2019 – 2020 MISD
Middle School Cheerleader & Mascot 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 are first and foremost representatives of their school. Cheerleaders 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.

Members of these groups 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.

Cheerleaders are expected to be skilled in learning and remembering cheers. 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 cheerleading team are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full school year. The cheer season begins the day results are posted and ends the last day of the following school year.

Any cheerleader/mascot whose intention is to leave the school district forfeits his/her cheerleader/mascot position and must return all cheerleading/school property. This process is final and may not be revoked once the cheerleader forfeits his/her position.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS
MISD will hold evaluations for middle school cheerleading squads.

8th Grade Team: may consist of up to 30 members. All incoming 8th graders must participate in the evaluation clinic.

7th Grade Team: may consist of up to 30 members. All incoming 7th graders must participate in the evaluation clinic.

Please note not every campus will have more than one cheer team. Campuses may choose to have one combined team with up to 30 participants.

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 your student is zoned. Once uniforms and practice wear are ordered, changes and/or cancellations will NOT be made because of trying out at incorrect campus. No exceptions. If an athlete makes the cheer team at one campus and moves to another campus, the athlete forfeits the cheer position and will not be placed on the team at the new campus. There are NO refunds for any reason.

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in the evaluation process the student must currently be enrolled in and attending a McKinney ISD school by February 25, 2019.

EVALUATION CLINIC DATES: see campus cheer coach for campus specific dates
Monday, March 4 – Friday, March 22
Friday, March 22: Final Day for Evaluations
No evaluations during MISD spring break
All students selected to the team must attend the fitting date. There will only be one fitting date.

All students selected to the team must attend cheer camp.

Students must never have received deferred adjudication and/or conviction for a Class B misdemeanor or higher-class crime conviction.

Students must never have been placed in DAEP during the current school year.

Students must meet state guidelines for attendance.

Student must disclose all medical conditions that may affect the safety of themselves or others prior to trying out. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with the McKinney ISD Board Policies.

No new applicants will be taken after the application deadline. Students who move into the district after tryouts may be given the opportunity to tryout only if there are open positions. All tryouts for any open positions must be held prior to camp beginning. Students who move into the district and are selected to be on the team may have additional fees for practice wear and camp due to placing a late order. Students will be responsible for ordering extra quantities of items where minimums apply.

Cheerleaders/mascots may participate in athletics, but they must choose between cheerleading and basketball during basketball season and cheerleading and football during football season. Cheerleaders/mascots may not be a cheerleader/mascot and participate in football and basketball. The performance times make it impossible for this to happen.

All students must complete the online application and have a current physical in order to tryout.

All participants must have a current completed physical on the appropriate MISD physical form turned in by the first day of the evaluation clinic. All physicals must be completed on the approved MISD UIL Physical Evaluation Form. Students who do not currently have a physical on file may get the MISD 19-20 physical form that is lavender from the cheer coach on campus. The physical must be dated after March 1, 2019 in order to use for the following school year. If a student is currently a cheerleader/mascot for MISD or participates in athletics in MISD, the physical currently on file will suffice for evaluations, but a new physical on the 19-20 MISD form should be submitted to the cheer coach on campus by May 10, 2019.

- If a 6th grader has a MISD physical dated 03/01/19 or later, that will be accepted for their entire 7th grade year for both cheer and athletics.
- If a 7th grader who has never participated in athletics or cheer has an MISD physical dated 03/01/19 or later, that will be accepted for their entire 8th grade year for both cheer and athletics. This applies only to those trying out for cheerleader.
- All other middle school athletes/cheerleaders must have physicals dated 04/01/19 or later to be accepted for the 2019-2020 school year.

GENERAL CONDUCT GUIDELINES

- All school and academic policies will be enforced
- Must meet UIL academic requirements for eligibility as outlined in the U.I.L. Eligibility Calendar.
- Attendance must meet state criteria.
- Must abide by all rules stated in the MISD Student Code of Conduct, the MISD Student Acceptable Use Policy, agree to abide by all information contained within the MISD Cheerleader/Mascot Handbook, as well as any campus cheer handbook.
- Must sign and uphold the letter and spirit of the MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Contract, the MISD Drug Policy, MISD Athletic Rules and Regulations, and any and all other contracts deemed appropriate by MISD throughout the school year.
• Must be responsible.
• Cheerleaders will maintain proper behavior at all times as designated by the cheer coach, including practices, and performances.
• Cheerleaders engaging in inappropriate messaging, dialogue, use of content (pictures, labels, artwork, etc.) on any form of media including social media, email, text, etc. will be held accountable for their behavior.
• Cheerleaders will arrive to practices, performances and events on time and in required uniform.
• Absolutely no jewelry may be worn during any practice, performance or event.
• All rules become enforceable the day the cheerleader submits the application and remains in effect until the end of the cheerleading year.
• Students and parents should follow steps below if a concern or issue arises.
  Step 1: Contact and notify the team coach of the concern.
  Step 2: If no resolution after initial contact with coach, schedule an in-person conference with coach.
  Step 3: If the issue has not been resolved after the conference with coach, contact the head coach If the concern was originally addressed with the head coach, proceed to Step 4.
  Step 4: If the issue has not been resolved after the meeting with the head coach, contact the assistant principal on campus who oversees cheer and schedule an in-person conference with the assistant principal.
  Step 5: If there is still not a resolution to the concern, contact the principal and schedule an in-person conference.

MISCONDUCT
Cheer coaches have the authority to bench, suspend or remove members of the team for any misconduct infractions. Consequences for misconduct are at the cheer coach’s discretion.

PRACTICES
Each campus decides on practice schedules. Cheerleaders may be expected to attend two after school practices each week. After three unexcused absences, the cheerleader will be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year. It is an expectation that cheerleaders attend all practices, and they will not be allowed to participate in cheering at games or pep rallies if they have not attended practice. If cheerleaders plan on being involved in additional school sponsored organizations, please know that conflicts will arise. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader to solve any scheduling conflicts prior to the event. Missing practice due to tutoring or other school sponsored events will result in consequences set by the coach. Please contact the cheerleading coach on campus for detailed practice requirements.

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. Certain extenuating circumstances may occur like death in family or injury. Camp will be June 3-5 at Scott Johnson Middle School.

CLASS
Middle school campuses may have a cheer class during the regular school day for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Cheerleaders and mascots are required to be enrolled in the cheer class if the cheer class is offered. Each campus decides whether the cheer class will be offered on campus or not. Students who quit or are removed from the cheer program may be removed from the cheerleading class.

MASCOT
Each campus decides on mascots, thus varying between campuses. For more information on mascots, please contact the cheerleading coach on campus. Mascots will also be enrolled in the cheer class.

UNIFORMS and PRACTICE WEAR
All MISD middle school teams will have a uniform with lettering, jacket or hoodie, practice wear and accessory package (shoes, briefs, bow, and poms). It is the responsibility of the parents to purchase the required items and everything must be paid in full prior to ordering. It is the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot to take proper care of his/her uniforms. The mascot costume is considered part of the mascot uniform and should be taken care of properly.
Please read the entire application packet then both, student and a parent /guardian, must complete the online application by due by 3:30 pm on Friday, February 22, 2019. If interested in being a 7th grade or 8th grade cheerleader, please see the cheerleading coach on campus.

Cockrill      Coach Wandersee  RM E220  mwandersee@mckinneyisd.net
Coach Matte

Dowell       Coach Saxton     RM G219  ssaxton@mckinneyisd.net
Evans        Coach Gilbert    RM D207  lgilbert@mckinneyisd.net
Faubion      Coach Neal      RM D209  bneal@mckinneyisd.net
Coach Winsor RM D203  swinsor@mckinneyisd.net
Scott Johnson Coach Haberman RM E206  mhaberman@mckinneyisd.net

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** District Meeting – January 9 at 5:30 PM in the Auditorium at MBHS

**EVALUATION CLINIC DATES:** Dates may be slightly different from campus to campus. Contact the cheer coach on campus for specific dates and times.
Clinic Evaluation Dates: Monday, March 4 – Friday, March 22.

**FITTING DATE and LOCATION:** The times below are tentative and subject to change. Athletes must attend during the scheduled team time. Coaches will send more specific time slots after posting results.

**Sunday, March 24 at Scott Johnson Middle School**
Johnson- 1:00 PM
Faubion – 2:00 PM
Evans – 3:30 PM
Dowell – 4:30 PM
Cockrill – 6:00 PM

**WHAT TO WEAR TO THE FITTING:** Please make sure to wear appropriate under garments.
Girls: full coverage sports bra and briefs/compression style shorts or swim suit
Boys: t-shirt and shorts
Athletes will be trying on samples in the gym. If athletes are not wearing appropriate under garments, those athletes will NOT be allowed to try on any of the samples. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**PAYMENT:** $550.00 with a money order/cashier’s check ONLY due at the fitting
On the day of the fitting, cheerleaders/mascots must bring the full payment in a sealed envelope, labeled with his/her name. Only money orders or cashier’s checks will be accepted. Please make payable to McKinney ISD and write your student's first and last name and campus in the memo section. NO personal checks will be accepted. We are currently working with a provider to be able to purchase the packages online. More information will be distributed concerning online payments during the evaluation period.

**CHEERLEADING EXPENSES:**
The following is a list of possible expenses that may be incurred. Not all activities and or items may relate to each squad. This is simply a guideline of the approximate cost of being a cheerleader of McKinney ISD. Social activities, such as but not limited to ice cream socials, dinners before events, and group pictures are at the discretion of the principal and sponsor. Thus, a dollar amount cannot be assigned to this category.

**CAMP DATES:** JUNE 3 – 5 at Scott Johnson Middle School
REQUIRED FORMS
All information must be completed and submitted by 3:30 pm February 22, 2019.

Please carefully read all material within this entire packet. By submitting these forms online you are indicating that you have read and also agree to abide by all information contained within this document.

Checklist

- Verify the campus your student will be zoned and attending for the 19-20 school year.
- GO TO THIS LINK:
  - https://tinyurl.com/19-20-MISD-Middle-School-Cheer
  - Complete the online application
- FORMS to be submitted directly to cheer coach—First day of clinic
  - Current physical on MISD Physical Form unless already on file with RankOne
  - Verify with cheer coach on campus
- Tryout material: It is an expectation that athletes know this material and are ready to perform the material on the first day of the clinic. The material will not be taught during the clinic. See below for links.
  - IMPORTANT: Students MUST bring the following items to the fitting if you are selected to the team.
    - A money order/cashier’s check for $550 or receipt of online payment
    - Completed camp waiver form with a copy of your insurance card (must be the front and back of the card.) Camp waiver will be distributed the week of evaluations. This is for cheer camp. If you do not want to provide a front and back copy of your insurance card, then please bring $5 cash to the fitting to purchase camp insurance. (Please bring exact cash. We will not be able to make change.)
  - Complete all forms in RankOne once they are available for the 19-20 school year. Submit a new physical dated after April 1, 2019 for those who currently have a physical on file for the 18-19 school year. Physical must be submitted to cheer coach by May 10, 2019.

Tryout Material
Cheer Show: https://tinyurl.com/MISDCheerShow
Cheer Teach: https://tinyurl.com/MISDCheerTeach
Cheer Practice: https://tinyurl.com/MISDCheerPractice

Dance Show: https://tinyurl.com/MISDDanceShow
Dance Teach: https://tinyurl.com/MISDDanceTeach
Dance Practice: https://tinyurl.com/MISDDancePract