

**National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA)  
Secondary Program (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Informational Meeting for MCA Chapter**

- I. What is the NHSDA? It is a program of the National Dance Education Organization, whose mission it is to:**
- a. promote a desire for life-long learning in dance,
  - b. encourage an understanding of, and appreciation for, dance as an art form,
  - c. develop knowledgeable dance audiences for tomorrow, and
  - d. to identify honor students (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) for nomination to the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award, one of the highest honor programs for dance in the United States.
  - e. The MCA Chapter will be a “NHSDA Honor Only Model”, which means that it is managed by the Chapter Sponsor and exists primarily to induct students who have met the criteria for induction. Any chapter activities are run by the Sponsor as part of the curriculum and program, but the focus is on “earning the honor” and the induction ceremony.
- II. How do students get inducted?**
- a. Induction is earned through accumulation of 30 points awarded for meritorious work in dance that meet standardized guidelines (see National Induction Point System).
  - b. Students must meet a minimum cumulative GPA requirement of a 3.5 for their high school academic work.
  - c. Students must demonstrate strong character, manifested through collaborative teamwork, motivation, and leadership in many aspects of dance that may include choreography, performance, teaching and production.
- III. What does it cost?**
- a. There is a one-time induction fee of \$8 per student. This fee is paid directly to the Chapter Sponsor, who will then send in one payment for all inductees. This fee covers the cost of the formal certificate received at the induction, and processing fees.
  - b. There is an optional gold honor pin (\$7)
  - c. There are optional blue and white honor cords (for graduating students) for \$15.
  - d. By petitioning the student’s high school, the dancer may be able to wear the cords and/or pin on their robe for graduation, and may also be able to have the honor noted in their high school transcript. (It is the individual student’s responsibility to petition their school with assistance from the Sponsor.)
- IV. How long does it take a student to earn the appropriate number of points for induction?**
- a. On average, it takes about one full year to earn the 30 points for induction at the high school level, for a serious, dedicated dance student.
  - b. As we are a new chapter, students can start counting points accrued from this past summer (beginning June 2017), and will add these points retroactively.
  - c. Those students that will be seniors this fall, can retroactively count points for activities going back as far as Fall 2016.
  - d. Students are personally responsible for documenting their own points. They can do this using the Points Tracking Form available at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org), or by creating their own spreadsheet. This documentation will then be submitted to the Chapter Sponsor

by the requested deadline. The student will then apply for induction at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org). They will create a username and password of their own for the site. Sponsor will verify points and fill out an Induction Rubric for each applicant.

**V. When are inductions held?**

- a. Generally chapters induct students two times per year
- b. MCA's first induction will take place in January 2018 (date is currently TBA)
- c. Once date is set, students will need to have all proof of points earned and turned in and their free account at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org) created at least 5 weeks before the induction date. This ensures that induction certificates are delivered before the ceremony.

**VI. What is the criteria for induction?**

- a. Earned participation points: points earned for meritorious participation in a wide variety of dance activities. Sponsor uses their discretion in awarding points (from zero to maximum) according to the quality of the work performed in a given activity. At least 20 of the 30 points should be earned while participating in dance activities within the program of the chapter site.
- b. Demonstration of character: reflects the student's demonstration of collaborative teamwork, motivation and leadership. Sponsor evaluates this through the observation of classes, rehearsals and other dance program activities. Community services may include teaching or assisting dance classes, as well as participation in sponsored fundraisers. A minimum of "Above Average" rating in this category is required for induction.
- c. Grade point average: Students must earn a GPA of at least a 3.5 for NHSDA induction. Students applying for induction will turn in a copy of their report card to the Chapter Sponsor showing their cumulative GPA.

**VII. What is the NDEO/NHSDA Award Program?**

- a. Students who are in 12<sup>th</sup> grade (this year, and then 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade as of next school year) who have been inducted into their school's NHSDA chapter can apply for the annual NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award.
- b. There are 2 levels of adjudication, State and National. At State level, the top applicants receive a state award and the top 2 per state are then forwarded for adjudication of the national award. National Winner receives a \$500 monetary award and an offer is extended to attend the national NDEO conference (free registration). All student award recipients will receive a letter of congratulations, a certificate, and mention on the NDEO website.
- c. Applicant is judged in 3 main categories with each one carrying equal weight:
  - i. Artistic Merit: Nominee must demonstrate artistic and technical excellence in dance.
    1. Technical excellence as seen in video
    2. Artistic merit as seen in video
    3. Essay #1: Choreography
  - ii. Leadership: Nominee must demonstrate outstanding leadership in and outside of the field of dance at the school, community, state and/or national level.
    1. Recommendation Letter
    2. Resume
    3. Essay #2: Leadership

- iii. Academic Achievement: Nominee must demonstrate an academic excellence with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
  - 1. Overall school GPA of 3.5 or higher
  - 2. Essay #3: Future Plans
  - 3. Essay #4: Impact of Dance on Life
- d. Application Process and Deadline
  - i. Award information packet is available online each December
  - ii. Applicant will complete online application via the [www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com) web platform and be required to upload several essays, a headshot, a video, a resume and a recommendation letter.
  - iii. There is a \$25 application fee
  - iv. Application deadline is typically during the third week of February with state level announcements by the end of March, and national announcements by the first week of May.

### **VIII. Important Dates**

- a. October 22-28, 2017: *New NHSDA Love Your Body Week*
  - i. This is a new national campaign aimed at encouraging body positivity and celebrating all of the wonderful things our bodies can do.
  - ii. More on this week, and special activities for MCA dancers coming soon.
- b. December 2017:
  - i. Preparing materials for submission for NHSDA induction.
  - ii. We will talk more about this once I know who is interested in induction.
- c. January 2018: MCA's first NHSDA Induction Ceremony
  - i. Date TBA, but will most likely be during the first or second week of classes in January.
  - ii. Date will depend on whether there are any Saint Mary's students being inducted into the Collegiate NHSDA program, as they should happen together.
- d. March 4-10, 2018: *Dance a Difference Week*
  - i. Week dedicated to dance-based service in our communities
  - ii. For more information, please visit [nhsda-ndeo.org/danceadifference](http://nhsda-ndeo.org/danceadifference).
- e. May 3: *Thank a Dance Teacher Day*
  - i. Global movement to shine the spotlight on dance education and the teachers who make it possible.
  - ii. Was started in 2014 by the NDEO to raise awareness of the benefits of dance education through social media.
  - iii. More information at [nedo.org/tadt2018](http://nedo.org/tadt2018)

\*\*\*\*\*For the complete NHSDA Secondary Chapter Handbook, please visit:

[NHSDA Secondary Chapter Handbook](#)