



10 Ways to Support Other Teams

By: Kayleigh Butler

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Dance team season always seems to be hectic during the Fall as many teams begin preparing for competition. However, it is important not to forget that other sports within your school are also preparing themselves for what they hope to be a successful season, and they need your support too. Here are some great ways to spread spirit and support other sports throughout the school year.

1. Go to both home and away games as a team!

-If you are not already involved on the sidelines, make signs, bring noisemakers, and get other teams to join you in attending the games! It is a great feeling to have a cheering section not only on your home court, but also on the road. Be sure to wear your warm ups or dance team gear to represent your own team!

2. Decorate the lockers of varsity sports players!

-Assign one or more members of your team to of a varsity sports team within your school, and decorate their lockers on the morning of a game. Rotate teams each week and make a goal to decorate the lockers of every sports team at your school at least once throughout the year!

3. Make an eye-catching poster!

-As a team, ask your art teacher or student council president for some sheet paper and create a work of art to hang in a common area, such as the lunchroom or gymnasium. A great time to do this is before the homecoming game or before a tournament that one of your teams is participating in. Don't forget to sign it "Love, the dance team"!

4. Eat and Greet!

-Host a team dinner for another team or gather them together before or after school, or during lunch and give them a special treat. Sing the fight song, eat cookies, and wish them luck!

5. Fundraise together!

-Collaborate with one or more teams and hold a fundraiser to raise money for the sports program at your school. Host a car wash, bake sale, or bottle drive and split the profits. Such an activity will bring the teams together as they work toward a common goal.

6. Broaden your performance horizons!

-Ask to perform during the halftime or pregame show of a sport other than football or basketball. Aim to have danced at a game for every applicable sport by the end of your season!

7. Hold an Athlete Lock-In!

-Pick a weekend night to hold a lock in for all athletes of the current season, fall, winter, or spring (with your administration's permission, of course). Create new "teams" by splitting up the members of each sports team, and play silly games against each other throughout the night. The first team to sleep loses! Cheering each other on, despite your sport, will encourage school support even after the lock-in.

8. Spice up your pep assemblies!

-Before your next pep rally, challenge your team members to split into groups (preferably picked at random) and assign them to a sport. At the pep assembly, give each group an allotted time period (five to ten minutes) during which they will go into the hall and teach their assigned

sports team a simple and silly routine. When their time is up, have them perform the routines for the school. The audience will decide which dance is best!

9. Play Swap Team!

–Invite another team to learn a dance and perform with you during halftime and, as a compromise, volunteer to play their sport! Get another team to play against you, and even use the event as a fundraiser (“Watch the dance team take on the girl’s soccer team at a game of volleyball!”)! Participating in fun events increases the likelihood of support within teams when they really need it.

10. Keep it up!

–Don’t forget to follow through with your commitments throughout the ENTIRE season. Make sure to favor one team just as much as the next, and don’t forget about the smaller teams too. Tennis should be just as important as volleyball! End your season just as spirited and supportive as it began.

Remember, your hopes and also your stresses are shared amongst your athletic peers! Don’t be shy! Support the teams within your school wholeheartedly; they will be sure to return the favor.