

The 2025 Mehlville Junior Panthers Handbook

WELCOME TO THE MEHLVILLE JUNIOR PANTHERS!

The Mehlville Junior Panthers Football and Cheer Organization is a Nonprofit organization that functions to give children the opportunity to play football and cheer for grades 4th-8th grade. Our staff is made up of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to make this organization one of the best in the St. Louis County area. The coaching staff for both cheer and football consist of parents of players and proud Mehlville Alum, who are coming back to aid the future of the Panther name and others from around the area looking to teach today's youth the fundamentals of football and cheer. The football field is our classroom, and the game is our vehicle to teach lifelong lessons, to create memorable experiences and to have fun.

Introducing the MJP Board:

Cedrick Lewis- President
Ann Kirkendall- Vice President of Football
Pam Saxton- Vice President of Cheer
Sharami Brown- Secretary
Julie Rohr- Treasurer
McKayla Schiesske- Cheer at Large
Ana Ford- Equipment Manager
Open- Fundraising and Concession Coordinator

Football Coaches:

4th/5th Grade: Scott Gerken **6th Grade: Travis Brotherton/Drew Morgan**
7th Grade: Cedrick Lewis **8th Grade: DJ Parr/Ricardo Jackson**

Football Program Core Values:

- **Leadership** – set an example worth following
- **Belief** – believe in yourself and others
- **High Expectations** – strive always to exceed your previous best
- **Commitment** – commit to the cause
- **High Standards** – pay attention to detail
- **Work** – our success will be determined by our work ethic
- **Enthusiasm** – have fun, get excited
- **Character** – sportsmanship, integrity, and accountability
- **Humility** – your success is always dependent upon others
- **Consistency** – come ready to work every minute and every day

Parent Expectations:

MJP uses Mehlville school district properties for games and practices. When attending these events, families are required to follow these rules to prevent risk losing the ability to use school property and/or the ability to compete in our league. The overall success of the program and of the youth athlete is dependent upon parent involvement and support. Here is an overview of the rules and expectations you can help with.

- **Mehlville property** (this is not inclusive of all rules)

- No Smoking, alcohol, or illegal substances allowed on any district properties including parking lots.
- No pets of any kind are allowed.
- No chairs allowed on turf including track. ONLY players and coaches are allowed on the field. All parents must sit in the stands during game times. The only exception is a parent working chains or recording team game film.
- Do not litter or leave trash on fields or in stands.
- **MJP** (this is not inclusive of all rules)
 - Respect the authority of all coaches, referees, and any officials.
 - Any instances or issues against coaches, referees, board members, and officials will result in disciplinary action.
 - Each athlete will learn the sport of football. Playing time during games is earned. Each coach will work with players on setting the expectations.
 - Encourage your child to talk directly with coaches with any concerns.
 - Any parent feedback or concerns regarding MJP should be directed to the team mom. Any feedback or concerns regarding your player's performance etc., please send an email to your Head Coach. After a game is not the appropriate time.
 - Cheer for our team and players. **No negative chants or yelling at other teams or officials.**
 - Players, referees, and coaches will make mistakes. Your support is needed at these times. This will be strictly enforced.
 - No profanity.
 - Be Positive with your athlete and promote having fun.
 - Focus on the benefits of teamwork and personal discipline.
 - Encourage your athlete to follow the rules and show good sportsmanship.
 - Help the coaches build commitment to the team.
 - Supervise all children during practice or games and make sure your visiting guests are following the rules.
 - Ensure that your child attends practices and games and arrives on time.
 - Communicate directly with your child's coach if your child will be late or absent.
 - Each athlete is expected to attend practices and games. Absences or tardiness may result in reduced play time. It is important to attend practices to be prepared for games. Player safety is the priority.

The board will review incidents to determine what action will be taken.

Player Expectations:

Players represent Mehlville Junior Panthers and will be held to high expectations. This includes inside and outside of school. Student athletes are expected to set an example and are role models to members of the community. Players need to avoid situations where they may be accused of wrongdoing. Below are additional player expectations, but not inclusive of all.

- No smoking, alcohol, or illegal substances allowed.
- **No profanity**
- **Consistent Disruptive Behavior:** not following directions, speaking out of turn, ignoring safety protocol.
- **Poor Attitude:** Negativity, lack of effort, poor sportsmanship, lack of accountability.
- **Disregarding Boundaries:** Ignoring personal boundaries or consent, such as invading personal space, touching without permission, or pressuring someone into uncomfortable situations.

- Come to practices and games prepared and on time.
 - Come ready to practice/play in required uniform and equipment. Bring water.
 - Failure to attend practices may result in reduced game time.
- Mehlville High School games
 - You may wear your game jersey when attending high school football games. While wearing our jersey you must behave in a respectful manner. Parents are required to supervise MJP athletes at high school games. Any issues will result in consequences by the board/coaches.
- Bring a positive attitude
- Social Media
 - Do not post anything negative or offensive while wearing a MJP uniform
 - Keep all posts positive
- Respect your coaches, teammates, referees and opposing team
 - Good Sportsmanship and commitment to your team is expected
- Talk to your coaches
 - Coaches encourage players to ask questions and address concerns
- Work hard and have fun
- Attending school and balancing academic and athletic responsibilities
 - Talk to your coach if this is becoming an issue. They are here to help!

IMPORTANT: The following behavior can result in automatic suspension from the team without a refund!

- **Bullying:** Verbal, physical, or emotional harassment directed towards another person, including teasing, name-calling, intimidation, or spreading rumors.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using online platforms, social media, or messaging apps to harass, intimidate, or spread rumors about another person, which can have a significant impact on their mental and emotional well-being.
- **Physical Aggression:** Engaging in physical altercations, pushing, shoving, or other forms of physical violence towards another person.

Mehlville Jr. Panthers (MJP) is not affiliated with the Mehlville School District. We are a separate organization. Unless documented disciplinary action takes place through the Mehlville School District, incidents that occur during regular school hours cannot result in disciplinary action through MJP. MJP will review any information provided to the coaches regarding incidents and will consider making any adjustments needed for the best interest of the team if necessary.

Coaches will manage and take corrective action for any incidents, once a coach has placed 3 or more corrective actions and no resolution, the coach will forward additional occurrences to the board for review. The board will review for further action.

Contact Information:

- mjpanthers02@gmail.com
- SportsEngine app- Team Moms and Coaches will use the SportsEngine application as the primary form of communication. You will need to download SportsEngine on your mobile device.
- Facebook Page: Mehlville Jr. Panthers Football & Cheer
- www.mehlvillejrpanthers.com

Grant and Scholarship opportunities:

- www.mehlvillejrpanters.com has the current Scholarship application.
- E-mail mjpanthers02@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Player Verification:

MJP is required to verify age and grade level of all registered athletes.

- A picture, birth certificate, and Tyler SIS registration screenshot are required to be emailed to each team mom. This will verify age/grade and that players in 6th through 8th grade are playing in the correct league.
 - If you have a player outside the league, discuss eligibility with our MJP President.

Equipment Issued by MJP:

- The equipment hand out will be scheduled and jersey fitting is scheduled **June 21, 2025**, and **July 12, 2025**, from 9am-12pm at Extra Space Storage (3535 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO 63125)
- You are required to bring 3 deposit checks
 - \$250 deposit check for equipment rental
 - \$100 fundraising deposit check (not required for families who purchased buying out online registration)
 - \$100 volunteer deposit check (not required for families who purchased buying out during online registration)
 - Equipment will not be provided to any family who does not provide appropriate deposit checks for EACH athlete.
- **Equipment Rental Deposit Check: \$250 *required* on equipment handout. MJP will give your check back once the equipment is returned in good condition (prior to the cut-off date).**
 - Helmet- chin strap
 - Shoulder pads
 - Practice Jersey
 - Game Jersey (if loaned)

Items required to be purchased:

- Black game pants with integrated pads
- Black long socks
- Protection cup
- Mouthpiece
- Cleats
- Water bottle
- Pink out gear – We wear pink in October for Breast Cancer (ex. pink socks, compression sleeves, etc.)

Spirit wear is available, and a monthly store will be open in July. The MJP Spirit Wear Store can be found on our website: www.mehlvillejrpanters.com.

Volunteer requirement:

- **2 hours of Volunteer time required for a guardian of each athlete. You may buyout for \$100.00, check made out to Mehlville Jr Panthers. Volunteer opportunities will be posted during the season. Please put your athlete's name in the memo of your check and what the buyout is for.**

Fundraising requirements:

- Buy out- \$100, checks payable to Mehlville Junior Panthers.
 - Make checks payable to Mehlville Junior Panthers. Please put your athlete's name in the memo of your check and what the buyout is for.

There are 4 options to fulfill the fundraiser requirement that include candy sales, Andoro's pizza sales, buy out option during online registration, or a sponsorship of at least \$100.

Important Dates:

Please refer to your team account on SportsEngine often for calendar updates and important events. Game schedules are usually out 2 weeks before the first game. You can also stay up to date on the MJP Facebook page and website ([www/mehlvillejrpanthers.com](http://www.mehlvillejrpanthers.com))

Football Practices:

First Practice is July 21st.

Practice locations will be Washington Middle school upper field

- Please check the SportsEngine app before practice to verify location and time.

Practice times for all teams:

Monday-Thursday until school starts

- 4th thru 8th Grade: 6-8:00p.m.

After school starts- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, *No Wednesday practice.*

- 4th thru 8th Grade: 6- 8:00p.m.

Games:

- Games will be on Saturdays with the possibility of Sundays.
- Game 1 will be on Saturday, September 6, 2025.
- Game schedules will be finalized by the end of August and uploaded to SportsEngine and at www.mehlvillejrpanthers.com

Please be patient as games and times are subject to change and will be communicated ASAP.

Events that have TBD dates, times, and locations:

Details will be posted on SportsEngine and the website and updated throughout the season. You can also stay up to date on the MJP Facebook page!

- Camps
- Equipment handout
- MJP Welcome Event
- Picture day
- Homecoming Parade
- Powder Puff Practice
- Powder Puff Game
- Banquet
- Fundraising dine-ins and events
- Uniform turn-in/deposit check return

The Mehlville Junior Panther's board, and staff welcome you and are excited for you to join us this upcoming season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your team mom, head coach, any board member, or by emailing mjpanthers02@gmail.com during the season if you need to communicate anything at all! We are happy to address all questions and concerns. Again, WELCOME TO THE MEHLVILLE JUNIOR PANTHERS! We will see you on the turf!

