

# **Manor Independent School District**



## **High School Cheer and Drill Team Constitution 2022-2023**

# Table of Contents

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
Participation	5
Academic	6
<b>TRYOUTS</b>	<b>6</b>
Membership Structure	7
Guidelines	8
Financial Expectations	8
Summer Camps	8
Qualifications	9
<b>DEMERITS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>THE PARENT’S ROLE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PARENT &amp; STUDENT AGREEMENT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Addendum A.</b>	
<b>Cheer Captain Tryout Requirements</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Addendum B.</b>	
<b>Drill Team Officer Tryouts</b>	<b>22</b>

## **PREAMBLE**

The Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution guidelines have been developed to outline the expectations and accompanying procedures for each Manor Independent School District high school cheerleading and drill team program. This constitution was designed and prepared as a basic operating instrument to define and explain the qualifications and responsibilities of the cheerleading and drill team programs of Manor ISD.

All extracurricular activity participants will be subject to the provisions of the Manor ISD Student Code of Conduct, Manor ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, University Interscholastic League (UIL) regulations, and the Side by Side Texas Education Agency's (TEA) guidelines for cheerleading. The TEA and the UIL does permit a school district to impose stricter standards than those in the TEA or UIL requirements, but the district shall not impose more lenient standards. Additional cheerleader and/or drill team program expectations may be published by each campus. Therefore, in case of a conflict between this handbook and a campus handbook, this handbook will prevail.

The MISD Fine Arts Department will review and evaluate campus decisions for district-wide consistency and continuity in following the intent and spirit of this constitution. The constitution guidelines and procedures are reviewed annually and revised when warranted by the Fine Arts Department. The contents of this constitution are not contractual and do not give rise to a claim of breach of contract against Manor Independent School District. Furthermore, the contents of this handbook apply to all students of the district, as the contents now appear in the constitution or as amended in the future.

*Disclaimer: Unfortunately, not all situations that arise can be anticipated or accounted for in the constitution. Should events occur that are not covered in the Manor Independent School District High School Cheer and Drill Team Constitution, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Fine Arts Director, Campus Administrators, and cheer or drill team coaches. Situations will be dealt with according to what is fair and just. Furthermore, Manor ISD reserves the right to alter the rules according to the situation, at any time.*

Manor ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disabilities in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title XI of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and Title II of the American with Disabilities Act. For information on compliance with these, contact Manor ISD Independent School District Administration.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the cheerleading and drill team is to create, promote and uphold school spirit and a positive school environment by participating at athletic events and extracurricular activities as deemed appropriate by the campus administration and coach. Participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the extracurricular program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### **I. Leadership**

- a. Cheerleaders and drill team members are expected to promote and maintain relationships with faculty, administration, student body, and work cooperatively with all school organizations and communities.

### **II. Physical functions include, but are not limited to:**

#### **Cheer:**

- a. Athletic conditioning
- b. Jumps
- c. Stunts
- d. Tumbling

#### **Drill Team:**

- e. Athletic conditioning
- f. Leaps
- g. Turns
- h. Stunts

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **I. Campus Procedures**

a. Cheer coaches and drill team directors manage daily decisions regarding the program. They may develop and enforce standards in addition to or higher than MISD expectations.

b, MISD Expectations are defined as;

1. Student Code of Conduct
2. High School Cheer and Drill Team Constitution

### 3. Campus Handbook

#### c. MISD Concussion Protocol

- i. Due to state law, any student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion must obtain physician clearance before beginning MISD Return-to-Play protocol.

#### e. Medical

- i. Coaches must be apprised of any medical condition whether temporary, permanent, or recurring.
- ii. Withholding pertinent medical information could result in the immediate dismissal from the program.

#### f. Misconduct

- i. Violations of the MISD Code of Conduct will be addressed in accordance with the campus handbook and administration.
- ii. DAEP or MAP placement results in automatic dismissal from the program.

## **Participation**

#### a. If cheerleading or drill team is offered as a class:

- i. The cheerleading or drill team activity class credit may serve as a physical education substitute for the state high school graduation plan.
- ii. The cheerleading class will consist of a selected TEKS-based curriculum from Physical Education Personal Fitness and Health-I TEKS and meet the vigorous activity requirement. Fine arts credit is not granted for cheerleading.
- iii. The drill team class will consist of a selected TEKS-based curriculum from the Dance TEKS and meet the vigorous activity requirement.
- iii. A student may be enrolled in two extracurricular classes so long as they both do not meet on the same day. (TEA Side by Side)

If a student participates in an approved substitution activity as a component of a fine arts course, the student may receive the fine arts credit and up to one physical education credit for participation in the approved activity. Please note that all substitution activities must meet the moderate to vigorous physical activity requirement. (TAC, Chapter 74, Subchapters F and G).

Can fine arts courses or activities serve as a substitute for the physical education high school graduation requirement? Yes. A student who successfully completes a state-approved, TEKS-based fine arts course, such as Dance I-IV or Band I-IV receives a fine arts credit. A

student who participates in extracurricular activities, such as drill team, marching band, or color guard, is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit.

b. Cheerleaders and drill team members must attend all scheduled practices and performances.

i. Cheerleaders and drill team members absent from practice or performance will be subject to consequences per the demerit system.

ii. Cheerleading squads or drill teams selected by Manor ISD will not be allowed to participate as a representative of the school in outside cheerleading competitions or dance competitions. If participation in competitions is school sponsored, students will represent the campus.

## Academic

a. Cheerleaders or drill team members who receive a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period or who fail to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for the allotted time set by the MISD UIL Athletic Eligibility Schedule.

b. Cheerleaders or drill team members who become ineligible will not be allowed to participate in any fashion with the team.

c. Cheerleaders or drill team members who have been ineligible for two or more six-weeks grading periods, during the current school year, will be dismissed from the team.

## TRYOUTS

The Manor ISD is responsible for all aspects of the MISD cheer and drill team tryout process. **All tryout results are declared final by the MISD coaches and judges.** These results cannot be contested.

Parents and students are able to review individual score sheets with campus administration by appointment. Other student's scores and information will not be discussed at this appointment.

Tryouts are open to students currently enrolled in the eight (8), ninth (9), tenth (10) and eleventh (11) grades.

Students are required to be in financial good standing with the school district, in which all financial obligations are taken care of prior to tryouts.

## **Membership Structure**

### **A. Cheer**

- a. Varsity will consist of maximum of twenty (25) cheerleaders. (There is no minimum requirement)
  - i. Tryouts are open to students currently enrolled in the eighth (8), ninth (9), tenth (10) and eleventh (11) grades.
- b. The mascot will consist of a maximum one (1) Mascot.
- c. Top scores will be placed on Varsity with lower scores on JV.
- d. Administration reserves the right to allow students with cognitive and/or physical disabilities to be an honorary member of the squad. These members will cheer at home games and pep rallies. These students will not compete.
- e. Parents may be asked to assist the cheer coach at games and pep rallies with students.

### **B. Drill Team**

- a. Varsity and JV dance teams do not have a minimum/maximum number of students required. Placement on each team will be based on score and break in the numbers. Example: If the maximum score is 150, dancer's scoring in the top scoring bracket will be placed on Varsity and the next scoring bracket will be placed on JV.
- b. Tryouts are open to students currently enrolled in the eighth (8), ninth (9), tenth (10) and eleventh (11) grades.
- c. Officers and social officers will be determined by the tryout process. The requirements vary from year to year. The number of officers will be determined by team size.
- d. If a cheerleader or drill team member leaves the program before August 1, the next candidate meeting the minimum score requirement for the designated team may move into the vacant position at the campus discretion. This is up to the coaches discretion.
- e. Squad and drill team membership will exist from tryout date to the last day of the following school year.
- f. In the event that a current cheer or drill team student transfers to another campus after tryouts, the student will not be eligible to cheer on the squad or on the drill team at the transfer campus. It may be possible for the student to be a cheer or drill team manager but that will be at the coach's discretion.
- g. Administration reserves the right to allow students with cognitive and/or physical disabilities to be an honorary member of the drill team. These members will cheer at home games and pep rallies. These students will not compete.
- h. Parents may be asked to assist the cheer coach at games and pep rallies with students.

## **Guidelines**

- a. Candidates must be physically present to be eligible.
- b. Candidates are prohibited from possessing any type of technology during the campus tryout hours.
- c. Tryouts are closed to the public.
- d. In the event of an emergency, staff will be responsible for communication with the parent.
- e. All scores are final. If you would like to see your score results, parents and students may request an appointment with the campus Cheer Coach within five school days of tryout results. Please call 512-278-4800 to set an appointment

## **Financial Expectations**

### **Cheer**

- a. Parents can expect to spend up to \$1,000 per cheerleader.
- b. A tentative list of uniform/accessories/camp expenses will be given prior to tryouts.
- c. Any member dismissed, removed or resigned of his/her position in the cheer program must complete all financial obligations for non-returnable/non-refundable merchandise, and turn in all school-owned uniforms.
- d. Funds will not be used to purchase gifts of any type for athletes. (UIL.480/2)
- e. A payment plan for expenses minus funds raised will be due prior to attending camp.

### **Drill Team**

- a. A tentative list of uniform requirements is outlined for each dancer at the time of Tryouts (this list is subject to change based on availability from our suppliers)
- b. All prices for uniform pieces are estimates based on expenses incurred the year before - less than \$1,000/per year
- c. Uniforms pieces should be paid for in full before summer camp
- d. Fair share payments are made to the dance team for the purpose of team operations such as: entry fees, travel expenses, choreography expenses, bus rental, hotel rental, prop making or renting, costume buying/renting, Spring Show expenses, etc.
- e. Fair Share is due with uniform expenses before summer camp.
- f. Highsteppers/Highline uniform/fair share expenses are non-refundable
- g. Funds will not be used to purchase gifts of any type for athletes. (UIL.480/2)

## **Summer Camps**



a. Summer Camps are mandatory unless the student transferred into the district at a later date.

## **Transportation**

- a. Cheerleaders and drill team members are not allowed to drive to away games or competitions. They must ride in either school transportation or authorized transportation.
- b. Cheerleaders and drill team members may ride home with parents (or other guardians) as long as the parent provides appropriate documentation 48hrs beforehand in Email form.
- c. Cheerleaders and drill team members MUST be picked up 15-30 minutes after any given practice or performance.

## **Qualifications**

- a. Mandatory Parent Meeting
  - i. Candidates and a parent/guardian must attend one MISD tryout orientation meeting.
  - ii. A sign-in sheet will be used for verification of attendance to this meeting.
  - iii. If a parent is unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances, they must name a proxy, in writing, to the Head Cheer Coach or Drill Team Coach. The parent must make arrangements to obtain all written and verbal information from the meeting.
  - iv. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility to try-out.
- b. Candidate Character Evaluation
  - i. Must have exhibited appropriate conduct in accordance with the MISD Student Code of Conduct and Cheer and Drill Team Constitution.
  - ii. Current cheerleaders or drill team members who have resigned or been removed for violation of district policies/regulations will be ineligible to try out for the following school year. This includes current eighth-grade cheerleaders.
  - iii. If a current cheerleader or drill team member fails two six-weeks and is removed from the program, they will be eligible to try out the following season but will be on academic probation if they make the team.
    - 1. Any additional failure will result in immediate removal from the team, and the cheerleader or drill team member will not be able to try out for the following season.
  - iv. Candidates must be enrolled in MISD before tryouts.
  - v. All candidates must clear all campus financial obligations.

vi. Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a. Grades
- b. Behavior
- c. Attendance
- d. Teacher Recommendations
- e. One to Two Routines
- f. Technique
- g. Tumbling (Cheer)

i. If a Teacher Recommendation is forged, all recommendation scores will be null and void. The candidate will receive an average of zero for Teacher Recommendations.

c. Required Forms:

All candidates must have all forms complete and turned into the Head Cheer or Drill Team Coach in order to participate in the tryout week activities.

Required forms include:

1. [Candidate Information w/ Emergency Contacts](#)
2. [MISD Campus Teacher Recommendation Form](#) (2)
3. [MISD Physical Form](#) (ENG) [MISD Physical Form](#) (SPANISH) (*CANNOT be on any other physical form*)

Submit via Rank One <https://manorisd.rankonesport.com/New/NewParentLogin.aspx>

4. MISD Cheer/Drill Team Constitution Signature Page
5. [Concussion Acknowledgement Form](#)
6. Copy of Report Card
7. [Waiver](#)
8. [Social Distancing Contract](#)

d. MISD Cheer and Drill Team Tryout Clinics:

- i. Occurs the week of tryouts.
- ii. All days are mandatory.
- iii. Athletic attire is required.
- iv. Closed to the public.

v. Candidates must have a current **MISD** Physical on file with the high school campus cheer or drill team program to participate.

e. Attire

- i. Candidates must provide their own solid white t-shirt and solid black shorts.

- ii. Cheer Candidates must wear white athletic or cheer shoes
- iii Drill team candidates must wear all black attire. Tight fitting top with full length leggings and tan jazz shoes.
- iv. Hair must be worn in a ponytail -- away from the face.
- v. Natural makeup and nails.
- vi. No jewelry.

f. Judges

- i. Three outside independent judges will be chosen
- ii. All scores and decisions are final
- iii. Callbacks are permissible upon judges request

**This constitution is a living document. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in this document, the coach and/or school administrator will address the incident on an individual basis. The resolution of this incident may not be addressed team wide especially when privacy issues are involved. In addition, in order to benefit the cheer program, the coach and/or administrators reserve the right to revise this handbook at any time.**

## **DEMERITS**

Demerits will be issued to cheerleaders and/or drill team members who fail to abide by the rules as specified in the MISD Cheer and Drill Team Constitution. Coaches have the sole responsibility for assigning demerits.

Each demerit given will be an extra workout circuit at the coaches discretion.

The cheerleader or drill team member will sign off on each demerit given, and it will be the cheerleader's responsibility to tell the parent and keep up with the number of demerits that she has obtained. The coaches reserve the right to issue demerits for unacceptable situations which are not outlined in the cheer constitution. Final decisions regarding demerits will be made by the coaches.

Demerits will be given as follows:

### *Academics*

- There will be mandatory tutorials for any subject the cheerleader/drill team member is struggling in, once a week.
- Unexcused/No call/No Show to tutorials

### *Absences*

- Unexcused from practice
- Unexcused from the game
- Unexcused from fundraiser
- No call/No show from practice
- No call/ No show from any game

#### Behavior and Standards of Conduct

- Disrespect to team members will not be tolerated.
- Disrespect to coaches and insubordination will not be tolerated. The coach's word is final.
- PDA while at a game, school or in uniform is unacceptable.
- Talking/Horseplay during game is not permitted.
- Eating/chewing gum/drinking/on a cell phone during a game or at practice must have the coach's consent.
- Talking/Horseplay during stunts or routines is not permitted due to the safety of team members.
- Talking/Horseplay during practice is not permitted due to the safety of team members.
- Arguing/Inciting conflict within the squad must be handled privately with the coach or director.
- Parental Involvement and communication must follow the appropriate chain of command. (See parent expectations).

#### Uniform/Appearance

- All jewelry must be removed by team members at games and practices.
- Hair is to be pulled back, away from the face at games and practices.
- Tattoos may not be visible while in uniform.
- Demerits help to reinforce the regulations set forth by Cheer and Drill/Dance Handbook as well as the Manor ISD Code of Conduct.
- You can receive demerits any time during your membership including weekends, evenings and school breaks/holidays.
- Only the director/coach can give demerits to team members.

(1) Failure to call the office, or tell your squad officer, prior to any rehearsal, performance, work session, or meeting which you will be absent from- whether we are dancing that day or not

(1) Unprepared for rehearsal (hair not out of face, wrong clothes or shoes, wearing jewelry)

(1) Failure to wear appropriate cover-ups to & from rehearsal and failure to take cover-ups off during rehearsal

(1) Failure to email director about tutoring/makeup work

- (1) Wearing incorrect practice attire (ex. wearing Monday's outfit on Tuesday).
- (1) Failure to meet responsibilities (turning in money, gift deadlines).
- (1) Creating a distraction in rehearsal (talking, off-task, cell phone rings, etc.).
- (1) Leaving rehearsal or performance without asking permission.
- (1) Being seen in an incomplete uniform BEFORE or AFTER a performance (hats and leather can be taken off once you are on the bus on the way home).
- (1) Tardy to any dance team activity/ rehearsal (it's always a good idea to be early!).
- (1) Chewing gum, eating, or drinking (other than water) at inappropriate times in rehearsal or at a performance or while wearing any dance team uniform/costume (unless permission has been given).
- (1) Not signing the book promptly for any demerit given will result in another demerit.
- (1) Tattoos visible at any point while in uniform.
- (1) Hair falling down or losing part of a uniform or costume during a performance.
- (1) Leaving behind school owned property (on the bus, at the contest site, etc.).
- (2) Arriving tardy to performance.
- (2) Not having a piece of a uniform at a performance.
- (2) Unprepared for a performance (costume, hair, make-up, nail polish, jewelry, etc.).
- (2) Taking items from the closet without permission from the director.
- (3) Failure to attend a committed function/event.
- (2-3) Profanity/disrespect/unladylike conduct (behavior that is unbecoming to a member of dance or cheer, will be decided on at the discretion of the director), INCLUDES FACEBOOK, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, ETC.
- (3) Missing a performance without prior approval.
- (4) Demerits for not following the drug, tobacco, and alcohol policy.
- (1-5) Demerits for any act committed after a director's warning.
- (3) Visible piercings at any time – including tongue, belly button, and all facial piercings (nose, eyebrow, lip, etc). Clear retainers are not okay. Ear piercings are not included– ear studs are acceptable for practice only.
- (3) Visible tattoos (including performances as well as inside & outside of school).

(1-5) Actions of disrespect towards directors/officers/teammates.

(1-5) Failure to follow school rules (ex. Going off campus for lunch as an underclassman, skipping class, in school suspension, etc.), actions of disrespect towards a teacher, school official, or other adult.

- 3 Demerits-Sidelined from a game/performance.
- 6 Demerits-Sidelined from two games/performances.
- 10 Demerits-Probation, parent conference, coach's discretion on performance.
- 15 Demerits-Dismissal from the team.

If 15 demerits have been accumulated by the cheerleader or drill team member, they will be dismissed from the team. If a cheerleader or drill team member is dismissed from the team, the student may not try out the following school year for cheerleader or drill team membership. Coaches have the right to issue demerits for situations not specified on this list.

Cheerleaders and drill team members may be dismissed from the team for situations that warrant dismissal at the discretion of the coaches and the principal. All absences and tardies will be considered unexcused until documentation is provided.

**Bullying-** If there is evidence of bullying, all types of bullying, not just physical, it is 3 demerits and you will automatically sit out a game. If it happens again with evidence then you will no longer be part of the Manor cheer squad or drill team. (Refer to Student Code of Conduct) Depending on the severity of the incident, the coach, Fine Arts Director, and/or principal may automatically dismiss the cheerleader or drill team member from the team.

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression or physical conduct against another student and the behavior: • results in harm to the student or the student's property, • places a student in fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or • is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment. Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, assault, demands for money, confinement, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, and ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

**Social Media-** Use of social media that is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, indecent, used to bully, intimidate, humiliate, make fun of another student etc will not be tolerated from team members or parents. This includes but is not limited to filming, likes, posts, use of emojis, profanity, and acronyms. Failure to comply with this policy can result in

dismissal from the team. Coaches may post positive photos or videos of team members to promote team activities and accomplishments.

**Hazing-**Hazing will not be tolerated. Strong disciplinary action will be taken. Hazing is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or academic health or safety of a student athlete. It includes physical injury, assault or battery, kidnapping or imprisonment, intentionally placing at risk of mental or emotional harm (putting “over the edge”), humiliation, the compromising of moral or religious values, forced consumption of any liquid or solid, placing an individual in physical danger (at risk) which includes abandonment, and impairment of physical liberties which include curfews or other interference with academic endeavors.

Any incident of hazing occurring on or off campus that is found will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

**Felony Crimes:** Manor ISD Cheer and Drill Teams will follow the guidelines of the Texas High School Coaches Association’s Code of Ethics when dealing with felony crimes. Article IX of the T.H.S.C.A. Code of Ethics states: It will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics to willingly allow a student team member who is charged with, and/or under indictment for, a felony crime to participate in an athletic contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused cheerleader or drill team member the time and opportunity to clear their name. The cheerleader or drill team member may be allowed to remain on their team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent their school or community while under suspension.

**Other Crimes and Suspicion of Crimes:** The Principal and/or Fine Arts Director reserves the right to suspend any cheer or drill team student, who is suspected of committing any crime, depending on the circumstances. These decisions will not conflict with any state or federal laws or the State Student Code of Conduct. (Chapter 37)

**Drugs and Alcohol:** Any cheerleader or drill team member, who smokes, drinks or uses illegal drugs on or off school property will be disciplined. The discipline will range from probation to suspension. The district will follow the Texas Education Code Chapter 37 relating to student discipline. This includes provisions that any student who while on school property or at a school-related event on or off school property possesses, uses, sells, gives, delivers or is under the influence of alcohol will be placed in MAP/DAEP for the amount of time to be determined by the principal.

Any cheer or drill team member who possesses, uses, sells, gives, delivers or is under the influence of marijuana, any controlled substance or dangerous drug as referenced to in the Education Code, will be disciplined in line with the punishment from the school/principal. A second offense will result in dismissal from the cheer or drill team program indefinitely.

If a cheer or drill team member is subsequently cleared of charges and no action (disciplinary or legal) results, the student-athlete may be reinstated immediately into the athletic program if the Manor ISD administration determines there were no violations of rules.

**Stealing:** Taking things that do not belong to you, especially from your teammates will not be tolerated. A cheerleader or drill team member caught stealing may be suspended and/or punished at the discretion of the coach, fine arts director and principal. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, a cheerleader or drill team member may be prosecuted by the law. This also involves school equipment not returned.

## **THE PARENT'S ROLE**

Being the parent of a cheer or drill team member can be a great experience. Parents' participation with their son or daughter can be and should be an enjoyable activity. Their support is very important to their students, the high school and community. To make this experience the most rewarding for all concerned, the following are some suggestions on being a supportive cheer and drill team parent:

1. Be positive - Being on a school team is quite an accomplishment. Celebrate the accomplishment of making the team, but keep it in perspective. When things are not going well for your student or for the team, is when parents need to be most positive and supportive.
2. Be supportive of the coaching staff in front of your scholar. Nothing can injure teamwork faster than students doubting the capabilities of their coaches. The coaches are trying to do their best at every moment. If you have concerns, follow the MISD Cheer and Drill Team communication process. Our staff will listen, appreciate your confidentiality and give you a timely response.
3. Any inappropriate comments or actions towards any team member, student athlete, fan, official, coach or district employee at any time which disrupts either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy can lead to disciplinary action from Manor ISD. This includes but is not limited to any



comments or actions made in person by letter, email, text on any social media outlet or to the media (newspaper, radio or TV). Your inappropriate comments or action can lead to the removal of your child from the cheer and drill team program.

**Communication, you as a parent should expect from their child's cheer or drill team coach:**

- 1) Coach's philosophy.
- 2) Expectations for the team.
- 3) Locations and times of practices and contests.
- 4) Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
- 5) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.
- 6) Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

**Communication coaches can expect from you as parents:**

- 1) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
- 2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- 3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance As your child becomes involved in extracurricular activities, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

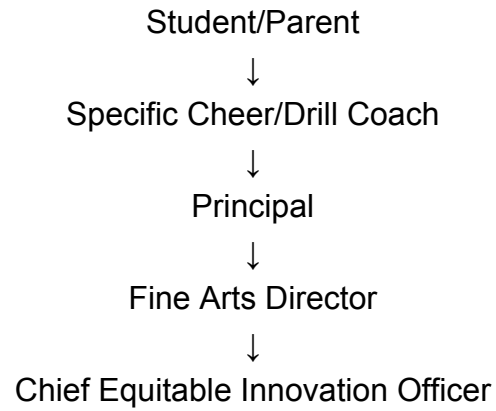
**Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:**

- 1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- 2) What your child needs to do to improve.
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior. It is very difficult to accept that your child is not cheering or dancing as much as you may hope. Coaches' make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating.

As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

## Cheer and Drill Team Communication Process



If the proper chain of command is not followed, cheerleaders, drill team members and/or parents will be referred back to the appropriate individual in the chain. Please allow at least 24 hours for MISD staff to return any messages or email.

## PARENT & STUDENT AGREEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I have read the Demerits and Standards of Conduct and understand the contents. I agree to comply with the regulations set forth in the Cheer and Drill Team Constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I have read and fully understood the requirements of being a member of the Cheerleading Squad or Drill Team and hereby give permission for my son/daughter to try out. I understand that both the cheer and drill team is physically demanding and has the potential for injury.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I commit to all financial agreements and will be fully paid prior to attending camp.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I also understand that my child will need to have a current physical on file with the campus in order to try out.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I agree to support the cheer and drill team organizations and will follow the chain of communication if raising a concern or issue.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial) I understand my student must follow MISD COVID-19 protocols and a waiver must be signed and on file prior to tryouts.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Initial-Cheer Only) I further understand that my child is not to practice any stunts without the cheerleader coach in attendance. Stunts will only be practiced during the official tryout clinic periods.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Addendum A. Cheer Captain Tryout Requirements**

### **CAPTAIN**

(Due to COVID restrictions and personal changes of the 21-22 school year captain tryouts have been modified due to time constraints . The Following requirements and qualifications may or may not apply .(\*REQUIRED )

#### Qualifications

\*A. Cheerleaders must be an 11th or 12th grader.(APPLIES ONLY TO VARSITY TEAM)

\*B. Cheerleaders must be in good academic standing.

\*C. Cheerleaders will need to have good communication skills, be approachable, responsible and delegate without being bossy.

#### Tryout

a. Cheerleaders will run a practice

\*B. Cheerleaders will have 2 recommendations from teachers on their capabilities to lead.

C. The team will be able to vote and voice opinions.

\*D. The FINAL decision is up to the head coach.

\*E. There will be one captain and co-captain for each team .

\*F. All decisions are final.

#### Duties

\*A. Communicate when practice and other events occur.

\*B. Start Practices

\*C. Organize sign making

\*D. Call cheers

\*E. Create cadences/dances for pep rally

\*F. Help organize pep rally

\*G. Organize gift for opposing team

\*H. Be able to do roll call and/or count when cheer disperses

#### Dismissal

- a. A captain/co-captain can be dismissed from their duty if:
  - i. They fail one or more six weeks.

- ii. Aren't completing any of their duties as assigned
  - 1. After multiple warnings a cheerleader can be put on probation, at which parents will be notified.
  - 2. If the captain/co-captain does not improve they will be dismissed and the runner up will be able to step up.

## **Addendum B.**

### **Drill Team Officer Tryouts**

#### **OFFICER CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS**

- Must be at least a one-year member of Highsteppers/Highline.
- Cannot be placed on probation (academic or disciplinary) at any point during the audition year.
- Must complete all officer tryout requirements: dances, notebook, interviews, teacher recommendation forms from all teachers, director interview and judges' tryout as detailed in the Officer Tryout Packet
- Must be able to attend ALL officer and team summer dance camps to be eligible for auditions.

#### **AUDITION PROCESS**

- There are various audition requirements and all interested candidates will receive a more informative packet in February.
- The selection process entails combining the votes of the team (10%), judges (40%), director(s) (40%), and teachers' evaluations (10%) and finding the candidates that fall above the natural break in scores.
- The number of officers selected varies from year to year depending on team size. The break in score will determine the officers. Positions will be determined by the director based on their audition, their desired position, and their performance as a line member/officer for the year.

#### **OFFICER REQUIREMENTS**

- Must attend officer camp and all other camps attended by the team
- Compete in three officer routines for competition
- Must be 10 minutes early to all dance functions
- Responsible for setting up/putting away sound equipment and having music ready for all routines (daily)
- Stay after rehearsal until dismissed by the director
- Responsible for daily warm-ups, teaching, choreography, polishing, and leading practice in the absence of the director
- Responsible for general team productivity (making sure the team is on task when they are supposed to be)
- Other duties as assigned

Although officer tryouts do not occur until March, the "audition" process is a yearlong endeavor. If you are considering trying out for officer you are advised to take as many studio classes as possible outside of the dance team to hone your technique, style, and confidence as a

performer. In addition, a strong work ethic, respectable reputation, and motivating presence in practice will be noted by your teammates as well as your general dependability, responsibility, and maturity. While it is important to think ahead about your leadership desires, it is imperative to refrain from talking or gossiping about who you think next year's officers could be/will be