

TKA MASCOT PROGRAM INFO AND POLICIES

2023-24

Welcome to the inaugural year of the TKA Knights Mascot Program! We are so excited to see this new program of Knights Athletics get off the ground. Our Knights Mascot costume is currently in development and will be ready this summer. We plan to introduce the Knight to the school during Orientation for the 23-24 school year in August.

Our Knights Mascot team will serve an important public relations role for our school and will appear at games, school events, and in social media. The Knights Mascot Program will include two primary positions, and a team of students will be needed to rotate to fill the mascot schedule during the school year. For training and athletic event appearances, the mascot team will work in coordination with the Knights cheer program under the direction of the Varsity Head Coach and with advice from our Mascot Team Consultant.

TEAM ROLES

Mascot: Team performers who wear the school mascot costume. This role includes performing in front of crowds at scheduled games and other special events, practicing with the cheer squad at coaches' determination, caring for the costume, and other duties as assigned. Team members who wear the costume should be between 5'9" - 6'0" tall, be in good physical condition and able to perform skits, routines and stunts as determined by the cheer coach. The costume is a state-of-the-art garment that is equipped with a fan system and cooling vest, but students should be aware that due to weather conditions and other factors, temperatures inside the costume can be warm.

Mascot Handler: Team members who will be in attendance with the mascot any time he/she is performing. This includes assisting the performer with the costume, caring for the costume, serving as public relations manager on behalf of the mascot (who does not speak), helping the mascot navigate his/her surroundings, maintaining crowd control around the mascot, ensuring breaks for the performer, and other duties as assigned.

Students must be in grades 9-12 for the upcoming school year in order to participate.

TRYOUTS

To be eligible to attend clinics and tryouts, members must pre-register on Team Snap. This link will be published soon.

Tryouts: Thursday, May 11, 4:00PM in the HS Assembly Room

Tryouts will include an interview for all members, as well as a brief skit/routine for those wearing the costume. Further details will be provided soon.

PARTICIPATION FEES: \$275

These fees include team shirts, summer training, Knights athletic fees, insurance, team photos, team banquet, costume/props maintenance and more.

Parents will be able to set up a payment plan using TeamSnap. All registrants may either pay in full via ACH or Credit Card or make payments using a credit card. The payment plan will require a deposit followed by a set number of payments.

To utilize the Payment Plan option, on the payment screen select "Pay With Card." Scroll down to turn on "Split payment into installments." Your credit card will be automatically charged the same day each month until all installments are completed.

Photos are included in your registration fee. Each athlete will have an individual and team photo taken and will be provided with 1 5x7 individual photo, 1 5x7 team photo, and a digital image of the athlete. Each team's committee will have access to the digital images to use for the year end banquet, awards and any other needs.

SPORTS PHYSICALS & FORMS

Students must have a current physical form on file in the Athletic Department prior to participating in tryouts, practice, voluntary workout, or game that indicates that the student is physically approved for participation.

Participants must turn in the following forms to the Athletic Department no later than May 1, 2023 (all forms can be found at thekingsacademy.org/athletics/forms):

Submit Annually

- Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form (current and signed by a physician; not a camp physical form). Physicals after 4/1/23 will be good for the entire 2023/2024 school year.

Submit One Time

- High School Affidavit of Eligibility (New HS athletes 9-12th)
- Birth Certificate (New athletes only)
- Concussion Acknowledgement Form (New athletes only)
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form (New athletes only)

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

The mascot and handlers will make appearances throughout the year, and the calendar will be laid out in advance as much as we are able. With several members on the team, we hope to work out a shared schedule that allows everyone to participate and cover events throughout the year. Please know that this is a real commitment, and once the mascot appearances are set, members are expected to serve as scheduled.

Excused Absences: Severe illness or family emergencies are considered excused absences. In these instances, the team member must contact the coach to be excused. Church activities, family vacations and other outside activities that conflict with scheduled practices, games or appearances are considered unexcused. Team members must communicate with the coach to arrange a schedule swap with another team member in these instances.

DUAL SPORTS

If a student-athlete participates in multiple sports, he/she should notify the coaches of their planned participation as soon as possible so that scheduling considerations can be addressed.

SUMMER TRAINING AND PRACTICES

To prepare our mascot team, we will host a summer training event or possibly a virtual camp. As soon as these details are confirmed, we will notify the team of dates and location. Other practices and team meeting dates will be announced as soon as possible as well as mapping out a schedule of mascot appearances for the school year. Because this is the start of a brand-new program, we ask for your patience as we finalize these details and for your understanding that we will all be learning as we go!

TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Varsity Cheer Head Coach

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Mascot Team Consultant

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