



**2012 Texas Dance Championship
James Bowie High School
February 4, 2012**

January 29, 2012

Dear Director:

Thank you for enrolling for our 12th Annual Texas State Officer, Ensemble, and Solo Dance Championship and Regional Team Contest to be held Saturday, February 4th. Again, we are proud to conduct this competition at Bowie High School in Austin, with Jennifer Dawson as our contest hostess.

The contest will begin at approximately 8:00 AM in the auditorium and 10:30 AM in the main gym. We will conclude performances at approximately 6:15 PM in the auditorium, and 6:45 PM in the gym. An exhibition of winning soloists and, if necessary, finals for other dance age divisions will be conducted from 6:45-7:30. The awards ceremony will commence by 7:45 PM. We have tried to honor everyone's time requests because of travel distance and other school event conflicts. All Dance Solo age divisions PreK-K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 will be held in the auditorium. All dance team, large and small ensembles and officer routines will perform in the main gym.

We have included direct links to our website at the bottom of this letter to provide quick access to view the competition schedule along with links to see sample score sheets and category explanations. Once you have previewed the schedule, please contact us immediately with any mistakes, additions, drops or other needed changes. For your convenience, we have added an efficient way to submit these changes by using the links shown in the red box below. You may also contact our Central Office by phone (800-977-7933) or FAX (972-633-9737) with changes. A "final" updated schedule reflecting all changes will be available on our website on Wednesday evening, February 1st. This will be the schedule that is copied for the contest program on Saturday.

New this Year: We have two forms available online for requesting changes and corrections.

For Dance Changes, click on the following: <http://www.madance.com/schedulechange.php>

For Auxiliary Changes click on the following link-

<http://www.madance.com/schedulechangeAUX.php>

You are welcome to email changes to ma@madance.com, fax them to 972.633.9737, or call in your requests to 800.977.7933.

At every MA event, we try hard to schedule routines in a manner that allows directors of multiple teams to see each performance of their students, regardless of how many age divisions that entails. Because many of our competition participants are studios, we are finding this to be a challenge this year across many of our contests. If you have multiple teams, their performances will definitely NOT conflict within each team. They might, however, conflict BETWEEN teams. Many of you with more than one team also have assistant directors and/or parents who can help split the responsibility of being at every performance throughout the day. We are hoping that you understand our challenge and are OK with the solution. Again, once the schedule is posted please let us know if there are any conflicts that are less than ideal. We do our absolute best to alleviate any of these problems and reschedule them as needed. Thank you for your understanding in this matter; it is a good problem to have!

- **Neither MA Dance nor Bowie High School can be responsible for personal items left unattended in the dressing rooms. If you plan to leave costumes, purses, etc., in your room, you should also schedule people to stay with your things. We have not had problems in the past at Bowie, but there have been problems at other venues. It is unfortunate that this must be addressed, but the investment in costumes and accessories, not to mention billfolds and cell phones, is too great to be naively trusting!**

Teams, Officers, Ensembles, and Soloists should plan to arrive early enough on Saturday to allow proper time to comfortably change and warm up for their performances. The staff at Bowie High School will have spacious dressing areas for all participating groups. Naturally, we would appreciate your cooperation in keeping these areas clean and free of damage. **IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE CUSTODIAL CLEANUP, WE ARE ASKING THAT NO FOOD OR DRINK BE PERMITTED IN THESE CLASSROOM DRESSING AREAS. PLEASE RESPECT THIS REQUEST AND CONFINE EATING TO THE CAFETERIA AND MAIN COLISEUM AREAS. Jennifer has asked me to remind teams that the classroom dressing areas must be cleaned and cleared out following that team's final performance of the day. Remember, do not take food and/or drink items into these classrooms. The teachers at Bowie have been kind enough to allow us usage of their classrooms and we must respect their property. Directors will need to notify the people at the registration desk when they have checked out of the area so that the classroom may be inspected and rearranged for regular school activities on Monday.**

In an effort to minimize any damage to the main gymnasium floor, Bowie High is asking everyone using props and backdrops to have them properly padded. Let me suggest using foam and duck tape from a hardware store. Rubber wheels on props are always better than metal. The goal is to avoid damaging the wooden floor with staple, thumb tack, and/or nail scratches. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by the administration at the school.

The doors will be open for registration and spectators at 7:00 AM. It is suggested that you arrive and register at least 1 hour before your first scheduled performance. Upon arrival, directors will receive a schedule, complimentary program, information packet, and neck lanyard. Remember that all participating groups will be allowed admission for the Director and an Assistant free of charge. Admission for all other spectators will be \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under six years of age and Senior Citizens 65 years or older. Each paid spectator will receive a complimentary program and schedule. Spectator admission charges will be used as a fund-raiser for Bowie High School and as partial payment for the jackets and extra awards given exclusively at this competition. Thank you in advance for your patronage.

- **If you have male dancers on your team, remember to check at registration for the location of the male dressing rooms. Under no circumstances will the male dancers be allowed to enter the areas reserved for female dancers.**

M.A. Dance takes pride in conducting a smooth contest, which runs on time and is free of technical mistakes. Directors, please be sure to get your performers on and off the floor as quickly as possible since entrances and exits are not judged. **At this competition, our panel of expert judges will be providing their critiques on audio digital recorders that produce crystal-clear sound. No more tapes that malfunction. The judges' critiques will be downloaded on individual flash drives for all soloists, ensembles, team and officers during the competition and filed in your packets to be picked up after the Award Ceremonies. The flash drives are compact and compatible with any computer whether a PC or MAC. All soloists will receive a video of their routine on their critique flash drive, along with the 3 verbal critiques.** Naturally,

corresponding score sheets totaling 100 points and divided into the categories of appearance, choreography, technique, precision, presentation and staging, showmanship, and general effect will also be given. Directors and/or individual participants will be able to pick up their contest packets immediately following the competition. Nothing will be mailed!

Directors should be certain that their music is of good quality to prevent technical difficulties. Please be sure to have your music recorded clearly on a CD and bring back up copies of your music in the event one malfunctions. An iPod or other MP3 player devices may also be used. It is a good idea to protect your CDs from scratches by carrying them in jewel cases. There have been an increasing number of damaged CDs which makes bringing backup music even more important. Should you desire a sound test, ask our sound tech immediately prior to your performance. We will have a variable speed CD player in the main gymnasium that will run at normal speed unless otherwise requested. All team, officer, and ensemble events will be held on the main gymnasium floor. All solo performances for dance will be conducted in the auditorium.

Note: When burning a blank CD, finalize discs when they are finished recording. Although the information is now on the disc, the disc is still "open". This means that new sessions of information can still be added to the disc at a later date. The problem with this is that nearly all CD players cannot read the information from a disc which is "open". Only discs that have been finalized will be playable in devices like car stereos, laptops, and CD players. In fact, the recorder that burned the information is often the only device which can read the information. This is why testing your master discs on the same device you recorded them can result in a false positive. Make sure to test the finalized CD/s on different CD players to insure they are in working order.

MA will present beautiful awards at this competition including: Superior Trophies, Sweepstakes Trophies, Super Sweepstakes Trophies, Choreography Awards, High Point Plaques, Dance Technique Plaques, Best in Class Plaques, Winner's Circle Cups, Ensemble Trophies, and Solo Trophies/Medals. All solo and ensemble winners who receive a Division I rating will receive a beautiful medal in their critique packet. The highest scoring small ensemble and the highest scoring large ensemble in the entire contest, regardless of number of members or age division, will receive State Championship Jackets. These letter jackets will also be given to the top scoring Officer Line entered in at least 3 routines in the competition. This award will not consider size of team. The champion soloists in all age categories (PreK-K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12) will also receive letter jackets.

REMEMBER!! Our Choreography and High Point plaques will be presented with all of your winning routine categories displayed on the plaque itself. This will allow you to proudly exhibit all of your winning Choreography events on one beautiful plaque and your High Point winning events on a High Point plaque. This will also make the awards ceremony less confusing! We have implemented this system over the past few years and received rave reviews!

The dance booster club at Bowie will operate a full-service concession stand throughout the contest. There will be breakfast and lunch items as well as a wide variety of snacks. Videotaping is allowed at this competition; however, tripods are not permissible. You and/or your parents should plan to video with your recorder resting on your shoulder. This will allow maximum seating and a clear view of the performance venues.

Bill Watts of 5 Star Media is the official videographer for all M.A. competitions. His company provides very reasonable prices as well as excellent service and quality. He has done the All Iowa Drill Team Competition along with several bowl game productions and National Dance Championships. All performances on the main floor will be taped. Order forms will be available at the contest. You may also call **800-838-4955** after the contest to place an order. A professional photographer, provided by Marsha Adams, will also be set up in one of the practice gyms for pictures of teams, soloists, and ensemble members.

M.A. Dance has been extremely busy throughout the Fall designing the most exciting and innovative new apparel and sales items we have ever had. We have many unique styles of t-shirts and specialty shirts as well as shorts, sweat pants, patches, beautiful tackle-twill and embroidered sweatshirts, and much more. Basically, the items range in price from \$3 to \$55. There is something for everyone's taste and budget!

We, at MA, are looking forward to your participation in our 12th Annual Officer, Solo, and Ensemble State Championship and Regional Team Competition on Saturday, February 4th at Bowie High School in Austin. Please use the links at the bottom of this letter and review the on-line schedule carefully. Contact our Plano Office with any changes prior to the contest. Our toll free number is 800-977-7933 and our email is ma@madance.com. Remember, when viewing the schedules online, be sure to check that the posted date/time on the web page matches the date/time version posted on the schedule. If there is a mismatch, or the version shown does not reflect the changes you requested, please refresh the schedule by holding down the "shift" key and clicking the "refresh/reload" button on your web browser. This will provide you with the latest version of the contest schedule.

Bowie High School is conveniently located off I-35. The address of the school is: 4103 W. Slaughter Lane. Should you have any questions about the contest facilities (gymnasium, auditorium and stage, dressing areas, warm up areas, etc.) you may reach Jennifer Dawson at 512-414-2340 (school phone) or jdawson@austinisd.org. Jennifer is planning to email all directors a personal letter including information about facilities, dressing areas, and menu items available at the competition. Make sure you add her email address to your "safe" list so that your school district does not filter out her emails as spam. We are certain that your participation will be both rewarding and enjoyable for you, your team members, and your parents and friends. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. See you at Bowie on February 4th at the Solo, Officer, and Ensemble State M.A. Dance Championship!

Sincerely,

Mike Mastandrea
Executive Director

TO VIEW THE CONTEST SCHEDULES:

<http://www.madance.com/schedules/2012/schedule6.pdf>

TO VIEW CONTEST FORMS:

<http://www.madance.com/forms/ScoreSheetExplanations.pdf>

<http://www.madance.com/forms/SoloScoresheet.pdf>

<http://www.madance.com/forms/TeamScoresheet.pdf>

All scoresheets can be found at:

<http://www.madance.com/frameregforms.html>

TO VIEW CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

<http://www.madance.com/forms/CatDescript.pdf>

TO VIEW COMPLETE REGIONAL COMPETITION RULES:

<http://madance.com/documents/1112/REGIONALGuidelines.pdf>