

BRANDENBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL



**CHEERLEADER
TRYOUTS
2024-2025**

Paperwork Checklist

Here is a list of the paperwork items that must be turned in for each candidate BEFORE 4 pm on April 2, 2024.

Tryout Application

Parent Media Release Form

Parent Agreement

Candidate Agreement

Handbook Signature Page

Pre-participation Physical Evaluation

Concussion Acknowledgement

Coaches will get the following for you:

Discipline Record (printed from Front Office)

Dear Parents and Guardians of Cheerleader Candidates,

Your child has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Brandenburg Middle School 7th or 8th grade cheerleading squad for the 2024-2025 school year. If selected, there will be certain personal and financial responsibilities and obligations, which your child must assume in order to qualify and remain a member in good standing.

Participation in the GISD cheerleading program carries both a significant time and financial commitment. Each cheerleader is expected to meet all financial responsibilities identified by their specific campus. 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 for cheerleader. We hope that you, as a parent/guardian of a prospective cheerleader, are aware of the time and energy it takes to be an effective student leader here at Brandenburg. It is our intention that after reading through this packet with your child, you will discuss the expectations and obligations of being a CCBMS cheerleader with your child.

Being a cheerleader makes your child a leader in our school. We believe our school and our students are “Better than the Best!” and we expect the cheerleaders to set good examples of student conduct at all times. We want our cheerleaders to be exemplary citizens exhibiting high moral and academic standards. We have set forth guidelines that will make our cheerleaders role models in our building. Our organization helps students form friendships, improve communication skills, and develop leadership skills that will prove to be beneficial later in life.

A parent and candidate informational meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 7th at 5:45 pm in the CCBMS cafeteria** to go over the tryout process and discuss any questions you may have.

We wish all candidates the best of luck. Please read this packet carefully and be sure you fully understand each rule and procedure **BEFORE** signing.

The last pages of this packet must be signed and returned:

BEFORE 4:00 pm on Monday, April 2nd - to your grade level sponsor

You cannot participate in the clinic without all forms submitted.

Cassidy Pinkston
cpinkston@garlandisd.net
8th grade Sponsor

Taylor Hernandez
thernandez@garlandisd.net
7th grade Sponsor

Randy King
raking@garlandisd.net
Principal

Cheerleader Expectations

-Please make sure you have read this packet AND the GISD handbook VERY carefully, as it describes the schedule requirements and rules for elected cheerleaders.

-Pay attention to any updates you receive as they will override this packet.

-If you cannot abide by the schedule, time commitment, requirements, and rules, please reconsider trying out for cheer.

-Demerits for failure to follow policies are streamlined for all middle and high school squads in GISD, and are outlined in the GISD Cheer Handbook.

[GISD Handbook 24-25](#)

Time Commitment:

If elected, plan to spend two hours per week for cheer practice.

We will cheer at one football and basketball game per week from September- February.

Garland ISD has a middle school cheer competition in the second semester as well.

Games require an average of three hours per week **in addition** to the abovementioned practice time.

Last cheer season required Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays throughout the year with an occasional Wednesday practice due to Monday holidays.

Pep Rallies are typically on Fridays during the school day

****All of the above is subject to change with health protocols****

*This team requires a commitment in order for us to be successful and to complete our stunts **safely**.*

If you cannot be present for all cheer events, please reconsider trying out for cheerleader.

Quitting the team after tryouts affects the entire group and is not fair to the other candidates who could have had a spot on the team.

If your student shares visitation with another parent, please confirm that the other household is also willing to abide by the time commitments and rules before try-outs.

Transportation:

Each parent/guardian must arrange for his/her own child's ride to and from games, practices and cheerleading functions.

Buses will be provided **TO** games. Repeated failure to arrive at events or be picked up from events on time can result in removal from the squad.

Please make sure you are able to make the time commitment necessary to get your cheerleader to and from events on time.

Financial Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each cheerleader to meet all financial obligations.

Every effort is made to make all expenses minimal.

Failure to meet the stated financial obligations will result in a principal review which may lead to removal from the squad. In addition, previous failure to meet financial obligations will result in not being able to try out for the squad.

Estimated Costs for CCBMS Cheer 2024-25

The estimated cost of cheerleading for the 2024-2025 school year is **approximately \$300-\$350** for the season.

The stated cost includes all fees for uniform accessories, camp clothes, and buses.

Uniform Fitting

The cheerleader **must** be present for the uniform fitting. Parents/guardians must attend.

The total balance for uniform accessories, camp wear, and extras (last year it was **about \$350**) is due at the end of April.

Payments must be made by credit card or money order made out to TeamLeader..

A payment link will be provided after the fitting.

The district is providing the shell (top) and skirt for all middle schools this year. These will be returned at the end of the year. If any portion of the uniform is lost or damaged, you will be responsible for paying the district to have it replaced.

A \$65 deposit for bows, buses, girls cheer shirts will be due by April 11, 2024 , (at the parent meeting) IF YOU MAKE THE SQUAD.

***ALL DEPOSITS MUST BE MADE IN CASH. Parents will be able to purchase a shirt if they would like, but that will be extra money NOT included in your deposit, that only covers your cheerleaders shirt.**

Items that are not part of the above mentioned costs:

- White cotton socks
- Red, gray or white color SPORTS bra
- Black leggings (for cold games)
- Game day dinners (optional) - we usually use Jason's Deli

Important Dates

Thursday, March 7	5:45 pm	Parent Informational Meeting	Cafeteria
BEFORE April 2 at	4:00 pm	Paperwork due	Hernandez or Pinkston

Week of April 2nd - 6th will be cheer tryouts. Those times are below.

Tuesday, April 2	4:15-6:00 pm	Cheer Clinic	Gym
Wednesday, April 3	4:15-6:00 pm	Cheer Clinic	Gym
Thursday, April 4	4:15-7:00 pm	MOCK TRYOUTS	Gym
Saturday, April 1	9:00-12:00 pm	TRYOUTS!!!	Garland High School

The below practice and meeting dates are for those who make the squad and are subject to change.

Thursday, April 11	4:30 pm	Uniform Fitting	Dance Room
Thursday, April 11	5:30 pm	MANDATORY Parent Meeting	Library

Practice dates will be set after tryouts Expect to meet 1-2 days a week in the Fall from 4:15-6:00 pm.

Payment Dates:

Thursday, April 11 *\$65 cash deposit

Tuesday, April 30th Final Payment for TeamLeader Order- online portal

Please note that these are the payments for the entire year! We know it is a lot, but it is all up front. –

CAMP!

- **Camp: July 18-20, 10:00-4:00 PM at Garland High School**
- We learn **all** of our new material at camp, and all cheerleaders are **REQUIRED** to attend.
- This is a “Day Camp,” so you will pick up from camp every day.

Football Season runs Sept-Nov. We will have at least one practice and one game to attend each week.

Basketball Season runs Nov.-Feb. We will have at least one practice and one game to attend each week.

Extra practices will be added to prepare for Pep Rallies and the GISD Cheer Classic.

Tryout Eligibility

Academic Grades

Cheer follows UIL eligibility, so cheerleaders will not perform if they fail. Please keep this in mind when deciding on trying out.

Enrollment

A student is eligible to try out for cheerleader if either of the two conditions is met:

- At the time of the tryout, the student lives in and is enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and is trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year.

Or

- If the student is not currently enrolled in the GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus.

A student may try out at only one GISD school.

Discipline

-Areas to be reviewed will include but not be limited to the reasons for the referrals, academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal and sponsor/coach.

-An official Discipline Record will be printed for each candidate **by the sponsors** prior to the clinic

Clinic and Tryout Schedule

- The clinic will teach the tryout materials including: dance, cheer and jumps.
- The clinic will be held at Brandenburg the week of April 2-5
- Clothing and shoes need to be appropriate for moving and jumping.
- Hair must be in a ponytail & out of the face
- **No jewelry** (this is a safety hazard for cheer)
- Please note: **ALL events are closed to outside viewing.**
 1. This includes clinic, mock tryouts, panel tryouts, camp, and practices
- A link for the music and a Canvas page will be provided at the clinic.
- Mock tryouts help candidates understand the tryout procedures and serve as a dress rehearsal for tryouts.

Schedule

Tuesday, April 2	4:15-6:00 pm	Cheer Clinic	Gym
Wednesday, April 3	4:15-6:00 pm	Cheer Clinic	Gym
Thursday, April 4	4:15-7:00 pm	MOCK TRYOUTS	Gym
Saturday, April 1	9:00-12:00 pm	TRYOUTS!!!	Garland High School

Tryout Information

Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, principals, principals' and Fine Arts designees, and cheerleader sponsors. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED!

This is a closed tryout. Only candidates will be allowed in the gym.

Parents will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.

Tryout Attire

- Plain white polo-style shirt with no visible logo—must be tucked in
- Red shorts (elastic waist/cotton)
- White no show socks
- White athletic shoes-these do not have to be cheer shoes
- Hair needs to be in a secure ponytail
 - **No ribbons, bows, headbands or other embellishments may be worn**
- No jewelry may be worn
- Number should be attached neatly to the front of the shirt—do not switch numbers!
 - Tryout numbers will be randomly drawn at Mock Tryouts
 - Tryout numbers will be distributed during warm-up at Tryouts

Results: Once all the candidates have tried out, everyone will be dismissed and given an approximate time that results will be posted on the tryout Canvas page. No results will be distributed at the tryout site. The Canvas page will list those who made the 2024-2025 cheerleading squad by their tryout number in numerical order. More information on tabulation of scores and results can be found in the GISD Fine Arts handbook.

Middle School Cheerleader Tryout Sequence of Events

ANY DEVIATION FROM THE TRYOUT PROCEDURE MAY RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE CANDIDATE.

Each tryout should include a chant, a dance, and a cheer. All categories should be performed in sequence.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

FULL GROUP PERFORMANCE

ALL candidates should walk in and perform the dance and cheer as a group in that order. It should be explained that this is only so the judges can see what the material should look like and that they will not be judged at that time. Full-out jumps and tumbling is not necessary but certainly welcome during this demonstration. Judges should put their pencils down during this time.

GROUP DANCE/CHEER:

Groups should consist of 3 candidates. They will 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. The Fine Arts designee will start the music for the dance. 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. The cheer will have a section(s) incorporating a jump(s) and/or standing tumbling (8-counts). Candidates will be scored based on difficulty and execution. Candidates will also be judged on their smile, motion technique, and voice projection during this time.

INDIVIDUAL JUMPS:

Following the group performance of the dance and cheer, candidates will perform their jumps. Each candidate must perform a toe touch, a right hurdler/herkie, and a left hurdler/herkie. It will be determined by the campus whether it will be a hurdler or herkie. This will be performed one candidate at a time.

INDIVIDUAL RUNNING TUMBLING:

Once the jumps have been completed, each candidate will be offered a chance to tumble. All candidates will move to behind the mat in the back of the gym. When this is completed, all candidates will exit the gym.

Cheerleader Tryout Information

Due Date: All paperwork is due before 4:00 pm April 2nd

*If you have it completed before this date, feel free to bring it to Ms. Pinkston or Ms. Hernandez

No late applications will be accepted under any circumstances.

Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Current Grade Level: 6th or 7th

Home Address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Contact number: _____

Email address : _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Contact number: _____

Email address : _____

Parent/Guardian Agreement

My child, _____, has my permission to be a Cheerleader at Brandenburg Middle School.

(Please initial in spaces provided)

_____ I understand that he/she must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsors and principal of Brandenburg Middle School and be present for all practices and games.

_____ It is my responsibility to have my child at all functions on time! In case of an emergency, I give permission for my child to ride with another parent when necessary.

_____ I have read the rules and regulations and understand that the violation of any of these rules may lead to a temporary or permanent suspension from the squad.

_____ I understand that qualified judges will evaluate my daughter/son and we agree to abide by the decision of the judges.

_____ I understand the costs involved and my responsibility to meet all financial obligations by the deadlines set by CCBMS.

_____ I understand that by the very nature of the activity, cheerleading and gymnastics carry a risk of injury. 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.

_____ I agree to support my child's efforts wholeheartedly throughout the season.

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

_____ I confirm that my child has chosen Brandenburg Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year based on their choice of school form.

_____ I understand that all final decisions regarding uniform, practices, and consequences are up to the sponsors and principal.

I have read the attached information packet and Fine Arts Handbook. I also understand that every member of the cheerleading squad will be expected to follow these rules and regulations, and I agree to abide by these regulations. I understand I will not be allowed in the building on the day of tryouts. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide transportation to and from cheerleader practices and events unless a bus is provided under the GISD guidelines for my child.

I understand that it is my responsibility to meet all financial obligations by the deadlines set forth by Brandenburg Middle School. I have also read and understand the GISD insurance disclaimer. I understand that if I have any questions or concerns regarding cheerleading, I should contact the appropriate sponsor first. Furthermore, I give my consent for the above named student to represent Brandenburg as a cheerleader and participate in extracurricular activities with knowledge of the responsibilities, conduct expectations and risks involved with being a CCBMS cheerleader.

_____ / / _____ / /
parent/guardian date parent/guardian date

Name _____ ID # _____ Grade _____

Candidate Agreement

(Please initial in spaces provided)

_____ I understand that I must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsor and principal of Brandenburg Middle School and be present for all practices and games.

_____ It is my responsibility to be at all functions on time!

_____ I have read the rules and regulations within this packet and understand that violation of any of these rules may lead to a temporary or permanent suspension from the squad.

_____ I understand the risks inherent to this sport.

_____ I promise to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsors and principal of Brandenburg MS.

_____ I promise to cooperate and follow the instructions of the cheerleading sponsors and head cheerleaders at all times.

_____ I understand that the demerit point system will be followed with consistency.

_____ I understand that all final decisions regarding uniform, practices, and consequences are up to the sponsors and principal.

_____ 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.

_____ 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 should be aware that in or out of uniform I am a representative of the cheerleading squad, Brandenburg Middle School, and I agree to act accordingly.

I will:

- Be a leader and set an example for those around me.
- Remember SAFETY FIRST!!! NO COACH - NO PRACTICE!!!
- 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.
- Attend and be on time to all practices and games.
- Promote school spirit.
- Remember that I am a member of a TEAM and there is no "I" in the team.
- Give respect to ALL adults.
- HAVE FUN!!!

I, _____, am trying out for the position of cheerleader. I am aware of the time involved in being a CCBMS cheerleader. I am prepared to give 100% and have a positive attitude throughout the year. I understand that my obligations as a cheerleader do not begin and end with football season, but begin with cheerleader tryouts and continue throughout the entire school year. Furthermore, I understand that it is my responsibility to provide my own transportation to and from cheerleader practices and events unless a bus is provided under the GISD guidelines. I understand that as a cheerleader I am expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to me, as well as, to my squad. I also realize that grades are very important and that it is my responsibility to remain eligible. It wastes time, money, and energy when I am unable to perform. I have read and understood the attached information packet and rules. I agree to follow and abide by all of these rules and regulations.

Participant's signature

_____/_____/_____
Date