

McCullough Jr. High Highland Girls 2019 - 2020



Agenda

- **Purpose of Highland Girls**
 - What do we do?
- **Highland Girl Expectations**
 - Cost, character expectations, parent expectations, time commitment
- **Tryout Eligibility**
 - What you need to do in order to be able to tryout
- **Tryout Information**
 - Dates, clinic information, attire, process, scoring
- **Tryout Results**
 - Posting, questions, reminders

Purpose of Highland Girls



What is Highland Girls?

-A Jr. High drill team which promotes school spirit by providing entertainment at:

--Football games, possibly high school games, basketball games and pep rallies

-A Jr High drill team that also competes in 2-3 competitions in the spring semester (weekends).

Please note this in advance and plan ahead.

This is a year long commitment!

*Highland Girls does conflict with winter and fall sports such as volleyball and basketball.

(Ex: You CANNOT be in HG class AND volleyball class)

*It is STATE LAW, not our law, that students cannot be enrolled in two athletic/PE classes.

*We do our best to work around track, golf, tennis, soccer, band, choir, etc.

*It is our goal to have students participating in multiple activities, if they choose to do so, while at McCullough without compromising the integrity of the teams or activities.

Highland Girl Expectations



If you make Highland Girls:

- If you make the team, you will be required to get a physical for the 2019-2020 school year. Physicals must be dated after April 15, 2019.
- There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 p.m. @ McG. We will discuss summer camp, order uniforms, and get information about the upcoming school year.
- A payment of approximately \$350 - \$500 will be due on April 30th
- Parents and HG members are required to attend.

If you make Highland Girls:

- Please bring your check book to the new member meeting as there is more than one vendor.
- Gently used items may be available before the meeting starts, in the MCG cafeteria.

Projected Expenses

- Black Leo \$25
- Black Leggings \$25
- Keds \$40
- Red Belt \$5
- Wrap Skirt \$40
- Membership dues \$150

*Subject to Change

Projected Expenses

- White Blouse \$57
- White Knee Socks \$5
- Game Day Shirts \$65
- Warm Up Jacket \$50
- Duffle Bag \$35
- Water Bottle \$15

*Subject to Change

Projected Expenses

- Fundraiser buyout \$100 (optional)
- Lon Picture CD \$20 (optional)
- Chick-fil-A meals \$60 (optional)
- Sister Gifts for the year \$25 (optional)

Grand Total:

\$512

\$717 (including all options)

*Subject to Change

Summer Camp

Mandatory camp will be:

**July 29th - August 2nd & August 5th
(8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)**

August 6th - 9th (4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.)

dates & times subject to change

- Optional camps will be offered and discussed at the new member meeting.
- If you can't commit to these dates, **DO NOT** try out for the team.

Practice Expectations

- Practice will be held before school on red days (6:55 - 8:30am) and during class time on green days. Weeks leading up to competition could result in morning practices every day and Saturday practices.
 - Highland Girls are required to be at practice if they are attending school, and excused school absences are the only absences considered excused for practice.
 - Unexcused absences can result in Highland Girls being taken out of the next performance and possible dismissal from the team.
 - Doctor's notes are required from your child's physician for an absence to be excused.
- *Practice times are subject to change.

Practice Expectations

- Highland Girls are expected to be at every practice in the proper attire, shoes, and with their hair pulled up and away from their face.
- Doctor's and dentist appointments are to be scheduled around drill team class & practice.

Being apart of a team comes before yourself.
You need to be able to take direction as part of
a large group and enjoy being in the group. If
not- drill team is not for you.

Performance Tryouts

Because you are now part of a team, all decisions will be made for the sake of a team.

Not every member will participate in every dance.
You must tryout for each dance we perform. If you performed in one dance, that does not guarantee you will perform in the next one.

If you miss the practice (excused or unexcused), or are tardy, before a performance, you can be removed from that dance.

Highland Girl Expectations

- Highland Girls who make the team are expected to represent our school and team with the utmost values and character. This means in and out of school, weekdays, weekends and summer.
- You are noticed in school, and in the community. So whether you are wearing HG clothing, or you are a normal person on the street, you are being watched. Your actions are constantly under a microscope.
- This includes ALL social media.

Expectations and Social Media

- If your child has any type of social media account (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter, etc.) or a phone with picture capabilities:
 - Please actively monitor!
 - As much as social media is wonderful way to stay connected, it is getting many students into a lot of trouble.
 - ANY inappropriate use of these accounts or devices can result in dismissal from the team. This is taken very seriously and you will be removed from the team, and/or the high school drill team.

I say this because it is
happening...

Please be proactive in making
sure your child is making good
decisions at all times... social
media included.

Highland Girl Expectations

- Your child has chosen to become a member of a highly regarded program. With that choice she will be held to a high standard as a student and citizen of our community.
- Parents and other members of your potential team have high expectations of the dances and of the team.
- You now represent a team, a school and a community with this choice. Your choices will affect your teammates. Their choices will affect you.
- Highland Girls are not only expected to uphold the McCullough Student Handbook Code, but now adhere to the expectations stated in the Highland Girl Constitution.
- These expectations are clearly articulated.

Highland Girl Expectations

With these expectations, teachers will routinely come to the director with feedback, encouragement, concerns, etc. Please be aware of this prior to enrolling your daughter in this organization.

Again, you are constantly being held to a higher standard because you have chosen to be a part of a well respected group of young girls.

Highland Girl Time Expectations

- Other commitments (private dance, ballet, soccer, etc.) do not supersede Highland Girls. We do not work around outside activity schedules.
- If you cannot be there, you do not need to try out.
- You will be a Highland Girl the entire school year!

Highland Girl Time Expectations

- Our drill team program is a full year commitment. It requires more work and responsibility than that of the average student and most other organizations. If you cannot fully commit and be willing to follow the guidelines, please do not tryout.

Highland Girl Academic Expectations

- With the time commitment of drill team, it is crucial that a student does not lose sight of her first priority at school, **academics.**
- If a student does not meet state UIL eligibility grade requirements, she will be ineligible to perform at games or participate in pep rallies for a period specified by state UIL regulations.
- Please refer to the McGullough Athletics website for a calendar of UIL grade check dates.
- All courses count toward eligibility. This includes high school courses and PreAP classes.

Highland Girl Parent Expectations

- Encourage positive relationships among the entire drill team group.
- Provide transportation to and from summer practices and camp.
- Provide transportation to and from practices and games at the times specified. When away from the McG campus, you, the parent is the only person allowed to pick up your child.
- Follow, support, and respect guidelines (do not schedule appts. during drill team class or practice).

Highland Girl Parent Expectations

- Stay updated via email and the Highland Girl website on upcoming events.
- Support your child academically so that she may stay eligible.
- Set a *positive* example with your actions, words, and communications with each other both in and out of McCullough Junior High events. This includes relationships with other parents.

Highland Girl Parent Expectations

- Relay all communications to other parents/guardians (dad, step-dad, etc.) who could not attend the meeting.
- It is important that everyone is informed.
- Everyone involved needs to be aware of what the expectations are and how the tryout process works in advance.

From Mr. McCord... (social media)

Many of your children have worked toward this day and tryouts since they were extremely young. Some of you as parents/guardians have spent countless hours and money helping them train to get to this point since they were five years old or even younger.

We share your excitement at seeing your child do his/her best at tryouts.

Few things are more frustrating, embarrassing, and tumultuous than a child making the team only to be removed because of inappropriate social media use, texting, email, or other communication disparaging to the team or other members of the group.

Parents/Guardians in an effort to prevent this as an athletic organization and administratively we exhort you NOW to prevent these problems with your child. We care. Note this also includes the summer. We want to ensure now everyone understands expectations and consequences along with the rewards of being part of this group.

From Mr. McCord... (fan behavior)

Parents/Guardians if your child makes this group you will have the opportunity to view many McCullough JH athletic contests. These are a fun time for all seeing our young people successful on the field, court, and sideline.

Note fan behavior is a big deal in 2019. Please make sure before you have your child tryout you can conduct yourself appropriately around other adults and even children.

Our goal is to ensure everyone works toward a positive outcome for all and at the same time realize in advance UTL referees will remove you from the contest. It happens. It has happened here. It is embarrassing and we want to prevent it. Note in advance everyone is watching and everyone is recording. Please also make sure any parent or guardian not here this evening also realizes this in advance so that we can work together to prevent a potential negative situation.

From Mr. McCord... (tryout stress)

We understand that trying out for drill team is potentially a stressful episode in life. The stress level varies for individual whether it be the potential team member or parent/guardian.

Our campus will do all we can to make the process the best it can be by keeping you informed, explaining the process, encouraging the girls, and keeping all information confidential.

Having said all of that, there is literally only so much our campus, or any school, can do.

If the process and potential outcome is too stressful for your child or you, please consider whether your child should proceed further with the process of trying out for drill team.

From Mr. McCord... (hot weather)

We reside in one of the hottest and most humid places on the planet.

Our activities occur outside in the fall starting in August.

Teams like ours across the state compete and perform outside every day, even when it is very hot

Hot days in our area extend through October, even after a cool spell may have occurred in late September

Helping your child acclimatize during the summer, and into the fall, is critical for their health, ability to compete, and function as part of a team in Texas

Having a water bottle at school, and with them at all times, is actively encouraged

Effective hydration starts *far* before the practice or competition

We use common sense, but please understand our event is an outside activity...Your help in acclimatizing your child is essential and appreciated

Tryout Eligibility



Tryout Eligibility

- *Student must be zoned to attend McCullough Junior High in the 2019-2020 school year.
- *All transfer requests must be approved prior to trying out.
- *If you know you are moving, please do not try out!

Tryout Eligibility

It is mandatory to attend ALL of the following:

– at least six of the seven practice sessions

– Mock tryouts on April 26

– Team tryouts on April 27

Tryout Eligibility

In order for a tryout candidate to attend the clinic after school, the student must be in attendance for HALF of the school day. Students who have not been to school for that required time are not allowed to attend the tryout clinic at McCullough that afternoon (this includes excused absences from school).

Tryout Eligibility

All candidates must tryout for the judges, in person, on Saturday, April 27th to be eligible for the 2019-2020 team (this includes injuries during the tryout process, sickness, etc.).

Tryout Eligibility

In order to tryout, you must have an updated medical release form on file.

This is page 3 of the tryout packet you will turn in.

Tryout Information



Important Tryout Dates

Friday, April 5 - Tryouts Packets are due before 5:00 pm in the McG front office

Monday, April 15 - Tryout Clinic begins, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Friday, April 26 - Mock Tryouts 4:30 pm - finish appx. 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 27 - Team Tryouts 8:00 am - finish appx. 2:00 pm

Sunday, April 28 - Results posted on HG website by 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 30 - New Member Meeting 6:00 pm

What Do I Turn In?

*In this order:

1. Drill Team Application with picture (small school picture preferred)
2. Signed Constitution page (signature page only!)
3. Medical release for tryouts

** All participants must sign addendum even if they are not currently dancing on a private team or with a dance studio.

Tryout Application

Due Friday, April 5, 2019

All paperwork must be submitted to the McCullough front office no later than 5:00 pm on the 5th.

There are no exceptions for late paperwork. If it is not on time and completely filled out, you will not be eligible to try out.

Tryout Clinic

Practice sessions:

Monday - Thursday (April 15-18) and
Tuesday - Thursday (April 23-25)

Mock tryouts:

Friday, April 26

**mandatory*

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

- Drill team candidates need to be dropped off and picked up in the car line near the gyms on the west side.
- Do not arrive before 4:15 p.m. so we may clear our afternoon traffic. Drill team candidates need to wait in the gym hall until called into the gym.

Tryout Clinic

- Consists of seven practice sessions learning two tryout routines.
 - One jazz routine
 - One high kick routine
- Learn how to stretch, kick, and dance with proper drill team technique
- Free small group help, time permitted

All practice sessions, as well as, tryouts are closed to parents and spectators.

Dress for Tryout Clinic

- Leotard and opaque leggings are recommended
- Fitted T-shirt, athletic shorts, and biker shorts are recommended
- Clean tennis shoes
- Hair tied off the face

- No jeans, crop tops, tube tops, halter tops, low-cut tops
- No jewelry or gum

Mock Tryouts

Friday, April 26th

- A practice tryout in front of a panel of mock judges. This helps familiarize candidates with the tryout process, calm nerves and help Saturday run smoothly.
- Candidates will do both routines for the judges, consecutively, then return to the waiting area.
- Dress: Tryout Day outfit
- Candidates will need to make their own tryout number

Tryout Day

Saturday, April 27th

- 7:40 a.m.- doors will open for girls to come in and stretch
- 8:00 a.m.- tryouts begin
- Stretch on your own, and wait for your group to be called.
- You will tryout with the same group from mock tryouts- perform both dances, and return to the waiting area.
- After the last group has finished, call backs will be announced. Candidates may leave once the director dismisses you.
- Not all candidates will be called back. It is the judges decision.

Dress for Tryout Day

- Fitted solid white T-shirt
- Leotard or sports bra underneath
- Black biker shorts or capri cut leggings
- Athletic shorts over biker shorts/leggings
- Clean tennis shoes
- Hair tied off the face
- Red Lipstick

- No jewelry or gum
- No HG clothing, written words, or inappropriate attire

Scoring

Outside Judges will score candidates on:

- Technique
- Timing
- Flexibility
- Memory
- Overall Impression

Scoring

- There is no set number for the team.
- Members will be determined by the natural break in the scores.
- The director does not participate in the judging or score tallying procedures.
- The entire process will be supervised by McGullough administration.

Tryout Results



Results

The results will be posted on the Highland Girl website on Sunday, April 28th by 4:00 pm

Please do not email the director to determine if a candidate has made the team.

Highland Girls

2019-2020 Tryout Information

Highland Girl Show Off: March 20th from 6:00-7:00 pm in McC Gym

Mandatory Tryout Information Meeting: March 26th at 6:00 pm in Nancy Bock Auditorium

Tryout Packets Due: April 5th before 5:00 pm to McC Front Office

Tryout Clinic: April 15th-18th and April 23rd-26th from 4:30-6:30 pm at McC

Tryouts: April 27th from 8:00 am-4:00 pm at McC

ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Please read emails! This is our main form of communication!

19-20 Tryout Presentation

19-20 Tryout Packet

19-20 Tryout Results

HG Team Website

- McGullough Website
 - Campus Life
 - Athletics
 - Scroll down until you see Highland Girls
 - Select Highland Girls Webpage

Questions after tryout results have been posted:

I will be happy to answer questions regarding tryouts, but please understand it may take a few days after tryouts before I return emails.

When emailing, please include the candidate's name and tryout number. All emails will be answered in the order received.

Because I do not score or have any say in tryouts, I can only give you the numerical values of YOUR child's scores. Federal law, FERPA, does not allow me to discuss or disclose information on other students. Just as you would not want me to discuss your child's scores with someone else, I cannot discuss other candidates with you.

If you ask, I will give you an honest answer.

Please understand:

-Being a 7th Grade Highland Girl does not guarantee membership for 8th grade. She must make the cut.

-Just because a candidate did not make the team as a 7th grader, does not mean she will not make it for 8th grade.

Please understand:

Not all dancers are right for Highland
Girls-

Drill Team is a very different style. It is all about dancing as “one”, we are not showy or flashy. This style does not always translate well from other styles (jazz, modern, hip-hop).

If you do not make it -- this does not mean you are bad dancer!

Please understand:

Everyone is judged by their performance on Saturday in front of the *outside panel* of judges. It does not matter if you have 1 year or 8 years of experience. What matters is how you perform at that moment in front of the *outside* judges.

We have a ton of good hearted, hard working kids trying out, but the judges score on dance ability alone. Being a “great kid” will not get you a spot on the team. It is totally determined by how you do in front of the *outside* judges at that moment in time.

Even if you have a great 2 weeks at clinic, it is Saturday's tryout that really matters!

Highland Girls will not be taking any managers.

Reading Assignment...

Please read and review the Highland Girl Constitution provided in your tryout packet PRIOR to completing any forms or turning in any paperwork. It is imperative you understand the expectations, commitment, and effort this program entails. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Director: Ms. Gilmore at slgilmore@conroeisd.net

Thank you so much for coming
tonight!

I look forward to meeting your
student & working with them
during the course of the tryouts.
Best of luck!