

Sellers Middle School



Cheerleader Tryouts
2023

Paperwork Checklist

The following is a checklist of the paperwork items that must be submitted by each candidate no later than **4:20 PM on Friday February 24, 2023.**

- ❖ _____ Cheer Application
- ❖ _____ Fine Arts Signature Page
- ❖ _____ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation
- ❖ _____ UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form
- ❖ _____ Official Report Card
- ❖ _____ Media Form
- ❖ _____ 3 Teacher Recommendations
- ❖ _____ Why I want to be a Sellers Cheerleader Essay (no
more than 500 words)

Dear Parents and Guardians of Cheerleader Candidates,

Your child has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Sellers Middle School 7th or 8th-grade cheerleading squad for the 2023-2024 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 Sellers. It is our intention that after reading through this packet with your child, you will discuss the expectations and obligations of being a Sellers MS cheerleader.

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 MANDATORY parent and candidate informational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in room 38** to go over the tryout process and discuss any questions you may have. All potential candidates, as well as a parent or guardians, are required to attend unless prior arrangements have been made with the sponsors.

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 by **4:20 PM Friday, February 24, 2023. You may not participate without all forms submitted.**

No applications will be accepted after Friday, February 24, 2023. There will be NO exceptions!

[Aubrianna Venters](#)
Sponsor

[Casey Skrapits](#)
Sponsor

[Matthew Love](#)
Assistant Principal

Garland ISD Cheerleading Description

Being a cheerleader is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders and spirit groups exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, wholesome, and enthusiastic school spirit and 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 GISD 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 to maintain a

higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers.

Commitment

Dedication to, and the prioritization of, cheerleading is obligatory from all cheerleaders to meet the objectives of the program. Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to maintain their commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year.

Prior to committing to other school activities, cheerleaders should carefully consider specific program requirements, as involvement in other activities may cause time and participation conflicts with cheerleading duties. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the squad before the end of the cheerleading year without the approval of the principal and sponsor will not be allowed to try out for the next year on any GISD campus.

A list of spring and summer obligations for Sellers' cheerleaders will be given to each new member when the information becomes available. It is very important that all newly selected cheerleaders attend all practices and functions noted. The absence of any member affects the productivity of the entire squad.

In addition to all the practices and games, Sellers' cheerleaders will have other duties which they will be required to perform throughout the school year and summer. These duties include, but are not limited to, planning pep rallies, painting signs for games and pep rallies, and acting as hostesses for various school activities.

A great amount of time and energy will also be asked of the parents/guardians in providing transportation to and from all activities, volunteering time to help with activities for the team such as fundraisers, along with other miscellaneous functions during the school year.

Cheerleader Expectations

Expectations for cheerleaders and other student leaders at Sellers Middle School are extremely high. Please make sure you have read this packet VERY carefully, as it describes the schedule requirements and rules for selected cheerleaders. There are several changes pending the District Handbook this year. Please pay attention to any updates you will receive as they will override anything stated in this packet. *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. All cheerleaders will complete weekly grade checks starting the week after tryouts. Grade sheets are due every week on Wednesday mornings before first period unless otherwise determined by the sponsors.

Time:

If selected, plan to spend an average of a minimum of two hours per week practicing cheers, chants and skits for cheerleading performances.

We will also cheer at football and basketball games from September- February.

Games require an average of three hours per week in addition to above mentioned practice and the GISD Cheer Classic.

Transportation:

Each parent/guardian must arrange for his/her own child's ride to and from games, practices, and cheerleading functions. You will be provided a calendar for all cheerleading functions. Therefore, parents are responsible for their child's timely arrival at events. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performance/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher. Please be respectful of the teacher's time and contact the teacher if you are running late to pick up your student. Repeated tardiness of pick-up will result in a principal/teacher review with the parent/guardian and may result in benching or removal from the team.

Attendance:

Please do not plan to try out for cheerleading unless you plan to attend ALL required games, practices, and cheerleader functions. Please familiarize yourself with the Fine arts Cheer Handbook for information on what is excused and what is not excused. *The GISD Cheer Handbook can be found at the following link.*

[Cheer Handbook](#)

Rules:

Keep in mind that being a cheerleader is a privilege. The strictest consideration for, and adherence to, all rules is mandatory.

Tryout Eligibility

Academic Details.

All participants trying out for the squad **must turn in an OFFICIAL Report Card** for the current 2022-2023 school year. Students may ask the front office for a copy of their official report card.

Enrollment

A student is eligible to tryout for cheerleading if either of the two conditions are met:

- At the time of the tryout, the student 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.
- 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.

Paperwork

Physical Evaluation:

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History Form – Please note that you are NOT required to have a physical exam prior to tryouts unless you answer yes to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or

6. If none of these apply, you only need to turn in the first page. If you answer yes to any of these questions, you must have a pre-physical exam and must turn in both pages of the form with your application packet on Friday, February 24, 2024.

*Selected candidates must have a physical on file dated no sooner than April 1, 2023.

Application and Release Forms:

All paperwork must be turned in by 4:20 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023.

Please return all paperwork to Coach Venters Room 16 in the 6th-grade hallway:

- ☐ Cheer Application
- ☐ Parent/Guardian Release Form
- ☐ Fine Arts Signature Page
- ☐ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation
- ☐ UIL Concussion Acknowledgment Form
- ☐ Copy of Official report card
- ☐ Media Release form
- ☐ 3 teacher recommendation
- ☐ Why I want to be a Sellers cheerleader essay (no more than 500 words)

*If you failed cycle 2, then you must also bring a signed copy of your cycle 3 progress report.

TIMELINE/IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, February 15, 2023	Parent Meeting in library	6:00-7:00 PM
Friday, February 24, 2023	Paperwork due to Coach Venters	by 4:20 PM
Wednesday, March 22, 2023	Tryout Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Thursday, March 23, 2023	Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Friday, March 24, 2023	Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Monday, March 27, 2023	Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 28, 2023	Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Wednesday, March 29, 2023	Clinic Practice Gym	4:30-6:30 PM
Thursday, March 30, 2023	Clinic/ Mock Tryout	4:30-6:30 PM
Saturday, April 1, 2023	Garland High School	TBD
Monday, April 3, 2023	Cheer Results Posted	In the Morning
Tuesday April 4, 2023	Newly elected cheerleader and Parent meeting	5:30-6:30 PM
Saturday April 8, 2023	Uniform Fitting	TBD
Tues, July 18 - Thur. July 20	Summer Camp- Naaman Forest HS	11:00- 5:00

*Please note: **ALL practices are closed.** This includes clinic, mock tryouts, camp, and school practices.

MOCK Tryout Attire

- Plain white polo-style shirt with no visible logo—must be tucked in

- Solid black shorts (elastic waist/cotton)
- Solid White socks
- Solid White athletic shoes
- Hair needs to be in a secure ponytail---no ribbons or bows may be worn
- No jewelry may be worn
- No fingernail polish or artificial nails
- Tryout numbers should be attached neatly to the front of shirts—do not switch numbers!
- Numbers will be given to you by the sponsor

Clinic

- The Clinic is **mandatory**
- The clinic will be held in the practice gym on:
Wednesday, March 23, 2023- March 29, 2023 from 4:30-6:30 pm (not including weekends)
- The dress needs to be appropriate for moving and jumping. No tank tops or crop tops, sports bra required, and appropriate length shorts must be worn
- Hair must be in a ponytail, no jewelry, etc.
- Cheers, jumps, and dance used at tryouts will be taught at the clinic
- **No video of the clinic will be allowed at any time**
- **A clinic is a CLOSED event. Only candidates will be allowed in the practice gym**
- A copy of the music will be provided for the candidates to practice

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held on **Saturday, April 1, 2023**, at Garland High School. Participants need to meet Coach Venters outside of the school **no later than 9:15 AM. Warm-ups begin promptly at 9:30-10:30 and Tryouts are from 10:30-11:45.** 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
- Solid black shorts (elastic waist/cotton)
- Solid White socks
- Solid White athletic shoes
- Hair needs to be in a secure ponytail---no ribbons or bows may be worn
- No jewelry may be worn
- No fingernail polish or artificial nails
- The tryout number should be attached neatly to the front of the shirt—do not switch numbers!
- Numbers will be given to you by the sponsor

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. You may also not try out for the upcoming year if the previous year has not been paid for.

Estimated Costs for SMS Cheer 2022-2023

The estimated cost of cheerleading for the 2023-2024 school year is **at most \$300**.

The stated cost includes all fees for accessories (pom poms, shoes, socks, bows, etc.) and camp clothes.

Any payments for accessories and camp clothes will be made directly to our vendor by cashier's check, money order, or credit card (**exact price and due date of fees to be discussed when available**).

Required items that are not part of the above-mentioned costs:

- All candidates who make the squad will need to purchase a solid black, racerback sports bra on their own that they must wear to the uniform fitting.
 - Sponsors will approve that the sports bra does not show while wearing the uniform
- Extra bows if needed
- Team pictures
- Other cheer wear if decided as a squad to order

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Important Links

[Pre-participation Physical Form/Link](#)

[Pre-participation Physical Form/Link Spanish](#)

[Concussion Acknowledgement Form/link Spanish](#)

[Concussion Acknowledgement Form/Link English](#)

[Cheer Application](#)

[Teacher Recommendation Form \(3\)](#)

[Sample Scoresheet](#)

[Fine Arts Handbook/Link](#)

[Signature Page](#)

[Media Release Form English](#)

[Media Release Form Spanish](#)