

Bussey Middle School



2025 - 2026

Cheerleading Tryouts

Paperwork Checklist

The following is a checklist of the paperwork items each candidate must submit by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 14, 2025.

_____ Cheer Application

_____ Fine Arts Signature Page

_____ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation

_____ UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form

_____ Cardiac Awareness Form

_____ Official Report Card (Front office)

_____ Media Form

_____ 3 Teacher Recommendations

_____ Why I want to be a Bussey Cheerleader Essay (no
more than 500 words)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child has expressed interest in joining the Bussey Middle School 7th or 8th-grade cheerleading squad for the 2025-2026 school year. If selected, your child will need to meet certain personal and financial responsibilities to remain in good standing.

The GISD cheerleading program requires a significant time and financial commitment. This packet provides essential information for you to decide whether to allow your child to try out. We encourage you to review the expectations and responsibilities with your child before proceeding.

A MANDATORY informational meeting for candidates and their parents/guardians will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the library. Attendance is required unless prior arrangements are made with the sponsors.

Please read this packet carefully, and return the signed forms by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

[Aubrianna Venters](#)

Sponsor

[Brienne Oliphant](#)

Sponsor

[Brandi Dawson](#)

Assistant Principal

Cheerleading Rules and Guidelines

Expectations

The Bussey Middle School Cheerleading Program has a rich tradition of producing athletes who succeed academically and exhibits exemplary citizenship. Consequently, all members selected to represent our school are held to the highest of standards. In addition to adhering to the rules outlined in the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, members of our squad must also abide by the expectations set forth by our campus administrators and sponsors in the BMS Cheerleading Rules and Guidelines.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to try out, students must meet certain behavioral standards. If a student has two or more office referrals for misconduct, disregard for authority, mistreatment of others, etc., he/she will NOT be allowed to try out. Once making the squad, the same standards will continue to apply. Cheerleaders are also expected to maintain passing grades in all classes, or they will be placed on academic probation and not allowed to perform at events or wear the uniform.

Respect

The success of our program is dependent on one thing - respect. Respect for rules, respect for self, respect for others, respect for time, and respect for our mission and purpose. This respect must be mutual between coach, parents, and athlete.

Accountability System

Attendance

Unexcused absences from practices and games result in demerits. Absences are only excused for the following: personal illness with a doctor's note, death in family, illness in family that required out of town travel, funeral, approved college days, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays.

1. Cheerleaders are expected to stay for the duration of all cheer activities.
2. Leaving practice early will result in being benched for one quarter.
3. Leaving a game early will result in being benched for a period of time equal to that which was missed.

Unless excused, cheerleaders cannot miss the last practice before a game.

Doing so will result in being benched for that game.

Punctuality

Cheerleaders are expected to be at all practices, games, and events at the time specified by the sponsor. Arriving late will result in demerits.

Uniformity

All members of the squad are required to wear what the sponsor/ head cheerleader designates to practice and on game days, including hair style and bow. Failure to do so will result in demerits

- Nails should be worn in a "sports length", nails should be barely visible from palm angle.

Acceptable colors: clear, French, or neutral

Conduct

- **Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring the GISD/ Fine Arts Students' websites are appropriate.** The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Therefore, any communication such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok, Tumbler, or any other photo/video sharing or social media site, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Per the GISD Code of Conduct, students are responsible for their personal websites and postings on others' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but not limited to, the following: language, sexual or other (abbreviated or alluding to); pictures, reference to sexually explicit conduct or content, bullying/harassment within school and to other campuses, clothing, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, which includes e-cigs and vapes. Excessive amounts of postings during the school day and posting updates in the middle of the school day is unacceptable and will be considered if a principal/teacher review takes place. Messages, Snapchats, pictures, etc. sent via text messages or any other form of communication can be used as a screenshot and therefore can be considered public domain. By sending any content electronically to someone else, you are giving them permission to use that information as they see fit so please be aware of what you are sending and to whom you are sending it to at any time. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and teacher.
- Social media posts that contain negative commentary about Bussey Middle School or that do not reflect positively on the campus are also subject to disciplinary action(s). Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and sponsor/coach.
- Office referrals immediately result in a principal/ sponsor review. Depending upon the severity of the situation, a parent meeting may be called to discuss probation and/or termination from the squad.
- Cheerleaders will comply with directives from the sponsor as well as the head cheerleader(s). Any member who does not follow the instructions given by the head cheerleader(s) will be benched one quarter if the infraction occurs at a game. If it occurs at practice , the sponsor will assign a workout.
- **Cheerleaders are expected to behave in a respectful manner during practice and at events. Consequently, they will not:**
 1. argue amongst themselves
 2. disrespect one another verbally or nonverbally (e.g. eye- rolling, silent treatment, name-calling)
 3. speak in a negative manner regarding the team, its members, or assigned tasks.

Note: Depending on the infraction, a workout or demerits will be issued.

Miscellaneous

Bussey Middle School cheerleaders are expected to yell the cheers/chants as well as perform with sharp, crisp motions and smiles. Failure to do so will result in immediate benching for the duration of the event (pep rally, performance, game, etc.)

Time: If elected, plan to spend an average of 3 hours a week practicing for performances, as well as 2-3 hours a week for games.

Transportation: Each parent/ guardian must arrange for his/her own child's ride to and from all practices and 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: Do not plan to try out for cheerleader unless you plan to attend all games, practices and cheerleader functions. (All-star practices and doctor's appointments are not excused. Please make sure you let the coach know with plenty of time if an absence is planned - demerits still may be issued.) See new demerit system set by the district in the handbook.

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

Paperwork:

All required paperwork must be turned in by 4:00 pm on March 14, 2025 (no exceptions)

- 7th grade candidates will turn in paperwork to Ms. Oliphant in room 114
- 8th grade candidates will turn in paperwork to Ms. Venters in room 429

Physical Evaluation:

Pre-participation Physical Evaluation - Medical History Form. Please notice that you are NOT required to have a physical exam 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 for tryouts.. If you answer yes to any of these questions, you must have a physical exam from a physician and must turn in **both pages** of the form.

- Due by March 14, 2025 (candidate CANNOT attend clinic without form)

UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form (form included in packet):

The understanding of sports- related concussion has evolved dramatically in recent years. Please read the following form acknowledging that you have reviewed the protocols in place for preventing, treating and returning to play after a concussion.

- Due with tryout packet on March 14, 2025

Camp:

- Cheerleading camp is mandatory. We will be attending camp at Garland High School on July 15--17 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Transportation is *not* provided by GISD

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 will not be able to try out for the upcoming year if the previous year has not been paid for.

Estimated Costs for BMS Cheer 2025-2026

The estimated cost of cheerleading for the 2025-2026 school year is at most \$400. The stated cost includes all fees for accessories (pom poms, socks, bows, etc.) , and camp clothes.

All payments for accessories and camp clothes will be collected by our school secretary no later than May 7, 2025. Payments can be made via cashiers check, personal check and money order(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)

- All candidates must purchase white cheer shoes. These shoes can be purchased through the Varsity vendor, Amazon, Dick's Sporting Goods, Academy, or other sports wear shops.

(Shoes must be purchased no later than July 1st)

- Extra bows if needed
- Team pictures
- Other cheer wear if decided as a squad to order

Important Dates for BMS Cheerleading Tryouts

February 12, 2025: Parent and Candidate Meeting in the Library

- 5:30 - 6:30 PM
- A parent/guardian must attend the parent meeting unless arrangements have been made with a coach PRIOR to the meeting
- Required paper work will be distributed

March 14, 2025: Cheer Interest Form/ Paperwork Due

- 7th grade candidates will turn in paperwork to Ms. Oliphant in room 114
- 8th grade candidates will turn in paperwork to Ms. Venters in room 429

April 3 -10, 2025 : Mandatory Tryout Clinic

- 4:30-5:30 pm in the competition gym
- Pre-participation form/ physicals MUST be turned in by this date (April 3rd) or candidate cannot attend clinic
- Learn tryout materials
- Attire: White t-shirt, black shorts, and white athletic shoes (no crop tops, spaghetti straps or spandex shorts - no jewelry of any kind), sports bra is mandatory, and hair pulled back out of face.

April 11, 2025: Mock Tryouts

Candidates will run through the tryout process:

- Candidates will have to perform jumps, cheer, tumbling pass (optional), spirit, and dance routine.

April 12, 2025: Tryouts at Garland High School (3:00 PM)

- Must be wearing a solid white shirt, white shoes, black athletic shorts, with hair pulled back (NO BOWS, NO Spandex as shorts/ Nike Pro Shorts)
- Warm up: 3:00 - 3:30 pm
- Tryouts: 3:30 - 4:00 pm
- Results posted: Monday April 14, 2025

April 15, 2025: New Cheerleader and Parent Meeting 5:30 Cafeteria

- Cheerleader Expectations
- Team Parent Interest information
- Fundraiser

July 15 - 17, 2025: Cheer Camp

- 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Garland High School
- Parents are responsible for transportation

Tryout Sequence of Events

1. Full Group Performance of dance and Cheer
2. Group Dance (in groups of 3)
3. Group Cheer (in groups of 3)
4. Individual jumps (toe touch, right hurdler, and left hurdler)
5. Individual tumbling (if applicable)

What we are looking for at BMS Cheer:

7th Grade

- Must be loud, enthusiastic, and have sharp motions
- Must have correct placement of motions (specifically in the wrist and fist)
- Will be judged off of a left and right hurdler as well as a toe touch

8th Grade

- Must have a round off rebound
- Must be loud, enthusiastic, and have sharp motions
- Must have correct placement of motions (specifically in the wrist and fist)
- Will be judged off of a left and right hurdler as well as a toe touch
- Must have chest up on jumps

Coaches will go off of the natural break of scores and will determine the number of athletes on each squad. Each grade level may have a maximum of 12 cheerleaders.

Notes to Parents

It is our sincere hope to have a successful and stress free year. However without your cooperation, it won't be possible. Therefore we ask that you do the following:

1. **Practices are closed events.** The only people that need to be there are the athletes and their coaches.
2. **Before, during, or after a game is not the time, nor the place to approach a coach to discuss an issue.** If you find yourself unhappy about something that has occurred immediately email your concern to the sponsor(s), and if need be, schedule a conference. **SportsYou/Text is not the place for this conversation.**
3. **Familiarize yourself with the Fine Arts Demerit Guide as well as the Bussey Middle School accountability system.** All rules will be strictly enforced.
4. Contact the sponsor as soon as you know your son/daughter will miss a practice, game, or event. Failure to do so on your part will result in your child being benched or receiving demerits.
5. Any question that pertains to a child other than your own will not be addressed.

Thank you for your cooperation

Coach Venters

aventers@garlandisd.net

Coach Oliphant

boliphant@garlandisd.net

Important Links

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

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

[Cardiac Awareness Form](#)

[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](#)

Package Items



E.D. Bussey Middle School

2025 ATHLETE ORDER



2025 OPTIONAL ITEM
APPROX. \$44.60

2025 ORDER
APPROX. \$71.25

