

Panther Paws Information Sheet for 2022-2023 School Year Varsity and Junior Varsity Try-outs

Welcome to the 2022 - 2023 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 (given at the try-out meeting) 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.

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

- JV Guard Technique Camp - May 31st - June 2nd (All JV members must attend this camp to be eligible for band show and remain a member of the team).*
- JV Guard Choreography Camp - July 14th - 16th (All JV members must attend this camp to be eligible for band show and remain a member of the team).*
- Panther Paws Team Camp (JV and Varsity) - July 25th - August 6th (We will have our new team party on Sunday, July 24th 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 and JV members (cologuard) will be 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 both teams will start Monday, July 25th and go until school starts. All Varsity and JV members must be in attendance every day at summer band. We usually start each morning at 8:00am and then head to our Panther Paw camp but it*

could start earlier. Depending on the schedule of in-service, band rehearsals could be in the evenings from 5-8 pm. (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)
- **Junior Varsity Practices** - Starting with the first day of school through the end of football season / state marching contest. JV will have the following regular practices:
 - Monday - Friday morning band rehearsals 7:00am - 8:15am (this could change depending on the bell schedule for school)
 - Monday Evening Rehearsals - 6:30-9:00 pm (every Monday)
 - Daily Team practices - Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 1st period
- JV will have the following practice schedule beginning at the conclusion of marching band season:
 - Monday through Friday - morning practices beginning at 7:30am through 1st period
- All practice times could change depending on the bell schedule for next year.
- All Football games - both home and away (there are no exceptions to missing a football game especially as JV is performing in every halftime show). These are mandatory and failure to attend could result in a member losing their spot in the band show. Failure to participate in the band show could result in a member being unable to participate in nationals. JV must also be available for any play-off games so be aware that if a game is scheduled you are expected to be there.
- **Varsity Practices** - Starting with the first day of school through football season / state marching contest :
 - Varsity will practice every morning with the band 7:00-8:15am (this could change depending on the bell schedule for school)
 - Monday-Thursday practices beginning with the Varsity class period until 5:30/6:00pm. Depending on the week the end

times could vary between the above two ending times. Dancers need to be flexible to fit the needs of the team.

- Friday practices - on game days we will practice during the class period and then after school with the band before going to the game. Any Friday's that we do not have a game we will either have choreography or no practice.*
- We will also have 1 evening practice with band from 6:30-9:00 pm. This is usually every Monday 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. If possible, we will have Friday morning practices instead of Thursday night practices but you need to leave yourself available for both.*
- Starting in November or after we finish with band morning rehearsals, Varsity will follow the below schedule:*
 - Monday practices beginning with the varsity class period until 5:30/6:00pm (ending time will be decided on as the year progresses)*
 - Tuesday through Thursday practices beginning with the varsity class period until 5:30pm*
 - Friday practices will be the varsity class period until 5:00pm unless we have a football game or choreography.*
- All practice times could change depending on the bell schedule for next year.*
- 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 losing their spot in the band show and be ineligible to perform throughout the year as well as compete at nationals. 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 and JV 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, football games or nationals' routines.*
- *JV and Varsity - Halftime performances at selected home basketball games. We plan to perform once in the fall and once in the spring and will let you know as soon as we have these dates.*
- *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 3rd through Competition*
 - *Both teams will follow the same practice schedule that begins in October/November following the conclusion of Band Marching season.*

- *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 Friday evening or 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. We will also have practices over spring break to prepare for our competition. Please do not make any plans for spring break until we have finalized our competition and practice 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).*
- ***Possible Varsity Competition** - We are considering taking Varsity to an additional competition this year. We are looking at a weekend in February but do not yet have dates as we are waiting on the companies to post dates. We hope to have more details at the new team meeting. All Varsity members must participate in the trip.*
- ***JV and Varsity Elevation Convention/Competition** - We will be attending the Elevation event that happens in Odessa at the Downtown Marriott. This is a great learning experience for all of our dancers and will be mandatory for both teams.*

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 with as many dates as possible, at the mandatory try-out meeting. We do not yet have the football schedule or dates for events associated with football season. We also will not have choreography dates set in stone just yet. 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. Since several dates will still be unknown, dancers that make a team will receive a more updated calendar in August. Team members are expected to keep their schedules flexible since many dates are undetermined at this time. 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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| • Daily Practices starting | January 3 rd |
| • Elevation Convention | Weekend in January |
| • Future Paws Clinic | Weekend in February |
| • Possible Competition | Weekend in February |
| • Dance Explosion | February 17 th -18 th , 24 th -25 th
Or March 3 rd -4 th |
| • Possible Nationals | March 17 th -19 th |
| • Possible Nationals | March 24 th -26 th |

*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 or early April 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, May 2nd. *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 and recital. This amount will depend on the number of home or midland games and will be \$12 a girl for each game or recital show. This will cover their dinner before the game or recital 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 Only Competition

We estimate the cost for this trip to be around \$750 - \$1000 a dancer but we hope for it to be 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. All varsity members will be required to attend the competition 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 all football games and recital. This amount will depend on the number of home or midland games and will be \$12 a girl for each game or recital show. This will cover their dinner before the game or recital as well as snacks and drinks during the game!

Junior Varsity competition

We will have more information and details concerning competition 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, August 1st. 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 and 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 Garza 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 Wednesday, April 20th!

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