

Highlighter Constitution

I. The Organization

The name of the organization will be the Chapel Hill Highlighters. This organization will consist of the Highlighter Officers and Highlighter Drill Team. The colors will be royal blue, gold, and white.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Chapel Hill Highlighters shall be to give the students at Chapel Hill the opportunity to:

1. Represent the school at athletic events, civic events, and at competitive events throughout the community, state, and nation.
2. Foster good fellowship.
3. Develop leadership, loyalty, and good sportsmanship.
4. Encourage good conduct, high academic scholarship, and high character standards.
5. Coordinate support activities with other groups.
6. Develop a high level of confidence, public relation skills, and poise.

III. Highlighter Officers

A. Requirements for Tryouts

1. Must be a sophomore or junior active member of the Highlighter Drill Team during the entire current school year and must be in good standing in accordance with the Highlighter Constitution.
2. Must have an overall academic average of 80 or above during the current school year AND the six weeks prior to tryouts. Scholastic grades will be determined by adding the previous six weeks averages and dividing by the number of six weeks.
3. Must not have accumulated overall more than 3 points in citizenship in all grading periods prior to tryouts during the present school year. (S=0 points, N=1 point, U=2 points)
4. Candidates who have more than 1 failing grade during the grading periods prior to tryouts will be ineligible to tryout. All candidates must be eligible by U.I.L. standards at time of tryouts. (3 week rule)
5. Any officer candidate who misses 5% or more of the school days during a semester may be denied eligibility for officer tryouts at the discretion of the director and principal.
6. Any student that has been placed in SAC more than one time during the school year, prior to the sign-up will be ineligible to tryout. Any student placed in SAC during the sign-up period and/or during the tryout clinic will be disqualified as a candidate

B. Tryouts

1. Must sign up by the deadline.
2. The candidates will perform designated routines, which will be determined by the Director. All information regarding dress, types of routines, etc. will be the decision of the Director.
3. Dress rehearsal will be held preceding the day of tryouts. It will be open to the public. All candidates must participate.
4. Tryouts will be closed to the public. The candidates will perform in front of qualified judges. One judge will be a minority. The judges will not be an employee of Chapel Hill ISD. The judges will not be an acquaintance, friend, or relative of any officer candidate. An administrator, judges, outgoing officers, and the Director will be present at the tryout location.
5. Each candidate will be scored 50% before tryouts based on teacher panel recommendations, leadership abilities, grades, citizenship, team vote, and director vote. The remaining 50% will be scored in front of judges based on dance ability and judges' interview.
6. The teacher panel for each candidate will consist of that student's teachers for the current semester. If, at the time of tryouts, 7 of their 8 teachers have responded, the average of 7 teachers will be used. Each teacher will consider the following qualities in rating the appropriate officer candidate:
 - a. Appearance and grooming
 - b. Discipline/Dependability
 - c. Ability to get along with others

- d. Moral Character
 - e. Leadership Ability
7. The candidate with the highest score will be Captain.
 8. Candidates must sign a filing letter in order to try out.
 9. A Principal is in charge of the election procedures and will keep a private record of the scores.
 10. If a selected officer is unable to fulfill responsibilities, the candidate with the next highest score may be added at the discretion of the Director and Principal.
 11. Candidates who make officer will not re-tryout for Drill Team. Candidates who do not make officer will be considered for the position of sergeant.
 12. All officer candidates' practices are required.

C. Functions and Duties

1. Perform at the half time during designated football and basketball games.
2. Perform and assist at various other school and community functions.
3. Support the varsity activities when possible.
4. Be available to call team members as needed for information purposes.
5. Provide individual help to team members during and outside of practice time.
6. Choose awards of the week during football season.
7. Keep an up-to-date record of demerits and report them to the Director each week.
8. Lead warm-up and stretches for the team.
9. Help with music, props, and summer camp preparations.
10. Teach, polish, and choreograph with approval and supervision of the Director.
11. Hold inspections for football games and travel.
12. Keep a notebook containing phone numbers, a constitution, merit/demerits, and other relevant Highlighter information.
13. Purchase good luck gifts for the squad at football games and various other activities.
14. Work at fundraisers.
15. Purchase extra practice clothes for officer camp.
16. Responsible for any other duties that should arise at the Director's discretion.

D. Stipulations

1. Weekly tryouts will occur for routines. An officer may be cut from a routine if she cannot correctly execute the weekly performance.
2. If more than 2 demerits are received in a week, the officer will not be permitted to perform during any performances the following week. However, that officer must fulfill all other Highlighter duties such as dressing out, practicing, and supporting athletic events.
3. Tryouts for weekly football routines will be held on the Wednesday prior to that that weeks' performance. Demerit cuts will also be made. An officer can also be cut from a routine during the week due to attendance.
4. Any officer receiving an N or U as a citizenship grade will be subject to review by the Director and Principal, which may result in team dismissal.
5. Must maintain an overall academic average of an 80 or above during the current school year. More than two failures during the school year may result in suspension from the team pending a probation period.
6. Must follow the rules of the Highlighter Constitution.
7. Any current officer who misses 5% or more of the school days during a semester may be dismissed from the officer line at the discretion of the Director and Principal.

IV. Highlighter Sergeants

1. Requirements for Tryouts

1. Must be a sophomore or junior active member of the Highlighter Drill Team during the entire current school year and must be in good standing in accordance with the Highlighter Constitution.
2. Must have an overall academic average of 75 or above during the current school year AND the six weeks prior to tryouts. Scholastic grades will be determined by adding the previous six weeks averages and dividing by the number of six weeks.

3. Must not have accumulated overall more than 3 points in citizenship in all grading periods prior to tryouts during the present school year. (S=0 points, N=1 point, U=2 points)
4. Candidates who have more than 1 failing grade during the grading periods prior to tryouts will be ineligible to tryout. All candidates must be eligible by U.I.L. standards at time of tryouts. (3 week rule)
5. Any sergeant candidate who misses 5% or more of the school days during a semester may be denied eligibility for sergeant tryouts at the discretion of the director and principal.
6. Any student that has been placed in SAC more than one time during the school year, prior to the sign-up will be ineligible to tryout. Any student placed in SAC during the sign-up period and/or during the tryout clinic will be disqualified as a candidate

2. Tryouts

1. Must sign up by the deadline.
2. The candidates will perform designated routines, which will be determined by the Director. All information regarding dress, types of routines, etc. will be the decision of the Director.
3. Dress rehearsal will be held preceding the day of tryouts. It will be open to the public. All candidates must participate.
4. Tryouts will be closed to the public. The candidates will perform in front of qualified judges. One judge will be a minority. The judges will not be an employee of Chapel Hill ISD. The judges will not be an acquaintance, friend, or relative of any officer candidate. An administrator, judges, outgoing officers, and the Director will be present at the tryout location.
5. Each candidate will be scored 50% before tryouts based on teacher panel recommendations, leadership abilities, grades, citizenship, team vote, and director vote.
The remaining 50% will be scored in front of judges based on dance ability and judges' interview.
6. Officer candidates who do not make the officer line will be considered sergeant candidates.
7. The teacher panel for each candidate will consist of that student's teachers for the current semester. If, at the time of tryouts, 7 of their 8 teachers have responded, the average of 7 teachers will be used. Each teacher will consider the following qualities in rating the appropriate officer candidate:
 - a. Appearance and grooming
 - b. Discipline/Dependability
 - c. Ability to get along with others
 - d. Moral Character
 - e. Leadership Ability
8. The candidate with the highest score will be Head Sergeant.
9. Candidates must sign a filing letter in order to try out.
10. A Principal is in charge of the election procedures and will keep a private record of the scores.
11. If a selected sergeant is unable to fulfill responsibilities, the candidate with the next highest score may be added at the discretion of the Director and Principal.
12. Candidates who make sergeant will not re-tryout for Drill Team. Candidates who do not make sergeant must re-tryout for Drill Team.
13. All sergeant candidates' practices are required.

3. Functions and Duties

1. Perform at the half time during designated football and basketball games.
2. Perform and assist at various other school and community functions.
3. Support the varsity activities when possible.
4. Be available to call team members as needed for information purposes.
5. Choose awards of the week during football season.
6. Keep an up-to-date record of merits and report them to the Director each week.
7. Help hold inspections for football games and travel.
8. Keep a notebook containing phone numbers, a constitution, merit/demerits, and other relevant Highlighter information.
9. Plan parties and games/motivational activities throughout the year.
10. Plan monthly birthday celebrations.
11. Purchase good luck gifts for the opposing drill team at football games and various other activities.

12. Work at fundraisers.
13. Responsible for any other duties that should arise at the Director's discretion.

4. Stipulations

1. Weekly tryouts will occur for routines. A sergeant may be cut from a routine if she cannot correctly execute the weekly performance.
2. If more than 2 demerits are received in a week, the sergeant will not be permitted to perform during any performances the following week. However, that sergeant must fulfill all other Highlighter duties such as dressing out, practicing, and supporting athletic events.
3. Tryouts for weekly football routines will be held on the Wednesday prior to that that weeks' performance. Demerit cuts will also be made. A sergeant can also be cut from a routine during the week due to attendance.
4. Any sergeant receiving an N or U as a citizenship grade will be subject to review by the Director and Principal, which may result in team dismissal.
5. Must maintain an overall academic average of 75 or above during the current school year. More than two failures during the school year may result in suspension from the team pending a probation period.
6. Must follow the rules of the Highlighter Constitution.
7. Any current sergeant who misses 5% or more of the school days during a semester may be dismissed from the sergeant line at the discretion of the Director and Principal

V. Highlighter Drill Team

The Drill Team is composed of freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

A. Requirements for Tryouts

1. Must have been a member in good standing in Sapphires, dance class, or another approved extra-curricular group during the current school year unless a scheduling problem has occurred due to required classes. (To be determined by the Director.)
2. Candidates who have more than 2 failing grades during the grading periods prior to tryouts will be ineligible to tryout, unless a stipulation form has been signed by parents and student with prior approval from Director based on number of failing grades.
3. Must not have accumulated overall more than 3 points in citizenship in all grading periods prior to tryouts during the present school year. (S=0, N=1, U=2)
4. Must be an 8th grader, freshman, sophomore, or junior at the time of tryouts.
5. Must be in good standing in accordance with the Highlighter Constitution.
6. Any student that has been placed in SAC/suspension more than one time during the school year, prior to the sign-up, will be ineligible to tryout. Any student placed in SAC/suspension during the sign-up period and/or during the tryout clinic will be disqualified as a candidate.
7. Any student who has missed 10% or more of the school days during a semester may be denied eligibility for line tryouts at the discretion of the Director and Principal.

B. Tryouts

1. Must sign up by the deadline.
2. The candidates will perform a jazz routine taught to them by the officers and or the Director.
3. The candidate's will perform a kick routine taught to them by the officers or the Director.
4. The candidates will perform a split series taught to them by the officers and or the Director.
5. The candidate's dress for tryouts will be determined by the Director.
6. Tryouts will be closed to the public. The candidates will perform in front of qualified judges. One will be a minority. The judges will not be an employee of Chapel Hill ISD. The judges will not be an acquaintance, friend, or relative of any candidate. An administrator, judges, officers, and Director will be present at the tryout location.
7. The judges will have 100% of the vote.
8. Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Drill Team members will have to tryout again to be a member the second or third year, unless they make officer.
9. Candidates must have parents sign a filing letter in order to try out and may be required to attend a parent information meeting.

10. The judges will have the authority to choose the number of members based on the natural cut-off average.
11. A Principal is in charge of the election procedures and will keep a private record of the scores.
12. A drill team evaluation form may be sent out to all of the candidates' teachers, concerning areas such as initiative, dependability, attitude, etc. The results of the appraisals will be discussed with the candidates but will not be used for election.
13. A clinic is held each year prior to tryouts for the sole purpose of preparing candidates for the tryouts. Failure to attend the clinic will eliminate the candidate.

C. Functions and Duties

1. Perform at the half time during designated football and basketball games, and participate in the annual Spring Show.
2. Perform and assist at various other school and community functions.
3. Support the varsity activities when possible.
4. Work at fundraisers.
5. Keep a notebook containing phone numbers, calendar of events, a constitution, and other relevant Highlighter information.

D. Stipulations

1. Weekly tryouts will occur for routines. Members will be judged by the director and must show mastery of all skills, good projection, and knowledge of routines. Any member who does not make a performance is considered an alternate for that performance and should attend all practices and performances.
2. If more than 2 demerits are received in a week, the member will not be permitted to perform during any performances the following week. However, that member must fulfill all other Highlighter duties such as dressing out, practicing, and supporting athletic events.
3. Tryouts for weekly football routines will be the Wednesday prior to that week's performance. Demerit cuts will be made on Monday. A team member can also be cut from a routine during the week due to attendance.
4. Any member receiving an N or U as a citizenship grade will be subject to review by the director and Principal.
5. Must maintain an overall academic average of a 70 or above during the current school year. More than two failures during the school year will result in suspension from the team pending a probation period.
6. Must follow the rules of the Highlighter Constitution.
7. Any student who misses 10% or more school days during a semester may be dismissed from the team at the discretion of the Director and the Principal.

VI. Personal Appearance

1. All members must maintain an appearance of neatness and cleanliness.
2. Temporary or permanent hair gels, colors, braids, or hairdos which are a distraction may not be worn. This distraction is decided by the director. Check with her before you invest money. Members not in compliance may be benched.
3. No body jewelry, tattoos, tongue rings, etc. that are visible or are a distraction may be worn. This distraction is decided by the director. Check with her before you invest money. Members not in compliance may be benched.

VII. Job Employment

A member may work as long as it does not interfere with required Highlighter activities; however, it is not advised that a member work during busy times such as football season and spring show. During these times, it would be difficult to maintain good grades, work on a job, and participate in the Highlighter Drill Team.

VIII. Practices

A. School Practices

1. All scheduled practices are required

2. If a student misses a practice during football season for any reason, they may not be allowed to perform in that week's game or activity depending on practice schedule and/or available alternates.
3. Any missed practices throughout the year will only be excused with a parent note and Director approval.

B. Summer Practices

1. Officers will attend officer camp during the summer.
2. Drill Team members and Officers will attend a drill team camp and boot camp during the summer.
3. Both camps are required. Absence from camp will result in probation from performances.
4. Practices may be required preceding and following the camps in order to prepare for camp and school performances.

IX. Ball Game/ Activity Regulations

A. Transportation

1. All members of the Drill Team must ride the bus to designated events.
2. Roll check will be made before the bus departs and before leaving from any stop made.
3. The bus cannot be held for late comers. All members must be there at the designated time or they will be left.

B. Regulations

1. All members will attend all required activities. An absence will be excused only if it is of the nature that it would be excused by the school. For any absence (excused or unexcused), a note from a parent must be received upon returning.
2. Officers and Drill Team will attend all varsity football games.
3. No food will be allowed in the stands at any time.
4. No member is excused to sit with relatives, boyfriends, or girlfriends.
5. No member is excused to leave any activity early without the Director's permission.
6. Each member is expected to follow all yells and routines led by the officers and cheerleaders.
7. No mums are worn on the field when performing.
8. If any part of the uniform is missing, a member will not be allowed to perform.
9. All members must keep their lines straight while standing or sitting.
10. Members must not chew gum in uniform, class, or while performing.
11. Members must not wear jewelry or nail polish in uniform unless given permission by the Director. (This includes visible body jewelry and body art.)
12. Letter jackets or windsuits are to be worn in the stands at the suggestion of the Director.
13. When members leave the stands at half time to perform, they must move to their position in an orderly and quiet manner.
14. Members are not allowed to have "visitors" in the stands.

X. Probation/ Ineligibility

A member on probation is subject to all rules and regulations of the Constitution and should attend all activities but will not perform. A member who is INELIGIBLE due to a class failure will attend all drill team class periods and after school practices but will not attend performances outside of the school day.

- A. A student can have no more than one six-week probation period per school year. Conduct requiring a second probation may result in suspension at the discretion of Director and Principal.
- B. **Academic Probation:** If a member fails to maintain the required overall academic average, they will be placed on probation for the next grading period. If a member fails a class, they will be INELIGIBLE for the next three week period. Concurrent failures may result in dismissal from the team at the discretion of the Director and Principal.
- C. **Citizenship Probation:** Any member receiving an N or U in citizenship may be placed on probation or dismissed from the team at the discretion of the Director and Principal.
- D. **Demerit Probation:** Any member will be placed on weekly probation for accumulating more than 2 demerits. Members may be dismissed from the team at the discretion of the Principal and Director if more than **10** demerits are accumulated overall.

- E. **Behavior Probation:** Members may be placed on a six week probation period for the following behavior problems:
1. For behavior, in the opinion of the school administrators and Director, unbecoming to the Chapel Hill Highlighters.
 2. Disobeying any rules or regulations of the Highlighter Constitution.
 3. Verifiable information regarding reputation brought to the attention of the Director.
 4. Smoking, drinking, or using illegal drugs, anytime and anywhere, in or out of uniform.
 5. SAC

XI. Suspension

A member may be suspended after a warning is issued to a student and a parent regarding grades, citizenship, behavior, or failing to follow rules. If suspended, a member will only be able to tryout for the following year at the discretion of the director and principal.

XII. Merit/ Demerit System

Merits and demerits may be issued by the Director, Officers, or Sergeants. All merits/demerits will be approved by the Director and the member will be notified. Merits DO NOT remove demerits. Merits can be “cashed-in” for certain privileges.

A. Ways to obtain merits

Merits (One for each action)

1. Helping Mrs. Griffin
2. Helping an officer or sergeant
3. Extra fundraisers sold.
4. Smiling at all times.
5. Cleaning drill team room or locker room
6. Respect
7. Making posters.
8. Positive attitude.
9. Extra effort.
10. Special Awards.
11. Attending extra functions approved by Mrs. Griffin

B. Ways to obtain demerits

Demerits (One for each offense.)

1. Not wearing correct, complete, and clean practice uniform.
2. Chewing gum at ANY drill team function.
3. Wearing jewelry in practice or performance unless approved by the Director. (This includes body jewelry and body art.)
4. Wearing anything to practice that hinders performance.
5. Moving or talking in performance line.
6. Damaging a prop or any part of the uniform, other than from normal use or wear. (Replacement of the item by the student is required.)
7. Leaving food or a mess in the dressing room, practice area, or halls.
8. “Public Display of Affection” at school events or while in uniform.
9. Failing to bring an excuse if absent.
10. Failing to use respectful language.
11. Returning props or ANY item with a due date on it late.
12. Wearing any part of a performing uniform or pep rally uniform to a non-drill team function.
13. Forgetting a prop at practice or performance.
14. Using profanity.
15. Tardies (must comply with the Chapel Hill School District)
16. Leaving practice area without permission.
17. Not working off demerits within one week.
18. Office referrals.
19. Failing to follow Director’s instructions.

C. Demerit System Defined

1. Demerits must be worked off within one week of receiving them as a corrective measure for breaking rules.
2. Failure to work demerits off within one week will result in an additional demerit.
3. Any member accumulating 2 or more demerits in a one-week period will be benched for one week.
4. It is the responsibility of the student and Captain to keep track of assigned demerits.
5. Students receiving 10 or more accumulated demerits will be reviewed by the Principal and Director and may be placed on probation and/ or dismissed.
6. The Director will determine when a demerit is to be given.
7. The students may not use merits to take off demerits; they must work them off.
8. The Director will assign to members what may be done to work off demerits.

Agreement Form

My parent/ guardian and I have read the Highlighter Constitution. We understand that as a Highlighter, I will abide by the guidelines and requirements as stated. We understand that if I am unable to meet the requirements as set forth in the Highlighter Constitution, my membership in the Highlighter Drill Team will be forfeited. We also understand that membership is an earned position.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

*This signed form will be kept on file for one year.