

GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION GUIDELINES

PURPOSE OF CHEERLEADING

The purpose of a Cheerleader is to build school spirit and promote leadership. Being a cheerleader also provides a goal for students to attain through good citizenship and service. A cheerleader will also be provided an opportunity for the competitive experience. Cheerleaders may participate in football, volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and other activities as approved by the principal.

EMPHASIS OF CHEERLEADING

The emphasis of cheerleading at the Middle School level should be different from that at the High School. There will be more emphasis on spirit, leadership, and physical activity. At the Middle School level, performing as a spirit leader should be emphasized to develop the student's self-confidence, poise, and leadership. Cheerleaders are required to attend cheer camp during the summer. A physical will be required in order to attend camp.

SIGN-UP PROCEDURE/PARENT MEETING

A meeting for cheerleader sign-up shall be held prior to the tryout. Information packets, which include tryout procedures, cheerleader rules, estimated expenses, and release forms will be distributed and discussed.

Parents will complete the permission letter and return it to the cheerleader sponsor within a designated time frame following the meeting. Students will be evaluated on their grades and teacher recommendations. The student must give the Teacher recommendation form to their four core teachers. The teachers will turn in the teacher recommendation form directly to the sponsors. The Student Evaluation form must be filled out by the candidate and turned in with an official copy of the student's most recent report card within a designated time frame following the meeting. The Student Evaluation form is enclosed in this packet.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRYOUTS:

1. Candidates must be enrolled in GCISD by the day of tryouts. Any questions or exceptions need to be handled through the registrar and the school administration.
2. The candidate must have a minimum semester 1 average of 70 or above in core classes for the current school year. There will be no rounding up.
3. Candidates must be in good financial standing with the cheerleading/mascot organization, and school, such as having no outstanding uniform debts, bills, or fines.

TRYOUT PROCEDURES

Candidates will draw for tryout order at the first practice.

An area will be designated for cheerleaders to warm-up prior to the performance before the judges. Supervision of candidates will be under the direction of the sponsor. An administrator or counselor will be present.

Candidates will perform a minimum of an individual cheer, group chant, a group cheer/dance combination, 3 jumps, and a standing and/or running tumbling pass. The types of jumps will be optional with the candidate unless specified at the time of sign up. Tumbling can range from a round-off to any advanced tumbling. The candidate needs to be comfortable attempting any tumbling and not “throwing” it for the first time on the day of the tryouts. The chant and cheer, and the dance choreography will be demonstrated during the workshop.

The categories to be judged using a 1-5 ranking (5 being the highest) are: showmanship, dance, motion technique, jumps; tumbling will be judged using a 0-5 ranking. Additional categories may be added only after review by the principal and / or the athletic director.

Judges should provide a critique of each candidate. The judges will total their own scores. Score sheets will be reviewed for accuracy. Judges will date and sign their score sheets. Scores and comments from the judges can be shared with *students that were not selected* for a team if an appointment is made with the campus Principal. Appointments with the campus Principal will only be made once school resumes after Spring Break.

NUMBER OF CHEERLEADERS

The number of cheerleaders on a squad will be determined on the basis of a natural break in the scores based on a 40/60 percent weighting of student evaluations and judges scores for sixth graders trying out for 7th grade and 7th graders trying out for 8th grade cheerleader. If a cheerleader must resign his/her position on the squad for any reason, that position will not be filled for the duration of the year.

MEMBERSHIP

1. A cheerleader is considered a leader of the student body. Cheerleaders are expected to set a good example for their fellow classmates. Certain responsibilities accompany any position of leadership. Drug use and/or alcohol use and/or any immoral behavior are not acceptable by any member of a cheerleading squad and the discipline procedure outlined in the district extracurricular pledge will be followed.
2. Cheerleaders must participate in any cheerleading activity approved by the sponsor throughout the year. This includes all fundraisers, summer practices, summer camp, etc. All conflicts must be discussed with the sponsor in advance.
3. Cheerleaders must be cooperative with teachers, administrators, sponsors, cheerleaders, and fellow cheerleaders. Cheerleaders must promote and maintain good relationships with other school organizations and the student body.
4. The cheerleader is responsible for setting-up and cleaning up pep rallies.
5. The cheerleader may only cheer in one Athletic event per week.

GRADES AND CONDUCT

1. Cheerleaders are expected to set a good example for their fellow classmates. They should put forth good effort in the classroom and display good citizenship. They should demonstrate respect toward their teachers and peers.
2. If a cheerleader's conduct does not meet acceptable standards (E or S), the cheerleader will be benched for three weeks. Benching is the designated time period set aside for the cheerleader to improve his/her conduct. A conference will be held with the coach, the teacher, and parent. The student will also be present at the meeting.
3. Cheerleaders will follow the UIL No Pass No Play Guidelines. Grades will be checked at the end of the 1st Six weeks and then the end of each Nine week period thereafter.
4. Any cheerleader who fails two grading periods during a cheer season, which runs from the first school day after tryouts until the day before tryouts for the next year, will be removed from the squad.

ATTENDANCE

The cheerleader must keep student spirits high, the team spirit high, and the fans' spirit high. The cheerleader is expected to attend all assigned games. If he/she cannot attend, he/she must notify the sponsor prior to the game. Absences will be excused for illnesses or emergencies only.

1. Cheerleaders are expected to have above average school attendance habits. Eight or more unexcused absences or a total of 17 absences, excused and/or unexcused, are grounds for disciplinary action. Please see the addendum to the constitution for specific disciplinary action.
2. Cheerleaders must seek approval from the sponsor BEFORE being absent from any scheduled activity (preferably at least 24 hours in advance.) Excused absences are:
 - (a) Personal illness or accident per school policy.
 - (b) Special school activities with advanced approval from the coach.
3. Cheerleaders must notify the sponsor BEFORE being absent from scheduled activities due to illness. If an emergency should occur, the parent may write a note for the next day for the absence to be excused.
4. Any cheerleader unable to perform because of an injury will appear at the event in full uniform and sit in a designated area.

If any cheerleader becomes unable to meet the membership, grades, conduct and/or attendance requirements at any point during the season, he/she may forfeit squad membership. All monies are nonrefundable.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

Practices will be supervised and practice times will be determined by the sponsor. Parents will be notified of the practice end time. Summer practice sessions may be held to get ready for cheerleader duties in the fall.

TRANSPORTATION

The cheerleaders are responsible for all transportation to games, events, and practices. At the beginning of the year, there will be a form giving cheerleaders permission to ride with other parents.

DEMERITS

A cheerleader will receive a demerit when he/she fails to satisfactorily complete his/her responsibilities. The demerit cycle runs from the first day of school after tryouts to the day before tryouts. Please see the addendum to the constitution for specific demerit information. A cheerleader will be removed from the program if he/she accumulates ten (10) demerits during the cycle.

RESIGNATION

Resignation is defined as a choice made by the individual cheerleader to no longer participate in the GCISD cheer program. The resignation procedure requires a letter of resignation signed by both the cheerleader and the parent/guardian and the student must settle any outstanding balance with the campus bookkeeper. All monies are nonrefundable.

REMOVAL

Removal from the cheer squad will occur when a cheerleader fails two grading periods in one season, accumulates demerits according to the addendum to the constitution or by disciplinary removal according to the constitution guidelines, district extracurricular agreement and school policies.

In all cases, resignation or removal, all property of the school and all financial obligations must be cleared at the time of resignation/removal. All monies are nonrefundable.

Reinstatement during the same school year may occur only in cases of moving away and returning within the same school year.

The cheerleader and his/her parents will be notified as to his/her removal as a spirit leader for the following reasons:

If a cheerleader must be removed from campus due to a major infraction of policy and/or guidelines as stated in the GCISD Student Code of Conduct.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES:

Any student unable to attend the scheduled tryout session must submit a letter of explanation with the information packet on February 21, 2020. This information will be reviewed by campus administration and a decision will be communicated to the parents of the student.

APPEAL PROCESS:

The order which a team member should follow concerning appealing a disciplinary decision is:

1. Constitution
2. Coach
3. Campus Administration

February 2020

4. District Administration

COMPETITION

Cheerleaders may compete in one cheerleading competition within a fifty (50) mile radius of GCISD if the squad is able to raise the funds necessary for the competition. For competition policies and procedures see the addendum to the constitution.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Cheerleaders must attend all activities scheduled by the sponsors. The sponsor must approve all activities, projects, trips, expenditures, and fundraisers concerning the cheerleader spirit organization.
2. Giving demerits is subject to the responsibility of the sponsor.
3. If a cheerleader is injured, the sponsor will require a doctor's note excusing a cheerleader from practice. When the cheerleader is able to return to practice, a medical release from the doctor will also be required. You must have a doctor's note to participate in any activities after a concussion.
4. A cheerleading uniform will only be worn when indicated by the sponsor and all cheer specific clothing may only be worn by the cheerleader.
5. Each campus will establish their campuses expectations, demerit and competition policies.
6. The interpretation of all rules is the responsibility of the sponsor, the principal and the administration. They have the right to add or change those things they feel must be changed for the benefit of the organization.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING EXPENSES

Expenses and payments will be determined by each individual campus.

A parents' meeting will be held as soon as possible after selection. Topics to be discussed will include uniforms, camp clothes, parties, parent help, and summer practices. Full payment of clothing will be due upon ordering.

Fundraising activities will be undertaken to defray some costs to parents.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The Cheerleading Constitution is subject to change at any time due to any Texas Education Agency rule changes, GCISD School Board regulations. At any time, changes may be made to the constitution with the approval of the coaches, campus administration, and GCISD Director Athletics.

