



**2018 – 2019 MISD  
Middle School Cheerleader &  
Mascot Guidelines**

Fine Arts Department  
McKinney Independent School District  
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# 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. 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.

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. The evaluations will be held from **Monday, March 26– Thursday, March 29.**

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

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team: may consist of up to 30 members. All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> 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 student(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 the student signed-up for the incorrect campus. No exceptions. 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 March 26, 2018.

EVALUATION CLINIC DATES: dates subject to change at each campus; see campus cheer coach  
Monday, March 26 – Wednesday, March 28  
Thursday, March 29: Final Evaluations

All students selected to the team must attend the fitting date. There will only be one fitting per campus.

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 submit birth certificate and physical by Friday, March 9 at 3:30 PM.

All participants must bring a copy of student's birth certificate, a current proof of residency, and a completed physical on the 2017-2018 MISD physical form to the first day of the evaluation clinic. All physicals **MUST** be completed on the 2017-2018 approved MISD UIL Physical Evaluation Form. Students will have to have an updated physical on the 18-19 MISD Physical Form dated after April 1, 2018 in order to use the physical for the following school year. The updated physicals must be submitted to the coach on campus by May 10, 2018.

## **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 date is TBD.

## **CLASS**

Middle school campuses may have a cheer class during the regular school day for the 2018 – 2019 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.

# SECTION

# 2

## MISD CHEERLEADING/MASCOT IMPORTANT DATES 2018 – 2019

Please read the entire application packet then both, student and a parent /guardian, must complete the online application and acceptance of the required forms. All forms must be completed by the deadline in order for the student to participate and are **due by 3:30 pm** on March 9 2018 to the coaches listed below.

### Application DEADLINE: Friday, March 9 at 3:30 PM

If interested in being a 7<sup>th</sup> grade or 8<sup>th</sup> grade cheerleader, please see the cheerleading coach on campus.

Cockrill Middle School	Michelle Wandersee	Rm# E220	<a href="mailto:miwandersee@mckinneyisd.net">miwandersee@mckinneyisd.net</a>
Dowell Middle School	Sarah Saxton	Rm# G219	<a href="mailto:ssaxton@mckinneyisd.net">ssaxton@mckinneyisd.net</a>
Evans Middle School	Lonea Gilbert	Rm# D207	<a href="mailto:lgilbert@mckinneyisd.net">lgilbert@mckinneyisd.net</a>
Faubion Middle School	Brittany Neal	Rm # E117	<a href="mailto:bneal@mckinneyisd.net">bneal@mckinneyisd.net</a>
Scott Johnson Middle School	Michelle Haberman	Rm# E100	<a href="mailto:mhaberman@mckinneyisd.net">mhaberman@mckinneyisd.net</a>

### INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

Each campus will host a parent informational meeting. Contact the cheer coach on campus for date.

**EVALUATION CLINIC DATES:** Dates may be slightly different from campus to campus. Contact the cheer coach on campus for specific dates and times.

Clinic: Monday, March 23 – Wednesday, March 28

Final Evaluation: Thursday, March 29

**FITTING DATES:** The times below are tentative and subject to change. Students are only allowed to attend the fitting for their campus.

#### Monday, April 16

Cockrill - 7:30 AM

Evans – 11:30 AM

Dowell – 2:00 PM

#### Tuesday, April 18

Faubion – 7:30 AM

Johnson – 10:30 AM

**WHAT TO WEAR TO THE FITTING:** Fittings will be during the school day. Please make sure you wear appropriate under garments. Girls: sports bra and briefs or appropriate under garments. Boys: t-shirt and shorts

### 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. NO personal checks will be accepted.

### 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:** Camp will either be the week of July 23 or July 30 depending on start date of the 18-19 school year

# SECTION

# 3

## REQUIRED FORMS

The forms within Section 3 are also included online at the link listed below. All information must be completed and **submitted** by 3:30 pm March 9, 2018.

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 18-19 school year.
- GO TO THIS LINK:  
<https://tinyurl.com/18-19MISDMiddleSchoolCheerApp>
  - Complete the online application
- FORMS to be submitted directly to cheer coach– March 9, 2018
  - Copy of Birth Certificate
  - Completed physical on 17-18 MISD Physical Form unless already on file with RankOne
  - Verify with cheer coach on campus
- Cheer and Dance links below under Middle School Cheer. It is an expectation that students know this material and are ready to perform the material on the first day of the clinic.
  - <http://departments.mckinneyisd.net/finearts/secondary-cheerleading-drill-team/>
- **IMPORTANT:** Students **MUST** bring the following items to the fitting at your campus if you are selected to the team.
  - A money order/cashier's check for \$550
  - A **completed** copy of the NCA release and waiver form for camp. Please make sure all signatures including student signature and witness signature are included. Pick this up from your coach or downloaded from the link below under middle school documents.
  - <http://departments.mckinneyisd.net/finearts/secondary-cheerleading-drill-team/>
  - A copy of your insurance card (must be the front and back of the card.) Camp insurance may be purchased for \$5. If selecting to purchase camp insurance instead of providing a copy of your insurance card, please send \$5 cash.
- Complete all forms in RankOne once they are available for the 18-19 school year. Submit a new physical dated after April 1, 2018. The coach will notify students and parents once this is available. New physical must be submitted to cheer coach by May 10, 2018.