

Manatee High School  
**SUGAR ‘CANES**  
Dance Team

**2025-2026 Audition Information Packet**

\*Updated as of 4/5/25

**Do you want to be a Sugar ‘Cane? This application is designed to make you and your parents aware of the commitment and dedication required, as a member of the Sugar ‘Cane Dance Team. This dance team is continuously active throughout the summer, as well as the entire school year, which requires a great deal of time and commitment to your team. The Sugar ‘Canes perform styles of dance that include Pom, Jazz, and High Kick. Please read carefully and ask yourself if you are up to the challenge! If so, please complete the application and submit to Coach Kourtney & Chloe on Day #1 of the Audition.**

**Requirements to Audition:**

**Parent/Legal Guardian and Dancer/Candidate must attend the Pre-tryout Parent Meeting on April 16th at 6:00pm in the MHS Theatre**

**\*Dancer must attend all scheduled tryout dates:**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025 (5:00pm – 8:00pm)**

MHS Dance Room

Stretch

Across the floor

Learn Pom and Kick Routine

**Thursday, April 24, 2025 (5:00pm – 8:00pm)**

Small groups will perform the routines and additional technical elements  
for a panel of judges in the  
MHS Dance Room

Please note: Auditions are Closed to the Public

An overall academic average of 2.5 or above is required to be maintained quarterly. Dancer must be a student of Manatee High School (or 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is registered to be a Freshman of MHS for the 2025-2026 academic year) to be eligible.

To audition you must wear appropriate dance/exercise wear including dance shoes (jazz shoes, ballet shoes, dance sneakers, etc...cannot be barefoot. Wear ALL BLACK for ALL audition days! Hair must be pulled back in a ponytail or bun (or out of face if too short for a ponytail or

bun). Please do not wear jewelry!

### **Individual Responsibilities:**

#### **Post Audition NEW TEAM Parent/Team Meeting**

**Friday, April 29, 2025(6:00pm – 7:00pm)**

MHS Theatre (Initial Deposit Due)

\*Dancers must attend with parent, as measurements for sizing will be taken!

(comp team only = blue, marching season = red)

### **May**

#### **Officer Auditions**

May 1st 5:00-8:00 pm

#### **Marching Band Meeting/Sign up**

May 8<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00

(marching band fees due)

### **Summer Practice Schedule:**

#### **Spring Game**

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm-8:00pm

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00am-3:00pm

KICK CHOREO DAYS

\*Gymnasium

**\*Summer Practices are on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00am – 1:00pm\***

### **June**

Tuesday, 6/3/25

Thursday, 6/5/25

Tuesday, 6/10/25

Thursday, 6/12/25

Tuesday, 6/17/25

Thursday, 6/19/25

\*Gymnasium

#### **\*Mandatory Summer Dance Camp\***

**Universal Dance Association (UDA)**

**June 22-June 25**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton USF- Busch Gardens**

## July

Band Camp July 21-25 & July 28-Aug 1  
8:00 am -2:00pm

POM CHOREO DATES TBD

## **AUGUST PRACTICE DATES TBA**

\*Competition team will have additional choreography days in the summer. Those will be given out once we have it finalized with our choreographers.

**\*Practice during the school year is held every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday** (There will be additional Saturday practices for competition team dancers)

**Tuesday 5:00-800 pm**

**Wednesday 3:00-5:30 pm**

**Thursday 5:00-8:00 pm**

Also note that I'm working with a choreographer in May/June on our home routine for UDA Camp, it may be necessary to add a few practices other than those listed above (i.e. other week day mornings, possible afternoon practice and/or Saturday morning). With regards to the summer months, there is an allowance of two absences per month before demerits are accrued for unexcused absences. It is understood that families have planned vacations over the summer (please advise dates at your earliest convenience), but please note that all team members **MUST** be in attendance at the two scheduled practices the week prior to camp! Those two practices are **absolutely MANDATORY!** Also note that during the school year, an occasional Saturday or Sunday practice may be added if necessary when working toward a big performance and/or competition. An event calendar will be provided to the dancers, as they are the ones responsible for their schedule.

## Competition Dates- approximate

**DTU REGIONALS-** Mid December  
Orlando, Fl

**FDTC-** Jan 19th  
Orlando, Fl  
ESPN wide world of sports complex

**DTU NATIONALS-** Feb 5-8

Orlando, FL  
Hyatt Regency Orlando

### **Team Responsibilities:**

**\*All Performances are Mandatory, and are including,  
but not limited to, the following:**

- Perform at MHS Home **Football Games** and most away games  
(Friday nights: late August - mid November)
- Parades
- Mr. Sugar Cane Show
- Various Community Events throughout the year:
- Yes We Can Dance! (March 2026 - exact date TBA)
- Spring Show

### **Financial Responsibilities**

Band Fee: \$300  
Band Shoes: \$45 (new dancers only)

Due: May 8<sup>th</sup> Marching Band registration day

### **Sugar 'Cane Financial Responsibilities:**

<u>Due Date:</u>	<u>Payment For:</u>	<u>Amount Due:</u>
4/29/25	Camp	\$ 300.00
6/1/25	Camp/Team Fees	\$ 250.00
8/1/25	Team Fees	\$ 250.00
9/1/25	Team Fees	\$ 100.00
10/1/25	Competition fee	\$1200 Competition Fee
7/1/25	Choreographer fee	\$85

**TOTAL PER YEAR: \$900**  
**TOTAL PER YEAR WITH COMPETITION: \$2185**

\*These fees pay for band fees, band gear, band shoes, insurance, bus transportation, meals, practice shirts, practice shorts, earrings, hair bows, poms, backpack, jackets, warmups, uniform tops, choreographers, costumes, music etc.

\*Uniforms will only need to be ordered **once** and will be used during the duration of your time as a Sugar Cane. If you are returning and want a new uniform please communicate that with coaches asap.

\* Competition fee covers the cost of the dancer's registration for all competitions as well as hotel for nationals.

Please be aware that the above is an **estimate** of costs. Every effort will be made to stay within these guidelines, but please understand that sometimes changes occur, or additional expenses may arise. Fundraisers and Sponsorship Drive will be held to help with various team expenses.

**All dancers MUST participate in the fundraisers held for the team!**

### **Additional Expenses:**

There will be items to purchase on your own. A supply list will be provided at New Team meeting.

Competition Team MAY be in charge of purchasing costumes. Each is roughly \$150-\$250 each. (2 costumes)

Competition Team has a choreo fee of \$85 due on July 1st.

### **Expectations:**

Upon making the team, there will be a **Mandatory Parent/Team Meeting on Friday, April 29th from 6:00-7:00 pm in the MHS Theatre**, at which time your initial payment of \$300 is required. At this meeting all parents and dancers will be given a copy of our "Team Contract" and will be asked to sign a commitment to abide by the rules, guidelines, expectations, etc. of the Sugar 'Canes Dance Team.

Upon signing the attached 2025-2026 Audition Application Form, as well as giving your child permission to tryout for the MHS Sugar 'Cane Dance Team, you are also committing to the Financial Responsibilities as outlined above should your daughter make the team.

**NOTE:** For any family/dancer that makes the team with financial hardships, limited scholarships are available each year. Please speak with Coach Kourtney for more info.

### **Questions or Concerns:**

Contact Coach Kourtney Kalahar at the following:

sugarcanecoach@gmail.com

Manatee High School  
**SUGAR ‘CANE**  
Dance Team

**2025-2026 Audition Application Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Marching Season*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Competition Team*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Nick Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Birth Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Current Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Current School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Overall GPA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Cell)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's Cell)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your email Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's email Address)

Total Years of Dance Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Styles of Dance:

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of experience, including dancing school(s), dance teams,  
productions/performances, etc.:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**List any school and/or other activities that may conflict with practices and/or performances during the school year:**

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**List any summer vacations, jobs and/or other activities that may conflict with our summer practice schedule:**

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**Please make sure you have gone over all of the paperwork with your child to ensure that you are both in complete understanding of what is expected and involved in their commitment to become a member of the Sugar ‘Cane Dnce Team**

**If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact Coach Kourtney Kalahar via e-mail at [sugarcnecoach@gmail.com](mailto:sugarcnecoach@gmail.com)**

**As parent/legal guardian of the above student, I have read the application packet, have a complete understanding of the requirements, responsibilities and commitments contained therein, and I give my child permission to audition for the Manatee High School Sugar ‘Cane Dance Team**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Parent/Legal Guardian’s Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Parent/Legal Guardian’s Name/Printed)**

**As a Dancer and candidate for the Manatee High School Sugar ‘Cane Dance Team, I have read and understand the requirements, responsibilities and commitments involved, and I am willing to tryout for the team knowing what is expected of me should I be chosen as a member of the 2025-2026 Sugar ‘Cane Dance Team**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature of Candidate)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Candidate’s Name/Printed)**

Manatee High School  
**SUGAR ‘CANE DANCE TEAM**

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM – 2025-2026 Auditions

Name of Candidate:

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Teachers, please rate these personality traits using the following scale: 1 = Poor -  
5 = Excellent

Period	Attendance	Punctual	Patience	Kindness	Personable	Comments	Initials
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

Please be honest about your evaluations of this candidate. If you feel compelled to inform me of something that you don't feel comfortable writing on this form, please feel free to contact me via email at [sugarcanecoach@gmail.com](mailto:sugarcanecoach@gmail.com)

Thank you!  
Coach Kourtney & Coach Chloe

**\*\*STUDENTS: PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT REPORT CARD.\*\***