



Lewisville ISD

MIDDLE SCHOOL

***CHEERLEADER/
MASCOT***

MASCOT

CONSTITUTION

2009-2010

Lewisville ISD

***MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHEERLEADER /MASCOT CONSTITUTION***

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Lewisville Independent School District Middle School Cheerleader Constitution

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Middle school cheerleading will be open to all eighth grade students who wish to participate and fulfill academic requirements (see number 2).
2. To be eligible to sign up, the student must have passed all subjects for the last grading period prior to sign-up.
3. After uniforms have been ordered, no sign-up will be allowed. The only exception will be move-ins.
4. All cheerleaders will belong to the squad, which will be under the direction of a campus coach.
5. Depending upon the number of students participating, coaches may assign students to smaller squads and may alternate squads at events.

B. 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. A demerit system will be utilized.

C. 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.
2. Each cheerleader **must** be willing to cooperate with his or her coaches at all times.

D. TRAINING

1. Summer camp sessions will be offered each summer.
2. Summer camp will be available which may extend from one to three days of training. A fee will be charged for each day.
3. Cheerleaders are highly encouraged to attend a minimum of one session (either one or two days of training, depending upon the program offered by the assigned high school).
4. Middle school cheerleaders will attend the camp that is offered in their high school zone.
5. Camps will be offered on the high school campus or at a centrally located middle school campus within the high school zone.
6. Enrollment in summer camp(s) will occur using the form provided by the high school.
7. Payment for summer camp will be made at the camp site on the first day of training.
8. 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.**

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9. 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.**

E. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. GAMES:
 - a. 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.
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. Bus transportation will be provided for assigned games in town that are away from the home campus. **Principals must budget for this expenditure.**
2. PRACTICES:
 - a. Practices must be held regularly as planned by the coach and must be attended by the cheerleaders unless excused by the coach.
 - b. 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.)
 - c. Practice time will be used wisely – no playing around.
 - d. All cheerleaders must have and show respect for any person in charge of practice.
3. CONDUCT DURING GAMES, SCHOOL FUNCTIONS OR WHILE IN UNIFORM
 - a. Cheerleaders will sit together as a group. Non-squad members **MAY NOT** sit within the group.
 - b. All school and district rules are in effect.
 - c. Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times.
4. EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT (ECOC)
 - a. 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.

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- b. 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 Constitution 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 Code of Conduct and Cheerleader Constitution will be enforced.

5. UIL/NO-PASS ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

- a. All UIL and No-Pass, No-Play rules and regulations are applicable to students involved in cheerleading in the Lewisville ISD. If a student is failing at the end of a six weeks grading period, that student becomes ineligible for participation on the Friday following the last day of the six weeks. If the student has brought that grade up to passing at the end of the third week of the six weeks, that student becomes eligible for participation on the Friday following the end of the three week period.
- b. Students ineligible due to grades may participate in team photos, uniform fittings, and cheerleader social events...**but may not cheer at athletic events.**
- c. Students ineligible due to grades may not participate in extracurricular activities or trips. Students ineligible due to grades may participate in co-curricular activities such as field trips that are curriculum oriented.
- d. Students ineligible due to grades may not assist with any activity related to the ineligibility; i.e., assisting the coach, training, teaching cheers, pep rallies, etc., other than during the in-school day practice period.
- e. Students ineligible due to grades may attend pep rallies, but may not actually take part in leading cheers, participating in dance routines, etc.
- f. 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.)
- g. Practice for cheerleaders may not be conducted during tutorial time, study hall time, or during homeroom time.
- h. School districts shall not schedule, nor permit students to participate in any school related or sanctioned activities on or off campus that would require, permit, or allow a student to be absent from class in any course more than ten times during a school year. The student may not have all ten absences in one semester.

6. ATTENDANCE:

- a. Attendance at school the entire day of a game is required in order to cheer that night unless previous arrangements have been made with the coach. Cheerleaders must be present at school the day following a night performance unless the coach is notified by a parent or guardian before school. Failure to attend school without proper notification will result in suspension from one game or event.

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- b. When a cheerleader is absent from school, a PARENT OR GUARDIAN must send a note explaining the absence to the coach. Failure to do so will result in demerits.

7. 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.
- c. Purchase of the uniform will be handled directly by the parent or guardian and the company supplying the uniforms.
- d. Each student will pay the necessary uniform cost. (Maximum of **\$250.00**)
- e. Payment must be made when uniform is fitted and ordered.
- f. It is the cheerleader's responsibility to care for his/her own uniform.
- g. Uniforms may be worn in school on game days.
- h. No additions or changes to the uniform may be made without the approval of the principal and coach.

8. PEP RALLIES

- a. Middle schools are limited to four (4) pep rallies per year.
- 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.

CHEERLEADING STANDARDS

Following any infraction of these standards, the coach may give demerits. Five accumulated demerits will automatically suspend a cheerleader for three major events. The coach will decide on these events. While suspended, for any reason, the cheerleader will NOT wear her uniform, sit with the coach, and cheer along with fellow cheerleaders. For every demerit earned over five, the cheerleader must bring her demerits below five in order to resume cheerleader responsibilities. Ten accumulated demerits will suspend a cheerleader for six weeks. Fifteen demerits will permanently remove a cheerleader from the squad. Merits can be earned during the year to cancel out demerits.

1.	Excused absence from practice (i.e., illness, Dr.'s appt.) with proper documentation and notification	.....	0
2.	Tardy to any cheerleading activity (less than 15 min.)	.....	1
3.	Tardy to any cheerleading activity (more than 15 min.)	.....	2
4.	Unexcused absence from a scheduled event	.....	3
5.	Failure to properly notify coach of absence from school	.....	1
6.	Failure to wear proper attire for practice or game	.....	1
7.	Wearing jewelry while in uniform (watch may be worn to school)	.....	1
8.	Untidy uniform	.....	1
9.	Gum chewing while in uniform (including practice)	.....	1
10.	Unnecessary conversation with crowd, team, etc.	.....	1
11.	Uniform worn outside of cheerleading	.....	2
12.	Insufficient knowledge of cheers/chants at a game or pep rally	.....	1
13.	Arguing or uncooperative behavior with members of squad/coach	.....	2
14.	Improper display of affection while in uniform	.....	3
15.	Failure to assume a responsibility (bring a permission slips, pom-poms, signs, money, etc.)	.....	1

CHEERLEADING STANDARDS
Continued...

16.	Leaving during a game (without being excused)	.....	5
17.	Cutting classes (per class)	.....	2
18.	Failure to be picked up after 10 minutes from a scheduled event (One demerit for every 10 minutes)	.....	1
19.	Name appears on D-Hall/Night school/ or Saturday school list	.....	2
20.	Name appears on ISS list (Dismissal upon referral to ISS at principal's discretion)	.....	5
21.	Second assignment to ISS (Dismissal upon referral to ISS at principal's discretion)	.....	10
22.	Cheating or Inappropriate Behavior	.....	2

Automatic dismissal for a specified period of time as determined by the coach and/or administrator will result should the following behavior occur:

- a. Assignment to Alternative Education Placement or JJAEP
- b. Guilty of smoking on campus.
- c. Guilty of consuming or possessing alcohol or any controlled substance, or another student's prescription drug on campus.
- d. Guilty of hazing.
- e. Charged with a felony involving bodily harm.
- f. Commits another offense while on suspension.
- g. After receiving second suspension.

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

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.
2. I agree to cooperate fully with my coach.
3. I agree to encourage all squad members and to work as a team at all times.
4. I have read the LISD Middle School Cheerleader Constitution, and I understand and agree to these expectations.
5. 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.

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.
6. I/We understand that before a cheerleader is allowed to perform and or represent her school or civic function, she must attend school the day of the event. In the event of an absence, I will notify the coach before school to inform her of the absence.
7. 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.

I/We have read this information and the Lewisville ISD Cheerleader Guidelines, and give permission for my/our daughter to participate in this organization. I/We are also aware and accept the authority of the principal, assistant principal, and the coach over this group.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Cheerleader Name

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.