

## Majestics 101 – A parent's guide to the year

Welcome Majestic Parents and Family! Your years in the Majestic family will bring many great experiences, new friends and memories that will last a lifetime. Each Majestic family member has a big role in the Majestics. We are here to encourage, support, wipe away tears, laugh and most importantly offer the special talents we have to the organization. But it also comes with many questions. Hopefully this guide will help address most your questions or concerns. However, this is a high level overview and things do change from year to year. Some of this information is a repeat of what is in the Majestic Handbook which is also another great resource.

Finances – probably the area with the most questions

- The bulk of the cost for the first year is to purchase the things necessary to be part of the team (boots, shoes, field tights, duffle, warm ups, etc. This can range from \$900-\$1300 depending on what your daughters needs are. This also includes the tuition for Line Camp and dance camp over the summer. These expenses need to be paid off by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Trip expenses will vary based on the destination. The team rotates between small, medium and big trips (\$350, \$650, \$1100 estimates for each). The trip is typically approved early in the fall and payments begin at that time. The trip will generally need to be paid in full by January.
- Letter Jackets are ordered in October and paid directly to the company (\$250-\$300).
- Contest fees for solos, duets and small groups will vary based on the competition. These fees are typically due in December or January depending on when the competitions will be held
- Mother Daughter Tea – cost is about \$30 per person and is a welcoming ceremony for new members and begins the farewells to the seniors. New members wear a white dress for this ceremony.
- End of Year Banquet – cost is about \$30 per person. Guests for the banquet for Sophomores and Juniors are their parents, Seniors may include siblings in addition to their parents.
- Other expenses do come up during the year. However most of them are fairly minimal (\$15 or less) or involve bringing something to share for a potluck style meal or buying T-shirts for the trip, a competition or Illusions. The more common ones are noted in the various sections.
- Trip cost, contest fees, tea and banquet can all be paid for through the girl's individual account. Therefore you might consider continuing to make a monthly payment even after the initial expense is paid to help cover these expenses.

Sponsors – You may not have to pay for all of this out of your pocket if you would like to obtain sponsors. Generally in mid-January your daughter may get some sponsorship forms from the directors. She will take them to friends, family and local businesses asking them to sponsor a portion of her cost. If your daughter generates more money than the initial cost, the entire amount of overage will be credited to her name to be used for any other expenses over the year. These overages will even roll over from year to year.

Time commitment

- New team practices start typically in early May and are usually at 7:30 am daily. The dates are worked around the exam schedules.
- During the summer the girls will need to complete a set number of hours of dance instruction to keep them in shape and their knowledge sharp. These are at a studio or dance camp of your choice and the cost is not included in Majestic expenses.
- Summer practice begins about 3-4 weeks before the start of school (late July or early August depending on the first day of school). Times will vary but are announced prior to the end of the school year for those girls wanting to take ACC classes.
- Once School starts, practices are at 7 or 7:30 every morning before school and runs through football, competition and spring show season with the exception of finals weeks. The directors will announce changes to the schedule as needed. Depending on the competition and show schedule there may be a few Saturday rehearsals as well.
- For the family, your time commitment is attending Booster Club meetings, helping with fundraising, working at the Lone Star Competition and Illusions, etc. Your volunteering will help to ensure your daughter has a successful and great year. There are plenty of opportunities at events and behind the scenes to help out even if your schedule is limited.

The Majestic Booster club is a very important organization for the Majestics. The Booster Club exists to support the Majestics and their leaders by offering financial, practical and moral support to them. This includes fundraising, volunteer coordinating, costume and sign making just to name a few. One of the best ways to stay connected to what's going on in the Majestics is to join the Booster Club and attend monthly meetings. Traditionally, the Booster club meets at a predetermined day/week each month, with the exception of December and April. The December meeting is a holiday party, and in April there is a potluck for the new Majestic parents. The Booster Club cannot be successful without your membership. We as a Booster Club help subsidize the many costs the Majestic team incurred over the season (buses, costumes, contest entry fees, etc.) To keep informed about events, dates, times you can log onto our website at [www.mcneilmajestics.com](http://www.mcneilmajestics.com).

Does being a Majestic mean that every girl will participate in every dance? No, all dances are auditioned for to ensure that each girl knows the dance and is able to demonstrate the skill necessary for performance. Being chosen for Majestics means that your daughter

has talent and potential, but even talent and potential do not add up to success without discipline and hard work! Trying out for dances encourages a standard of excellence that has given the team award-winning reputation!

### School Calendar Schedule of activities

This is an overview of the activities and includes information/tips on each.

Teacher Breakfast – this is a fun tradition the team uses to welcome the teachers back to school in August. The girls will bring the various items for a buffet breakfast for the teachers.

Uniforms (and instructions for cleaning them) will be issued sometime in August shortly before the start of the school year. Team pictures are taken at this time as well. The initial uniform cost does not include the cost of lost or damaged items.

Family Picnic is a back to school tradition and held about a week or so before school starts. The meal is typically pot luck and a short Booster club meeting is part of it.

### Football Season – August to November

- Home game tickets – you can get season tickets and sit in the reserved section or buy tickets the day of the game. Parents are divided, some prefer to sit in the reserved section and others will sit closer to the team so they can watch the girls in the stands. If you decide to do the season tickets, just look for the last names of some of the returning members and get seats around them. You can always get season tickets and chose to sit closer to the girls if you don't want to worry about getting tickets on game day.
- Away games – stadium information can be found on the football team website. <http://www.mcneilmavericks.org/> (Under team info then locations.) Ticket prices will vary. Routines are performed facing the home stand. Most of the time we are allowed to walk to the home side when the team walks over and stay long enough to watch the girls perform. If you would like to do this, a few minutes before half time you will need to be down where the team is stretching so you are ready to go when they do.
- Hug time! – After half time you will be able to see and hug your daughter and tell her how wonderful she was. At home games (at the Palace) this is done on the ramp leading down to the jumbotron, at away games it is under the bleachers or where the girls stretched. Be sure to head to this area as half time is winding down as it only last a few minutes before the girls need to head back to the stands. If you can't make a game please let another parent know – we want to make sure all the girls get their hugs. As a reminder the girls may only drink water and are not allowed to eat while in their uniform.
- Weather
  - It can get very hot. Each of the girls will have a water bottle they bring to the game. Even though they bring it full, there are times they will run out of water. The team brings a cooler of water bottles just in case that happens. It would be helpful if everyone could donate a case of Dasani water. (It needs to be that brand due to the Coca Cola contract that RRISD has in place, thus only Coca Cola brands are allowed in the stadium for the team.)
  - It can rain. The girls are issued a rain poncho with their uniform. However if rain is in the forecast they may want to bring a small towel in a plastic bag to dry off where they get wet taking the poncho off.
  - It can get cold. Layers of tights will help with this and the directors will let them wear their warm ups if needed.
- Homecoming – the booster club will host a tail gate and costs about \$7 per person
  - Mums – tradition is for big sisters to give little sisters a mum and vice a versa. The girls quickly become very close and often will want to do mums for other friends as well so don't be surprised if she is covered in mums that day.
    - The booster club sells mum supplies for a fundraiser. The girls will be given a chance to buy supplies prior to school starting so you might have them start thinking over summer who they want to give mums to.
    - It has become very common to include favorite colors or squad colors in the mums. The girls will wear whatever mums they get during the day. However for the game they will need to pick one mum that must be school colors.
- Team meals – order forms will go out for the team meals. This is the best way to make sure your daughter has eaten prior to a game, but this is optional. If you don't participate in the team meals you will need to make sure your daughter brings a meal to school that day as there is not time to leave campus before the bus leaves for the game. Meals are done for both home and away games.
- Sister Kick – tradition is when we play Westwood the 2 drill teams come together to perform a joint kick routine. Practice locations will vary that week so the teams can work together. They also will do breakfast together and the girls will bring items in for this breakfast, and generally a small goodie bag of candy for a Westwood sister. Be sure you know which side of the field your daughter will be facing because they perform to both sides for this routine.
- Always ask your daughter where she will be on the field! Ask what yard line/hash mark she will start on. It is very hard to tell the girls apart when they are on the field.
- Get white shoe polish – performance boots need to be cleaned and polished after every game if you want them to last more than one season.

- Buttons – with in the first few games you will be given the opportunity to purchase a button with your daughter’s picture on it to wear for the games. The picture is taken on the team picture day and generally the first 2 buttons are about \$10.
- The Majestics and the Booster Club partner with the band during Marching season and this generally includes a few fun surprises.

#### Contest Season – December to March

- Girls are responsible for entry fees for solos, duets and small groups. These are typically due in December or January. Money in the girls account can be used for these fees. Costumes/props for these routines are the girls responsibility. (If your daughter is thinking about trying out to be a Line Officer she will need to compete a solo, if she is interested in trying out for a Social Officer position she will need to compete a solo, duet, or ensemble) If doing one of these events they do not need to do it at each competition the team will be going to.
- Team numbers, En Croix and Jazz Co entry fees and costumes are paid for by the school
- Show off night – This is where the Majestics will showcase the dances they are taking to contest. This is a free event, and is a great preview of what a New Majestic has to look forward to.

Lone Star Competition – this is the competition we partner with American Dance to host. It is a major fundraiser for the team and we need everyone to help. It runs Friday evening and all day Saturday. New Majestics are required to help.

Illusions – this again is a big fundraiser for the team. Parents will be needed to decorate, run tickets, concessions and flower sales. Program ads are a big part of this. The last morning before the show the girls will bring in items to share for a Sister breakfast.

Senior Sale – after the last competition and show are done and just prior to the start of new team practices the seniors will sell items they do not wish to keep. The items and prices are posted on the mirror in the dance room and the girls can sign up for the items they wish to purchase. This is a great way to pick up practice boots, hats, and extra clothing items. Be sure and update your daughters order form after the sale for items you no longer need.

#### Other activities and good to know information

Community Service – the team will participate in several community service activities during the year. Generally these have included helping at a water station during Race for the Cure, participating in the Buddy Walk for Downs Syndrome and Adopting a group at the Texas Baptist children’s home (the girls will bring in money to purchase gifts and help deliver them).

Line Officers are the more visible officers on the Majestics team. They are in charge of keeping up with their squad (making sure each squad member is in roll call every morning with the correct practice items and also making sure each squad member is prepared for every performance and event), choreographing routines and dances, teaching choreography to the team, and being the liaison between the team and Directors. Line Officers have an additional class planning period in addition to the Majestics periods. They also compete at least three routines during competition season and perform at Illusions.

Social Officers are in charge of keeping the teams morale up daily, helping their Line Officer in whatever capacity is necessary, as well as planning and executing all social events throughout the year. This includes but is not limited to Mother Daughter Tea, the Majestic Holiday Party, Banquet, etc. The Social Officers compete a routine during competition season and perform as a group at Illusions.

En Croix is a student led Bible study group that meets once a week at the Chaplin’s house. This group gives the students an opportunity to meet and share their faith. En Croix also competes as a group during competition season and performs at Illusions. In order to be a part of the En Croix dance, a Majestic must attend 85% of the meetings.

Each returning Majestic (Big Sister) will draw to receive a little sister (or New Majestic) either at the very end of the school year or in early August during summer rehearsals. Each big sister is responsible for simply looking out for her little to ensure she does not have any lingering questions, explains events and activities more in depth if needed, and mentors her throughout her first year on Majestics. Each big and little sister exchange mums with one another on homecoming and also participate in smaller Majestic events with each other throughout the year.

The Escorts are a group of young men who also attend McNeil who go through an interview and application process, and then are individually selected to become an Escort. Escorts assist throughout football season (with setting up seat covers, carrying heavy materials, helping to video the halftime performances, and protecting the girls when they walk to each side throughout the football game), competition season (they assist at competitions however they are needed), and Illusions (they participate as ushers throughout the show both evenings).

Majestics Jazz Company- The Majestics Jazz Company is an invitation only based company where group members have the opportunity to continue to excel in their jazz technique as well as partake in additional performance opportunities. The Jazz Company

has additional rehearsals (generally within already scheduled Majestics rehearsal hours), competes throughout competition season, and performs a dance at Illusions. Each member is asked each year to be a part of the Jazz Company and can be asked to withdraw their position at any point throughout the year if skills and expectations are not being met.

McNeil Sapphire Dancers- The Sapphire Dancers is an alternate dance team, completely separate from the Majestics. Sapphire Dancers have their own, single blocked, class period and perform as a team at various events throughout the year. Although the Sapphire Dancers is a separate entity, there are occasional joint performances between the Majestics and Sapphire Dancers.

#### Miscellaneous things

- Holiday party – there will be one for the parents and one for the girls. The girls also generally will do an ornament exchange.
- Volleyball and Basketball games – the team will attend as a group a couple games each semester, these will be scheduled by the directors. Since the girls are attending as a team there is not a cost to attend.
- The Majestics and Booster Club will have a booth to promote the organization at various events including but not limited to Colt Camp and Open House. Homecoming mum supplies are usually sold at these events. Majestics will also have a booth at the Homecoming Carnival held on campus during homecoming week.

I still have questions – who do I contact?

- If you have any questions throughout the year there are several people who you or your child can contact. If it is a Booster Club related questions, the first place to start would be by asking the current Booster Club Presidents, or your Old Member parent contact. If it is anything related to Majestics, please contact Megan Winslow in order to get your questions answered. Your daughter can also contact her personal Line Officer to answer any questions or gather additional information.