

News Release

Everett Public Schools
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H.M. Jackson dances well at state

In March, H.M. Jackson High dance team members blew away the competition at district trials. Their score in the dance competition was the highest of any of the competitive categories at the district-level event. That first place district Dance win and the second place trophy for Hip Hop secured the team a spot at the state dance competition held March 23 and 24 at the Sun Dome in Yakima.

At the Yakima State event, the girls' Dance number was ranked "superior" by state judges and earned a fourth place state-level trophy. The judges rated the Hip Hop routine as "excellent."

The team's Dance routine is near and dear to the team members and their coach Nikki Coryer. The piece was "dedicated to all of our troops who are serving our country overseas and their families and loved ones," explained Coryer. "My inspiration comes from my fiancé who is currently serving a one-year tour in South Korea, and my fiancé's step sister who is currently in her AIT training with the U.S. Army. This dance is very special to us, and we are so proud to share it with so many and get the response that we have."

Dance is a recent addition to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) list of sanctioned school sports. Dance coaches belong to a designated association (Washington State Drill/Dance Coaches Association) which strives to improve, inspire, and educate the coaches of dance/drill. The association's purpose is to instill pride through athletic performance while providing a positive experience for all in the dance/drill community.

Coryer is very proud of the team and their efforts. "Dancers must have a background in dance and must practice three times a week which can include eight-hour practices on Saturday mornings. Girls must maintain a 3.0 GPA attend every performance, competition, and exhibition. It's a very competitive field, requiring 100% dedication from each girl. Dance is year round and is neither a sport nor activity, but a discipline. This is the first time in over seven years that the team has won at so many competitions, let alone a district championship and placing at state! More than 75 schools participate at State and we are so proud the girls have done so well!

H.M. Jackson is the district's first, and at this point, only high school to offer dance as a school sport. The school will audition for next year's team on April 25, 2007.