

# 2025-2026 LA Ramblerettes Tryout Information

## General Program Information

- We are the competitive dance teams and the spirit squads at Loyola Academy.
- We have a Junior Varsity and a Varsity team. JV is freshmen and sophomores only. Varsity is freshmen through seniors. A JV team is dependent upon the number of dancers trying out.
- From tryouts until the end of October, we are a **SPIRIT SQUAD**.
  - Both teams perform at home football and basketball games
  - Varsity also performs at pep rallies
  - Both teams participate in other school spirit-raising activities and service opportunities
- At the end of October, we form the **COMPETITION TEAMS**.
  - Team members have to try out (again) for the competition teams per IHSA rules.
  - This tryout finalizes alternates and routine placement for the competition season
  - Both teams compete December - February.
    - All teams compete at UDA and IHSA invitationals
    - Varsity represents Loyola in the IHSA State competition series in January
    - Varsity competes at Nationals in Orlando in February
  - The competitive season ends mid-February after Nationals and our final basketball game.

## Tryouts

- **Tryouts will take place April 1st-4th, 2025**
  - *Tuesday, April 1st:* Learn pom and jazz combinations 4:30-6:30p (East Gym)
  - *Wednesday, April 2nd:* Review combinations and tryout skills 4:30-6:30p (Cafeteria)
  - *Thursday, April 3rd:* Final Review of combinations/skills 4:30-6:30p (Cafeteria)
  - *Friday, April 4th:* Tryouts! @4:00p (Meet in Studio 130; Tryouts in East Gym)
    - Dancers with conflicts this week should email the coaches for alternative tryout options!
    - ALL dancers should plan to arrive by 3:45p. Dancers will be free to leave after their group auditions. Audition results will be announced Saturday afternoon.
    - *New Team Meeting: Sunday, April 6th 10:00a-11:00a (Location TBD)*
- **6th-8th Grade Clinic:** Available to any current 6th-8th grader interested in auditioning. We will review the tryout scoresheets, answer questions, and work on the technical skills needed for tryouts! No prior registration required and the clinic is free!
  - **Tuesday, March 18th 4:30-6:30p (Studio 130)**
- The coaches will be judging tryouts, along with 2-3 outside dance teachers.
- You will be asked to perform an audition routine (including both pom and jazz styles), as well as several separate technical skills.
- Judges are scoring the following categories:
  - Communication/Projection - Showmanship, energy, facials, and eye-contact
  - Choreography - Execution of choreography and quality of movement
  - Technical Skills - Execution of technique, placement, and control
  - Memory/Timing - Knowledge of routine and musicality
  - Overall Impression - Overall performance quality and following appearance guidelines listed
  - Skills Assessment - How well you perform the separate technical elements (leaps, turns, etc.)
- Tryout Appearance Guidelines:
  - White top (plain, no logo), plain black dance shorts/leggings. Hair must be in a bun (a headband with your bun is acceptable).

- **Tryout Tips!**
  - Pay attention to details in choreography while learning. This might be specific counts, musicality, arm placements, or style choices specified by the choreographer.
  - Technical Style and Form - point toes, straight arms/legs, spot turns, etc.
  - SMILE!! Try not to look nervous, be confident!
  - Remember, we do not expect perfection at tryouts, we are looking at your potential and who we can work with! Just do your best!!
  - Most importantly, don't give up if you do not make a team, many come back and make it the next year!

## **Practices/Time Commitment** [\*Click here for a list of Key Dates for the 25-26 Team\*](#)

- **SPRING/SUMMER** (May-August)
  - Spring Conditioning/Technique Practices: 1-2x per week as schedules allow during May
  - Universal Dance Association (UDA) 3-Night Away Camp: **June 29th-July 2nd (Rosemont)**
  - Summer Practices: Varsity practices 4x/wk & JV 3x/wk throughout June/July. Both teams take a Team Ballet/Technique Class during one practice day throughout the summer.
  - Choreography Practices: Both teams begin learning competition choreography and football choreography mid-late July after returning from away camp. Varsity learns one routine at the beginning of June as well (**June 7-8**). Varsity jazz choreography will be **July 18-20**.
- **FALL** (August-October)
  - Practices: Varsity 4x/wk & JV 3x/week (this includes the team ballet/technique class each week) once school starts in August through the end of October. Varsity practices one additional Saturday per month.
  - Performances: Both teams perform at home football games held on Fridays and Saturdays.
- **WINTER** (End of October-February):
  - Practices: Varsity 4x-5x/wk & JV 3x-4x/wk, with additional practices as needed (may include weekends). Both teams practice during winter break (usually 3-5 practices).
  - Performances: Both teams perform at select home basketball games and select competitions throughout the winter season. Competitions are held on the weekends (either Saturday or Sunday) and typically run from morning until mid-afternoon.
- **Additional Commitments:**
  - Both teams participate in team bonding, school spirit-raising, and service events throughout the year (Jr. Ramblerettes, Pep Rallies, Misericordia Family Day, etc.)!
  - All members are required to take an additional dance class during the summer and throughout the school year. It's highly recommended that dancers take an outside ballet or technique class.

## **Estimated Program Costs**

- New JV Team Member: \$2500; Returning JV Team Member: \$2000
- New Varsity Team Member: \$6000; Returning Varsity Team Member: \$5000
  - Includes Nationals/Competition Costs, Costume Fees, Uniforms, Apparel, etc.

*\*\*Please Note: We are happy to make payment adjustments and accommodations (including, but not limited to, extensions or payment plans) based on family financial needs for individual dancers.*

## **FAQs**

- Dance team is close to a full year commitment, however, dancers are allowed and encouraged to participate in additional clubs/school organizations throughout the year and/or spring sports.
- Per IHSA rules, dance team members are not allowed to participate in fall or winter sports. Dancers who compete with their dance studios are unable to during our team's competitive season per IHSA rules.
- Dancers are required to participate in both sideline and competition season if selected for the team.