



MCKINNEY ISD

SPIRIT GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the cheerleaders is to support the curricular and extracurricular activities of McKinney ISD by promoting school spirit. Being a cheerleader is an honor and a special privilege. Cheerleaders and mascots exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit. Cheerleaders and mascots are first representatives of their school district and community. They should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the MISD Student Code of Conduct and MISD Extra/Co-Curricular Contract, MISD Cheerleading Guidelines and any campus handbook.

Members of the spirit program have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be expected, both on and off campus, to maintain a higher standard of behavior and academic achievement.

Spirit program members are expected to be skilled in all aspects of cheerleading including leadership and team building skills. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group and individual performance. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude, and attendance at events chosen by the coach.

COMMITMENT:

Candidates selected to be a member of the spirit program are expected to make a commitment to the activity from the day the team is posted through the last day of the following school year. Any member whose intention is to leave the school district forfeits his/her position and must return all district purchased property. This process is final and may not be revoked once the cheerleader forfeits his/her position.

EVALUATIONS

- MISD will hold evaluations for the selection of all teams.
- The cheerleading coordinator, in conjunction with the campus cheerleading coaches and building principals of each campus will be responsible for facilitating the tryouts and may be present in the building during the evaluation process.
- Parents and non-participating individuals will not be allowed in evaluation area during any phase of the evaluations. Anyone in violation of this could cause the individual trying out to become ineligible.

Evaluation - Eligibility & Requirements

- To be eligible to tryout the candidate must be currently enrolled in and attending a McKinney ISD school, prior to the first day of the evaluation clinic.
- Students must be academically eligible and meet state guidelines for attendance.
- Student must disclose all medical conditions that may affect the safety of themselves or others prior to evaluations. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with McKinney ISD Board Policies.
- If a student quits or is removed from the MISD Spirit Program during the current year for any reason, the student will not be allowed to tryout out for cheerleader the following year without approval from the varsity cheer coach, campus principal and cheerleading coordinator.

- Students and Parent/Guardian must submit online application and complete all required forms electronically through RankOne, including a current physical on the required MISD physical form. The required information must be completed prior to the first day of evaluations.
- Candidates will attend all evaluation sessions to receive the opportunity to achieve the maximum score allowed. Athletes should notify a coach either in person, by phone, or by email of any absence, prior to evaluations. Any unexcused absences will result in the athlete not being allowed to make up the evaluation for that day. Excused absences are an illness or family emergency with coaches' notification.
- If a student is injured during or prior to evaluations a doctor's note must be provided and the parent/guardian must contact the coach to the coach prior to evaluations.
- If a student moves into the district after tryouts, the student may try out for the coaches if there are positions available. This is at the discretion of the head cheer coach. If a student is selected to the team after the original tryout date, it is the student's parents'/guardians' responsibility to cover all additional costs that may apply for a single order to be placed for practice wear, uniforms, accessories or camp fees as minimum quantities and late fees may be applicable. Depending on when uniforms are ordered, the student may miss performances until the uniform arrives.

Evaluation - Dress Code

Each day of evaluations, all candidates should wear black or navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt with no visible logo, white sports bra for females, white tennis shoes, and hair should be secured away from face in a high ponytail. No jewelry may be worn, and nails must be neutral color palette and sport length.

Failure to comply with the dress code may result in the candidate being dismissed from the evaluations and ineligible to try out for a position on a team.

Evaluation - Results and Notification

- Each candidate will be given instructions on how to find the results of the evaluations.
- If a candidate wishes to receive feedback regarding skills evaluated during tryouts, the candidate should email the coach directly to schedule a meeting.
- All tryout results are final. Meetings will only be to provide skill specific feedback.

TEAM SELECTIONS

Candidates will be evaluated and selected by the cheer coaches at each campus during an evaluation clinic. The coach on campus will select and place candidates on the squad for which the coach feels the candidate is best qualified. Coach's decisions are final. It is the responsibility of the parent to make sure your athlete(s) is attending the evaluation clinic and completing the paperwork for the campus for which the student is zoned. If an athlete makes the cheer team at one campus and moves to another campus or is not zoned for the campus the athlete was selected, the athlete forfeits the position and will not be placed on the team at the new campus. Once uniforms and practice wear are ordered, changes and/or cancellations will NOT be made. Because items are ordered immediately following the fitting, there are NO refunds for any reason.

Candidates are expected to maintain and consistently perform the skills that are demonstrated during evaluations. Cheerleaders/mascots will be evaluated every week over skills listed below. Cheerleaders/mascots may not perform if the skills are not maintained/performed and minimum conditioning standards are not met. It is a UIL requirement and essential for the safety of the cheerleaders and mascots that a conditioning program be implemented and enforced. A tremendous amount of physical

strength and endurance are required to stunt, tumble, and cheer during games and performances. Candidates may be evaluated on the execution of the following skills.

Cheerleader

- Cheer
- Band Chant
- Stunts
- Tumbling
- Dance
- Motions
- Jumps (individual and connected)
- Spirit
- Leadership
- Overall Presence/Attitude

Mascot

- Crowd Appeal
- Dance/Band Chant
- Character/Antics
- Choreography of planned/impromptu skit
- Use of props
- Spirit
- Leadership
- Overall Presence/Attitude
- Cut music and provide prior to the final day of evaluations

VARSITY TEAMS

- May consist of up to 30 members.

JV TEAMS

- May consist of up to 16 members.

FRESHMAN TEAMS

- Freshman teams are open to freshmen only.
- May consist of up to 16 members.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS

- 8th Grade Team: may consist of up to 30 members.
- 7th Grade Team: may consist of up to 30 members.

MASCOTS

- Mascots are considered a part of the team and will therefore be subject to the same rules, regulations, and consequences as cheerleaders.
- May be required to participate with the cheerleaders when needed during stunts, dances, cheers, and sidelines.
- High school mascots are considered part of the Varsity team and should be a sophomore, junior or senior.
- Mascots are expected to condition and practice material for pep rallies and games with the team.
- The mascots may be required to make special appearances at local events or elementary schools. The coach must approve all skits and game material prior to performance.
- No other person than the selected mascot will be allowed to wear the mascot uniform, unless previously approved by the coach. If there are no sophomore, junior or senior candidates who

audition for mascot, the cheer coach may open the position to a freshman. This is at the discretion of the head cheer coach at each campus.

CAMP

All cheerleaders and mascots must attend summer camp. Cheerleader/mascots may not leave early or arrive late without written notification that must be approved by the coach prior to camp. Certain extenuating circumstances may occur like death in family or injury. The amount of money for camp is the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot. Refunds are not given for missing camp. The cheerleading coordinator will coordinate the location and date of the camp.

ATHLETIC PERIOD

Cheerleaders and mascots are required to be enrolled in the athletic period. Students who quit or are removed from the cheer program will be removed from the cheerleading class.

UNIFORMS/FITTINGS

A uniform will be issued to high school cheerleaders and mascots. The cheerleader/mascot is financially responsible for all uniforms/equipment checked out to her/him. The cheerleader/mascot shall not wear or use school equipment for personal use. Equipment may not be removed from the school without permission from the coach.

It is the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot to take proper care of uniforms and uniform pieces checked out to the cheerleader. The coach must approve all alterations. If a uniform is altered without the permission of the coach, the cheerleader/mascot will not be allowed to wear the uniform until it is in compliance with the standards set by the cheer coach, or a replacement uniform is ordered at the expense of the cheerleader/mascot.

District supplied uniforms/equipment must be kept in good condition and turned in prior to tryouts for the following school year. Financial responsibility for the replacement of damaged, district supplied items rest solely with the cheerleader/mascot. The mascot costume is considered part of the mascot uniform and should be taken care of properly.

Cheerleaders/mascots should attend the scheduled fitting date. There will not be multiple fitting dates. If not in attendance at the fitting, sizes will be selected and ordered using the measurements provided on the athlete sizing form.

The amount of money for pieces of uniform not provided by the district will be the responsibility of each individual cheerleader. Practice wear is considered part of the cheerleader/mascot uniform. The amount of money for practice wear, required accessories, uniform pieces, and camp will be the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot and must be paid in full prior to ordering. Orders for the team will not be held up for non-payment by individuals. If individuals miss the payment deadline, extra fees for minimum quantities may be applied and those additional expenses will be the responsibility of the individual.

GENERAL CONDUCT GUIDELINES

- Must abide by all rules stated in the MISD Student Code of Conduct, MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular, the MISD Student Acceptable Use Policy, MISD Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines, as well as any campus spirit handbook.
- Members placed in ISS will lose all extracurricular privileges for each school day of said placement.
- Must be responsible, dependable, and a leader/role model for other students.
- Responsible for promoting school spirit during the week, at pep rallies, games and other performances, and must be aware they are always representing the school and school district.
- Maintain and consistently perform all skills demonstrated during evaluations. Failure to maintain and perform those skills, as well as conditioning standards, may result in loss of performance and/or dismissal from the team.
- Attend and participate in cheer camp.
- Attend and participate, as required by MISD and coach, at the UIL Spirit Championship or other competition.
- Always demonstrate proper behavior as designated by the cheer coach.
- Must not engage in inappropriate messaging, dialogue, use of content (pictures, labels, artwork, etc.) on any form of media including social media, email, text, etc.
- Arrive to practices, performances, and events on time and in required attire/uniform.
- Nails must be kept neutral in color and sport length, and no jewelry may be worn.

Misconduct – any infraction of school rules as in the MISD Student Code of Conduct, MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular, MISD Student Acceptable Use Policy, MISD Spirit Guidelines, and/or campus handbook will result in disciplinary action and may cause removal from the squad.

Failure to Meet Behavior Requirements – In addition to the general conduct rules outlined, each coach will communicate behavior requirements for their team.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS



Step 1
Athlete and Coach
Meet



Step 2
Athlete, Coach, and
Parent Meet



Step 3
Athlete, Coach, Parent,
and Principal Meet

ELIGIBILITY

The UIL No Pass No Play rule requires all athletes to maintain a 70 in all classes each 9 weeks to participate. Athletes must be on grade level to participate at the beginning of the school year. Coaches will do a credit check at the beginning of each school year to ensure the proper number of credits has been obtained the previous year.

7th - 9th = Promotion

11th = 10 credits

10th = 5 credits

12th = 15 credits

COACHING STAFF



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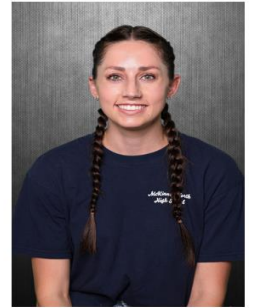
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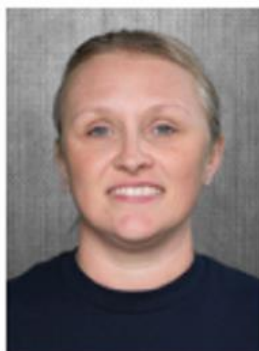
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