance.weebly.com

Amici Chorea is the Burges High School's advanced dance performing ensemble. Amici Chorea gives students the opportunity to receive extra dance training outside of their normal dance class while also learning the value of discipline, commitment, teamwork, and school involvement.

Members of Amici Chorea are selected for participation on an annual basis through audition and evaluation of personal and academic work ethic only. All students must audition – even returning Amici members. 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 selected for Amici and their parents/guardians understand the Amici contract and the expectations for the members.

Amici Chorea Dance Company Yearly Events/Opportunities

- *Spring Dance Concert*
- *Burges Fine Arts Holiday/ Spring Programs*
- *Meet The Mustangs*
- *Pep rallies*
- *Burges Homecoming Parade and Burning of the 'B'*
- *EPISD Dance Festival*
- *Workshops/ Master classes/ Guest choreographers*
- *TDEA Conference – All-State Dancer*
- *Fundraisers*
- *EPCC and/or UTEP High School Dance Days*
- *Field Trips*
- *Community Service or Outreach*

Mission and Goals

The Burges Dance Department is committed to the education and personal growth of all students through dance as a fine art by fostering:

- Understanding and respect for others through the study of a variety of dance styles
- The study of dance history and the relevance of dance within society
- Community Outreach
- Providing an artistic outlet where students can develop self-confidence and maintain good health
- Pre-professional and college level dance preparation
- Dance Performance and Choreography

Expectations

By being part of a school sponsored activity, you are accepting the fact that your actions are more prominent than those not associated with such an activity. Because of this, **exemplary behavior** is mandatory at all times, anywhere in the community and at all school functions where you are recognized as a representative of BHS and Amici Chorea. Members of Amici Chorea are expected to:

- Take pride in being a member of the performing group and be a positive representative of Amici Chorea and of Burges High School
- Be respectful of the dance director, any guest choreographers, fellow Amici members, and all other students, faculty and staff associated with BHS
- Refrain from gossiping or any form of verbal or physical confrontation
- Behave honorably and appropriately on social media (This means students will use appropriate language and display appropriate pictures, never disrespect the name of BHS or the Burges dance department and its members. Inappropriate language, cyberbullying, gossiping, inappropriate pictures of illegal substances, nudity, sexually explicit acts, clothes and poses can result in consequences, which could include removal from the company).
- Go to the dance director first if any concerns or problems arise in order to avoid any unnecessary conflict within the group
- Respect the property of the school and the property of any venue that we have the opportunity to perform in (i.e. dressing rooms, dance floors, sound systems, etc.)
- Be responsible and accountable for staying informed of all group activities, performances, and deadlines
- Keep their parents informed of all group activities, performances, and deadlines
- Turn in ALL fundraising money and costume fees ON TIME
- Attend and be on time for ALL rehearsals and scheduled performances or fundraisers
- Maintain academic eligibility following the UIL No Pass – No Play Rules
- Be enrolled in a dance class for the entire school year

Attendance Policy

Amici Chorea Dance Company is not like sports teams. We do not substitute members unless alternates are chosen for open positions under extreme circumstances. You being present is *essential*.

- **Students must be enrolled in the 4th period Amici dance class unless otherwise arranged with the director. All rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY.** Amici cannot reach its goals if members are late or absent. Please keep rehearsal/performance times and dates in mind when scheduling appointments, work, or vacations.
- **Rehearsals are scheduled Monday to Thursday from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.** Friday or weekend rehearsals will only be scheduled if the group needs the extra time for an upcoming performance.
- **More than 4 unexcused absences will result in losing the opportunity for a solo, being taken out of the entire choreography, or expulsion from the group.** Examples of *excused* absences include dancer illness or injury, death in the family, etc. Missing rehearsal or being tardy due to detention or work is considered *unexcused*. Not having a ride is considered unexcused – make sure to contact everyone in the group to see if someone can give you a ride.
- It is the responsibility of the student and parents to contact the dance director in the case of an absence or tardy in a timely fashion. *A tardy or absence is considered unexcused if the director is not notified with 24 hours in advance.*

Eligibility Requirements

Dancers must be passing all classes with a 70 or higher to participate in any company performances. We will follow the UIL eligibility guidelines and calendar. Waivers can be given for Pre-AP, AP, and Dual Credit classes.

Financial Responsibility

No one will be turned away because of financial reasons. Please let me know if you have extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for purchasing all required dancewear and makeup and accessories. Fundraisers will be provided to help supplement costume costs for the Fine Arts concerts and spring dance concert.

Fundraising

All Amici members are expected to participate in all fundraising events throughout the year as they will go to benefit costumes, performance venues, workshops, equipment, yearbook pages, field trips and more. District policy states that all fundraising is done collectively and is to benefit the group as a whole. Meaning, all funds are evenly distributed among company members. Therefore, it is important that all company members fully participate in fundraisers and meet all fundraising goals.

Dance Captain(s)

Dance Captains will be selected by the director from the company to act as student leaders. These dancers must show excellent leadership skills and mastery of the dance styles the company performs. Only former company members will be eligible to audition for dance captains. Dance captains will be in charge of keeping the group on task and will assist with rehearsals, choreography, warm-up, the planning of group events and delegating different tasks to other company members.

Texas Dance Educators Association

Once a year, the director and one company member will attend a weeklong dance conference in Houston, TX. One junior or senior dancer will be selected by the director to attend this event based on their commitment, leadership, technical ability, and need. Students wishing to be considered must submit a written statement describing why they deserve to be selected to attend the conference.

Accommodations

If you are injured or in need of accommodations please alert me as soon as possible so that we can address any necessary changes. It is important that your experience is enjoyable and that you do not worsen any injuries you might have. Official documentation is necessary for refraining from participation for any prolonged amount of time.

Removal from the company

It is recognized that these policies and procedures are necessary to maintain morale, discipline, safety, and effective learning. Participation is a privilege and not a right and may be revoked by the director when a company member violates the policies and procedures outlined in this contract. Should a company member quit or be removed by the director, the student will not be allowed to re-join or audition for Amici Chorea Dance Company again.

**AMICI CHOREA
MEMBER/PARENT CONTRACT**

DANCER:

I, _____, a newly selected member of Amici Choreia, have read and understand the Amici contract. I know what is expected of me if I choose to accept my position in the group and agree to abide by these rules and regulations. I understand that failure to do so can result in my removal from the group. I understand that it is an honor and a privilege to be a member of Amici, and I will represent the ensemble and BHS in a positive manner at all times.

Dancer Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT:

I, _____, am the parent/ legal guardian of _____ . I have read and understand the Amici Choreia contract and understand what is expected of my child if he/she chooses to be a member of the group. I understand that if my child does not abide by these rules and regulations he/she will risk removal from the ensemble. I understand that there may be financial obligations for performance costumes or make-up, and I agree to assume full responsibility for them. With this understanding, I give my child permission to be a member of Amici Choreia.

Parent Release: I hereby state that my child is in good physical health and is capable of participating in the activities involved in the Amici Choreia Dance Company. I hereby waive and release any liability and hold Burges High School harmless, the organizers, directors, sponsors and coaches from any injuries that may occur while my child participated. She/ He is participating at her/ his own risk and will abide by all safety guidelines in place during any 2020-2021 rehearsals and performances.

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Photo/Video Release

I give the BHS Dance Department permission for my daughter/son to be photographed/ videotaped for the use of school publications for the purpose of education and promotion.

Parent Signature

Date

**AMICI CHOREA
MEMBER/PARENT CONTRACT**

Dancer's First and Last Name

Student ID

Date of Birth

Age

Next Year's Grade Level

Address

City

State

Zip

Parent's Cell Phone Number

Student's Cell Phone Number

Parent's Email Address

Student's Email Address