

BOWIE  
*Silver Stars*



**HANDBOOK**  
**2024-2025**

**Director: Leanne Bilnoski**  
**Assistant Director: Alyssa Paramski**

**Scholarship Tenacity Attitude Respect Showmanship**

## **Silver Stars Mission Statement**

The Silver Stars Organization is committed to providing a quality, team-oriented dance experience through consistency, performance, and education. A Silver Star is expected to represent the Department of Dance, Bowie High School, Austin ISD, and the greater Austin community through their daily actions, appearance, and their character. In carrying on a rich tradition, a Silver Star will exceed academically, volunteer within their community, and be an upstanding citizen of Bowie High School. A Silver Star will display kindness, self-discipline, honor, and respect at all times.

### **Purpose of the Silver Stars**

- To promote appropriate and good spirit
- To develop team-building, self-confidence, and self-discipline
- To promote leadership
- To develop and maintain exceptional dance qualities
- To represent the school, district, and community in an exemplary manner
- To serve as a role model for impeccable behavior and citizenship

### **Silver Stars History**

The James Bowie High School Silver Stars Drill Team has brought pride and acclaim to the South Austin area for 36 years. They are known as innovators in the dance community, having flawless dance technique, impeccable precision, and incredible style. The Silver Stars have won countless awards and titles, traveled the United States performing and competing, while remaining at the forefront of their craft.

Beginning in 1988, the Silver Stars have received top honors in the categories of jazz, lyrical, contemporary, kick, modern, open, pom, and more. Some of their many recognitions include: State Champions, Best of the Best, Winner's Circle, Best in Class, and Best Overall Team. Their soloists have placed 1st and have taken top honors as State Champions and Overall Winners. The Silver Stars have taken their talent far and wide across this great country. Some of the places the Silver Stars have performed and/or competed include: Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, Disneyland in California, Disney World in Florida, Chicago, and in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. On these trips they have taken master classes with some of the top teachers, choreographers and dancers in the industry. Wherever they go, they leave a lasting impression.

The Silver Stars have had only 4 Directors in their 36 years. Ms. Mary Beth Kepper was the creator and founder of the organization in 1988. She was a graduate of The University of Texas, a member of the Longhorn Band and a Drill Team Director for 30 years. She was the recipient of the Texas Dance Educators Association Director of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hall of Fame Award. Ms. Kepper served as the Silver Stars Director for 17 years. Mrs. Jennifer Dawson was the second Director and was a former student of Ms. Kepper's. She was a Kilgore College Rangerette Officer and a graduate from the prestigious Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management at Oklahoma City University. She served as the President of the Texas Dance Educators Association and was a finalist for Director of the Year. Mrs. Dawson served as the Silver Stars Director for 10 years. The third Director, Mrs. Courtney Allison was a graduate of Texas Woman's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance. Mrs. Allison spent 18 years as a choreographer, clinician and adjudicator across the United States, Canada and England. Mrs. Allison served as the Silver Stars Director for 2 years. The current Director, Ms. Leanne Bilnoski, is an Austin ISD graduate from Anderson High School where she served as the Captain of the Trojan Belles then became a Kilgore College Rangerette and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater and Dance. Ms. Bilnoski is beginning her 8th year as the Silver Stars Director.

The Legacy Alumni Organization was founded after the 30<sup>th</sup> Line Performance in 2017. The Legacies provide support for the current team by writing encouraging letters, giving gifts, and attending the Silver Stars performances. The Silver Stars are so grateful for the support they have received over the course of the years.

The Silver Stars continue to bring pride, grace and excellence to James Bowie High School with their commitment to honoring the traditions of the past, while continuing to push the boundaries of artistry into the future.

## Silver Stars Expectations

When a student becomes a member of the James Bowie High School Silver Stars, their entire family becomes a part of an extended family that include supporters, spectators, and volunteers. Being a Bowie Silver Star is one of the highest honors at James Bowie High School, as the Silver Stars are a representation of our student population, our school district, and our community. There is an incredible demand on the Silver Stars and their family that requires time, financial, and emotional responsibilities.

**Time:** Family schedules will sometimes have to be adjusted to accommodate the schedule and commitments of the Silver Stars Organization. This is a TEAM activity, meaning each member must be present for rehearsals and performances to run smoothly and effectively. Parents are asked to volunteer their time in order to facilitate performances, social events, and fundraising. Most importantly, it is imperative that families show their support of their dancer by attending the football games, booster meetings, and performances.

**Money:** Every effort is made to keep expenses reasonable, however, there is a considerable financial responsibility for each member. In an effort to offset some of the costs associated with being a Silver Star, the Silver Stars Booster Club provides opportunities to fundraise, helping to defray costs. Each performer and their family must support these events by providing their time and talents, as well as encouraging the community to participate as well. Each team member directly benefits from these events.

**Emotional Investment:** Every dancer will have their triumphs and disappointments. With each moment is an opportunity for personal growth from an individual standpoint and a team standpoint. Celebrate your Silver Star's personal triumphs, as they have worked hard to achieve them. Be patient with them when they are disappointed, encourage them to ask for feedback, and recognize that with every moment of disappointment comes a wonderful opportunity for growth and reflection. Individual communication is paramount to the team's success.

**Year-Round Commitment:** The Silver Stars Organization is a year-round commitment. Once a student makes the team, it is expected that they will serve the entire year. Should they leave the team for **any** reason, their membership will be void until the next Silver Star audition. If a Silver Star dis-enrolls from James Bowie High School, they are no longer a Silver Star and can re-audition when Silver Star auditions are held the following school year. The expenses for Silver Stars are budgeted a year in advance, if your student decides not to continue in the Silver Star program after the first two weeks of school or is removed at ANY time during the school year, they are obligated to pay the full Fairshare amount for the entire year.

If you are to become part of this organization, you and your family are expected to represent the Silver Stars Organization to the best of your ability. Your words and actions should reflect positively for each and every Silver Star dancer. As a large and growing family, we respect everyone's individuality and encourage an environment free from judgment. Always consider the well-being of the team and what is best for the organization. We must be willing to work together for the greater good.

**Please reference this handbook. It is designed to be used as a guideline to make the Silver Stars team the best it can be. Common sense and good judgment will be used when events NOT covered in the handbook arise. It is our hope that the experiences taught within the Silver Stars Organization are life-long, rewarding lessons that will resonate with these students long after they graduate from James Bowie High School.**

# Silver Stars Qualifications

## Team Qualifications

In order to be eligible to be a Silver Star, a student must:

- Be in sophomore, junior, or senior standing at the time of membership.
- Have the correct number of credits for the number of years of attendance in high school and may not be behind in earning credits toward graduation. Have an overall scholastic average of 2.0 for all courses taken.
- Turn in a complete audition application to be approved by the Directors. Audition before a panel of judges who will rate the candidate.
- Attend all rehearsals and performances throughout the entire year.
- Demonstrate their ability to perform a given routine as determined by the Directors with the assistance of the Officers in an audition. Audition for every Silver Stars performance.
- Be willing to abide by the Silver Star Code of Conduct and rules and regulations of Austin ISD.
- Cooperate with the Directors in promoting good citizenship in the school and in the community, developing good sportsmanship among all students and between schools.
- Refrain from participation in any activity that would embarrass a fellow student or cause physical or emotional discomfort or harm.
- Resign gracefully upon failure to live up to the requirements of membership.

## Maintenance of Membership

**Grade Requirements:** Grades will be checked each nine weeks to determine if every member is eligible to remain on the team.

- In accordance with UIL "no pass/no play" rules, any member failing a course (below a 70) will be ineligible for 9 weeks unless the student gains eligibility after 3 weeks or 6 weeks, by passing ALL of their classes with a 70 or above. Probation will last for a period of 3 weeks, 6 weeks (*or 9 weeks if eligibility is not regained*) for the date assigned, during which time, the member will not perform as a member of the group. However, they must attend all practices, events, and fundraisers with the group until eligibility has been regained. The member must continue to dress out in correct dance attire while on probation. *\*\*Pre-AP and AP classes will be waived upon the completion of the waiver form which will be picked up from the Directors.*
- If a member loses eligibility two times in any cumulative year, then they will be removed from the Silver Stars program for the remainder of the year. Special cases will be decided by the Directors.
- Any officer who is placed on grade probation will relinquish their officer position and cannot regain the officer position for the remainder of the school year.

## **Attendance Policy**

In order to maximize rehearsal time, a strict attendance policy must be in place. ***As a Silver Star, you have an obligation to your fellow teammates to:***

- Be able to attend ALL scheduled rehearsals before and/or after school, nights, weekends and summer.
  - **MUST ATTEND LINE CAMP IN JUNE IN ORDER TO BE A SILVER STAR.**
- Be at school the day of a performance.
- Attend additional rehearsals called by the Directors as deemed necessary.
- Agree to remain the entire length of a function unless prior arrangements are made with both Directors.
- **Contact BOTH Directors via email AND assigned Officer by phone, or in person, in advance of an absence.**
  - If you fail to contact the Directors prior to the absence, you will receive demerits.
- Attend games in uniform or performances whether performing or not and sit in a designated area for games as a self-contained unit and serve as a spirit group.
- **Accept that if they are tardy or absent from a rehearsal during the week of a performance they may be replaced or cut from the dance piece.**
- Never miss a field practice during Football season.
- Never miss a Burger practice during Contest season.
- Never miss monthly ballet classes.
  - Any Silver Star who misses more than 30 minutes of ballet (for any circumstances), will need to make up the class on their own. They will need to submit their dance hours within 14 days of the missed class. If you do not complete your required makeup Ballet class, you will receive demerits.
- All Silver Stars must abide by the Bowie High School attendance policies.

Examples of UNEXCUSED absences/tardies include, but are not limited to (you must contact the Directors promptly):

- Work
- Oversleeping
- Transportation not arranged
- Anything deemed unexcused by Bowie Administration

**Appointments should not be scheduled during rehearsal times, performances, contests, or competitions. Unless they are an emergency, they are unexcused. Making up tests and other school work must be done on your own time and not during rehearsal.**

“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be wrong”

## **Transportation and Student Behavior**

### **Bus Transportation**

The Austin ISD’s Student Behavior Code applies equally throughout the District, regardless of where the incident occurs. Inappropriate behavior on a bus or school trip will be treated with the same level of scrutiny as inappropriate behavior in the classroom and will lead to appropriate school consequences as spelled out in the handbook.

- All Silver Stars are expected to use the buses when provided, both to and from events.
- The Silver Stars will travel as a unit on all trips. If a Silver Star has a good reason to return from a trip by other means of transportation, the student must submit a written permit or email to the Directors, signed by the student’s parents/guardians. This permit must be provided **24 hours in advance. The parents/guardians must see the Directors at the time of departure in order to authenticate the note.**
- An adult chaperone will be on each bus.
- No flash photography is allowed during team transportation.
- Students will be held responsible for any destruction or vandalism to the seats, windows, or bus equipment.
- Buses are to be treated with care and all trash is to be picked up before exiting the bus. Keep the bus clean!
- Talking must be limited to talking, no yelling or screaming, as this distracts the driver. No extreme noises will be tolerated.
- Follow the bus driver’s directions at all times.

### **Parent Transportation of Students**

At times, parents will be asked to volunteer their time to help transport students to or from an event. Parents are asked to wait until all students are accounted for and then proceed in a caravan to the event. This ensures all of our students are together and safe for the duration of the ride.

### **Day/Overnight Silver Star Trip Behavior**

Silver Stars trips are school sponsored and therefore also fall under school policy and rules. Only EXEMPLARY conduct will be acceptable from the Silver Stars and chaperones when at a football game, day trip, or overnight trip. Silver Stars will be polite and courteous to other teams, educators, and anyone they encounter. Inappropriate and overly boisterous behavior will not be tolerated by any Silver Star at a contest, day trip, or overnight trip. This includes the hotels used for overnight trips. There will be NO smoking, use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time at any Silver Stars or Austin ISD sponsored function. Silver Stars will be given as much free time as is consistent with the educational intent of the trip. Students must return at the appointed time. No one is to leave the group for any reason, until properly dismissed by the Directors.

## **Silver Stars Code of Conduct**

The administration, faculty and staff assume that secondary students are mature, behave responsibly while at school, and that all discipline manners can be handled in a calm and reasonable manner. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, certain standards of behavior are necessary. Standard procedures for disciplinary infractions will be enforced fairly, promptly, and equitably to every student. In order for you to know what standards of behavior are expected, the following information is provided.

- Students will be expected to have the proper frame of mind prior to and during rehearsals and performances, avoiding inappropriate behavior.
- Students will be prepared and on time for rehearsal.
- A portion of the Drill Team activity is somewhat militaristic. Therefore, it is expected that students be aggressive and rigorous in rehearsing and performing the drill team fundamentals.
- **Knock before entering the Directors' office. No student is to occupy the dance gym or studio without permission. No student is permitted to use the Directors' computers or devices without permission.**
- Take care of the equipment and uniforms you are using.
- Silver Stars will keep an exceptional appearance. Hair colors that are unnatural, hairstyles that are distracting, and clothing that does not fall under Bowie High School dress-code are prohibited.
- While in uniform/costume, there are to be no visible piercings. Spacers or band-aides must be used to cover up the piercing.
- **PDA (Public Displays of Affection) will NOT be permitted in/near campus, any dance facilities, on trips, or on official Silver Star functions.**
- Loud and boisterous activity by a Silver Star when in public is not appropriate.
- Use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products is strictly forbidden and is grounds for dismissal from the team.
- The use of inappropriate language or profanity will not be tolerated.
- Silver Stars serve as good-will ambassadors for the school and community. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the Bowie High School Dance Department, the school, and to the parents. Be courteous and respectful at all times... there is always someone watching and listening.

Follow all school and district rules. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:

- Conference with student
- Conference with parent
- Conference with administration
- Probationary contract
- Expulsion from the Silver Stars organization
- Other, as designated by the administration

### **Social Media Policy**

As a Silver Star, you are expected to maintain a pristine appearance, both in person and online. At no time will a Silver Star infer or post anything online negative about the Silver Stars organization, fellow students, teachers, teammates, parents, Directors, Booster Club, or any contest or rehearsal outcome. Your presence on any social media platform is a direct reflection on the Silver Stars Organization that will never be erased from the internet. What you post today, can be found years later and can become a detriment to your character and the Silver Stars. Negative online activity will not be tolerated by the Silver Stars Organization.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that drill team members' personal websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as but not limited to Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, inappropriate texting, etc... appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Silver Stars are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products. Any "finstagram" or spam accounts made by Silver Stars will not be tolerated. Any drill team member who is caught with inappropriate, negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments, or statuses on any social networks will be removed from the extra-curricular portions of the program for a time period established between the Directors and the Administration. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.

### **Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Policy**

The Silver Stars pride themselves in being superior citizens to our community, to our school, and to ourselves. The possession, sale, distribution, or use, **of any amount** of alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, tobacco products, vaping or any other controlled substance is strictly prohibited. These offenses are not tolerated by our program. Any evidence (*public or private, including social networking sites, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.*) of the

use or possession of alcohol, or illegal drugs at *any time* while a member of Bowie High School Silver Stars including weekends, evenings, holidays and summer will result in the following:

- If a Silver Star is involved in any incident (on or off campus) including drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, they will permanently lose their membership on the team for the remainder of the school year. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.
- If a violation occurs on an official Silver Stars trip, the Silver Stars member will be sent home immediately at their own expense in accordance with school-wide travel policies.
- Administrators and Directors are required to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and are to report to them any and all information that would be considered pertinent or beneficial in their efforts to stop the sale, possession, and use of illegal drugs and controlled substances.

An immediate student/parent conference with the Silver Stars Directors and the Bowie High School administration will occur. **No exceptions.** Possession or usage of these substances can have dire consequences for the student and also reflects upon the Silver Stars and Bowie High School. The Silver Star will be permanently removed from the team. A review board made up of the Silver Stars Directors and Bowie High School administrator shall make the determination of whether a violation of the Silver Stars Drug, Alcohol, & Tobacco Policy has occurred.

### **Bullying/Hazing**

Bullying and/or Hazing are not tolerated by the Silver Stars organization. If you feel as if you are being bullied or hazed, please notify parents and Directors immediately. Anyone found to be bullying or hazing will be removed from the extra-curricular portions of the program for a time period established between the Directors and the Administration. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year.

### **The Demerit System**

Demerits help to reinforce the regulations set forth by the Silver Stars Handbook as well as the Bowie High School Code of Conduct.

- An accumulation of 15 demerits at any time in the year will be cause for removal from the organization.
- Only the Directors can give demerits to team members. The Directors keep a log of the demerits. The team member must sign off on the demerit they received. Refusal to sign for the demerit will not negate the demerit.
- A member can receive demerits anytime during membership on Silver Stars including weekends, evenings and school breaks/holidays.
- Demerits start the first day a team member makes the team.
- Demerits cannot be removed and will carry over into the next semester.

Demerits will be assigned to Silver Stars members for the following, but are not limited to:

1. Tardiness:
  - Less than 5 minutes= a warning (the third warning becomes a demerit)
  - More than 5 minutes= 1 demerit
  - To a performance= 3 demerits
2. Absences:
  - Excused before absence= 0 demerits
  - Excused after absence= 2 demerits (no advance email to the Directors) (after 1 warning)
  - Unexcused from practice= 3 demerits
  - Unexcused from performance= 5 demerits
    - Absences/tardies will be excused only with a written note or email from parent or doctor for reasons of personal illness, or illness or death in the immediate family, must be sent to the Directors **PRIOR** to the absence.
3. Failure to show up for a required activity or performance without informing the Directors...1-15
4. Leaving practice/Silver Stars without permission...1-15
5. Receiving a negative report/email from a teacher...1-5
6. Talking back to an Officer or the Directors...1-15
7. Failure to follow directives...1-15
8. Failure to meet deadlines (1 for each day)...1
9. Failure to wear Game Day shirt/required school outfit...1

10. Failure to bring required items, props, leather or shoes for practice...1
11. Chewing gum during practice or in uniform/costume...1
12. Leaving personal items in dance gym or bus which results in the Directors, an officer, or another line member "picking up" after you...1
13. Wearing non Silver Stars coverup or practice wear in practice...1
14. Failure to complete makeup Ballet class within 14 days of absence...3
15. Failure to bring required props/leather/costume for a performance...1-5
16. Wearing jewelry during a performance...1
17. Wearing unnatural nail color during a performance...1
18. Visible piercings in a performance...1
19. Eating or drinking in uniform or costume...1
20. Failure to comply with proper stand etiquette/expectations (for each offense)...1
21. Not signing promptly for any demerit given...1
22. ISS assignment...1-15
23. Fighting (physical/verbal/social media)...1-15
24. Behavior that is unbecoming to a Silver Star, will be decided on at the discretion of the Directors (INCLUDES FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, ETC)...1-15
  - Using profanity in or out of uniform
  - Excessive affection in public in or out of uniform
  - Disrespectful conduct in or out of uniform

### Consequences of Demerits

- After receiving **5 demerits**, a member will not perform in one upcoming routine chosen by the Directors, but they are required to fulfill all other responsibilities.
- After receiving **10 demerits**, a member will not perform in two upcoming routines chosen by the Directors, but they are required to fulfill all other responsibilities. They will be placed on Conduct Probation.
- After receiving **15 demerits**, a member may be dismissed from the dance team immediately.

### The Merit System

- Merits are designed to recognize good work, extra effort, and special service.
- **10 Merits will cancel out 1 Demerit.** Please take advantage of all of the opportunities listed below.
- **Each member must receive at least 15 merits each 9 weeks.**
  - Merits are turned in at the end of each 9 weeks and will not be calculated in between. If proper proof is not provided and easily notated, the merit will NOT be awarded.
- In order to audition for Officer or Steering Committee, a Silver Star must have 150 merits (after the subtraction of demerits) by the end of the 9 weeks before the audition date.
- Silver Stars with the most merits for the year by the end of the 9 weeks before Banquet will receive an award.

Silver Stars can earn merits in a variety of ways including but not limited to the following:

Merits	Points
Straight A's for the nine weeks*	3
A and B's for the nine weeks*	1
Silver Star of the Week/Spirit Girl of the Week Awards	5
9 weeks grade of 95 or above in an academic class*	1
100 on any EXAM grade*	2
Receiving an A on a TEST* (Only 2 per class)	1
Any final 9 weeks grade that goes up from the prior 9 weeks*	1
Perfect attendance in all classes for a 9 weeks*	2
Directors' discretion	1-5
Performance of a solo, duet, or ensemble at contest (per contest)/Fall Dance Showcase	3
Dance class outside of school (2 per hour of class)**	2
Fitness class outside of school (2 per hour of class)**	2



Attending a Booster Club Meeting	3
Attend an approved Fine Arts production (provide ticket stub/program)**	1
Participate in an approved Fine Arts production**	2
Receiving a special Silver Stars Award (Sally Silver Star, Sparkle Award, Ice Queen)	4
Bring supplies for dance gym/Silver Stars	1
Attending a non-required sporting event in <u>Silver Stars attire</u> **	2
Proof of community service outside of school time (2 per hour) This excludes hours used for other organizations. **	2

\* Attach highlighted Teams print out

\*\* Signature from teacher/sponsor required

## **Staying Up-to-Date (Handling Forms)**

Students are responsible for taking home handouts/forms they receive from the Silver Stars Directors and/or Booster Club. These forms should be filled out in a timely manner and returned by the due date to the designated person. Much of the information will be on the Silver Stars website, [www.silverstars.org](http://www.silverstars.org) and financial accounts on, [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com). The yearly calendar is on the Silver Stars website, as well as monthly calendar updates will be sent out. The Silver Stars will sign up for 'Remind' texts, to keep the team 'in the know' should a change or adjustment in schedule be necessary. Forms will be sent out through 'Remind' and should be completed promptly. It is each individual's responsibility to check your email and the website regularly for new information.

## **Silver Stars Leadership**

### **Selection Process**

Officer and Steering Committee Candidates must complete all portions of the audition process set by the Directors. The leadership audition booklet will be distributed and discussed with candidates prior to auditions.

### **Officer Duties**

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team
- Must be enrolled in the officer period
- Compete in three officer routines for competition and attend extra practices for these routines
- Expected to have above average attendance in both practice and school
- **Must be 10 minutes early to rehearsals and 15 minutes early to performances and stay after rehearsal until dismissed by the Directors**
- Maintain a good working relationship with Directors and other Officers
- Set an example for the other team members by maintaining a positive attitude, promoting school spirit and team unity, and by remaining cool and flexible in times of crisis
- Responsible for general team productivity (making sure the team is on task when they are supposed to be)
- Reports any misconduct or misrepresentation to the Directors
- Work with Directors to make decisions about performances such as halftime shows, stand routines, contests, Spring Show, etc.
- Provide individual help to each member in learning and perfecting routines
- Responsible for setting up/putting away sound equipment and having music ready for all routines. Make sure that all equipment is put away and the Dance Gym/locker room are cleaned up daily
- Responsible for daily warm-ups, teaching, choreography, polishing and leading practice in the absence of the Directors
- Perform all duties requested by the Directors and expected to fulfill those responsibilities to their utmost ability

### **Steering Committee Duties**

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team
- Members are expected to have above average attendance in both practice and school
- Maintain a good working relationship with Directors and other Steering Committee members
- Responsible for encouraging the team and creating a motivated environment in Silver Stars

- All motivational activities including daily motivations, contest countdowns, weekly activities, quotes of the day, motivational gifts to the team and Directors, Family gifts, secret Silver Stars, appreciation gifts to teachers, parents, and administrators
- Social events including social events, Holiday party, Banquet, etc. They will be in charge of coordinating, and organizing all Banquet details including awards, dinner, gifts, and other traditional ceremonies.
- Thank you notes for choreographers/guest teachers
- Recognizing and celebrating birthdays
- Public relations: school organizations recognition, social media, publicity, service projects and thank you cards
- Decorating and maintaining the dance gym bulletin board
- Organizing and giving prizes during football season
- Selecting Spirit Girl of the Week during Football season and Ice Queen award throughout the year
- Help organize and produce the Spring Show and Banquet slideshows
- Perform all duties requested by the Directors and expected to fulfill those responsibilities to their utmost ability

## **Managers**

Manager Candidates must complete all portions of the audition process set by the Directors and are selected by the Directors. Managers must fulfill all the membership qualifications of the Silver Stars Organization except for the performance requirements. Managers are entitled to all credit and privileges of membership, although they are non-performing members. As such, they are subject to the same rules and regulations binding on all other members.

## **Silver Star Uniforms and Costumes**

All Uniforms and costumes purchased by the Silver Stars Organization are the property of James Bowie High School.

### **Field Uniforms & Pep Rally Uniforms:**

- Uniforms are furnished by the District once every seven years. If more are needed than supplied, the team must fundraise to purchase the extra items.
- Uniforms are to be cleaned, maintained, and in good repair.
- Members will be responsible for their issued uniform, which will be turned in at the end of each year. The entire field uniform must be returned in its original condition, all parts cleaned and repaired.
- If you damage or lose a piece of the uniform, it is your responsibility to pay for the replacement.
- Uniforms should always be worn in their entirety in public.
- The pep rally uniform will be worn on game days and other special performance days.
- Each member will receive a pep rally uniform designated by the Directors.

### **Practice Uniforms**

- Practice uniforms purchased by the individual are property of that individual.
- Practice uniforms will be determined yearly by the Directors.
- The required practice uniform must be worn at all times.
- Practice uniforms should be labeled with first and last names.

### **Costumes**

- Costumes will be assigned to each Silver Star for performances.
- Costumes will be determined by the Directors.
- Costumes are to be cleaned, maintained, and in good repair.
- Members will be responsible for their issued costumes and all pieces, which will be turned in at the end of each year. The entire costume must be returned in its original condition, all parts cleaned and repaired.
- If you damage or lose a piece of the costume, it is your responsibility to pay for the replacement.

## Silver Star Expenses

There are three separate types of expenses for Silver Stars.

1. Uniforms– Required items that must be paid in full before the beginning of the school year.
2. Fairshare– Fundraised or paid throughout the school year. Due dates directly correlate with fundraising opportunities.
3. Team Trip– OPTIONAL additional expense. Fundraised or paid for on a set trip payment schedule. (TBD)

### Uniform Expenses

- A tentative list of uniform requirements is outlined for each student at the time of Silver Stars auditions (this list is subject to change based on availability from our suppliers).
- All prices for uniform pieces are estimates based on expenses incurred the year before.
- Items marked with asterisks on the tentative uniform list may be purchased at half price from members who are leaving the team at our annual Silver Stars “Garage Sale” (You must purchase a new performance hat and performance boots each year).
- Uniform pieces should be paid for in full before the school year begins.
- Silver Stars uniform expenses are non-refundable.

A payment plan is established that includes options for full payment or monthly payments. If any family is financially incapable of fulfilling the requirements for attire and equipment, parents should visit with the Directors to investigate opportunities for sponsorships and/or grants.

### Fairshare Expenses

Fairshare payments are made to the Bowie Silver Stars for the purpose of team operations such as: contest entry fees, travel expenses, choreography expenses, bus rental, hotel rental, prop making or renting, costume buying/renting, Spring Show expenses, etc. Fairshare is due during the school year, as noted on the Silver Star Calendar via silverstars.org.

NOTE: The Directors create a budget for the Silver Stars each year based upon the number of participants and expenses incurred the year prior. The Fairshare must be paid IN FULL by the annual Spring Show date, unless arrangements have been made with the Directors. Any and all questions in regard to Fairshare, or any other financial matter, should be directed to the Directors.

**If your student decides not to continue in the Silver Star program after the first two weeks of school or is removed at ANY time during the school year, they are obligated to pay the full Fairshare amount for the entire year.**

*It is the intention of the organization for each member to fundraise to pay for all fair share expenses.*

- The Silver Stars Organization sponsors fundraising events
- The Silver Stars Booster Club sponsors several fundraising events
- The Fairshare amount will be set at the beginning of the school year

### Optional Team Trip Expenses

- The Silver Stars take an optional trip every other year.
- Trips will include a competition, masterclass, or performance opportunity.
- Trips must be *paid in full* before the trip is taken.
- All uniform and Fairshare payments must be up to date before fundraised money can be used toward the trip.

### Payments

- All uniform, Fairshare, trip and other payment checks should be made payable to: Bowie Silver Stars.
- All checks should include the Silver Star's name and the purpose for payment on the memo line.
- All expenses paid to the Bowie Silver Stars should be turned into the Directors for deposit at the BEGINNING of practice.
- Payments should be made on time.

## Silver Stars Booster Club Association

The Silver Star Booster Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Every parent, guardian or family member who has a child in Silver Stars is welcome to participate in the Booster Club. We highly encourage participants to pay the yearly membership as stated in the beginning of that particular year. Please note that scholarships will only be considered for active members as outlined in the scholarship guidelines. The purpose of this organization is to provide assistance to the Directors and the students with the support needed financially and strategically in order to make every year a success.

### How Parents/Guardians Can Help

#### At Home:

- Request and complete all paperwork sent home.
- Show an interest in the routines and performance study of your Silver Star.
- Teach them to be on-time for practices, performances, and shows.
- Make faithful attendance at all activities important.
- Encourage taking dance outside of the school.
- Set an expectation for academic achievement.
- Check your email and the Silver Stars website for any and all information.

#### At School:

- Pay Fairshare, uniforms fees, travel expenses, and any other debt to the Silver Star Organization in a timely manner.
- Encourage your Silver Star to notify the Directors if an absence or tardy is imminent, with explanation why.
- See that they adhere to all deadlines for payments, paperwork, and auditions.
- See that they keep up with classroom studies and make up any missed work.
- Discuss with the Directors anything that will help them understand how to better work with your child.
- Attend football games, competitions, recitals, and other performances whenever possible.
- Attend Silver Star Booster Club meetings.
- Check Charms regularly for financial updates.
- Check Calendar for any updates to schedule.
- Volunteer with parent activities.

### The Directors

The handbook is subject to change at any time due to Texas Education Agency rule changes.

If necessary, the Directors may alter rules in the handbook according to the situation.

*(EX: A member becomes ill at an out-of-town football game. The member will be allowed to be transported home with friends after contacting the parent.)*

The Directors may be asked to make decisions about things not itemized in this handbook. In such cases, the Directors will follow the guidelines presented in the document to the extent possible. If at any time the Directors feel the need to alter any part of the handbook for the good of the organization, they may do so without prior notice or discussion. The Directors and administration will deal with any special situations that may arise and are not specifically addressed in this handbook on an individual basis. These decisions will be made in a manner that they feel best benefits the **ENTIRE** organization.

**Please reference this handbook. It is designed to be used as a guideline to make the Silver Stars team the best it can be. Common sense and good judgment will be used when events NOT covered in the handbook arise. It is our hope that the experiences taught within the Silver Stars Organization are life-long, rewarding lessons that will resonate with these students long after they graduate from James Bowie High School.**

**Silver Stars Student and Parent/Guardian  
Handbook Acknowledgement Form  
2024-2025**

I, (printed Silver Star name): \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Handbook of the Bowie High School Silver Stars and understand the rules and guidelines it sets forth. I will uphold and follow the Handbook to the best of my ability with the understanding that in order to function successfully as a team, each member must commit to these standards of behavior. I also understand and will accept the consequences stated in the handbook if I do not follow its guidelines. I have also read and understand the rules and guidelines set forth in the AISD Dance Team Constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Silver Star Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, (printed Parent/Guardian name): \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire Handbook of the Bowie High School Silver Stars and understand the rules and guidelines it sets forth. I will encourage my Silver Star to uphold and follow the handbook to the best of my ability with the understanding that in order to function successfully as a team, each member must commit to these standards of behavior. I also understand and will accept the consequences my child will be given should they not follow its guidelines. I have also read and understand the rules and guidelines set forth in the AISD Dance Team Constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please disconnect this page and return to the Silver Stars Directors.*