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After losing their former director, Kara Rogers, Desperados adapt to the teaching style of their new director, Jacklyn Simone.

As Desperados walked inside the familiar room with their friends on the first day of school, they were greeted by an unfamiliar face – Jacklyn Simone, the new director.

“I was so excited and so nervous at the same time,” Simone said. “The second I got the job I was ecstatic, and then I got off the phone and I thought to myself, what did I get myself into?”

Simone’s students said that they have learned to adapt to her style of teaching and coaching skills quickly and pick up where they left off last year.

“They learned to trust me very quickly, which has made things very easy and helped our year run very smoothly,” Simone said.

The team went through many changes after former director Kara Rogers left.

“I wasn’t very sure about it, but Ms. Simone has been very helpful and makes everyone happy,” junior Desperado Tristan Nickell said.

Although some students felt the change was abrupt, they soon learned to adapt when they got to know more about their new director.

“It was really upsetting to know that we were getting a new director because I was really close with Mrs. Rogers, but

Ms. Simone has really grown on me,” senior Desperado Zach Young said.

Junior Desperado Dreon Hall said he has gotten used to Simone by working closely with her and learning a lot more about her and the way she teaches.

“Ms. Simone pays a lot of attention to the little details that Mrs. Rogers didn’t, and she is also a lot more authoritative with us,” Hall said. “I was very sad to get a new director in the beginning. Ms. Simone wasn’t what I was expecting, but I’m glad she’s the way she is. She exudes energy.”

As a former Kilgore College Rangerette, Simone brings experience from a well known drill team to Richardson’s Desperados.

“I haven’t had a ton of experience with country western dance but it’s always been something that I’ve enjoyed,” Simone said.

Simone said that she emphasizes to the team that Desperados is a lot more than just a dance, but an opportunity to become a well-rounded person.

“The team has learned a lot about communication and that there’s a time and a place for both fun and work,” she said.