
MCKINNEY

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020– 2021 MISD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING GUIDELINES

SECTION

1

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, district and community. 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 and MISD Extra/Co-Curricular Contract, MISD Cheerleading Guidelines and any campus handbook.

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 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 cheerleading team 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 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.

EVALUATIONS

- MISD will hold evaluations for the selection of all cheerleading teams.
- The cheerleading coordinator, in conjunction with the campus cheerleading coaches and building principals of each campus will be responsible for facilitating the tryouts. The cheerleading coordinator, principal and/or principal designee and cheer coaches 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

- In order to be eligible to tryout the candidate must be currently enrolled in and attending a McKinney ISD school by prior to the first day of the evaluation clinic.
- Students must never have received deferred adjudication and/or conviction for a Class B misdemeanor or higher-class crime conviction.
- Students must not have been placed in DAEP during the current school year.
- Students must not have been expelled 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 evaluations. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with McKinney ISD Board Policies.
- Students must be present during final evaluation. No recorded video will be allowed for final evaluation.

- If a student quits or is removed from the MISD High School Cheerleader/Mascot 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 and campus principal.
- Students and Parent/Guardian must submit online application information and complete all required forms through RankOne including a current physical on the required MISD physical form. The required information must be completed electronically.
- 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 20-21 physical form from the cheer coach on campus after February 10. The physical must be dated after April 1, 2020 for all current cheerleaders/athletes 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 20-21 MISD light green form should be submitted to the cheer coach on campus by May 8, 2020.
 - If a 6th grader has a MISD physical dated 02/24/20 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 02/24/20 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 04/01/20 or later to be accepted for the 2020-2021 school year.

TEAM SELECTION

- All candidates will be evaluated and selected by the cheer coaches at each campus during an evaluation clinic. The coaches on campus will select and place candidates on the squad for which the coach feels the candidate is best qualified. If the athlete does not want to participate on the squad they have been placed, the athlete must resign the position. 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. 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 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. Because items are ordered immediately following the fitting, there are **NO** refunds for any reason. Coach's decisions are final. There are no appeals for any reason.

VARSITY TEAMS

- The Varsity teams are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- If a candidate does not make the Varsity team and the coaches feel the candidate is qualified for the JV team, the candidate will be placed on the JV team and will have to resign the position if the candidate does not want to participate on the JV team.
- If during the year, there is an open position on the Varsity team and the coach wants to fill the open position, the coach may move a member of the JV team into the open position. This is at the discretion of the cheer coach.

JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS

- The Junior Varsity teams are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

FRESHMAN TEAMS

- Freshman teams are open to freshmen only.

NOTE: If it is determined that there are not enough freshman candidates to field a freshman squad, the Junior Varsity team can consist of freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS

- 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.
- Mascots are considered a part of the cheer team and will therefore be subject to the same rules, regulations and consequences as cheerleaders. While may not be required to practice cheers, mascots are expected to condition with the team as well as practice material for pep rallies and games. The mascots may also be required to make special appearances at local events. 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.
- Campuses may choose to have one combined team with up to 30 participants. Campuses may also choose not to have a mascot.

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.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Candidates may be evaluated on the execution of the following skills. 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, and cheerleaders/mascots may not perform if the skills are not maintained and 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.

Cheerleader

- cheer
- fight song/dance
- tumbling
- stunts
- jumps
- spirit
- core and upper body strength
- flexibility: right and left split
- endurance: ten-minute mile run
- overall impression and improvement
- memory
- choreography
- voice projection
- work ethic
- appearance
- ability to work well with others
- ability to lead a crowd
- leadership qualities/skills
- coachable

Mascot

- enthusiasm
- creativity
- crowd appeal/ability to lead crowd
- dance
- character/antics
- appearance
- memory
- core and upper body strength
- overall impression and improvement
- choreography of panned/impromptu skit
- appropriateness of skit ideas
- use of props
- work ethic
- ability to lead a crowd
- ability to work well with others
- leadership qualities/skills
- coachable
- endurance: ten-minute mile

EVALUATIONS

- Evaluations will be closed to everyone except cheer coaches, the district cheerleading coordinator, principals, and the district's designees.
- There will be no other students or parents allowed in the evaluation area.
- It is an expectation but not a requirement that candidates attend each day of evaluations. Please note that if a candidate is not in attendance, then the candidate will be missing material and evaluation sessions. Therefore, if a candidate is not in attendance, the athlete may not be fully prepared for the final evaluation and may miss certain evaluation categories.
- If a student moves into the district after tryouts but before camp, the student may tryout for the coaches if there are positions to be filled. At the high school level, those students will be given the opportunity to be placed on the JV or Freshman team only. This is at the discretion of the cheer coach. 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, 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.

MASCOT EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

- At the high school level, a mascot should be a sophomore, junior or senior. If there are no candidates in these grade levels who audition for mascot, the cheer coach may decide to open the position to a freshman. This is at the discretion of the campus.
- May be required to participate with the cheerleaders when needed during stunts, dances, cheers, and sidelines.
- Perform a 90 second skit for evaluations.
- May be required to plan, cut music and perform an impromptu skit. The music must be provided in a format read by district owned sound equipment. Please see the coach for details on the sound system.

EVALUATION DRESS CODE

Clinic: All candidates must attend the clinic dressed in appropriate attire to cheer, stunt and tumble. No sweats, extreme loose fitting garments, dresses or pants will be allowed. Shirts should be tucked in and hair should be pulled out of the face and secured in a high ponytail. No jewelry may be worn and nails must be neutral color palette and sport length.

Final Evaluation Day: All candidates must come in dark colored shorts, a plain white t-shirt with no visible logo, white sports bra for females, white tennis shoes, and hair in a ponytail with a ribbon. 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 evaluation clinic and ineligible to try out for a position on a team.

EVALUATION RESULTS & NOTIFICATION

- Each candidate will be given instructions on how to find the results of the evaluations. No results will be distributed at the evaluation site on the final day of evaluations.

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, MISD Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines, 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, and any and all other contracts deemed appropriate by MISD throughout the school year.
- Must not be assigned ISS more than one time. Members placed in ISS will lose all extracurricular privileges for each school day of said placement. Additional consequences will be left up to the coach's discretion.
- 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 performance and must be aware they are representing the school and school district at all times.

- Maintain and consistently perform all skills demonstrated during evaluations. Failure to maintain and perform those skills as well as the minimum 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.
- Demonstrate proper behavior at all times 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.
- Athletes are expected to be groomed in a manner in which our community, schools, sponsors and coaches will be proud. Athletes will be properly and uniformly dressed and hair neatly cut/worn per Student Code of Conduct. No haircuts/hair color outside the UIL Guidelines or Student Code of Conduct. Nails must be kept neutral in color and sport length. Long hair must be secured out of the athlete's face during practices, competitions and performances.
- Absolutely no jewelry may be worn during any practice, competition or performance. This is in accordance with UIL rules.
- Tobacco use, vaping, drinking of alcoholic beverages and abusive drugs will not be tolerated at any time during the athlete's school career. Punishment will be in accordance with the MISD Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular Contract. MISD requires that all participants in cheer for grades 7-12 undergo random drug testing in accordance with the MISD Random Student Drug Testing Policy.
- All rules become enforceable the day the cheerleader is selected and remains in effect until the end of the cheerleading year.
- Practice and Game Regulations: A coach must be contacted ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing any type of practice or game will result in an appropriate type of make-up work. If a student misses one school event / game, they will be suspended the following corresponding number of events/games in middle schools. In high school, it is the head coach's discretion. No electronic devices or backpacks will be allowed during practices or games.
- Parent/Doctor's Notes: We will accept a parent's note for an athlete to sit out of practice due to an illness/injury for a maximum of three days. After three days, a note from a doctor or Athletic Trainer will be required indicating the injury and anticipated inactivity. If after the three days we do not have a doctor's note, the absences will be counted as unexcused absences and consequences will be assessed according to coach's discretion.
- School Expectations: All school practices and games will take priority over any activities or events outside of school. A student can participate on a select/club/all-star team while participating on a school team; however, missing a scheduled school event to participate in a non-school event will count as an unexcused absence.
- Travel: All athletes in Middle School and High School represent the community, school and coaches. Athletes will travel with their team unless prior arrangements have been made. High school students will also return on the bus unless prior arrangements have been made by/with the coach or there is an emergency situation. Middle school students will be dropped off and picked up by their parent/guardian at the site of the in town games.
- Students and parents should follow steps below if a concern or issue arises.
 - Step 1:** Athlete/Coach
 - Step 2:** Athlete/Parent/Coach
 - Step 3:** Athlete/Parent/Coach/Principal

Misconduct – any infraction of school rules as set forth in the MISD Student Code of Conduct, MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular. MISD Cheerleading Handbook, and/or campus handbook will result in disciplinary action and may cause removal from the squad.

- Cheer coaches have the authority to bench or remove members of the team for misconduct infractions.

Eligibility: The UIL No Pass No Play rule requires all athletes to maintain a 70 in all classes each 9 weeks in order to participate. You must be on grade level in order to participate at the beginning of the school year.

7th - 9th = Promotion

10th = 5 credits

11th = 10 credits

12th = 15 credits

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.

Failure to Meet Behavior Requirements – In addition to the general conduct rules outlined, each coach will be responsible for communicating behavioral requirements.

IMMEDIATE GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

A cheerleader/mascot **may be** automatically dismissed from the squad for the following reasons:

- Any member who is assigned Off Campus Suspension, expulsion or other administrative behavioral placements
- Any member who is placed in In-School Suspension for the second time
- Any member who acts in a manner that jeopardizes the safety of anyone including but not limited to hazing/fighting/bullying
- Any member whose behavior is deemed by the head cheer coach to be detrimental to the cheer program based on continual discipline issues
- Any member who receives deferred adjudication and/or conviction for a Class B misdemeanor or higher-class crime conviction
- Any member who fails to meet state guidelines for attendance
- Any member who moves outside the zoning of the campus for which they were selected

NOTE: Any member who quits and/or is removed from the squad during the school year for any reason will not be eligible to try out for the cheer team for the following year without coach and principal approval. Any member, who quits and/or is removed from the team, will also be removed from the cheerleading class and must return all items within five days. Consequences are determined on a case by case basis and discipline is up to coach's discretion.

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. The amount of money for camp is the responsibility of each individual cheerleader/mascot. The cheerleading coordinator will coordinate the location and date of the camp.

CLASS

Cheerleaders and mascots are required to be enrolled in the cheer class. Each campus decides whether the cheer class will be one or two semesters. Students who quit or are removed from the cheer program will be removed from the cheerleading 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).

The amount of money for uniforms, practice wear, required accessories 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. 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.

Cheerleaders/mascots should attend the fitting date. There will not be multiple fitting dates. If not in attendance at the fitting, sizes will be selected and ordered for the cheerleader by the cheer coach.

SECTION

2

MISD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING/MASCOT IMPORTANT DATES 2020 – 2021

Below is a list of mandatory events

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 21, 2020. If interested in being a 7th grade or 8th grade cheerleader, please see the cheerleading coach on campus.

Cockrill	Coach Wandersee	RM E220	miwandersee@mckinneyisd.net
	Coach Matte		mmatte@mckinneyisd.net
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 Gasaway	RM E214	sgasaway@mckinneyisd.net
	Coach Jo	RM E209	aio@mckinneyisd.net

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 2 – Friday, March 6

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS for TRYOUTS:

COCKRILL: Tuesday, January 14 at 5:30 PM in the library

DOWELL: Tuesday, January 7 at 4:00 PM in G219

EVANS: Thursday, February 20 at 5:30 PM in the library

FAUBION: Tuesday, January 7 at 5:00 PM in the cafeteria

JOHNSON: Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria

PARENT AND TEAM MANDATORY MEETING: This is a mandatory meeting. Failure to attend may result in removal from team.

COCKRILL: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 PM in the library

DOWELL: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 PM in G219

EVANS: Thursday, March 19 at 5:30 PM in the library

FAUBION: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria

JOHNSON: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria

FITTING DATE: Sunday, March 22 at Dowell Middle School

The times below are tentative and subject to change. This is a mandatory event. Athletes must attend during the scheduled team time. Coaches will send more specific time slots after posting results.

Sunday, March 22 at Dowell Middle School

Dowell- 1:00 PM

Evans- 2:00 PM

Faubion – 3:00 PM

Johnson- 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 1-3 at Dowell Middle School

SECTION

3

REQUIRED FORMS

All information must be completed and **submitted** by 3:30 pm February 21, 2020.

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 20-21 school year.
- Go to the campus link below and complete the application:
 - COCKRILL
 - <https://forms.gle/z5fV33KqrRwLQ3in6>
 - DOWELL:
 - <https://forms.gle/nUX43ZN96APq5bDAA>
 - EVANS:
 - <https://forms.gle/eLqymvTaD1ggsKDA9>
 - FAUBION
 - <https://forms.gle/8UTzfEnSP21tUcFe9>
 - JOHNSON
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeayuc6HAjM7z26LC6LjjeI3kqRb2B7jpvBB6kHE3Bmrym-UQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
- 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
- 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 20-21 physical form from the cheer coach on campus after February 10. The physical must be dated after April 1, 2020 for all current cheerleaders/athletes 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 20-21 MISD light green form should be submitted to the cheer coach on campus by May 8, 2020.
 - If a 6th grader has a MISD physical dated 02/24/20 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 02/24/20 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 04/01/20 or later to be accepted for the 2020-2021 school year.

- 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. Be sure to change to your campus colors, initials and/or mascot name.
 - Dance Front: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPrIsNQzpQQ&feature=youtu.be>
 - Dance Back: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH3cL0JFTGo&feature=youtu.be>
 - Dance Teach: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQRsb6yUUR8&feature=youtu.be>
 - Music Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pe77yds8d8f5wpm/Jambo%20Funky-%20Level%201.mp3?dl=0>
 - Cheer Front: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KoozqqBTgg&feature=youtu.be>
 - Cheer Back: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNpOEvnWHxs&feature=youtu.be>
 - Cheer Teach: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORWU1ey_yDQ&feature=youtu.be

- **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 20-21 school year. Submit a new physical dated after April 1, 2020 for those who currently have a physical on file for the 19-20 school year. Physical must be submitted to cheer coach by May 8, 2020.