

# PARENT to PARENT

A Parent's Guide to the World of Emerald Belles

Originally written by Patti Vaughan 2000 Updated by Pam Nance 2004 / Updated by Judi Warren 2008 / Updated by Lea Ann Munoz April 2013 / Updated by Stephanie Smith 2020 / Updated by Lori Coates 2021

As a new Emerald Belle parent, you probably have many questions regarding what is in store for you and your daughter as you begin this exciting adventure together. This reference guide will serve to answer many of those questions. Keep it handy and refer to it throughout the year.

**ASK QUESTIONS.** Many parents are returning parents and are always a good source of information and willing to help you. Once your daughter is assigned to a “squad”, those squad leader moms, or “officer/lieutenant moms” are a very good source. Your daughter should be receiving all the information she needs, either directly from Mrs. Page or from her squad leader (officer/lieutenant). Read the Belle Constitution carefully because it will answer most of your “business” type questions.

**PARENT MEETINGS.** First Tuesday of every month beginning in September at 7:00pm in the CSHS library. Try to attend. Mrs. Page, Mrs. Dobrow, and committee chairpersons will keep you informed of everything important, and it is the place to be to get the answers to your questions. Also, plan on getting involved. There are a lot of opportunities to do things to help the team and it gives you an “excuse” to be involved in your daughter's life. Be sure to attend the May meeting when all the different committees are explained and you can sign up for as many as you'd like.

**COMMUNICATION.** All email communication will first be sent to our Communication chair, then sent out by her to the team, with the subject line reading “Belle Mail”. This way Belle mail always comes from the same email address and is easier to recognize. The emails are not usually written by her, so please respond to the correct person if a reply is needed.

**OFFICERS.** The team has line officers and social officers. They are the key elements to the management of the team. Mrs. Page, of course, is the Director of the entire team. However, the team is led by a Captain and Lieutenants that assist Mrs. Page. They are referred to as Jr. or Sr. Lieutenants depending on their school class. There may or may not be a 1st Lieutenant, who is “second in command” after the Captain. Each of the Lieutenants is responsible for a squad of Belles. She is your daughter's lifeline. Your daughter should not hesitate to call or text her officer with any questions or concerns.

And she should always keep her cell phone handy because her officer will text her with any last minute updates and reminders.

**BIG SIS – LITTLE SIS.** Your daughter will have a Big Sis on the team. She will help her during the course of the year. This will be one of the returning members and is another good contact source for you. Spirit gifts are exchanged at football games, or for birthdays and holidays. Social officers will set which game dates to exchange gifts on.

**PRACTICE CLOTHING.** The Belles are required to wear specific practice outfits assigned for each day of the week. HAND WASH or gentle cycle all of the practice clothing. Never put things in the dryer. They have to last ALL year. If something is lost or ruined, it can usually be replaced, but it isn't easy.

**FIELD UNIFORMS.** DRY CLEAN ONLY. Duncan Cleaners are experienced with the uniforms. They are usually on the Belles Dragon Card (a Belle fundraiser) and give us a good price. Take good care of the uniforms. Keep BOOTS POLISHED white.

**SPIRIT WEAR.** A link will be sent out through Belle mail to order usually after New Team meeting.

**PHOTO BUTTONS** of your Belle will be available to purchase and distributed in August. This is a Belle fundraiser.

**YARD SIGNS AND DECALS.** You can order the yard sign with your Belles name on it and her title if she is an officer or the captain. Decals can be purchased with the Belle logo on it.

**FOOTBALL PROGRAM:** The Belles picture that is taken by Mike at Bludoor Photography will be included in the Belles Composite section of the football program. Senior parents can purchase a page to showcase their Belle in the program if desired. More information will be sent to the seniors in the summer if they have a program this year.

**BELLE POOL PARTY:** This is the first social event of the year and a great one for the girls to get to know each other. The social officers plan the party and the parents on the committee help make it happen. It's usually held at an Officer's home in August.

**CAMP CARROLL (AUGUST):** They will learn all of the pep rally and field routines for the year at this camp. This camp is MANDATORY.

**PARENT GET-TOGETHER DINNER:** A really nice way to meet other parents. This is usually held in August, on a Sunday evening prior to the start of school. Only the parents and directors attend this event.

**FUNDRAISERS:** The girls will have the opportunity to sell Belle Dragon cards and are a great way to save money for fees, banquet tickets, trips (if scheduled that year) etc.

**FOOTBALL PLAYER:** Your daughter will choose a football player. She will escort him into the gym at pep rallies and exchange spirit gifts with him throughout football season. Social officers will set gift exchange dates. The UIL rules for this are very strict for player gift-giving. The Belles can give the boys food items ONLY. We have parents arrange for purchase of Chick-Fil-A to help out with this, but other food options are also enjoyed by the players.

**PEP RALLIES:** Be sure to attend them if your schedule allows. Get there early so you can see your Belle walk in with her football player.

**FOOTBALL GAMES:** Belles will ride the bus to away games. They will provide their own transportation to home games. Be sure to ask your daughter where she stands on the field during the performance (yard line and which end of field). The girls look very similar on the field and unless you know where she is, the performance could be half over before you find her. We speak from experience! Keep in mind that Dragons are usually in the play-offs, so you may not want to plan any family trips during playoff season. Belles are not required to perform at play-off games but they are too fun to miss!

**TAILGATING:** Look for the Emerald Belles tent near the grassy area by the street. Tailgating is run by a committee and gets better and better with each year. Great place to mingle before the games!

**PICTURES:** Mike at Bludoor Photography is our Belle photographer. He will be on the field getting great shots of the Belles during the game and at halftime. You can view and order pictures on his website.

**MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA:** Held usually the first or second Sunday afternoon in December. One mom volunteers her home for this special event. This is a fun committee to sign up for! Holiday party type dress, come and go.

**COMPETITION SEASON:** Practice begins as soon as football season is over. The competitions are usually in February and the beginning of March. Mrs. Page will keep you advised of the dates and locations well in advance. The girls try-out for each of the team routines. Solos and ensembles are optional. There will be a dress rehearsal (show off) at CSHS before the first competition. Plan on attending, especially if you cannot attend the real thing. Depending on opportunities that come our way, the Belles may or

may not go to competition, as happened when we went to AGT, the Kelly Clarkson Show, and the Mavs game.

**TEAM TRIP:** The team usually takes a trip every other year. In 2018 the team enjoyed performing on a 3-day cruise. The 2020 trip was cancelled due to Covid 19. The next trip would be scheduled for the spring of 2022, however this may or may not happen. Details will be given as soon as decisions are made at the end of the school year. Keep in mind if we are able to take this trip that it is totally optional.

**TEAM TRY-OUTS:** The Belles do not need to try-out every year. However, if your Belle has received 10 or more demerits during the year, she will be required to try-out again (see constitution). Second year expenses are less than the first year and if there's money left over in her Belle account, you'll be able to apply that to whatever she'll need for the coming year. Before the team try-outs are the officer try-outs and the social officer elections. Only junior and senior Belles are eligible for these try-outs.

**BELLE BANQUET:** The Belle year ends with a fabulous banquet; the girls dress up in long dresses. This is another fun committee to sign up for. It is quite an evening...beautifully decorated, with a sit down dinner, awards, senior speeches, and a video of the year. Dress for parents is usually a suit, or blazer with tie for men and very nice dress (better than church but not full-on semi-formal) for moms.

HAVE A WONDERFUL YEAR...It will be filled with many happy memories for all of you. Written as a tribute to my daughter. Thank you for sharing 4 memorable years of the Belles with us...love, Mom and Dad...Patti Vaughan 2000

As I complete 4 memorable years with one daughter, I begin anew, looking forward to new experiences with my second Belle...love to both, Mom...Pam Nance 2004

Entering my 8<sup>th</sup> year of being a Belle mom I would like to say that Belles has become such a part of our family & I hope it fills you with as many wonderful moments as it has us! Belles has given both my girls many opportunities for personal growth and a sisterhood they will take with them throughout their futures! Wishing the Belles a great year! Lea Ann Munoz 2013 - REMEMBER KEEP CALM & KICK ON!!!

Stephanie Smith 2020 - Enjoy the gift of being a part of this organization!

A wonderful experience! Our Belles gain an amazing sense of leadership and responsibility! Truly a gift! –Lori Coates 2021