



Pantera FAQ #3 – Football Games

1. Do I take my Pantera to/from the game?

No, BUT you do need to provide transportation to/from CHHS at the time set by Woody for each game. Please be sure to be on time to pick up your Pantera at the end of the game as well. It's quite busy at CHHS at the end of the game with Band, Cheer, Pep Boys and Football all arriving at similar times but it's also usually quite late and quite dark and. . .well, if your daughter is depending upon you for her ride, you should be there and join the chaos.

2. Do the girls leave at the same time for each game?

No, the girls will get a time from Woody about when to be at school for roll call. Roll call is done just prior to boarding the buses.

3. What do they wear to the games?

Woody will advise them what they will wear for each game. She will also tell them what they should have on at what time. For example, on team dinner nights, the girls will not be dressed until after dinner. Also, they wear different costumes for different games, so they don't always wear their uniforms. They definitely do not wear jewelry or nail polish. Oh, if they can wear clear nail polish or sport a French manicure of natural colors. While this seems picky, they are a part of a team and uniformity is a must.

4. What if it rains?

Each girl is issued a rain poncho (she will return this at the end of football season). Woody is quite the weatherman, er, I mean girl. She will remind the girls to make sure they have them with them. Oh, do you mean will there still be a game? There's a game unless your daughter hears from Woody or her dance officer that it's been cancelled.

5. Does my Pantera need a ticket?

No. Your Pantera is a part of the game and she gets in free. She actually pays for that ticket by providing a whole lot of spirit and performing as the half-time entertainment.

6. How much are tickets?

The prices are usually the same every week. However, the playoffs are sometimes at a different price and special pre-season games are also sometimes at a different price. The CHHS Home page is a great resource for these changes. Currently, student tickets are \$3.00 and adult tickets are \$6.00 if

purchased in advance from the CHHS Main office by noon on the Friday before the game (you can write a check). All tickets are \$7.00 at the gate. These tickets are good for away games too. By the way, one time the away game ticket at the gate was more than \$7.00 and another time, I had to pay for parking so advance tickets are the way to go! You can write a check to CHHS for the tickets and you do not have to have a student id to buy a ticket at student price. The student price is good for all children 12th grade and below. Sorry college parents. Just think of it as a fundraiser for CHHS.

7. Can I bring food with me to the game?

While the Mustang/Panther Stadium has always allowed us to bring in food, I do discourage that practice as a former Band Parent. The band works hard to raise money for all of the bands in GCISD through our Home side concessions. They are reasonably priced too. And, when you go to away games, it's good public relations to wear your Pantera shirt and buy their fundraiser people's food as well.

8. Can I bring food for my daughter?

No. Please make sure she eats something before the game. Typically she will not be allowed to eat in her uniform. The uniforms are very expensive and have lots of white material. By the way, she will receive water and usually the other school's dance team will bring candy to exchange during the 3rd or 4th quarter and she will get some of that.

9. Can I sit with my daughter?

No. She will not just be sitting in the stands. She will be performing stand dances and chanting cheers to help our team win. Her job is very important and she will see it that way too. Her cheers and support do make a difference because those boys can hear them! She will have a 3rd quarter break and that is a good time to meet with your daughter and give her a hug, take a picture and show her off to Grandpa Joe.

10. Where can I find more information about football?

Check out the Panther Football website at <http://www.chspantherfootball.org/>

11. What happens during the game?

The girls arrive about 30-45 minutes prior to kickoff. They set up their stuff in the stands and then head out onto the field for victory lines where they stand on each side of the big blow up Panther head and do ripple formations while the Pep Boys try to tease them and the Honor Guard boys protect them. . .it's quite fun! After the team takes the field, the girls return to the stands and cheer for the 1st quarter. At the beginning of the second quarter, they go somewhere (usually a side parking lot area) and stretch, warm up and have a spirit/pep talk. At halftime, they perform and stay on the field to watch the entire show that the other team does. . .band and dance. After that, they return to their seats and then are dismissed for a break. After their break, they return to their seats ON

TIME and cheer for the remainder of the game. After the game, the football players come and stand in front of the band on the field and the girls stand and the band plays the alma mater. This is my favorite part. . .it can get a little emotional. Last year, the girls would gather and sing the Pantera song in the stands. I don't know the answer to "What's the Pantera song?" After that, they load up and head back to CHHS.

12. What's an honor guard?

The honor guards are boys who apply and interview to be special protectors of the Panteras. They set up the stands for the girls with mats to protect their uniforms. They get them water. They retrieve the batons from the dance officers on the field. They load the buses with the ice chests. They are quite essential. OH, they also escort the girls to the other side to meet the other dance team officers.

13. Will my daughter get to sit with her friends in the stands?

Yes and no. The girls are lined up behind their dance office in their number order according to height. All of the Panteras are friends so she will sit with her friends. Her friends outside of Panteras can visit with her during 3rd quarter break. She can go sit with them or they can meet her at the top of the bleachers. Only Panteras, Woody, Honor Guards, Team Manager and Chaperones are allowed in the Pantera seating area. The girls are not seated according to rank. The front seats are the dance officers, after that, it's according to their height line.

14. What is my daughter's number?

Ask her what it is and she should tell you right away. Woody has the girls line up with the tallest in the middle and the shortest at each end. One end starts with zero and it goes up to 53. Sometimes when riding the buses to the games, they will have the odd numbers on one bus and the evens on the other. Other times, it will be split. The numbers help with roll call and figuring out who's missing more quickly. She really is more than a number so don't get worried about that. They just all look so similar when they've got their uniforms/costumes on that numbers help us to keep them safe.

15. How can I get to be a chaperone?

It's quite easy. Woody will pass around a sign up sheet at the Booster Meeting. If you missed that, please send her an e-mail at kelli.woodruff@gcisd.net and let her know which game you want to chaperone and she can let you know if there's space or need.

16. What is a chaperone?

A chaperone is a parent of a Pantera that volunteers to ride to/from the games on the bus with the girls. GCISD requires that Woody have adults present on the buses so this is necessary. There are lots of perks too. This is one of my favorite jobs. I'll send a top 10 reasons to be a chaperone later. For now, just know that you have to meet at CHHS before roll call. The parents split to ride the buses evenly. The first rows are reserved for parents. You do not

have to yell at the girls. . .well, unless they need it. . .I haven't had to yell in the last 3 years because Panteras are kind, respectful and just plain wonderful. As a chaperone, you're the last one off the bus and sometimes you're asked to sign a paper for the Bus Driver for his/her records not that you owe them any money. You also, sit up behind the girls in the stands and guard their stuff when they're not in the stands. This requires some gentle but firm guidance to the people who stray through the section and sometimes even put their dirty shoes on the mats upon which our precious girls sit. We don't want to be down right mean to these people but a chaperone's job is to keep our girls' stuff safe and clean. OH, and the chaperones wear a chaperone button during the game. Cool, huh? OH, and they get into the game free.

17. What do I wear to the game?

If it's a home game, wear your black Pantera shirt. If it's an away game, wear your red Pantera shirt. Don't have a Pantera shirt? See Lisa Scott for information about buying one.

18. What do I bring to the game?

Bring your noise maker and make noise. . .your jacket, it gets cool when the sun goes down and the breeze gets blowing. . .brrrr. Cushion if you need it, I'm fairly well padded but I like to sit on one. Blanket if you want it.

19. Why buy a football program?

Your daughter's picture is in it. Don't miss this memory maker. They are usually only about \$5. Also, you can look up her football buddy in it. Just in case you think she really has a crush on him. Seriously, most of the girls don't even know their football buddy.

20. What's a football buddy?

Each girl picks a football player (or 2 if necessary) to make a poster for during the football season. These are personalized posters that cheer that boy during the season. I know of at least one former football player that actually has a couple of these hanging on his dorm room wall. . . go figure. At the last pep rally, the girls will be escorted out by their football buddy/buddies. Last year, the girls actually had to share football buddies since there were more Panteras than players. Woody and the social officers set the dates and guidelines for the posters. There are not football buddy socials or get togethers. The football players do not know which Pantera is making their posters. These posters are gathered from the team by the Social officers and then distributed to the Football players in their locker room. Our girls do not go in there. They do not personally interact with their buddy nor are they required to do so. If your daughter is saying that it's required for her to date her football buddy, she definitely has a crush on him because that's not true!

21. May I video tape the Panteras Dancing?

Absolutely. In fact, we do that at every game. I can't get you passes to get down on the field to do that though. I think the Football Boosters sell field passes.

22. Can we have a tailgate party before the game?

Absolutely. We may need to get our Prop Daddies or Social Moms to organize this. . .not over-organize though. It would only be picking a place and a time. For the past few years, we've brought our own food and NON-ALCOHOLIC beverages and met by the admin buildings. We brought our folding chairs and just had a great visit time prior to the home games. In the past, it wasn't well known that people were doing this. For the future, we should make sure all the parents know about joining this fun, social time.

23. What's Bob & Sue?

Bob & Sue is a Father/Daughter dance that has always been performed during halftime each year at Homecoming. A Bob of the Week is chosen so Bob's get your groove on because there's a lot of competition to win that award! The whole team votes for this so don't just try to impress Woody and the Dance officers. Attendance at the rehearsals is very important. If the Bob in your house must miss one, please talk with Woody and practice with your Bob. Also, a substitute is allowed if Father is not able to attend. BTW, this is my Bob's (otherwise known as Harry) favorite part of being a Pantera Daddy (the Prop Daddy parties are way up there on the list as well). Oh, Woody will let you Bobs know what to wear. She's very sensitive to costs and it's usually something you have around the house.

24. What are the Pantera awards at halftime?

Pantera of the Week is determined by Mrs. Woodruff & the dance officers. It is only received by a returning member of the Panteras. This Pantera has excelled all week in the following areas: discipline, giving 100%, improved dance technique, on time, great showmanship, etc.

Rookie of the Week is determined by Mrs. Woodruff & the dance officers. This award is only received by a new member Pantera. This Pantera has excelled all week in the following areas: discipline, giving 100%, improved dance technique, on time, great showmanship, etc.

Spirit Girl of the Week is determined by Mrs. Woodruff & the social officers. It is received by ANY Pantera (including officers). This Pantera has been extremely motivating and encouraging to the rest of the team and shows a lot of team spirit.

The award recipients do receive a patch for their letter jackets. If your daughter has trouble keeping up with stuff, you might want to help her put this in a safe place until it's ready to go on her jacket. . .or until she gets a letter jacket. They get their picture taken and it's put into the scrapbook. They also get to go with the officers to meet the other team's dance team during the 3rd or 4th quarter.

You cannot give Woody a bunch of money to get your daughter to get this award so don't even try that. . .flowers or a new computer, maybe a new car. . . hmmm.

25. May I go to the Home side when we're at "AWAY" games to videotape my precious Pantera performing?

Well, this is an interesting question. Some fields allow for people to cross to the other side. Other fields are designed to disallow this altogether. Other fields have guards patrolling the endzones. Usually the guards are there for students, not parents so don't be too intimidated. I did encounter the ROTC at Hebron once and after being very polite, they allowed me to stand outside the fence but I couldn't enter the seating area. It was good enough for this me who LOVES to videotape her precious Pantera performing. If there are guards, here are a few strategies to keep in mind

- A. Act like you know what you're doing and just walk on by. . .remember to look like you know where you're going.
- B. Join together with several parents (band parents may be in on this as well) and see if the crowd can sway his/her opinion. If you can't make it to the other side to videotape your precious Pantera performing, don't sweat it. Check out the calendar. . . oftentimes, the girls will perform the same routine for a home game and an away game so you can wait till your precious Pantera performs at the home game. Also, a couple of years ago, we watched the chair dance from the back and we found it quite amusing so sometimes it might be worth it to videotape from the back... especially if your precious Pantera is in the back! From the back, she'll be in the front!

26. How do I find the away game stadiums?

There are a couple of methods to employ to do this. Actually, there are 3.

- A. Be a chaperone and you don't have to know the directions to the AWAY game!
- B. The CHHS website <http://www.gcisd-chhs.org/> has a link on the left to athletics which has a link to football and if you scroll down, there's a list of all the schools. . .in TX! I guess someone got tired of the questions and went a bit overboard with this list!
- C. My favorite way to get directions, when I'm not chaperoning =[, is go to the CHHS website, click on the athletics link, then the football link, then towards the top of that page is a link to the "parent-powered" football website. Once at that website, there is a link to a map to the stadium for this week's game.

27. How can I get close up photos of my daughter when she's on the field without buying a field pass from the football booster club?

Mike Lewis and Jay Young take pics of football as well as our precious Panteras. Mike's pics are at www.MikeLewisPhotography.com click in the lower center area titled "events & football" and follow the prompts through. Jay's pics are at www.JayYoung.com and click on "online images" (lower right) and follow the prompts from there. These guys take fabulous individual close up shots. I'm sure you can strike a deal with them to have them take more pics of just your daughter by coughing up some cash. . .just kidding. . .I've no idea if you can manipulate them to focus on your baby girl. I've ordered these pics in the past. I have been quite pleased with the product. Both of them do a very good job taking pics of our girls! And, I'd like to add that Jay Young has donated printing for our Pantera Partners mailings and more so supporting him would be a good thing for the future of the Panteras and to show him we do appreciate him.

28. When my daughter has been invited to homecoming, to what has she been invited?

Normally, your daughter has been invited to buy her date a mum. . .yes, boys get mums too. For 2008, there is a Homecoming Dance on Saturday from 8 to 11. It think it's at the school and costs \$7 for singles and \$10 for couples. I'm not for sure of all of the details, I just happened to see a sign when I was walking the halls the other day to buy Harry's football ticket. This is the first Homecoming Dance that I've heard of in the 6 years I've been involved at CHHS. When there's not a dance, the dates exchange mums during the week of Homecoming. . .usually on Friday. Panteras are allowed to wear theirs after halftime as long as they don't damage their uniform with the mum pin.

29. What's a Mum?

A Mum is a Texas-only tradition, for now. People love to imitate Texas so much that this tradition will surely spread to more states. It's a type of corsage. The mum starts as a simple FAKE white flower with 3 to 4 foot ribbons hanging from it. It can grow (not the mum but the entire package. . .remember, the mum is fake) from there to include 2 or 3 mums, teddy bears, lights, feathers, bells and more. If you're a freshman, sophomore or junior, your mum is done in the colors of your school. . .for us, black and red. If you're a senior, your mum is done in white and silver. There are people who make mums for a living from whom you can order your mum. For 2008, the Panteras have partnered with Mumsthewordtx.com who will donate 10% of any CHHS mum that she makes regardless of the promo code. You can also go to the local craft store and buy stuff to make your own mum with a glue gun. A mum can cost between \$30 and \$200 depending on its size and what's stuck to it. It's common to put both dates' names on ribbons hanging from the mum. Also, it's quite normal to put trinkets that signify their hobbies and interests. Some of these mums are so large that the girls wear them around their neck. Remember, everything in Texas is bigger! The boys' mums are usually just a single mum. This mum is attached to a garter that he wears on his arm. I am certain that I'm missing some valuable information but I'm from Oklahoma and don't know all the meaning behind all of the traditional Mum paraphernalia.