

Junior Varsity & Varsity Emerald Belles Team Tryout Information Packet 2025-2026 School Year

Dear Parents and Candidates,

The tryout date for the Varsity and Junior Varsity Emerald Belles Drill Team will be Thursday, March 13th, 2025. The tryout clinic will be held after school from 4:15-6:15 pm in the CSH gym on Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11. All candidates must be present at the practices.

Tryouts on March 13th will begin at 4:15pm and should end around 8:00pm. Tryouts will be closed to all spectators. Each candidate must stay until the end of tryouts in order to allow for judging callbacks if needed. The 2025-2026 Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity team will be posted on the Emerald Belle website at approximately 9:30pm. Please go to www.emeraldbelles.com to see the list of new Varsity and Junior Varsity members.

There will not be a “set” number of team members. The Varsity and Junior Varsity team sizes will be determined by the candidate’s scores. If the candidate scores 85 or higher, she will be on the Varsity team. If the candidate scores between 70 and 84, she will be on the Junior Varsity team. The Varsity and Junior Varsity may consist of incoming Freshmen through Seniors. Returning members do not have to try out again unless they have more than 10 demerits from the current school year.

If your daughter is selected, she must abide by strict rules. The rules outlined in the Emerald Belle Constitution and Guidelines are constructed to uphold fairness and consistency in all aspects of the drill team. Each candidate and parent must read and discuss it fully.

Sincerely,

Melissa Page, Varsity Emerald Belles Director

Kathryn Dobrow, Varsity Emerald Belles Assistant Director

Jessica Esquivel, Junior Varsity Emerald Belles Director

Emerald Belle Tryout Process Information

By Friday, March 7th, all candidates MUST have completed the candidate information form. Both the candidate and parent/guardian must be present when completing the form because it requires signatures from both parties. Form link can be found on the front cover of this packet or on the homepage of the Emerald Belles website at www.emeraldbelles.com.

Monday, March 10th - Tuesday, March 11th

Mandatory Tryout Clinic

4:15-6:15 pm

CSHS main gym

During these practices, the officers will teach a jazz/pom dance and a high kick routine. All candidates should wear dance clothes for all practices.

Thursday, March 13th - Tryouts

Tryouts will begin at 4:15pm. Check in will be outside the main gym (between gym and auditorium). From there, candidates will be sent to the waiting area until it is time for their group to perform. All candidates will need to remain until tryouts are over to allow for judge's call backs. Please do not check your daughter out early from school to make it to tryouts. We will not start tryouts until all candidates are present.

All candidates will need to wear the following for tryouts:

Black sleeveless leotard or tank, black jazz pants, black jazz shoes, hair in a pony-tail w/ black rubber band, and RED lipstick. No jewelry is allowed.

Tryout Process:

- Each candidate will be known by an identification number and will try out in groups of 3-4.
- Each candidate will perform the jazz/pom dance and a high kick routine. Each candidate will also demonstrate a right split. Poms will be provided for each candidate.
- Each candidate will be scored on a 100 point scale by three or more qualified judges from outside Carroll I.S.D.
- Selection of team members will be based on their scores in the following categories:
 - Pom/Jazz dance (50 pts.)
 - Kick combination (50pts.)
- 2025-2026 Varsity and Junior Varsity Emerald Belles will be posted on the Emerald Belle website (www.emeraldbelles.com) around 9:30pm. If you make a team, there will be additional forms and paperwork for you to fill out over the weekend.

Varsity Emerald Belles Information

The Varsity Emerald Belles are directed by Melissa Page (melissa.page@southlakecarroll.edu) and assisted by Kathryn Dobrow (kathryn.dobrow@southlakecarroll.edu) .

Varsity Emerald Belle Practice Schedule

*Please read this carefully! This schedule is intended to give you and your family an idea of the commitment you will make in time and effort as a member. All items are subject to attendance policies, demerit system, and performance eligibility listed in the Constitution.

Weekly Emerald Belles Practice Schedule:

6:45 – 9:00am – Practice

9:00 – 9:34am – Dress for school

ALL PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!

All members must be present for all practices, games, camps, pep rallies, competitions, community events, and fundraisers.

***Belles practice on all Holiday/Staff Development Days during football season and the months of January and February!** Please plan accordingly.

Varsity Emerald Belle Calendar of Events

****All events are mandatory to attend! Please mark them on your calendar.**

Mon, March 24	Mandatory new team meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check in with Mrs. Dobrow, get new member packet• 4:15-5pm meeting at CSHS cafeteria. Introductions & picture taken with a parent for the Emerald Belle Directory.• 5-6pm Uniform sizing/fitting for all new members in the CSHS cafeteria.
Wed, May 21	New member practice (2:00-4:00pm) in CSHS main gym
June 23-26	BELLE YOUTH CAMP (12-4pm @ TBD) (Voluntary – 20 hrs. of community service given)
Aug 3	Team Swim Party (time TBA)
Aug 4-8	Summer Camp “Camp Carroll” (8am-4pm) in CSHS main gym <i>ALL MEMBERS must have the “Summer Dance/Fitness Hours” form completed and physical on the first day of Camp Carroll!</i>
Aug 7	Team Pictures at Glenn Hope Elementary 6:30pm
Aug 8	Sleepover at officer’s house
Aug 11	Individual pictures at CSHS Auxiliary Gym (time TBA)
Aug 12	First day of school - 6:45am practice starts
FALL 2025	Football games & pep rallies
SPRING 2026	Competition practices, basketball game performances, team, officer, and social officer tryouts, banquet

*Emerald Belles Booster Club meetings (for parents only) are held the first Tuesday of the month in the CSHS Library at 7pm. Attendance is highly encouraged but not mandatory.

***Belles practice on all Holiday/Staff Development Days during football season and the months of January and February.**

Varsity Emerald Belle Individual Expenses

Listed below are the approximate totals for team expenses that will be incurred by all Varsity members

Team Practice Clothes and Field Uniforms – Due in 3 payments (March, April, May)

- * First year Varsity member is approximately \$1200
- * Returning Varsity member is approximately \$250
- * Cost of a current JV member that makes the Varsity team is approximately \$800
- * **Deposit of \$450 (for practice clothes and uniforms) due at New Team Meeting on March 24th (\$16 service fee if paying by credit card)**
- * **Letter jackets will be ordered at the New Team Meeting as well and that is approximately \$245**

Varsity Emerald Belles have several practice outfits for practice days, items to wear in school and on trips, and their field uniforms for football games. These items will be ordered at the new team meeting on Monday, March 24th. In order to cut costs, if your daughter is chosen for the 2025-2026 Varsity Emerald Belles, she will receive a list of seniors that are wanting to sell back items to new and returning members at a discounted price. These items will be sold at half the cost of new items. The list will have the senior member's name, number, and items wanting to sell back along with the sizes and cost. If you would like to take advantage of this money saving offer, please call the senior directly before the team meeting. Items are on a first-come basis. Any senior selling back items will be required to be present at the team meeting on Monday, March 24th to help facilitate picking up the items.

The school provides the undergarments and belt for the official football field uniform. These items are ordered as a group rather than individually (please note that the items are not ordered to fit your daughter so sizes may run a little large or small). The Belle is required to purchase the outer layers (skirt, top & jacket). If you would like to purchase the undergarments for your daughter as well, you may do so at the new team meeting. The field performance tops and pom dress are purchased out of the Emerald Belle Booster Club. All team items that are issued to the member are returned at the end of their last year on the team.

Varsity Team Fall and Spring Fee – Due in 4 payments (Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb)

All members will be required to pay an estimated \$900 to help defray the cost of competition, banquet, and other expenses that we incur through the year. This fee is assessed in two parts (Fall Fee - \$450 and Spring Fee - \$450).

Varsity Emerald Belle Fundraisers

Varsity members will participate in the following fundraisers: Dragon Cards, Junior Dance Clinic, and various others throughout the year. In addition, parents of team members will continue to raise funds with sponsorships, stadium sky box raffle and picture buttons. The sale of Dragon Cards is optional. A portion of all cards sold in the Dragon Card fundraiser will be credited in the girls' Belle Bucks account for use to pay team fees. All other fundraisers listed above will go into the Emerald Belle Booster Club Account to help cover expenses.

Junior Varsity Information

JV Emerald Belles Practice & Performance Schedule

The JV Emerald Belles are directed by Jessica Esquivel.

jessica.esquivel@southlakecarroll.edu

The JV Emerald Belles perform at JV & Freshmen football games, CHS pep rallies, community events, and compete at 2-3 drill team competitions.

The JV Belles practice 2nd & 6th block at Carroll High School.

During competition season (Nov-Feb), JV Belles will have 2 after school practices a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

JV Emerald Belles Calendar

- Mar 26 **4:30pm** New Team Meeting in CHS Cafeteria
***New team info, and order forms will be posted on the Emerald Belles website after tryouts. Orders & forms are due by March 26th.
- Mar 26 **5pm** Officer Candidate meeting (optional)
- Apr 7-9 **4:15pm-5:15pm** Officer Tryout Clinic. CHS Dance Studio.
- Apr 10 **4:15pm** Officer Tryouts. CHS Main Gym.
- Apr 11 **4pm** Officer Announcement via email to candidates.
- May 5-7 **4:15pm-5:15pm** Spring Training in CHS Dance Studio.
- Jul 28-Aug **18am-4pm** Camp Carroll(team) in CHS Dance Studio. MANDATORY attendance.
- Jul 31 **9am** Team & Mother/Daughter pictures in CHS Cafeteria (wear field uniform).
- Aug 1 Team Pool Party. Details to come.
- Nov Begin Tues/Thurs after school practice **3:45-5:15pm**.

*Parent Newsletters sent out monthly.

*Parent Meetings – 1st Tuesday of every Month at 6pm in the CHS Lecture Hall (not mandatory)

Junior Varsity Emerald Belle Individual Expenses

*Cost of making the JV team is approximately \$1000

If your daughter is chosen for the Junior Varsity Emerald Belles, she will have a team meeting to try on practice clothes and discuss officer tryouts.

The school provides all of the field uniform pieces for Junior Varsity members except the boots. Fittings for boots will be held at the team meeting the week after tryouts.

Junior Varsity Emerald Belle fundraisers

At this time, the Junior Varsity does not participate in any fundraisers.