

Schrade
Middle
School

2022-2023

Cheer
Tryouts

March 1, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Cheerleader Candidates,

Your child has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Schrade Middle School 7th or 8th grade cheerleading squad for the 2022-2023 school year. If selected, there are certain personal and financial responsibilities and obligations, which you and your child must assume in order to qualify and remain a member in good standing. This packet contains all of the information that you will need to know before making the decision on whether or not to allow your child to try out. We hope that you, as a parent of a prospective cheerleader, are aware of the time and energy it takes to be an effective student leader here at Schrade.

Because we believe our school and students are, “Better than the Best!” we expect the cheerleaders to set good examples of student conduct at all times. We have set forth guidelines that will make our cheerleaders role models at our school. We want our cheerleaders to be exemplary citizens exhibiting high moral and academic standards.

It is our intention that after reading through this packet with your child, you will discuss the expectations and obligations of being a Schrade Middle School cheerleader. Cheerleading fosters friendships, builds strong communication skills, and develops leadership skills that will prove to be beneficial later in life.

Please read this packet carefully and be sure you fully understand each guideline and procedure before signing. The last pages of this packet are forms that must be signed and returned by **Monday, April 18th, 2022 by 4:30pm**. Both Prospective 7th grade & 8th grade candidates will turn in all completed forms to Ms. Elkins in room 610. No late applications will be accepted.

We wish all candidates the best of luck!

Tobi Schmidt
Principal, Schrade Middle School

Tryout information packets for each middle and high school in the Garland Independent School District, as well as the middle school cheerleader handbook, are available on the district website: Please use the following the link to access the GISD Fine Arts Handbook <https://garlandisd.net/media/15517/download?inline>

Schrade Middle School Cheerleader Expectations

Expectations for cheerleaders and other student leaders at Schrade Middle School are extremely high. Please make sure you have read this packet carefully, as it describes the schedule requirements and rules for elected cheerleaders. If you cannot abide by the schedule requirements and/or rules, please reconsider trying out.

Grades: Cheerleaders must maintain passing grades or risk extended probation/termination.

Time: If selected, plan to spend an average of three hours per week practicing cheers, chants and stunts for cheerleading performances, as well as two to three hours per week for games. Football and basketball schedules will be published at the beginning of the school year.

Transportation: Each parent/guardian must arrange for his/her own child's ride to and from games, practices and cheerleader functions. You will be given a calendar for all cheerleader functions. Therefore, parents are responsible for their child's timely arrival to events and prompt pick-up after events.

Attendance: All games, practices and cheerleader functions are mandatory. All-Star practices and doctor's appointments are not excused. Any time missed for all-star practices, will result in benching for the same amount of time.

Rules: Keep in mind that being a cheerleader is a privilege to which one is selected. The strictest consideration for, and adherence to all rules is mandatory. (A copy of the updated District cheerleading handbook will be handed out at the mandatory parent meeting on March 22nd)

Cheerleader Costs and Camp Information

(More details will be shared at the mandatory parent informational meeting in May)

In the event you are chosen as a 2022-2023 Schrade Cheerleader, you need to be aware of the associated costs.

Cheerleading Uniform –provided by school district (must be returned by end of 2022-2023 cheer season).

To consist of the following:

1 shell with letters 1 skirt

Camp/Game day/Practice clothes \$250

To consist of the following:

2 or 3 shorts

2 shirts

Briefs

Warm-up jacket w/letters

Warm-up pant

Shoes

1 Game day shirt

Additional Misc. Expenses

Camp gifts/Camp lunch

Mums

Poms/ Water bottles/ Hair bows

Secret Santa

End of Year banquet

Big Sis/ Lil Sis gift

Camp – Estimated cost of \$150- Location TBD

This is where squad members learn material and safety information they will use throughout the year. If your child must miss camp, they will be benched for three football games. If you have any questions or conflicts, please contact us as soon as possible.

Signs – \$30.00-\$40.00

Each squad member will paint and decorate a specific number of signs. 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders will each paint 4 signs. The sponsor will provide paper for each cheerleader. Each cheerleader will provide his/her own paint, paintbrushes, and supplies.



Schrade Middle School Important Dates

Tuesday, March 22nd

Parent and Candidate meeting

6:00pm – 7:30pm, Schrade Cafeteria

A parent/guardian must attend the parent meeting.

Applications will be taken at the meeting.

Thursday, March 24th April 5th & 11th

Open Gym 4:30pm-5:30pm

(Potential candidates **MUST** attend 2 out of 3 Open Gym dates prior to tryouts & tryout clinic in order to be considered for the upcoming 2022-2023 cheer season.

Monday, April 18th

ALL Paperwork Due

All tryout paperwork must be handed in by 4:30p.m. SHARP!!!!

Tryout Clinic- CLOSED SESSION

4:30 pm – 6:30pm, Schrade Gym

Bring a light snack, **no food deliveries will be accepted.**

Tuesday, April 19th

Tryout Practice - CLOSED SESSION

4:30pm – 8:00pm, Schrade Gym

Bring a sack dinner, no food deliveries will be accepted.

Thursday, April 21st

Tryout Practice - CLOSED SESSION

4:30pm - 6:30pm, Schrade Gym

Bring a sack dinner, no food deliveries will be accepted.

Friday, April 22nd

MOCK Tryouts Schrade MS- 5:00pm-8:00pm – CLOSED SESSION

8th grade Warm-up at 5:00pm – 5:30pm

Tryouts at 5:30pm

7th Grade Warm-up at 6:00 pm – 6:30pm

Tryouts after 8th grade, around 6:30pm

Parents **ARE NOT** allowed in the building on this day, for any reason.

Saturday, April 23rd

Cheer Tryouts

Memorial Pathway Academy

2825 S. First Street

Garland, TX, 75041

Please arrive at 8:10am

Parents **ARE NOT** allowed in the building on this day, for any reason.

Tuesday, May 3rd

Uniform Fittings and Parent/Cheerleader Meeting (Cheer payment due – total amount must be paid)

At least one parent and the cheerleader **MUST** attend.

Please be ready to pay the full balance for cheerleading. More information about forms of payment will go out the week after tryouts. If payment is not made, uniform, etc. will not be ordered.

May 3rd, 17th, 19th, 24th & 26th

Tentative Practices – CLOSED

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm, Schrade Gym

Cheer Camp Summer 2022

TBA

GISD Cheer Classic FEB 3rd 2023

(Future competition date)

ALL POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AT LEAST TWO OUT OF THE THREE OPEN GYM SESSIONS THAT ARE OFFERED. FAILURE TO DO SO FORFEITS HIS/HER RIGHT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A POSITION ON THE SQUAD. NEW ENROLLEES AND TRANSFERS WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN REGARDS TO THE PARENT MEETING AND OPEN GYMS.

OPEN GYMS AND TRYOUT WEEK ACTIVITIES ARE FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ONLY!!! AT NO TIME ARE PARENTS, FRIENDS, AND SIBLINGS ALLOWED IN THESE SESSIONS

CLINIC INFORMATION

CLINIC IS ONLY OPEN TO ALL CHEER CANDIDATES. NO VIDEO TAPING WILL BE ALLOWED ON CAMPUS. A CANVAS CLASS CODE WITH ALL MATERIAL LOADED WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH CANDIDATE ATTENDING THE CLINIC.

What: Clinic - Tryout material will be taught

When: April 18th April 19th & April 21st

Where: Schrade Gym

Time: 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm April 18th & 21st 4:30pm-8:00pm-April 19th

All Paperwork must be turned in to attend!

Attire:

- ✓ Solid, white t-shirt with no visible logos.
- ✓ Solid, **royal blue** shorts with no visible logos.
- ✓ Solid, white socks, and solid, white athletic shoes
- ✓ Hair should be pulled back in ponytail with NO bangs, ribbons or bows. (If hair is too short to make a ponytail, then hair should be pulled back so it does not hang in the candidate's eyes.)
- ✓ NO jewelry of any kind.
- ✓ Clear nail polish only.

Candidates will want to bring a water/sports drink (**NO SODA**) and a sack dinner with them.

NO FOOD DELIVERIES will be accepted.

Tryout

100% of possible points

ANY STUDENT WISHING TO TRYOUT IS WELCOME, WITH NO REGARD TO THEIR ELIGIBILITY.

What: Tryouts

When: Saturday, April 23rd, 2022

Warm-Up Time: 8:45am-9:15am

Tryout Time: 9:15am-10:30am

Where: Memorial Pathway Academy

2825 S. First Street

Garland, TX, 75041

Attire: Same as Clinic

A tryout number will be issued to each candidate by the sponsor at the try-out site.

DO NOT SWITCH TRYOUT NUMBERS.

7th & 8th grade must check-in with Ms. Elkins to receive tryout # no later than 8:15am

Cheer tryouts are closed. Parents are not allowed in the building for ANY reason. Students will arrive at tryout location at designated time and location. As soon as tryouts are concluded, the candidates will leave the building immediately and be picked up in the front parking lot of Memorial Pathway Academy.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADER TRYOUT **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

All candidates should walk in and perform all material for the judges as a group. This is only for the judges to see what the material should look like. **Candidates will not be judged at this time.** Full-out jumps and tumbling are not necessary but certainly welcome during this demonstration.

All categories should be performed in sequence.

FULL GROUP PERFORMANCE:

All candidates will walk in and perform the chant, dance and cheer as a group, in that order. This is only so that the judges can see what the material should look like. No scores will be entered at this time. Full out jumps and tumbling is not necessary, but is welcome during this demonstration. Judges should put their pencils down during this time.

GROUP CHANT:

Groups should consist of 2 or 3 candidates. They should enter the gym so that they end up standing in numeric order from left to right. (From the judge's viewpoint) There should be no tumbling or spirit during this time, only uniform walking. Once the nod has been given, the designated candidate should call for the group cheer to begin. Upon completion, the candidates should wait for the judges to finish scoring.

GROUP DANCE:

Once the nod has been given, the designated candidate should call for the dance to begin, or the school representative should start the music for the dance. Once this has been completed, the candidates should remain in their spots until they are told to leave. This will enable the judges to correspond the scores with the candidate numbers. The group categories mentioned above should be repeated until all groups have been performed.

INDIVIDUAL ENTRANCE:

Candidate number #1 should enter the gym and wait for notification from the judges that they are ready. After the judges have nodded, the candidate should run in showing and soliciting spirit and enthusiasm doing whatever tumbling pass they wish if they are able. Once they are done with their entrance, they should stop in the center of the gym and wait for notification that the judges are ready for the next step. At this point, the judges will score the tumbling, spirit/enthusiasm, and the candidate's presence/poise. Presence/poise will include appearance with regard to the hair being out of the face, shirts tucked in if possible, shorts not being too short, proper shoes, facial expressions, etc.

INDIVIDUAL JUMPS:

Once the nod has been given, the candidate should do whatever jump they wish to do first and then wait for a nod before doing their second jump and then their third jumps giving judges time to score each jump.

Each middle school candidate must perform a toe touch, left OR right hurdler, and a jump of their choice. The jump of their choice can include, but is not limited to, a jump that they have already performed. Tumbling stunts will not count as jumps.

INDIVIDUAL CHEER:

Once the jumps have been completed and the nod has been given, the candidate should begin their cheer. The cheer will have a section(s) incorporating a jump(s) and/or tumbling. Candidates will be scored based on difficulty and execution as well. Candidates will also be judged on their smile, motion technique and voice projection during this time. Once the candidate has completed their cheer, they should exit the gym. No score will be given for an exit tumbling pass or spirit. As candidate #1 is walking out, candidate #2 should walk in and wait for the judge's nod. These steps should be repeated until all candidates have performed all categories mentioned to this point.

Selection of Cheerleaders

The judges' panel vote, worth 100%, will select the cheerleaders.

There will be three judges present for scoring.

All cheer candidates scores will be averaged together to get an average of judges scores.

7th grade candidates must earn a minimum score of 40 or higher to be placed on a squad.

8th grade candidates must earn a minimum score of 40 or higher to be placed on a squad.

There will be an administrator present in each gymnasium during tryouts.

After each candidate's individual tryout. The results of tryouts will be available on the SMS Cheer Canvas page provided Sunday evening.

ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL!!!

Judging Criteria

ENTRANCE

Presence/Poise	5 points
Tumbling During Run-In	10 points
Spirit/Enthusiasm	5 points

JUMPS

Toe Touch	10 points
Hurdler (Right/Left)	5 points
Optional Jump	5 points

CHEER

Motion Technique	10 points
Voice /Projection	5 points
Incorporation	5 points(max)
Optional Jump	1 points
Toe Touch	2 points
DBL Toe	3 points
BHS	4 points
Toe BHS or better	5 points
Memory	5 points

CHANT

Motion Technique	10 points
Timing	5 points
Projection	5 points

DANCE

Motion Technique	10 points
Timing	5 points

Disclaimer: A panel of three professional judges will be hired by the Director of Fine Arts to score the candidates. These scores are FINAL and cannot be changed by any district employee.

The top 10 scorers per grade level who are able to score 40 points or higher will be named as the 2022-2023 7th and 8th Grade SMS Cheerleaders!!!

Judges:

Every attempt is made to hire judges that have not worked with students in the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the state of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out.

Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills they see during the tryouts. Tryout results will not be challenged because of prior knowledge of judges and candidates.

Judges' Scoring:

Scores and final results tabulated by a district-wide, computer-generated program will be non-debatable as every attempt of fairness has been attempted by having an administrator present at each phase of the tryout process.

Insurance:

As a cheerleader, your child is covered by the school insurance, providing that the proper GISD channels are followed. However, you are encouraged to have your own insurance or to take the additional school insurance.

Parent Meeting:

Unless prior arrangements have been made with a sponsor, all candidates and parents are to attend the meeting on March 22nd. Failure to attend this meeting or schedule another one before school at the sponsors' convenience will affect a potential candidate's ability to try out.

Candidate Eligibility:

Even if a candidate cannot attend the Cheer Clinic, they can however participate in the Panel of Judges portion of the tryout process.

Day of Tryout Procedures:



Morning

All candidates should be dressed in the specified attire and report to Memorial Pathway Academy by 8:15 A.M. (If a candidate shows up after tryouts have already begun at 8:45, he/she will not be allowed to try out.)

Notification

Once all candidates have had the opportunity to try out, everyone will be dismissed and can find the final results posted in Canvas later that afternoon.

Parent/Sponsor Communication

If your son/daughter is selected as a 2022-2023 SMS cheerleader, you will need to download the GroupMe app if you do not already have it. This is how all information will be communicated from the sponsors throughout the year.

Additional Information

All candidates who make the squad will be required to have a physical AFTER April 1st and must submit a copy of the results to the appropriate coach no later than Tuesday, May 3rd prior to the start of practice.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Michaela Elkins – (meelkins@garlandisd.net)
Lindsay Blackman- (LBlackman@garlandisd.net)

Cheerleader Tryout Application

Due Date: All paperwork is due no later than Monday, April 18, 2022 by 4:30 pm. Both 7th grade & 8th grade cheer candidates will turn everything in to Ms. Elkins in room 610. No late applications can be accepted under any circumstances. Front office staff will not accept any applications.

Please Print

Candidate's name: _____ ID #: _____

Grade level trying out for (circle one): 7th 8th

Home address:

Home Phone: _____ Candidate's Cell Phone:

Mother's Name: _____ Resides w/: Y N

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone:

E-mail address:

Father's Name: _____ Resides w/: Y N

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone:

E-mail address: _____

As a candidate for Schrade Middle School cheerleader, I have read and understand the tryout regulations, as well as the expectations for a selected cheerleader, and I will abide by them. I also understand that a violation of any of these regulations will disqualify me from the tryout process.

Candidate's Signature:

Date: ____/____/____

Candidate

I am interested in being a cheerleader at Schrade Middle School. I understand the risks inherent to this sport. If selected, I promise to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsor and principal of Schrade Middle School. I promise to cooperate and follow the instructions of the cheerleading sponsor at all times.

I understand that cheerleaders and spirit groups exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit, and cooperation both within the schools and among schools. Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in helping the school to achieve the worthwhile objectives of the school's activities.

Further, I understand that I am to behave in a manner that is becoming to me as an individual, as well as to the organization I represent. I am aware that in or out of uniform, I am a representative of the cheerleading squad of Schrade Middle School, and I agree to act accordingly.

I will:

- Be a leader and set an example for those around me.
- Promote school spirit even if those around me do not.
- Follow a workout program designed for the development of strength in order to: prevent injury, increase strength and coordination, endurance, flexibility and confidence.
- Keep track of my academic progress (know when I need to get help or attend tutorials). I know that if I am not passing my classes, I am placing an undue burden on the rest of my squad.
- Abide by all cheerleading rules and regulations as put forth by the GISD Fine Arts cheerleader handbook/coaches. I know that when my actions result in being benched it prevents the other members of my squad from performing to their full potential as well.
- Attend and be on time to all practices/ games/and functions (this includes Saturday practice, pictures, fundraising events, etc.).
- Respect all squad members at all times.
- Give respect to ALL adults (including but not limited to coaches, teachers, staff, parents, etc.) at all times.

Candidate's signature

Date ____/____/____

All paperwork is due no later than Monday, April 18th, 2022, by 4:30 pm. No late applications will be accepted.

Cheerleader Release Form
Parent

My child, _____ has my permission to be a cheerleader at Schrade Middle School.

(Please initial in spaces provided)

_____ I have read the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsor and principal of Schrade Middle School as well as the Garland Independent School District. I understand that he/she must abide by the rules and regulations, and a violation of any of these rules may lead to a temporary or permanent suspension from the squad.

_____ I understand that my child is expected to be present for all practices and games. It is my responsibility to have my child at all functions on time!

_____ I understand that qualified judges will evaluate my child, and we agree to abide by the decision of the judges.

_____ I understand that if I have any concerns about the decisions made by the sponsor, I will contact that sponsor first.

Only after contacting the sponsor, may I contact the Assistant Principal in charge of cheerleading.

_____ I understand the costs involved as stated in the rules.

_____ I understand that by the very nature of the activity, cheerleading and gymnastics carry a risk of injury. Cheerleading activities require learned skills and behaviors. These will be taught, practiced, and documented as each participant achieves mastery prior to the performance of each skill. It should be made clear that even though mastery of objectives and skills has been reached, and safety precautions enforced, accidents may still occur. No matter how careful the participants and coach are, how many spotters are used, or what landing surface is used, the risk cannot be eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as muscle pulls, dislocation and broken bones. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death from landing or falls on the back, neck, or head. I understand these risks and do hereby release Garland Independent School District and its employees from any liability due to accident, injury or illness should it occur.

_____ As a cheerleader, I understand my child is covered at school-sponsored events by the school insurance, providing that the proper GISD channels are followed. However, the sponsor and principals have encouraged me to have my own insurance or take the additional school insurance.

_____ Upon making cheerleader, my child must acquire a medical/physical examination by a doctor dated after April 1, 2022.

_____ I also confirm that my child has chosen Schrade Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year on their choice of school form.

Cheerleader Release Form (cont.)

Parent

As a parent of a candidate for cheerleader, I have read and understand the expectations and regulations for cheerleaders. I also understand that a violation of the tryout process or failure to abide by the regulations will disqualify my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____



Commitment Agreement

I, the undersigned, have read the Schrade Middle School Cheerleading Application Packet and understand the contents within. I also acknowledge that:

All Cheerleaders must:

- abide by the GISD Fine Arts Handbook as well as the SMS Cheerleading Rules and Guidelines. If not, disciplinary actions will be taken as stated
- display a positive attitude and respect for both peers and adults
- abstain from making inappropriate posts on social media
- work hard in practice as well as in the classroom
- attend scheduled cheerleading events including fundraisers

All Parents must:

- provide transportation to and from games
- assist in activities as needed
- contact the sponsor(s) well in advance of any absences or medical injuries/illnesses
- acknowledge & adhere to receipt of messages posted or sent by the cheer sponsor(s)
- read the GISD Fine Arts Demerit Guide as well as the SMS Cheerleading Code of Conduct
- ensure that the GISD-issued uniform is returned at the end of the season by the date specified by the sponsor; if lost or brought back in an unsatisfactory condition, a fee will be due that day to purchase a replacement.

As a parent, I have read through the demerit systems understand exactly what can and will happen to my son/daughter should he/she deviate from the specified guidelines. I also pledge to do all that I can to help him/her be his/her best and to show respect for rules and regulations set by GISD Fine Arts and Schrade Middle School . At times this may require me to take responsibility for my child by calling the sponsor or by providing documentation, but this is my duty and my part in ensuring equality and fairness within the squad.

Student Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Paperwork Checklist

Candidate's Name: _____ Trying out for (please circle one):
7th 8th

Here is a list of items that must be turned in for every candidate. Turning your packet in at the parent meeting will be greatly appreciated.

_____ Application

_____ Candidate Form

_____ Parent Release Form

_____ Commitment Agreement (Parent & Student)

_____ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation/Medical History

1. This form can also be found on the GISD website: www.garlandisd.net. Click Programs tab, select the athletics & spirit group link, then select medical forms required for all campuses in the middle of the page.
2. If you answer **YES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS 1,2,3,4,5 OR 6** (1,2,5,7,11 or 17 in Spanish version), your candidate is required to have a physical examination, no more than 12 months old, **performed by a physician.**
3. If you answer **NO TO ALL OF THE QUESTIONS 1,2,3,4,5 OR 6** (1,2,5,7,11 or 17 in Spanish version), you only need to turn in the first page and it **can be filled out by a parent.**

Person Accepting Paperwork

_____/_____/_____
Date