

## **Basic Information**

### **Mission Statement**

The Jr. Pirate Spirit (JPS) program includes Drill and Cheer Squads for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students within the Pattonville School District. We will teach basic cheerleading and dance skills in addition to spirit, enthusiasm, and etiquette in a safe and positive environment.

### **Vision Statement**

JPS is committed to providing an environment rich in learning and development for all participants. It is our goal to ensure each person gains confidence and self-discipline through effort and training. We want to teach and promote good sportsmanship. We will focus on each participant's safety while promoting progress of skills throughout the season. We strive to maintain an atmosphere that is fun and promotes friendship and teamwork. This program can be utilized to encourage future involvement in cheer and drill team at the high school level.

### **Eligibility**

The JPS program is offered to any middle school student who resides in the Pattonville District who has undergone and passed a recent physical by their pediatrician or equivalent. The physical will need to be turned in before the first practice in August. Participants will also need to be a current student in good standing once the school year begins.

### **Fees**

There will be a fee for each sport (Cheerleading and Drill Team) that will be set by the board members of the organization based on operating costs and uniform attire. We highly encourage all participants to take part in the pre-season training camp at a minimal cost. In addition, each family will need to complete a work duty or pay a fee instead of working. There may be voluntary costs throughout the year for spirit wear apparel, banquet, fundraisers, etc.

### **Registration**

It is strongly recommended that you register and pay online at our website [www.jrpiratespirit.com](http://www.jrpiratespirit.com). Registration will be available online at the website April 1<sup>st</sup> and closing after fitting night May 17<sup>th</sup>. In order to register, a minimum of \$125 must be paid as a first payment. The additional cost will need to be paid for after registration. The balance must be paid for within two payments, one being at registration.

### **Practices and Games**

Practices begin in the summer once a week until August. In August, practices will begin twice a week and continue to be twice a week until the end of the season. Games mainly occur on Saturdays starting the last week of August and continue until the end of October. The specific practice schedule will be posted on the web site and sent to the email given at registration.

The Drill Team consists of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade together on one team. They will perform at games of different grades throughout the Jr. Pirates football games during half time.

## Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct 2018

Participants will be expected to arrive at the start time of the game and will be dismissed by their coaches following their halftime performance.

The Cheerleading Team will consist of 3 different teams, each of their own grade. They will attend the game of the same grade. Each team will arrive 30 minutes before the start of the game and cheer on the sideline until half time. They will perform a routine for half time and then cheer on the sideline for the second half of the game. They will be dismissed after the game. The specific practice schedules for both will be posted on our website and emailed to all registered participants' parent/s.

### **Participant and Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

In order to maintain a safe and fun environment for your athlete to participate, we have established a Code of Conduct for participants and parent/guardian. The Code of Conduct will need to be agreed to electronically when you register. A copy of the Code of Conduct is included on the website.

### **JPS Board Members**

Jr. Pirate Spirit is a volunteer, parent-run organization. We do not employ individuals to organize and run the program. Our leadership is comprised of volunteer board members consisting of parents, community members, and coaches. We will add additional individuals to serve in leadership roles as needed and the Board may change every year.

### **Coaches**

Like all members of JPS, coaches are volunteer. Coaches will be in communication often throughout the season and are available before or after practice and games. We ask that parents refrain from approaching the coaches during practice about issues. If you have a need to talk with the coach please do so at the end of the practice/game or feel free to contact them outside of practices/games.

### **Communication**

Our primary form of communication will be through emails, texts, and website postings. We also have a Facebook page. Please make sure that you submit your best contact email address and cell phone number during registration. If you do not have email, texting, or internet access for your communication source, please let us know. Please check our website prior to scheduled practices and games. We will send everyone an automated email and text alert if there is any last-minute information we need to get out to you regarding practices or games. A weekly/bi-weekly newsletter will also be sent out throughout the season to give upcoming reminders. These will be posted on the website and also emailed through the system.

## Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct 2018

If you come from a split family and want to make sure both families get updates, please to go [jrpiratespirit.com](http://jrpiratespirit.com) and click on Create Account on the upper right-hand corner. Once you set up an account, please email [jrpiratespirit@gmail.com](mailto:jrpiratespirit@gmail.com) and we will make sure to add you to the alert communications that go to each registered person.

### **Parent Meetings**

We will have parent meetings as needed. We have a beginning of the year meeting for all parents to attend in order to go over the policies and procedures for the teams. This year we will be doing this at our swim party in June after camp. This is a good time for parents to ask questions. We will also send out a brief survey at the end of the season to gather feedback and suggestions for the following year.

### **Camps**

A mandatory local camp will be provided for both drill and cheer squads. Each will be scheduled on weekdays during the summer months. Camps will focus on safety, learning skills, and team bonding. More information will be available on the website prior to registration.

### **Game Schedules**

Jr. Pirate football game schedules will be available on both [www.jrpiratespirit.com](http://www.jrpiratespirit.com) and [www.jrpiratesports.org](http://www.jrpiratesports.org) websites. The schedule does not come out until August but typically starts the last Saturday of August and ends the last week of October with bowl games after that. Game times vary and are at various locations. The possible locations and addresses are listed on our website.

### **Work Duty**

There will be a \$50 work duty check required for each participant unless a family member is signed up for work duty assignment. Work duties are listed on the website and include different levels of participation in the program. An example of a work duty includes assistance at parades to walk and throw candy. Others may include buying candy for the home football games for the squad to give to the other cheerleaders.

### **Directions and Maps**

Schools and addresses to all possible locations are listed on the JPS website.

### **Fundraisers**

JPS offers several fundraising opportunities. A personal fundraiser will be offered to aid with registration costs. Group fundraisers will be held to help provide “extras” for the participants. It is strongly encouraged that all girls participate in the group fundraiser because the money raised will benefit all participants.

### **Spirit Wear Apparel**

The JPS organization will offer various apparel items for the participants, parents, and fans to purchase. All spirit wear items are optional and are not mandatory to be purchased or worn.

## **Leaving the Team**

If you leave the team, you must notify at least one of the coaches in writing that you no longer wish to be a part of the team. Since a large portion of the registration fee is applied to the uniforms, which will be ordered shortly after registration closes, anyone who quits prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> will receive \$50 back from their initial registration fees. No refunds will be given after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Dismissed from JPS**

Jr. Pirate Spirit has a no tolerance policy for bullying. Any instance of bullying from a member in the program will be dismissed from JPS and will not be given a refund. This includes physical, cyber, or parental bullying. If parents are involved in fights or bullying, the family will be dismissed.

The JPS program also has a demerit system in place to enforce rules for the teams. If an individual receives 5 total demerits in one season, they will be dismissed from the program.

## **Demerit System**

Demerits will be given and recorded by the coach. An athlete has a maximum of 5 total demerits in a season before dismissed from the program.

### **1 Full Demerit**

- Not showing up to practice without notifying a coach
- Outside drama that is hindering practice or team
- Being disrespectful to teammates, opponents, coaches, or officials
- Cussing or making derogatory statements to teammates, opponents, coaches, or officials

### **½ Demerit**

- Coming to games without the proper attire
- Coming to practice over 15 minutes late without notifying a coach
  - Note: Coaches understand parents will be late, which is not in the athletes hands. Athletes and parents should however, be in communication with the coach to make them aware of whatever situation arises. Failure to communicate with the coach will result in a ½ demerit for the athlete.

Note: Demerits can be added, altered, or removed by coaches and board members. Parents will be notified if demerits are given.

## **Jr. Pirate Spirit Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

- We agree to be both a positive role model and strong supporter of our athlete's involvement.
- We agree to balance our support with our ability to emotionally step back and allow our young athlete to participate without our interference.
- We agree to drop-off/pick-up our child promptly before AND after each practice and game. If we cannot, we will arrange for another responsible person to do so or notify the coach of an absence. Late pick-ups are not acceptable. Three late pick-ups of more than 15 minutes without prior communication with a coach will result in penalties.
- We understand and agree that if a player is injured and the injury requires a hospital or doctors visit, the player must have a signed release form from the doctor before they can return to participate.
- We understand and agree that it is the Parent/Guardian's responsibility to check the JPS website for any schedule changes before all practices and games.
- We will notify the coach as early as possible if our child cannot attend a team event.
- We agree to handle personal issues appropriately. We understand that if we pull JPS into personal issues, our child will be asked to leave.
- We understand that no money is refundable if my child quits or if they are asked to leave the program.
- We understand that the coaches have a limited amount of time to work with the team. We will set time outside of practice/games by calling/emailing/texting the coaches with any issues and will not address issues in front of the athletes.

### **As a Fan of the Game**

- We understand that the participants in this program are kids who have various levels of ability and experience, and we will be considerate and positive in our comments to them and others.
- We will make no derogatory comments to other parents, other players, coaches, the officials or to the opposing team. We will refrain from using profanity when at a youth football or Jr. Pirate Spirit activity.
- We understand coaches have a challenging job and will not interfere with them before, at half time, or during the game, and will remain in the grandstands (where available) or outside the team's area so that we do not interfere with any sideline activities.
- We are responsible for the behavior of all family members and our guests in attendance.

### **Consequences**

We understand that parents, guardians, and anyone in support of a cheerleader or dancer, must abide by this Code of Conduct. Violations will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, up to and including loss of membership in the JPS organization. Any personal threat or physical violence will be subject to immediate termination of membership. Parent/Guardian suspension or termination may affect a student's eligibility to participate in the program. If parents are feuding and pull Jr. Pirate Spirit into the situation, the girls will be

asked to leave without refund of monies paid. We are here to support our girls and want to be positive role models.

## **Jr. Pirate Spirit Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

### **I freely chose to participate and agree to demonstrate good sportsmanship on the field. I will:**

- Demonstrate respect and courtesy for my teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.
- Represent my team and myself in a positive manner, and be gracious in victory or defeat.
- Make sure I understand the rules and guidelines so I may appropriately demonstrate them.
- Respect and support the coaches and their decisions.
- Be on time, attend all practices and games, and work hard.
- Always give my best effort without sacrificing integrity, ethics, and fair play.
- Report any personal harassment or bullying to a coach.
- Always arrive prepared and early to practices and games.
- Drill/Cheer team members must stay together as a squad in the designated area with their coach during all Jr. Pirate games.

### **I will abide by the standards of good citizenship off the field. I will:**

- Act as a positive role model and be respectful, both at home and at school.
- NOT be apart of bullying or any type of derogatory communication.
- Follow the social networking policy (found at the end of this document).
- Make satisfactory academic progress towards promotion to the next grade level.
- NOT use tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.
- NOT curse or participate in any illegal activities such as graffiti, which could cause negative publicity for the JPS teams.
- NOT cause damage to the personal property of others.
- NOT intentionally hurt another person or fight.
- NOT attend JpS football practice unless supervised by your parent/guardian.
- Support JPS by opting to wear approved uniform or spirit wear to school on Fridays before games.

### **I will abide by the following standards for my uniform and my personal appearance while in uniform. I will:**

- NOT wear jewelry.
- Wear my hair up and out of my face during practice and games.
- Always wear my spandex shorts under my skirt.
- Keep my fingernails short for safety reasons

### **Updates- Practices, Games, etc.**

It is the athletes and parent's responsibility to check the website, emails, and texts often for any updates.

### **Consequences**

Not every possible situation or event can be foreseen, but we ask each participant to be responsible young adults of character, both on and off the field. The following are some examples of consequences for violating key responsibilities of being a Jr. Pirate Spirit cheerleader or dancer.

### **School Attendance**

You must be enrolled in a normal course load and attend school on a regular basis.

### **Sportsmanship On and Off the Field**

If you commit an unsportsmanlike act while at practice or in uniform, you may be immediately suspended from a game or, if serious enough, be expelled for the rest of the season without refund of monies paid. Coaches and Board Members will be responsible for deciding consequences of an infraction.

### **Misbehavior Off the Field**

Any school suspension or activity resulting in law enforcement involvement may result in game suspension or removal from the squad without refund of monies paid. It is the athlete's responsibility to immediately inform the coach of such activity.

### **Practices**

Practices are mandatory to be a good team player. But we also understand that other activities are responsibilities. We spend a lot of time working in formations and stunt groups. If someone misses practice it affects the whole team. Be respectful of your teammates and coaches time.

### **Consequences of missed practices**

- One *excused* practice for the week will result in no consequences.
- One *unexcused* practice for the week will result in missing half time or half the game cheering.
- If you miss *both* practices for the week you will not perform at half time.

What is an *excused* absence? You contacted the coach before practice and advised of why you will not be at practice. Approved excused absences, anything due to a school commitment, church commitment, other sports practice or you are contagious to others such as flu etc. If you hurt yourself we expect you to still be at practice and sit out and watch if at all possible.

What is an *unexcused* absence? You didn't contact the coach before missing practice. And the reason you missed was not approved. Unapproved absences: you just didn't want to come to

## Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct 2018

practice, you didn't feel good, you lied to a coach regarding why you weren't at practice, going to parties, meeting up with friends. Not having a ride is not an excuse!

### **Personal Responsibility**

A cheerleader/dancer may be benched for one or more quarters or game for actions witnessed by any member of the Jr. Pirates Spirit coaching staff or board members. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Excessive talking or disrespecting coaches during practice and/or games.
- Violations of the social networking policy or any other portion of the Jr. Pirate Spirit Student Code of Conduct.
- Being out of uniform and/or missing required uniform pieces or accessories.
- Being late to a Jr. Pirates Football game or performance.

### **Social Networking Policy (Athlete)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree to refrain from posting ANY comments or links on any social networking website, blog, or other public forum that is a negative reflection on me, my teammates, coaches and/or the Jr. Pirate Spirit or Jr. Pirate Football organization. This includes, but is not limited to your personal or public Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Youtube, or other similar sites. I understand that any portrayal or photograph of me, posted on any public forum, that is in direct violation of the Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct, may result in immediate removal from the program.

### **Code of Conduct (Athlete)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree that I have read the code of conduct. I understand my role as an athlete and being a team member. Any direct violation of the Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct, may result in immediate removal from the program.

### **Code of Conduct (Parent)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree that I have read the code of conduct. I understand my role as a parent/guardian for an athlete involved with Jr. Pirates Spirit. Any direct violation of the Jr. Pirate Spirit Code of Conduct, may result in immediate removal from the program.