

Panther Paws Information Sheet for 2019-2020 School Year Varsity and Junior Varsity Try-outs

Welcome to the 2019 - 2020 Panther Paws try-outs! We are excited about your interest in auditioning for the team. This information sheet is meant to give you an idea of the obligations as a member of the Panther Paws Dance Team. Please make sure that you are able and willing to meet all conditions from this information sheet, the provided team calendar (given at the try-out meeting) and the Panther Paws Constitution (given at try-out meeting) before auditioning.

Please make sure that you read through the Constitution thoroughly and understand all that is expected of a Panther Paw team member prior to auditioning. By signing the Constitution contract you are agreeing to all conditions of the Constitution as well as the below team member requirements and calendar dates.

Fall Semester Requirements (The following are requirements of both JV and Varsity)

- Panther Paws Team Camp - July 29th - August 9th (We will have our new team party on Sunday, July 28th so make sure you are in town to attend). All dancers must be in attendance at summer camp and the pre-camp party. If you are unable to attend, you will be ineligible to perform in all pep-rallies and football games, will not be placed in any nationals routines that are learned during the camp and could possibly forfeit your spot on the team. (The director will make the final decision.)
- Varsity members will begin learning Band Choreography during camp. You must be in attendance for band choreography or you will not be in the band show and will not be allowed to perform in any pep-rallies, feature performances or football games for the football season.
- Summer Band for Varsity members will start Monday, July 29th and go through the entire month of August until school starts. All Varsity members must be in attendance every day at summer band. We will start each morning at 8:00am and then head to our Panther Paw camp. Once the two weeks of Panther Paw camp is over we will have the schedule

of 5pm-8pm each day with the band. (The later practice of 5-8pm could start the second week of August depending on teacher in-service. You need to stay flexible with your schedule until we receive definite times from band.)

- *All Junior Varsity members must be able to enroll in the 1st period JV class. There are no exception to this rule!!*
- *All Varsity members must be able to enroll in the last period of the day, Varsity Class. There are no exceptions to this rule!! (we are not sure of the bell schedule for next year but varsity's class is always the last period of the day)*
- *Varsity will have Monday/Wednesday practices beginning August 12th from 4:00 - 5:45pm up until school starts.*
- *Junior Varsity Practices - Starting with the first day of school through Nationals, JV will have the following regular practices:*
 - *Mon. / Wed. morning practices beginning at 7:30am through 1st period*
 - *Tues. / Thurs. morning practices beginning at 7:00am through 1st period*
 - *Friday - Pep-rally day (team meetings) - report time is 8:30am through 1st period*
- *Starting in November, JV will add Friday practices beginning at 7:45am through 1st period*
- **Varsity Practices** - *Starting with the first day of school through football season:*
 - *Varsity will practice every morning with the band (practice times will be set at a later time but usually start as early at 7:00am and last a full hour)*
 - *Monday/Wednesdays practices beginning with the Varsity class period until 5:45 and Tuesday/Thursday beginning with the varsity class period until 5:00pm. At times, Tuesday/Thursday practices can go later if needed. Dancers need to be flexible to fit the needs of the team.*
 - *We will also have 1 evening practice with band from 6:30-9:00 pm. This will be on either Monday or Tuesday evening of each week.*

- *Thursday night pep-rally practices will take place the Thursday before we perform in a pep-rally. We will not know until later how many of these we will have but be aware that they are usually later in the evening.*
- *Starting in November or after we finish with band morning rehearsals, Varsity will follow the below schedule:*
 - *Monday through Thursday practices beginning with the varsity class period until 5:45pm. (Note: Friday practices will be the varsity class period until 5:00pm)*
- *All Football games - both home and away (there are no exceptions to missing a football game especially as Varsity is performing in every halftime show). These are mandatory and failure to attend could result in a Varsity member being moved to Junior Varsity and losing a spot in the band show. Varsity must also be available for any play-off games so be aware that if a game is scheduled you are expected to be there.*
- *All pep-rallies and pep-rally practices - dancers who miss the Wednesday practice before a pep-rally or a Thursday pep-rally practice will not be allowed to perform in the following pep-rally. Also, a member that misses a practice the week of a pep-rally/performance may also not be able to perform in the pep-rally. (This is more clearly defined in the constitution).*
- *Choreography weekends (**JV and Varsity**) - Dancers must be flexible as we are working around the choreographer's schedule. We will try to get dates set in stone as quickly as possible. We have included several possible weekends on the fall calendar so be sure to keep these open. If a dancer should miss during choreography, they will not be allowed to perform in that competition routine. Since we have given you weekends well in advance, there is no exception to missing!*
- *Band competition weekends - we will have several of these throughout the months of September and October and maybe November if we make State. These weekends will be given to you as soon as we are made aware of them. You will need to leave your weekends open in September, October and November until we have given you dates. **All Varsity***

members must be in attendance at all band competitions. Remember that if you are unable to perform in band show or at any band contests you will not be allowed to perform in pep-rallies, feature performances or football games.

- *JV and Varsity - Halftime performances at selected home basketball games.*
- *JV and Varsity - Appearances such as media day, watermelon feed, play-off pep-rally and others as scheduled. We do not have the specific dates yet but these are required so you need to be available when they happen.*
- *Fundraisers that benefit the whole team (ex. Calendar blitz, Team dinner fundraiser, Fall Future Paws Clinics, etc.)*
- *Both teams requirements are specified in the dance team Constitution so be sure to look through it thoroughly*

Spring Semester Requirements

- *All Junior Varsity members must be able to enroll in the 1st period JV class and all Varsity members must be able to enroll in the last period of the day, Varsity Class. There are no exceptions to this rule!! (we are not sure of the bell schedule for next year but varsity's class is always the last period of the day)*
- *Daily Practices beginning January 6th through Competition*
 - *Varsity will practice Monday - Friday beginning with the Varsity class period until 5:45 every day.*
 - *JV will follow the same practice schedule they began in November.*
- *Weekend rehearsals (team practices will only be scheduled if necessary especially closer to nationals to work spacing on the floor). Those who choose to do a solo or duet and are selected during the audition and have the necessary points will have required rehearsals every Saturday morning leading up to Recital and Competition.*
- *Halftime performances at selected home basketball games*
- *Future Panther Paws clinic (Mandatory Fundraiser)*
- *Dance Explosion - both nights of performance and matinee performance, two nights of dress rehearsal and any other extra practices (Failure to attend any of the three Dance*

Explosion shows will result in that dancer being removed from all competition routines - this includes a dancer being ineligible for dance explosion)

- *Both JV and Varsity will be attending an in-state competition. We are currently looking at several options and those dates are listed in this information sheet. Please be sure that your schedule is open and available on each of the given dates. We will give you more specifics as we finalize things.*
- *Spring Break - It is possible that a competition could take place the last weekend of spring break. If this occurs we will have practices during the entire week of spring break and all dancers will need to be available or will be unable to attend the competition with their team. **Please do not make any plans for spring break until we have finalized our competition schedule.** If you already have plans, they will either need to change or it would be better to not try-out for the teams this year. (Note: We will not have definite dates until closer to the start of school.)*
- *Competition is mandatory for all Varsity and JV team members (as well as additional practices/performances to prepare for Competition).*
- ***Varsity Out-of-State Trip** - The Varsity team will be going on an out-of-state trip this year. We are considering a competition but are also looking into a trip that will allow dancers to challenge themselves through classes and expose them to possible dance opportunities after High School. At this time we are working out details of the trip as far as location and when the trip will occur. We will have more details at the new team meeting. All Varsity members must participate in the trip.*

*Please note that the above requirements are mandatory and if you are elected and **you choose** to be a part of the Panther Paws organization, you are making the commitment to be in attendance at all of these events. We will be providing a calendar of the fall semester that includes practices, football games, band competitions, appearances and choreography weekends at the mandatory try-out meeting. Once you receive this calendar you are expected to be in attendance at all events listed. No exceptions to the Panther*

Paws Constitution will be made unless discussed and agreed upon prior to your daughter trying out for the teams. Several dates have not been determined so team members will need to keep their schedules flexible. We will let you know these dates as soon as we know!

We have also provided some possible dates for the spring semester for when certain events may occur. Once the team has been selected, we will discuss the spring calendar further at the first new team meeting. Also, any dates provided on this paper or on the calendar should be considered permanent therefore no exceptions to the Panther Paw Constitution will be made for absences. Should you have any conflicts with the calendar as of now, please speak with us personally before try-outs so that we may discuss them and determine if trying out is in the best interest of your child and the team.

Important Dates for Spring Semester

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| <i>• Daily Practices starting</i> | <i>January 6th</i> |
| <i>• Future Paws Clinic</i> | <i>Weekend in February</i> |
| <i>• Dance Explosion</i> | <i>February 14th-15th, 21st-22nd
Or 28th-29th</i> |
| <i>• Possible Nationals</i> | <i>February 28th-March 1st</i> |
| <i>• Possible Nationals</i> | <i>March 6th - 8th</i> |
| <i>• Possible Nationals</i> | <i>March 13th - 15th</i> |
| <i>• Possible Nationals</i> | <i>March 20nd - 22nd</i> |

**There are several dates for one event since we don't have a definite answer this early in the year. Also, there could be a Nationals happening later than the above dates so don't make weekend plans through the end of March until we know for sure where we are attending! Please mark all of these dates down as mandatory to prevent any confusion in the future!*

Expenses

There are considerable costs associated with the Panther Paws. We have supply costs as well as competition costs for each dancer. There are fundraising opportunities available, some being mandatory (ex. Team fundraisers that benefit the whole team), to

help with these costs in the hopes that you will not have to pay all of it out of pocket. Each girl and her family must support and fully participate in the team fundraising events however, individual fundraisers are optional.

Be prepared to make your first payment of \$300 at the new team meeting on Monday, April 29th. If you are unable to pay at this time, you will be placed on alternate status and no uniforms will be ordered for you when we have our uniform fitting. If you are concerned about being able to meet the financial requirements please come talk to us prior to the start of clinic. **Do not let money be a reason for not trying out. We will find a way to make this possible for every girl that makes either team! However, you must be willing to put forth the effort in fundraising and do your part.**

Varsity Team

\$1,200.00 - 1,300.00 for first year Varsity Panther Paws (includes team uniforms, practice attire, required shoes, team warm-ups, team bags, t-shirts for the year and camp costs).

\$500.00 to \$600.00 for returning Panther Paws (includes team uniforms, practice attire, new tights and shoes, t-shirts for the year and camp costs). The final amount will depend on if items need to be replaced from the previous year. Any items that are considerably worn or have been lost must be replaced.

*At the first booster meeting in August, we will collect a one-time fee for meals at all football games. This amount will depend on the number of home or midland games and will be \$12 a girl for each game. This will cover their dinner before the game as well as snacks and drinks during the game! We will also collect a \$200 deposit for uniforms at this time from new Varsity team members. We will further discuss this at the new team meeting!

Varsity Out-of-State Trip

We estimate the cost for this trip to be around **\$2500 - \$3500 a dancer** but could be more or less. Since we have not made final decisions on where we will be going and what we will be doing, this is a broad estimate based on previous trips. All varsity members will be required to attend the out-of-state trip and either fundraise for the costs or pay out-of-pocket for the costs. There will be fundraising opportunities to help the dancers.

Varsity National Competition

We will have more information and details concerning nationals and fundraising at the new team meeting. Please be aware there will be expenses with this trip. Based off of last year's trip, the costs for varsity to attend the national competition was a little over **\$1,200 a dancer**. This could be higher as prices increase each year but we hope not much higher. Our Booster club offers several fundraisers to help with Nationals costs so if you participate in fundraisers and work hard, you should not have to pay any competition expenses out of pocket. However, you reserve the right to pay these fees personally if you choose to do so.

Junior Varsity Team

\$900 to \$1,000 for first year junior varsity team members (includes team uniform, warm-up jacket, practice attire, required shoes, t-shirts for the year, and camp costs).

*At the first booster meeting in August, we will collect a one-time fee for meals at dance explosion.

Junior Varsity National competition

We will have more information and details concerning nationals and fundraising at the new team meeting. Please be aware there will be expenses with this trip. Based off of last year's trip, the costs for junior varsity to attend the national competition was **\$1,000 a dancer**. This could be higher as prices increase each year but we hope not much higher. Our Booster club offers several fundraisers to help with Nationals costs so if you participate in fundraisers and work hard, you should not have to pay any

competition expenses out of pocket. However, you reserve the right to pay these fees personally if you choose to do so.

Note for both teams: We will not hand out any uniforms this year without supply money paid in full. Therefore all money is due by Monday, July 29th. This gives you the entire summer to make payments towards your uniform/yearly fees. If all money is not turned in then we will not hand out any of your uniforms. If you do not have uniforms then you will be unable to participate with the team therefore will be placed as an alternate.

Also, at the first new team meeting you will receive a list of each item you will be purchasing for yourself. The above numbers are estimates based on last year so they could be higher. We will have exact amounts once uniform selections have been made for the new year and it has been determined whether the team member or booster will be purchasing a uniform!

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact Coach Carter or Coach Kruse during our conference periods or call the school and leave a message. Please do not be afraid to call and talk with either of us if you need further explanation. We are more than happy to answer your questions and give you a better understanding of the program! We look forward to meeting all of you at the try-out meeting on Monday, April 15th!

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