



Team parents often line up to cheer teams on as they enter the stadium

# 10 TIPS

## FOR ATTENDING KATY ISD FOOTBALL GAMES

In Katy, football is not just a sport, it's a way of life. Here are the top 10 tips to get newcomers ready to enjoy everything from the sidelines to the run-through signs this season.

*Written by Lacey Kupfer Wulf | Photo by Rams Reyna*

## 1. Get in the Spirit

Thursday through Saturday during the fall and winter months, high school football is good family entertainment at its best. Katy ISD schools have amazing athletes and teams, dedicated fans, and spectacular halftime shows. Debbie Decker, the executive director of the athletic department at Katy ISD, says, "We have very competitive programs that are all well coached." If you're looking for something to do this fall, you can't go wrong with a high school football game. So get out there!

## 2. Buy Tickets Early

You can try your luck at the gate the night of the game, but your best bet is to purchase tickets as early as possible through the school's athletic booster club website or on campus. Especially for special games like homecoming or rivalry games that sell out quickly. Once you're hooked, you can purchase season tickets several months in advance. Visit [katyisd.org](http://katyisd.org) to find information on how to purchase for the upcoming season.

## 3. Arrive Early

If you want a great seat on the 50-yard line, you may want to arrive 30 to 40 minutes early in order to secure a spot. This also helps you ensure that you don't accidentally end up in the student section if you're a first-timer. Arriving early will ensure you have a comfortable seat and a great view. Also be sure to double-check the location of the game on the Katy ISD athletic website as some home games may not take place at Rhodes.

## 4. Show Your True Colors

Go the extra mile and come to games decked out in school colors and spirit wear. School booster clubs offer cool gear like T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats for purchase at every home game, and most of them sell online as well. Remember to cheer with the rest of the loyal fans when your team makes a great play. If you're not used to the football game scene yet, arrange to carpool and sit with another family or parents that you know. They will be able to teach you the ropes, and it will be more fun getting involved and cheering on your team than sitting alone.

## 5. Stick Around for Halftime

Instead of leaving the stands to buy concessions when the teams head for the locker rooms, Katy ISD crowds get treated with entertainment from talented marching bands and beautiful performances from the drill teams. Decker says, "Our fine art programs are top-notch. The bands, flag corps, and dancers who perform during halftime are outstanding. They all contribute to the overall experience."

## 6. Learn the Lingo

Each school has their own different culture, each with its own unique traditions that get them prepared for the game. For example, Cinco Ranch High School has a spirit night that includes a quick refresher on the school song, fight songs, and unique game day fan chants. Participating in your school's football culture can enhance your experience and help you connect with your fellow fans.

## 7. Bring Some Cash

You can't bring food inside Rhodes Stadium and the games are approximately two hours long, so concessions are available. As an added bonus, Chick-fil-A will be offered at Rhodes for the first time this season.

## 8. Support the Community

No matter what school zone you live in, or even if you don't have kids who attend, you can still go enjoy great football. Decker says, "It's not rare to see community members support several teams in Katy ISD. You'll see kids from other schools and community members that will come out just to watch good football, even if their teams aren't playing. It brings the community together like nothing else."

## 9. Be Prepared for Anything

A little rain never hurt anybody in a football helmet, and the game will often go on unless weather conditions become hazardous, so always come prepared. A utility bag stocked with sunscreen, bug spray, an umbrella or poncho, a blanket, bottled water, and of course, your pom-poms for cheering with is an absolute must for the ever-changing and unexpected Texas weather.

## 10. Have Fun

Soon you'll learn what the hype of high school football in Texas is all about, and you'll be hooked on the palpable energy that's felt every time you walk into the stadium for a game. Get into it, cheer your heart out, bleed purple, blue, green, orange, red, or maroon, and tag @KatyMagazine in your photos on social media this season. **KM**

*LACEY KUPFER WULF has twin baby boys, who may become football players or march in the band one day.*



**Visit [katyisd.org](http://katyisd.org) and find the athletics page for information on how to purchase tickets for the upcoming season.**