

**Griffith High School  
Pantherettes Constitution  
Revised February 2020**

\*All individual participants trying out/current members, parents and guardians will receive and MUST sign a copy of the GHS Pantherettes constitution prior to the audition. This must be turned in before the audition.

**The coach(es) decisions regarding all team-related matters will be final and all decisions are at the sponsor(s) discretion. This constitution is a living document, you will be notified in writing if any changes are made.**

Purpose of Pantherettes

The purpose of Pantherettes is to serve school spirit throughout the school during games, school events, fundraisers, competitions and the community.

Selection of the Team

- ALL final obligations to the school and fees from the previous dance season must be paid in full prior to auditioning.
- Competition team is decided after the audition during summer practices. This means some dancers will NOT dance on the floor at competitions but all members will learn the competition dances. ALL team members are required to attend all games, events, and competitions whether they are dancing or not.
- A panel of judges will judge the tryouts based of the qualities listed on the audition sheet that will be sent home with all participants.
- All judges and coach(es) decisions at tryouts are FINAL and no exceptions will be made.
- To maintain confidentiality, no scores will be given out or shared to parents, participants, or guardians for any reason.
- Tallying scores, teacher's recommendations, grade check, and discipline eligibility will all be in consideration of the selection of the team.
- **Behavior and disturbances from the previous season by returning participants, including parents and guardians, will be put into consideration during the decision process of selecting the team.**
- All participants are required to attend at least 2 of the 3 days of the assigned clinic days the week of try outs. *\*Participants are expected to know all material they may have missed\**
- All participants are required to stay in the building the entire time during the day of try outs until they are all released by the coach.
- Participants will know if they are selected for the team or not either immediately after try outs or at a selected time later than same evening by a letter they will be given at the school.
- All letters are PROHIBITED from being opened on Griffith High School property unless instructed otherwise by the coach. All participants will need to be picked up individually by their parent or guardian, off of school property, before they may open their letter.
- *It is highly advised each participant does not open their letter with other participants*
- Try outs and clinics are closed to the public. Only participants trying out may attend.
- Coaches have the ability to dismiss any participant due to ANY circumstance at any time during the audition process and season.
- Coaches will NOT discuss their decision on their selection to any participant, parent or guardian after the try out under any circumstance. All decisions are final.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Alternative and Non-Competitive Dancers**

- It is possible for a dancer to make the team as an alternate, a non-competitive dancer.
- An alternate could *possibly*\* perform in place for a competitive teammate if they are unable to perform at competition for any reason, but the use of an alternate is completely up to the discretion of the coach
- All alternates will perform at all football and basketball games where a competitive dance is not performed as long as they are tested out and approved to perform by the coach, as well as the rest of team.

### **Audition Attire**

- **Black tank tops**
- **Black sports bra**
- **Plain black leggings**
- **Jazz shoes or pirouette shoes**

\*All participants must come neatly dressed in school and dance appropriate attire such as t-shirts, tank tops, shorts, leggings, and dance shoes to the clinic days.

### **Grades and Academic Performance**

- Grades will be checked at the end of every quarter.
- All dancers must maintain a 2.5 GPA throughout the entire season. This GPA is required to try out for the team.
- Any participant who fails to meet academic requirements will be placed on academic probation. If the individual's grades have not improved by the selected amount of time the coach allows, this dancer will be dismissed from the team.
- Any dancer that needs after school testing, meetings with teachers, etc. need to inform their coach before practice begins.

### **Earning Letters**

- In order for dancers to earn their letter at the end of the season during the Winter Awards Ceremony hosted by the Griffith Athletic Department, all dancers must complete all of the following
  - perform at every home football game (with only ONE excused absence)
  - perform at every home basketball game (with only ONE excused absence)
    - \*this does not include basketball games the team is instructed not to perform at by the coach
  - attend all competitions, including regionals and state

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attendance

- All Pantherette events are mandatory. All appointments and obligations need to be scheduled around all practices, games, competitions, and events.
- Dancers are expected to contact the coach by noon if they are not in school and cannot make it to practice.
- Every scheduled practice is mandatory the week of a performance or competition. Failure to do so will result in sitting out that upcoming game or competition due to the discretion of the coach.
- All absences from a game, practice or event must be approved by the coach prior to the set date. This includes leaving any event early. Competitions are absolutely mandatory with the only exception being a family emergency, medical emergency, or wake/funeral based on coaches on a case by case basis.
- More than 3 unexcused absences or late attendances will result in dismissal of the team.
- Dancers are expected to be on time and arrange rides home at scheduled end time.

## No Tolerance Policy

- Dancers will follow a “No Tolerance Policy” and “3 Strikes You’re Out” Rule
- Strikes include, but are not limited to
  - attendance failure
  - behavior and attitude
  - missing uniform pieces and jewelry
  - failure to pay obligations
  - grades/GPA
  - **Parent/Guardian Disturbances (coach’s discretions)**
  - inappropriate behavior in and out of school
  - failure to meet deadlines
  - failure to follow school handbook
  - inappropriate use of phone in and out Pantherettes
  - failure to bring proper materials to practice
  - unnecessary scenes at practice or events
  - lying to a coach or teammate
  - dancer/parent disobedience toward coach, teammate, and other teams
  - failure to be prepared for all practices, performances, and events
  - or to the coach’s discretion
- All dismissals will be given a written notification to the parent and Athletic Department
- All of the above is non-negotiable

## Uniforms

- We have limited amount of uniforms. Dancers are responsible for the care of their given uniform for the entire season.
- Failure to upkeep your uniforms/any damage to uniforms will result in an additional fee to obligations
- All dancers will be given a separate uniform contract to sign and return before they are given their uniforms.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Costs, Debts, and PK4L Booster Club**

- Dance is expensive but we provide many fundraisers to help with the costs. We highly encourage participation in these provided fundraisers.
- Not all fees are due at once. Families will be given a spreadsheet of their dues throughout the year
- No new items will be purchased for the dancer if there is a failure to meet payment deadlines
- Any outstanding obligations will be turned into the school as debt/obligations if not paid by the end of the season. This includes damaged items. No diploma and final report card will be given and no school dance can be attended with any outstanding balances.
- Families are encouraged to join our parent booster club "PK4L" to help with payments and fundraising.

### **GHS Booster Club**

- Dancer are required to be paying and participating of the high school booster club and attend all booster club events.

### **Summer Camp**

- Dancers will be required to attend UDA Camp with their team in the summer. This is an overnight camp and they will be under the supervision of their coach and team moms. Cost is TBA
- Dancers will attend summer clinics with Lynn Marie School of Dance on select dates during the summer. Cost is TBA
- Dancers are required to have matching camp attire selected by the coach.

### **Summer Obligations**

- All dancers are required to dance in the Griffith Fourth of July Parade
- All dancers are required to participate in team fundraisers during the summer
- Practices will be held 2-3 times a week during the summer
- Vacations must be approved by the coach

### **Jobs, Multiple Sports & Clubs**

- All outside jobs, sports, and clubs need to be scheduled and approved by the coach
- Coach(es) must have all practice, game, and work schedules prior to the season starting
- Pantherettes still needs to remain a priority

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Practices**

- Practices will be scheduled 2-3 times during the week for the school year. Competition season will be the busiest season, 4-5 practices a week.
- Pantherettes is a long season. Please be prepared for a lot of dedication and hard work.
- Practices are mandatory. Any absences need to be APPROVED by the sponsor
- Tardiness and failure to communicate an absence to the coach will not be tolerated and will result a strike
- Be prepared for practice with all materials needed. Dance shoes, arm weights, pony-tails, practice attire, gym shoes, water bottles, etc.
- Phones are not allowed at practices, games, and competitions. Phone are required to stay in dancer's dance bags unless given permission to use them.
- Dancers are required to make their ride arrangements prior to practice and expected to be picked up when practice is scheduled to end. Dancers cannot be on the campus after practice is let out

## **Captains**

- Dancers must have completed ONE season as a Pantherette before they may apply as captain.
- Captains can be sophomore, junior, or senior as long as they meet the requirements needed for captain.
- Captains must have a positive attitude, be a leader, a great work ethic, be punctual, be prepared, always give their best effort, be in good standings in school, and be a great role model.
- Captains are the glue between the coach(es) and the team. They are expected to have great communication skills and lead by example.
- Dancers wanting to apply for captain will be asked to write a letter to the coach(es) and have a letter of recommendation from a teacher, dance instructor, a manager at work, etc.
- Dancers wanting to apply will also need to plan and run one full dance practice during the summer for their team without any guidance from their team or coach(es).
- The coach(es) will make a final decision on captains by football season.
- Failure to meet the expectations of captain will result in dismissal of the position.

## **Performances**

- Each Pantherette must be in complete and proper uniform (head to toe) every performance. Failure to do so will result in sitting in the sidelines during the performance.
- Each Pantherette must know their routine prior to the performance. All dancers will "test out" before each performance, if you do not perform the routine(s) up to standard, you will be benched that day.
- During the game and performances, Pantherettes stay together. Dancers and the coach(es) remain in the spirit block during games and Pantherettes sit as a team at competitions. Friends and family cannot sit with the team.
- Uniforms and spirit wear will be assigned prior to the performances and school. Dancers must wear exactly what is expected from head to toe or they will not perform.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Competition Season | IHSDTA**

- IHSDTA competitions run December through mid March but we practice our competition dances starting in June. We strive to be as prepared as possible for competition season.
- Our team attends 5 competitions during the regular season. Those dates are TBA until our coach's meeting. These 5 competitions do NOT include semi-state, regionals, and state.
- All performance guidelines apply to competition as well.
- Pantherettes are under the direction and supervision of the coach at competitions.
- Dancers will be expected to be upstanding representatives of Griffith High School.
- The team will abide by all IHSDTA guidelines.
- Dancers are NOT allowed to leave the venue during the competition.
- The team will ride the bus to the (only local) competitions and be expected to arrange a ride home. They will need their transportation release forms signed a week prior to the competition.
- No phones are allowed during time with the team, warmups, or awards.
- Some competitions may be far and we will travel. Please plan accordingly for travel and hotels

### **State**

- Information will be sent home closer to State finals when/if the team qualifies.
- This is an overnight trip! The team will leave Friday and compete all day Saturday
- Dancers/families will be expected to help pay their way to state (hotels, food, etc.)
- The team will ride to the competition together and they will be expected to arrange rides home from the competition.
- Dancers will be under the supervision of the coach(es) at the state hotel and will be assigned to their rooms. Lights out by 10pm.
- All overnight bags need to be dropped off in the Athletic Department for a bag check the morning of travel.

### **Solos and Ensembles**

- Solos and ensembles for competition season will be based solely on the discretion of the coach(es).
- Coaches will have the final say in music chosen, the choreographer, and the dancers participating.
- All obligations and fees due are the responsibility of the individual dancer and their family.
- Some seasons the coach(es) may decide to not allow a solo/ensemble opportunity and only focus on the team routines.
- Dancers chosen will be responsible to practice these routines on their own if there is not time during scheduled practice. Team routines come first.
- Non-competitive solos and ensembles from any team member are welcomed for the Teri Calhoun Showcase. These dances need to be approved by the coach(es) prior to the performance.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- I hereby understand the rules and policies of the **\*revised February 2020 Griffith High School Pantherettes constitution**. I understand that all decisions, revisions, and guidelines are to the discretion of the coach(es). I acknowledge that these policies are effective immediately and they are all final. I give my dancer permission to be an active member of/try out for the Pantherette Dance Team. I understand this constitution needs to be signed again every new season or when any changes to the constitution are made mid-season. I am aware of the expectations required of my dancer for this team and have read through the constitution entirely.

*\* I understand my dancer needs an updated physical from the current new year on file with the Athletic Department, 5 teachers reports turned in before the first clinic date, a 2.5 or higher GPA, participation in at least 2 of the 3 days of clinic, and a full and signed copy of the constitution in order to try out.*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_