

STEP TEAM

Background Information:

According to Wikipedia, stepping or step-dancing is a form of percussive dance in which the participant's entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps. Though stepping may be performed by an individual, it is generally performed by groups of three or more, often in arrangements that resemble military formations.

Stepping may also draw from elements of gymnastics, tap dance, march, or African and Caribbean dance, or include semi-dangerous stunts as a part of individual routines. Some forms of stepping include the use of props, such as canes, rhythm sticks and/or fire and blindfolds.

The tradition of African stepping is rooted within the competitive schoolyard song and dance rituals practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, beginning in the mid-1900s

About PMMS Step Team:

STEP has been in existence at Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology many years now. The team consists of approximately fifteen females, although, there have been several male participants. Guided by Simbi Animashaun since 2008, the team focuses on promoting a positive self-esteem, academic achievement, unity through teamwork, and community involvement through the art of stepping. Steppers participate in school events as well as local step competitions. They dominate the MSA pep rally at the school. In addition, in 2010 the *Swaggalicious Steppers* raised and donated money to March for Babies. This year, they plan to continue this effort in hopes of collaboration with the Builder's Club.

Steppers in Action:



2010-2011 Step Team:



Members: Christory Teah, Nadine Dogbo, Martina Carmona, Cheryse Seburn, Cindy Cherichel, Stephanie Obia-Amauwa, Talia Williams, Raven Lutman, Abigail Wallace, Nazaree Ross, Joshawna Kakou, Joi Rice, Martina Carmona, Stephanie Obia-Amauwa, Naomi Choti, Cindy Cherichel, and Diema Johnson

Summer Opportunity:

One Step at a Time: A Week Long Opportunity

- This is a one-week course for interested steppers in grades sixth through eighth. Recommended for all current Parkland steppers who plan to return next school year as well as those individuals who are interested joining the team. Throughout the week, steppers will learn the dynamics of stepping (i.e. respect, discipline, integrity, purpose, and education), and create a routine as a team with the help of the coach. Steppers will showcase their routine on the last day of summer camp to parents and guests. This is an opportunity your child does not want to miss. This will be a fun-filled week. Your child does not need prior experience in order to participate.
- August 1-5, 2011
- 8 student minimum enrollment – 20 student maximum enrollment
- Registration is \$75