

Basic Information

Mission Statement

The Jr. Pirate Spirit (JPS) program includes Cheer Squads for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students within the Pattonville School District. We will teach basic cheerleading 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 cheerleading at the high school level.

Eligibility

The JPS program is offered to any 5th grade student or middle school student who resides in the Pattonville School District. Participants will also need to be a current student in good standing once the school year begins.

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 consists 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

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.

To add additional emails to your account, you can add the emails on your www.irpiratespirit.org account or contact a coach/board member to add them for you.

Fundraisers

JPS may do fundraisers to help raise money for the program. The money is used to pay for banquet, team bondings, and any needed equipment.

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.

Fees

There will be a fee for the Cheerleading 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. 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.org. Registration will be available online at the website March 1st and closing March 30th. In order to register, a minimum of \$225 must be paid as a first payment. The additional cost will need to be paid 30 days later. We do not have tryouts.

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 is a good time for parents to ask questions.

Camps

A mandatory local camp will be provided for cheer squads. Camp will be scheduled in the summer. Camp will focus on safety, learning skills, and team bonding. More information will be available on the website prior to registration.

Practices

Starting August 3, 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 website and sent to the email given at registration.

Practices are meant to be used for teamwork and to get ready for performances. Siblings and friends are to stay behind the gate unless with an adult to avoid distraction. Parents are welcome to watch practices but refrain from coaching/parenting while at practice. If there is an issue, contact the team coach before or after practice or when athletes are on a break. Do not disturb practice or games unless talking to a coach at a reasonable time.

During practices only athletes are allowed to be on the field participating in practice unless a board member or unless discussed with a coach. Parents, friends, and siblings are not to be involved with practice so there is no distraction. When outside on the field, parents, friends, and siblings must be on the outside of the fence or with an adult. In the gym, parents, friends, and siblings are to stay in the gym lobby or on the benches. Those that are distracting practice, will be asked to move locations.

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 may result in removal from the half time performance or part of the game cheering.
- If you miss *both* practices for the week you will not perform at half time.
- Missing practice *without communicating with a coach* may result in removal from 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 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!

Games

The Cheerleading Team usually consists of 4 different teams. A 5th grade team, 6th grade team, a 7th grade team, and an 8th grade team. They will attend the game of the same grade. In the event that teams need to be combined, the combined teams will attend the higher grade's games. If 5th grade doesn't have a designated team, we may ask other grades to support 1-2 5th grade home games in the season. Each team will arrive 45 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 practice schedule will be posted on our website and emailed to all registered participants' parent/s.

Jr. Pirate football game schedules will be available on the www.jrpiratespirit.org website. 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.

Consequences of Arriving Unprepared

Athletes that arrive to practice/games unprepared will have consequences. Arriving unprepared includes, but is not limited to, improper practice attire, missing uniform pieces, and arriving late. Consequences could include, but are not limited to, conditioning, running, or removal from stunts. Consequences are determined by the coach.

Directions and Maps

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

Updates- Practices, Games, etc.

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

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 the registration cost is primarily for uniform pieces, which will be ordered shortly after registration closes, there will be no refunds.

Behavioral Misconduct

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 without warning and will not be given a refund. This includes physical, cyber, or parental bullying to anyone. 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 3 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 3 total demerits in a season before being dismissed from the program.

1 Demerit can be given for:

- Missing practice/game without notifying a coach
- Outside drama that is hindering practice/game or team
- Being disrespectful to teammates, opponents, coaches, or officials
- Cussing or making derogatory statements to teammates, opponents, coaches, or officials in any form
- Inappropriate behavior on/off the field while wearing JPS uniform/attire

Note: Demerits can be added, altered, or removed by coaches and board members. Parents will be notified if demerits are given. An athlete may also be removed at any time by a board vote if the athlete is not representing the program/school appropriately.

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. There will be consequences, including removal from the team, for violating key responsibilities of being a Jr. Pirate Spirit cheerleader. Reported unforeseen situations/actions that are not listed in this Code of Conduct, may result in consequences pending a board review of the situation/action.

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 proven criminal activity will result in immediate removal from the squad without refund of monies paid. This includes actions resulting in fingerprinting, arrests, or a parent confession of the illegal activity. It is the athlete's and parent's responsibility to immediately inform the coach of such activity.

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 late to a Jr. Pirates Football game or performance.

Social Media Policy

Any use of social media by parents and athletes should be positive. This includes, but is not limited to your personal or public Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok, Youtube, or other similar sites/apps. Any comments, threats, videos, or links on any social networking website, blog, or other public forum that is a negative reflection on the athlete, another JPS athlete, coaches and/or the Jr. Pirate Spirit or Jr. Pirate Football organization, could result in consequences or dismissal from the program. Not every possible situation or event can be foreseen but examples include: threatening to fight, racial or sexual preference comments, negative/inappropriate talk about a team/teammate, bullying, etc.

Any social media posts/videos can be submitted to a coach or Board member for evaluation. The coaches/Board members will view, evaluate, and discuss the submission together to determine the consequences. Repetitive unsubstantiated reports/reporters or false accusations will result in a discussion between the athlete, parent, and coach or Board member.

Athlete Removal/Consequence Process

If an athlete is under review for a report of misconduct, parents will be notified of the incident that was reported. Details will include what the child was reported of doing but will not include who reported the action. The Board will gather information regarding the incident by interviewing witnesses and using videos/messages to determine what happened and will vote on the consequence given to the athlete. Parents will be notified of the decision.

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 athletes 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 in person or social media. 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.
- While on any school property, we will not consume alcohol or use tobacco/vape.

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 Participant 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.
- 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 on/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