

***MIDDLE SCHOOL***

***CHEERLEADER/MASCOT***

***Handbook***

***2015-2016***

**Lewisville Independent School District**

**Middle School Cheerleader Handbook**

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
   1. Middle school cheerleading will be open to all eighth grade students who wish to participate and fulfill academic requirements.
   2. After uniforms have been ordered, no sign-up will be allowed. The only exception will be move-ins.
   3. All cheerleaders will belong to the squad, which will be under the direction of a campus coach(es).

* 1. Depending upon the number of students participating, coaches may assign students to smaller squads and may alternate squads at events.

1. **GRADES**
   1. All cheerleaders will be governed by UIL and No-Pass, No-Play eligibility rules involving grades.
   2. Unacceptable behavior may result in suspension and/or removal from cheerleading. Cheerleaders will adhere to and support campus rules of conduct. Each campus will provide guidelines for expectations of cheerleaders. Campuses may develop a demerit or other system for addressing violations of campus cheer expectations.
2. **LEADERSHIP**
   1. Each cheerleader should be aware of the responsibilities required and the

commitment he or she is making to the school and the student body. This is

a responsibility and representation that should not be taken lightly.

* 1. Each cheerleader **must** be willing to cooperate with his or her coaches at all times and accept instruction and correction.

1. **TRAINING**
   1. Summer camp sessions will be offered each summer.
   2. Summer camp will be available which may extend from one to threedays of training.

A fee will be charged for each day.

1. Middle school cheerleaders will attend the camp that is offered in their high school zone.

1. Camps will be offered on the high school campus or at a centrally located middle school

campus within the high school zone.

1. Payment for summer camp will need to be collected PRIOR to the first day of training.

1. All cheerleaders will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the material

in order to perform in front of the group. **An instructional video for cheerleaders to view and practice from has been found to be useful.**

1. Cheerleaders will be expected to learn cheers, chants, arm and pom-pom movements,

dances, and related material. **CHEERLEADERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE INVOLVED IN TUMBLING, BUILDING, AND STUNTS, OR RELATED ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO BODILY INJURY.**

1. **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. GAMES:

* + 1. Cheerleaders may participate in 12-15 eighth grade in-town athletic events

with the actual number and events to be determined by the coach and

Principal.

* + 1. Post season playoff games may be attended at the discretion of the coach and Principal. The principal may suspend participation of the entire squad should negative circumstances warrant said action.

b. **Principals must budget for bus transportation.**

2. PRACTICES:

1. Practices must be held regularly as planned by the coach and must be attended by the cheerleaders unless excused by the coach.
2. Absence from the last practice preceding a pep rally, game, or performance will automatically forfeit that cheerleader’s performance. (Unless excused by the coach and proficiency in current cheers is demonstrated.)
3. CONDUCT DURING GAMES, SCHOOL FUNCTIONS OR WHILE IN UNIFORM
   1. Cheerleaders will sit together as a group. Non-squad members **MAY NOT** sit within the group.
   2. Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times.
4. EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT (ECOC)

An Extracurricular Code of Conduct has been developed and approved by the LISD School Board. The ECOC must be signed by all cheerleaders and male spirit squad members as part of the tryout paperwork. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct goes into effect from March 1 of the current year until February 28 of the upcoming year.

Any incidents that occur after school hours or on the weekend will be disciplined in accordance with the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, which will supersede the Cheerleader Handbook during these times. This does not include times that a cheerleader or male spirit squad member is participating at a school coached cheerleading event or activity, during which times, the Campus Student Code of Conduct and Cheerleader Handbook will be enforced.

1. UIL/NO-PASS ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Academic eligibility begins anew each school calendar year (August) as is the case with UIL sanctioned activities. A student whose recorded grade average in any course is lower than a 70 at the end of a UIL eligibility period shall be suspended from competition or performance. A suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student is passing all subjects taken.

This suspension shall become effective seven calendar days after the last day of the UIL eligibility period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned. Refer to board policy for list of courses that are exempt from this policy. A student who regains eligibility at the end of a UIL eligibility period shall not become eligible until the school day seven calendar days later at 4:00 pm. Cheerleaders will continue to attend classes and all practices. Any cheerleader that becomes ineligible will not be allowed to perform, travel with the squad, or wear his/her uniform for any reason for the term of ineligibility. The Head Coach will determine if the cheerleader(s) is required to attend an event without participation.This state policy regarding eligibility does not apply to social activities.

If an average of below 70 exists for UIL grading period in the same course or in different courses during the school year, the student will not be eligible to participate for that grading period. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt from the ineligibility rule. Cheerleaders may participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers for no more than two athletic contests during the school week. They may also participate in one non-school related activity such as a civic parade or non-competitive performance. (At the coach’s and principal’s discretion).

a. Practice for cheerleaders may not be conducted during tutorial times study hall time, or during homeroom time.

1. ATTENDANCE:

When a cheerleader is absent from scheduled practices or events a PARENT OR GUARDIAN must send a note explaining the absence to the coach. Failure to do so will result in consequences as outlined in the campus guidelines.

Cheerleaders should notify the coach in advance of absences from any scheduled practice or event. Failure to do so will result in consequences as outlined in the campus guidelines.

1. UNIFORMS

a. All uniforms will be chosen and approved by the principal and coaches.

b. The required uniform will be limited to a matching top with school logo, a coordinated skirt, bloomers, socks and shoes.

1. Purchase of the uniform will be handled directly by the parent or guardian

and the company supplying the uniforms.

1. Each student will pay the necessary uniform cost. (Maximum of **$250.00**)
2. Payment must be made when uniform is fitted and ordered.
3. It is the cheerleader’s responsibility to care for his/her own uniform.
4. No additions or changes to the uniform may be made without the approval

of the principal and coach.

1. PEP-RALLIES

b. Dates and times of pep rallies are at the discretion of the coach and

principal; however, it is recommended that pep rallies be held during

football/volleyball season and during basketball season.

c. Pep rallies need to recognize both boys’ and girls’ sports.

1. CHEERLEADING DISMISSAL AND/OR PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Any student that was placed in DAEP during the Seventh grade year before the selection of Cheerleaders will not be eligible for Cheerleading in the 8th Grade without the approval of the Campus Principal.

If a student is placed in DAEP during the 8th Grade year, the Campus Principal must approve the student’s readmission to the program.

DISMISSAL GUIDELINES:

Upon dismissal from the squad, there will be NO REFUND for uniform, camp, or any other related expenses.

**MASCOTS**

Mascots may be used by schools at the principal’s discretion.

* Students wearing the mascot outfit are subject to the

same rules and guidelines as cheerleaders.

* Selection of the student mascot(s) must be done in a

non-competitive manner.

* While more than one student may be a mascot, the

school will have only one mascot outfit.

* Mascot outfits may not be purchased from campus activity

general funds. A student group may hold a special fund

raising activity to pay for the outfit.

* Mascots may be used at school activities other than athletic

events at the principal’s discretion.

* Mascots will sign the Cheerleader/Mascot contract.

**LEWISVILLE ISD**

**Middle School Cheerleader/Mascot Contract**

As a Lewisville ISD Cheerleader:

1. I agree to be on time for all practices, meetings, and required

performances. I understand that when I am not on time, I will

receive demerits.

I agree to cooperate fully with my coach and accept instruction and correction.

3. I agree to encourage all squad members and to work as a team

at all times.

1. I have read the LISD Middle School Cheerleader Handbook,

and I understand and agree to these expectations.

1. I understand that, behavior unbecoming of a Lewisville ISD

cheerleader such as immoral acts, stealing, smoking, drinking

alcoholic beverages, fighting, skipping class(es), being

disrespectful, using illegal drugs, or hazing may forfeit my

position on the squad for a specified period of time.

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Cheerleader’s Signature Date

**Lewisville ISD Middle School Cheerleader**

**Parent/Guardian/Cheerleader Contract**

1. I/We allow my/our daughter to participate at all required events. (Athletic events, school functions, civic activities, etc.)

2. I/We understand that my/our daughter will be punctual to all cheerleading events, and picked up no later than ten minutes after the scheduled release time.

3. I/We understand that behavior unbecoming of a cheerleader such as immoral acts, stealing, smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, fighting, skipping class(es), being disrespectful, using illegal drugs, or hazing may forfeit my/our daughter’s position

on the squad.

4. I/We understand that my/our daughter’s grades and conduct in all classes must meet state and local requirements.

5. I/We understand that before a cheerleader is allowed to perform and/or represent her school at any given school or civic function, she must attend the required practices and be quite knowledgeable of her performance material.

1. I/We understand that in the event of an absence from practice or scheduled event, the coach will be notified.
2. I/We understand and accept that when equipment belonging to the cheerleader organization is issued to my/our daughter, we assume the responsibility for its return in useable condition.
3. I/We have read this information and the Lewisville ISD Cheerleader Guidelines, and give permission for my/our daughter to participate in this organization.
4. I/We are also aware and accept the authority of the principal, assistant principal, and the coach over this group.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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Cheerleader Signature

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