



2022-2023
Tryout Packet

April 6-8

About The Raiderettes

The East Peoria Raiderettes are a dance team that performs at pep assemblies, pre-game and halftime of football games and boys' basketball games, as well as competitions. In addition to dance technique, members learn teamwork, time management, commitment, and choreography skills. All team members contribute to routine choreography, though more experienced team members will teach choreography to the group. Formal dance training is a definite asset, but certainly not a requirement!

A majority of expenses are planned; however there are some that unexpectedly come up. Fundraising is a way to be able to pay for these unexpected expenses, so ALL team members must participate in fundraising.

The Raiderette season is actually split into two seasons with three separate teams: Football, Basketball and Competitive. Football season begins in June and ends in October with basketball season following immediately after. **Competitive tryouts will immediately follow the end of Football season, which spans from October to March.** It is NOT guaranteed or required that an individual make all three teams. However, a member MUST make the basketball team in order to try out for the competition team.

During the summer, the team will practice roughly 3 days a week, in addition to a 3 day intensive summer dance camp hosted by UDA. This camp will be held at Eastern Illinois University June 18 - June 21. All members of the football and basketball teams MUST attend.

Practices

- ★ Football Season: Monday-Thursday 3-5 pm
- ★ Basketball Season: Tuesday & Thursday 3-5 pm
- ★ Competition Team: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3-5 pm + all basketball practices

Performances are typically on Friday or Saturday evenings, however there have been basketball games throughout the week in the past. Competitions are on Saturdays in January. Work schedules and social plans **must** be arranged around the practice, performance, and competition schedule. **Do NOT try out if you are unable or unwilling to meet this time commitment.**

The team usually ranges from 12 to 20 members. However, remember the team is chosen based on **quality**, NOT on **quantity**.

Please read through this packet carefully, and complete all of the necessary paperwork **by Wednesday, April 6!** Failure to turn in paperwork by the deadline will result in dismissal of the candidate. If paperwork is completed early, feel free to turn it in to Coach Zachman in room 208E.

Clinics and Tryouts

Clinics to learn the tryout routine, dance technique and other skills judged during auditions are scheduled for **Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7 from 3 - 5 pm, in the EPCHS main gym**. Tryouts will follow on **Friday, April 8 beginning at 3:30 pm**.

- Prior to clinics, candidates should submit the **teacher recommendation forms** in this packet to **3 of their teachers**. Any candidate who receives unacceptable (i.e. 2 or 1 ranking in any category) endorsements will not be considered for a position on the team, regardless of talent or experience on the team.
- Also prior to clinics, each candidate must complete the application form in the packet. **Bring the completed application to the clinics as well as a picture/headshot of yourself**. This makes it easier for the judges to put faces with names, and remember details when deliberating. If your paperwork (teacher forms, application, physical, etc.) is not turned in, you will **not be allowed to try out**. Please be proactive about having all of your information turned in on time.
- The first clinic will begin with additional information for the candidates, and there will be an opportunity for candidates to ask questions.
- If you have a **current physical**, please bring it. A physical is **required**, and is “good” for 1 year. ALL incoming freshmen need physicals.
- Arrive promptly and dressed appropriately (clean, neat, nonrestrictive clothing – NO JEANS!).
- Hair should be up and off of the face.
- The most recent senior Raiderettes will teach a short dance routine that will be primarily jazz-based, but which may include elements from hip-hop, pom and lyrical. There will also be a section at the end of the routine where candidates will **choreograph for themselves**.
- In addition to the dance routine, candidates will also be judged on several technical elements of dance. Candidates unfamiliar with the terms/movements will learn them during the clinics.
- Candidates are free to leave following their audition on Friday. Tryouts are closed to spectators. **Team list will be posted the following Saturday morning**.

Judging Criteria

The judges are instructed to look for dance skills, performance & showmanship, recovery, and potential. While the judges will score you on these skills the final decisions will be made by the coach. Candidates will try out 3 at a time, and are free to leave once their audition is completed. Do some positive thinking before coming in for your tryout, and please perform with stage presence, attitude and personality! 😊

Skills Demonstration (25%)

- Right, left, and center splits
- Pirouettes (single & double)
- Chainé turns
- Right sauté de chat leap
- Center leap
- Toe Touch
- Technical skill of choice. Ideas include (but aren't limited to):
 - o Russian
 - o Switch leap
 - o Calypso
 - o Axel
 - o Stag
 - o Reverse sauté de chat
 - o C-jump (revolving or stationary)
 - o Tumbling

Dance Routine (55%)

- Knowledge of routine choreography
- Staying with the beat of the music
- Arms and legs fully extended, point toes/flex feet, as choreographed
- Recovery from mistakes
- Good control of body, as well as body awareness
- Overall crowd appeal

Showmanship (20%)

- Smile!
- Confidence
- Energy and enthusiasm
- Posture and projection

What Does it Cost to be a Raiderette?

Dance teams can be expensive. However, being a Raiderette doesn't mean that you have to give up your life savings! Fundraising is a huge part of Raiderettes, and we will try to use funds raised to pay for team necessities. Hopefully, this price sheet should help give you a general idea of team costs! Please, do not let costs deter you from trying out! We will do everything we can to make sure everyone has what they need to be a part of the team! ☺

Raiderette Price Sheet (Tentative)

- **UDA Dance camp: \$372.00 (\$100.00 deposit, \$272.00 camp fee)**
 - o We will attend Eastern Illinois University for our summer dance camp
- **Camp clothes: roughly \$150.00**
 - o Deposit will be due at the first parent meeting upon selection of team members.
- **Team wear throughout the season: roughly \$100.00 (cost will be spread out throughout the course of the year)**
 - o Includes a team t-shirt, sweatshirt, etc.
- **Team warm-ups: \$100.00**
- **Team Backpack: \$100 depending on style**
- **Jazz shoes: \$24.95 a pair**
 - o Both black and tan
- **Team Tennis Shoes: \$50-\$70 depending on style**
- **Tan dance tights: \$8.50 (you will need multiple pairs throughout the season)**

****Paid throughout the course of the year, not one lump sum!****

Again, please do not let team costs keep you from trying out! With all of the fundraising that the team does, we will ensure that all team members have anything that they may need, regardless of ability to pay!

Time Commitment

SUMMER: A practice schedule will be given upon making the team. If you have vacation planned, please include those dates on the tryout application. For any missed summer practices, you will be expected and responsible to learn the material you missed outside of our scheduled practice times.

PRACTICES: There will be practices almost every day after school. Please keep this in mind before you decide to try out and potentially make the team. Schedules will be given at the first official practice.

COMPETITIONS: The Raiderettes will partake in competition this year. **However**, tryouts for the competition team will not be held until the end of October. Just because you are on the team for Football Season, does NOT mean you will be on the Competition Team. Raiderettes needs only dedicated athletes that can put the time and effort into being on the team.

A Letter from Coach Zachman

Dear Raiderette Candidate,

Well hey!! I'm so excited you're considering trying out for the Raiderettes Dance Team! I can't wait to see what you have to offer for our team! Some of you may be reading this saying "wait... who is Coach Zachman??" And to answer your question, I am the Raiderette coach and a math teacher at EPCHS! Dance is a huge passion of mine, and I can't wait to collaborate with students who share my same passion. With my experience and your talent, I have no doubt that this year will be a great one!

Tryouts can be nerve-wracking for sure, but please don't let your nerves prevent you from trying out! The judges and myself just want to see what you can do, so try your best and show us what you've got! However, keep in mind that this team is not for the faint of heart. This is a huge time commitment! I expect all members of my team to be dedicated athletes who will work rigorously to help the team reach its full potential. So please take this process seriously.

If you have any questions at all about the tryout process or the team in general, please feel free to contact me! Again, I'm so excited to work with you! I'll see you Wednesday, April 6 for the first day of clinics!

Good luck!!

Coach Zachman

hzachman@ep309.org

East Peoria Raiderettes Tryout Application

Name: _____ Grade (next year): 9 10 11 12

Address: _____

Cell phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Current GPA: _____ Date of birth: _____

Please mark which team(s) you are auditioning for below.

Football Basketball

Dance background, (if applicable):

Name a person you admire and explain why you admire him/her.

What are some of your goals in school?

What are you passionate about?

Why do you want to be a Raiderette?

OVER ----->

In 75-100 words, describe the expectations you have as a member of the Raiderettes. (What do you hope to gain from this experience? What unique qualities would you bring to the team? What will practices be like? How will you feel about performing?) You may use a separate sheet of paper if you wish.

Will you be able to attend the UDA summer dance camp June 18 -21? Please list any events, activities, and dates (if known) that would prevent you from attending camp.

****NOTE: This dance camp is different from the regular summer practices!****

Please list any other dates throughout the summer that will prevent you from attending summer practices. Remember that you are making a time commitment so your availability will be taken into consideration when choosing team members.

Do you plan to participate in other activities during the Fall season? This will be taken into consideration when choosing team members.

I acknowledge that in order to tryout for the competition team in October I must first make the basketball team. However, making the basketball team in no way guarantees a spot for myself on the competition team.

**BRING THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLINICS
WITH A PHOTO/HEADSHOT OF YOURSELF ATTACHED!**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Coach Hannah Zachman. Good luck!

Coach Hannah Zachman
hzachman@ep309.org

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Participation on the EPCHS Raiderette Dance Team is a privilege, not a right. I have read the tryout packet completely and fully understand the commitment and expense required of me as a dance team member. I understand that I will receive the complete Raiderette Dance Team requirements and budget if/when I make the team. I understand that if I am unable to meet the requirements and budget set forth, I will forfeit my membership on the team.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

I have read the EPCHS Raiderette Tryout Packet and am fully aware of the commitment and expense that the team would mean to my daughter/son. I understand that I will receive the complete requirements and budget if/when my daughter/son makes the team. I understand and am fully aware of the terms of the tryout process, and I give consent to my daughter/son to participate.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

Accepted By:

SPONSOR/COACH SIGNATURE

DATE

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

(1) Name _____ Relationship _____

Primary # _____ Secondary # _____

(2) Name _____ Relationship _____

Primary # _____ Secondary # _____

EAST PEORIA RAIDERETTES DANCE TEAM

Teacher Evaluation Form

_____ is a candidate for the East Peoria Raiderettes dance team. Please respond to the following categories. Your evaluation will remain confidential. Please feel free to make additional comments at the bottom of the form and please indicate if you doubt this person's ability to work well under pressure as part of a team. Thank you for your time and valuable input. **Please return this form to Coach Hannah Zachman by March !** Mailing address for the high school is: 1401 E. Washington St.

5 = *always*

4 = *usually*

3 = *sometimes*

2 = *rarely*

1 = *never*

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Student's behavior is appropriate. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Student turns in assignments on time. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. Student is polite. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. Student is a positive role model. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5. Student works well with peers. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. Student responds well to criticism. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Student shows enthusiasm for learning. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Student is able to work independently. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. Student seems determined & hardworking. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

How would you rate this student's attendance? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Regarding maturity level, this individual is(*check one*):

- More mature than is typical
- Average
- Somewhat immature
- Very immature

What are 3 words that come to mind when you think of this candidate?

Please approximate the grade(s) this student typically earns in your class: _____

Comments:

Teacher's name: _____

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Teacher Evaluation Form

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10. Student's behavior is appropriate. 5 4 3 2 1

11. Student turns in assignments on time. 5 4 3 2 1

12. Student is polite. 5 4 3 2 1

13. Student is a positive role model. 5 4 3 2 1

14. Student works well with peers. 5 4 3 2 1

15. Student responds well to criticism. 5 4 3 2 1

16. Student shows enthusiasm for learning. 5 4 3 2 1

17. Student is able to work independently. 5 4 3 2 1

18. Student seems determined & hardworking. 5 4 3 2 1

How would you rate this student's attendance? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Regarding maturity level, this individual is(*check one*):

- More mature than is typical
- Average
- Somewhat immature
- Very immature

What are 3 words that come to mind when you think of this candidate?

Please approximate the grade(s) this student typically earns in your class: _____

Comments:

Teacher's name: _____

EAST PEORIA RAIDERETTES DANCE TEAM

Teacher Evaluation Form

_____ is a candidate for the East Peoria Raiderettes dance team. Please respond to the following categories. Your evaluation will remain confidential. Please feel free to make additional comments at the bottom of the form and please indicate if you doubt this person's ability to work well under pressure as part of a team. Thank you for your time and valuable input. **Please return this form to Coach Hannah Zachman upon completion!** Mailing address for the high school is: 1401 E. Washington St.

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19. Student's behavior is appropriate. 5 4 3 2 1

20. Student turns in assignments on time. 5 4 3 2 1

21. Student is polite. 5 4 3 2 1

22. Student is a positive role model. 5 4 3 2 1

23. Student works well with peers. 5 4 3 2 1

24. Student responds well to criticism. 5 4 3 2 1

25. Student shows enthusiasm for learning. 5 4 3 2 1

26. Student is able to work independently. 5 4 3 2 1

27. Student seems determined & hardworking. 5 4 3 2 1

How would you rate this student's attendance? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Regarding maturity level, this individual is(*check one*):

- More mature than is typical
- Average
- Somewhat immature
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What are 3 words that come to mind when you think of this candidate?

Please approximate the grade(s) this student typically earns in your class: _____

Comments:

Teacher's name: _____