



**2025-2026
GHS Cheer
Tryout
Application**

Tryout Candidates and Parents/Guardians,

We are so excited for the upcoming year and pleased that you are interested in becoming a part of the cheerleading squad at Garland High School. Garland is a school rich in tradition and school pride. As a cheerleader, you have the **privilege** of promoting school spirit on our campus and in the community.

Cheerleading requires **year-round commitment**, and cheerleaders are expected to commit for the full cheerleading year (tryout to tryout). We cheer for multiple sports (August-March), compete, organize pep rallies, walk parades, fundraise and participate in school and community events. In preparation for these activities and events, new squad members will attend spring practices April-May and summer camp in July. Members of Garland Cheer must be willing to give their time to practices, games, performances, and other cheerleading commitments. Garland Cheer is flexible, knowing that our school and community may request our support throughout the year.

Garland High School cheerleaders are expected to be **role models** for the student body and are therefore held to higher academic and behavioral standards than the average student. As representatives of the school and the cheer program, cheerleaders should demonstrate leadership, serve others, and exhibit good character.

Please review this packet in its entirety and carefully consider the requirements for being a Garland Cheerleader and member of GISD Fine Arts. Cheerleaders who fail to adhere to the standards and guidelines will be penalized, as being a cheerleader is a privilege and not a right. We take pride in our program and want the cheerleaders to represent Garland High School and our district in a positive light.

We look forward to tryouts and wish you the best of luck - Gig Em Owls!

Coach Morgan Shaeffer – Varsity
mshaeffer@garlandisd.net

Coach Carmel Henry- Junior Varsity
crhenry@garlandisd.net

MANDATORY DATES FOR ALL CHEERLEADERS

Thursday, March 13, 2025	Parent & Candidate Meeting (7 pm, GHS Library) ALL CANDIDATES and at least one parent/guardian must attend.
Friday, March 28 2025	TRYOUT PAPERWORK DUE
Monday, March 31, 2025	Tryout Clinic - Day 1 (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)
Tuesday, April 1, 2025	Tryout Clinic - Day 2 (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)
Wednesday, April 2, 2025	Open Gym (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)
Thursday, April 3, 2025	Mock Tryouts (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)
Saturday, April 5, 2025	Tryouts (morning, GHS)
Monday, April 7, 2025	“Made It” Meeting (7 pm, GHS Library) <i>1st Payment Due (\$500)</i>
Thursday, April 10, 2025	1st Spring Practice (6-8:30 pm, GHS AD Gym)
Saturday, April 12, 2025	Fittings (GHS Library, 5-7 pm)
April 10 - May 22, 2025	Spring Practices (Mondays/Thursdays 6-8:30 pm, GHS Gyms)
Monday, April 28, 2025	<i>2nd Payment Due (\$500 or remaining balance)</i>
Monday, May 19, 2025	<i>3rd Payment Due (remaining balance)</i>
May, details TBD	Spring Football Game
July 7-8, 2025	UCA Home Camp (Rowlett HS) - JV
Thursday, July 10, 2025	Pre-Camp Practice (6-8:30 pm, GHS AD Gym) - Varsity
Monday, July 14, 2025	Pre-Camp Practice (6-8:30 pm, GHS AD Gym) - Varsity
July 15-17, 2025	GISD Middle School Camp - select Varsity members
July 18-21, 2025	UCA Away Camp (Great Wolf Lodge, Grapevine) - Varsity
Monday, August 4	Fish Camp Practice (GHS, AD Gym)
August, details TBD	Fish Camp (most likely August 5, 6, or 7)
Mondays (school-year)	Monday night practices (6-8 pm, GHS, AD Gym) <i>Regularly through December, as needed remainder of year</i>
August, details TBD	Competition Routine Work Day (will be on a Saturday)
August, details TBD	Program/Banner Pictures at the Stadium (will be on a Saturday)
Monday, September 1	Labor Day Parade
December, details TBD	District Pre-UIL Showoffs
January 15-17	UIL Competition *Up to 2 additional Game Day Competitions prior to UIL may be added (November, December, or January)
Saturday, January 17	MLK Parade
February, details TBD	Middle School Cheer Classic (most likely a Saturday)

CHEER ACTIVITIES

In accordance with UIL rules, high school cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one contest per school week. It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at the same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. Friday night and weekend contests do not count toward the one contest per week rule.

TRANSPORTATION: We will bus to all football games, basketball games, performances off campus, etc., together unless otherwise notified. If a cheerleader is coming to a cheer event late due to participation in another UIL event, a parent may bring them but they will ride back to campus on the team bus.

COMPETITION

Per the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, the expectation is that all cheerleaders will participate in competition. Failure to commit and participating in competition(s) can result in removal at semester. Tryouts may be held to determine competition groups etc. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each competition member. Each high school team is required to attend UIL Spirit. The date for UIL is not set until after school starts, but is typically held in January.

PARADES

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

FOOTBALL

- A. Varsity cheerleaders will cheer at all varsity games.
- B. JV cheerleaders will cheer at all JV games at the sponsor's discretion and may cheer for the A or B team.
- C. JV cheerleaders may be asked to cheer at additional varsity games at the discretion of the campus.
- D. Freshmen games will be covered if there is a JV B squad.
- E. Playoff games will be covered.

VOLLEYBALL

- A. Games can be covered by any squad at the discretion of the campus administration and sponsor.
- B. Playoff games should be covered.

BASKETBALL

- A. All district varsity boys and girls games should be covered. Squad assignments will be at the discretion of the campus administration and the sponsor.
- B. If a campus has a JV B squad, they will be assigned either JV or freshmen games.
- C. Exceptions to the above rules are as follows:
 - a. No out of town games on Monday through Thursday nights.
 - b. No cheering during the holiday break.
- D. Playoff games should be covered.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Additional activities such as community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus principal. Cheerleaders are required to attend each of these events.

ESTIMATED CHEER COSTS

Actual costs will vary depending on squad sizes and availability of items

The estimated cost of cheerleading for one year is outlined below. Every effort has been made to keep these costs to a minimum. Final costs will be sent ASAP after squad numbers are finalized.

ITEM	JV (new)	JV (returning)	Varsity (new)	Varsity (Returning)
T Shirts 1, 2, 3	\$81	\$81	\$81	\$81
Shorts x2 Skirt x1	\$32 \$25	if needed \$25	\$32 \$25	if needed \$25
Sweatshirt	\$57	if needed	\$57	if needed
Backpack	\$98	if needed	\$98	if needed
Shipping	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7
Black skirt	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Black Long Sleeve	\$20	if needed	\$20	if needed
White Long Sleeve	\$20	if needed	\$20	if needed
Warmup Set	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180
Poncho	\$23	\$23	\$23	\$23
Summer Camp	UCA Home - \$250	UCA Home - \$250	UCA Away - \$650	UCA Away - \$650
Bows	Name - \$20 Pinkout - \$18	Name - \$20 Pinkout - \$18	Name - \$20 Pinkout - \$18 Long-tailed - \$25	Name - \$20 Pinkout - \$18 Long-tailed - if needed
Misc./Activities Fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
TOTAL	\$881	\$654	\$1302	\$1054
Megaphone (optional)	N/A	N/A	Seniors only \$130	N/A

PAYMENTS

Monday, April 7, 2025	1st Payment Due (\$500) at "Made It" Meeting
Monday, April 28, 2025	2nd Payment Due (\$500 or remaining balance) at Spring Practice
Monday, May 19, 2025	3rd Payment Due (remaining balance)

GISD provides uniforms, but cheerleaders are responsible for all alterations needed and any damages to the uniforms that may have occurred throughout the year and dry-cleaning/laundry at the end of the year.

Some other items needed and to be purchased individually:

Nike Pro Tights (leggings) ALL BLACK (practices) & Nike Pro Shorts (spandex) ALL BLACK (performances)
 White Nike Crew Socks (all practices/performances)
 Cheer Shoes - Nfinity or Varsity Spirit (all practices/performance)
 Performance Makeup (all performances)
 Black or white water bottle (all practices/performances)
 Ankle weights

25-26 GHS Cheer Hair & Makeup Standard of Uniformity

GHS Cheerleading will have a set hair and makeup policy to keep everyone in uniform. For the various activities cheerleaders do, there will be different expectations for hair and makeup. Presentation is an incredibly important part of enhancing a cheerleader's presence and building the atmosphere of a performance. **All Standard of Uniformity expectations are subject to change with notice per Coach. The coach will inform all squad members of changes to planned expectations as soon as possible.**

Piercings

Per the FA Handbook (see pages 11-12), jewelry of any kind, including spacers, is not to be worn during practices or performances. No exceptions will be made for facial piercings or new/fresh piercings.

Hair Expectations

Hair expectations will be followed or cheerleaders will be benched.

- **Cheerleaders should communicate to their stylists that they must be able to do High Pony, Low Pony, or Half Up Half Down at any time.**
- Hair can only be natural colors for performances/events. Examples: blonde highlights or dark brown lowlights are fine. However, hair cannot be pink, red, gray, purple, etc.
- No hair jewelry is permissible; beads at discretion of coaches (ask in advance for clarification).
- Per the FA Handbook (see page 12) and the National Federation of State High School Associations, hair should be secured away from the face and above the waist for safety reasons (stunting, tumbling).
- Hair is expected to be all the way up per the instructions given. For example, if a cheerleader is told to have their hair up in a high ponytail there cannot be loose hairs left out around the face to "be cute."
- Cheerleaders may be instructed to straighten or curl hair for a specific event.
- Bows should be properly pinned and secured per coach instructions.
- If a cheerleader has a hairstyle where the hair is too short to be worn in a full ponytail (falling above the shoulders), the cheerleader will do Half Up Half Down with bow placement that best matches the team hairstyle, per coach instructions.
- Male Cheerleaders - styles and facial hair will be discussed with male cheerleaders and coaches on an as needed basis.

Practices

Varsity/JV - Hair up and out of your face for safety purposes. No Hair Clips.

Performances

JV	Varsity
High Pony, bow to front	High Pony, bow to front
Mid Pony (ear level), bow facing back	Mid Pony (ear level), bow facing back
Low Pony, bow facing back	Low Pony, bow facing back
*when performing jointly with Varsity to match	Half Up Half Down, bow facing front
*when if performing jointly with Varsity to match	Half Up Half Down, bow facing back

Special performances such as Homecoming, Pinkout, Parades, and Competition - coaches choice

Makeup Expectations

Makeup expectations will be followed or cheerleaders are considered out of uniform and will be benched.

Practices

Varsity/JV - No formal makeup needed for practices unless notified by Coach.

Performances

Varsity/JV - Coaches will make available to cheerleaders and guardians a set of examples and non-examples of the expectation outlined below. Makeup should complement cheerleaders' skin tones, hair color, and eye color and enhance their natural features.

- Lips
 - REQUIRED: Maybelline super stay Matte Ink Liquid Lipstick (shades Dreamer or Inspirer)
An alternative product that matches these two shades must be approved in advance by coaches.
 - Gloss is optional
- Eyes
 - REQUIRED: Naturally colored eye shadow with some shimmer
 - REQUIRED: Black mascara
 - Eye liner is optional, but simple only
 - Eyelashes should appear natural and not be longer than 16 mm if choosing to wear lash extensions
- Cheeks
 - REQUIRED: Light blush and/or Highlighter
 - A full base of foundation is not required

Nails

Failure to comply will result in not practicing/performing (benching).

Practices

- Length - Per the FA Handbook (see page 12), nails should be worn in a "sports length" (Nails should be barely visible from palm angle.) This is in accordance with NFHS Safety Guidelines.

Performances

- Length - Per the FA Handbook (see page 12), nails should be worn in a "sports length" (Nails should be barely visible from palm angle.) This is in accordance with NFHS Safety Guidelines.
- Color - french tip, neutral colors, or school colors (black, gold, white)

*****All Standard of Uniformity expectations are subject to change with notice per Coach. The coach will inform all squad members of changes to planned expectations as soon as possible.*****

GHS CHEER TRYOUTS

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mandatory Parent & Candidate Meeting (7 pm, GHS Library)
ALL CANDIDATES and at least one parent/guardian must attend.

Friday, March 28, 2025

TRYOUT PAPERWORK DUE

CLINICS

What to Wear:

Black T-shirt, black shorts/leggings, athletic/cheer shoes
Hair up in a secure ponytail (no whispies)

Monday, March 31, 2025

Clinic Day 1: Teach jumps, Learn cheer and dance (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)
**Registration starts at 5:30 pm*

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Clinic Day 2: Review material, mock tryouts info (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Open Gym (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)

MOCK TRYOUTS & TRYOUTS

What to Wear:

Plain white crew neck t-shirt (no visible logo)
Solid black shorts
White athletic or cheer shoes (White socks)
Hair up in a secure high ponytail out of the candidate's face.
(No hair bows, ribbons, or any other accessories)
Natural makeup: at the very least:
pink or red-toned lips, blush or highlighter, natural eye shadow, & mascara.
No jewelry allowed, including facial piercings.

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mock Tryouts (6 – 9 pm, GHS AD Gym)

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Tryouts

Warmup: 8:00 am (GHS AD Gym)
Tryout Start Window: 8:30 - 9:30 am
Results posted in Canvas within 72 hours

TRYOUT DAY

These tryouts are closed to the public. No parents or friends will be allowed in the building at any time during tryouts. No exceptions. Candidates may not leave until they are dismissed. Same rules will apply to Mock Tryouts.

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 that they see demonstrated during the tryouts. Tryout results will not be challenged because of prior knowledge of judges and candidates.

TABULATION OF SCORES

Each candidate will receive a **pre-score** based on prior attendance, discipline, grades, clinic effort, and demerits. This score will be added to all candidates that meet the minimum skill score in order to calculate the final rankings.

Skill score - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in the following areas:

Tumbling (10pts), Spirit (10pts), Jumps (30pts), Cheer (30pts), Dance (20pts)

Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped, and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the candidate's score.

Once the candidate has made the minimum skill score (60 varsity, 40 JV) the pre-score will then be averaged in order to calculate the final rankings. In order to be placed on the cheer squad, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel and averaging with the pre-score, a candidate must earn 60 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of the possible 100 points and **fall within the natural break.**

Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

NOTIFICATION

Final results for each school will be published within 72 hours.

Tumbling

*If a skill is not executed properly, then points may be deducted into a lower scale

0	None
1	Cartwheel
1-2	Round off
3-4	Round off BHS
5	Round off 2 BHS
6	Series 3 or more BHS
7	Round off BHS Back
8	Series to Back
9	Layout or whip to back
10	Full or specialty full

Jumps

1-3	Below level jumps ^
4-6	Level jumps —
7-10	Above level jumps v

Incorporation

0	No Incorporation
1	Toe touch x1/prop inc. poor
2	Toe touch x2/prop inc. good
3	Standing back handspring poor
4	Standing back handspring good
5	Jump to back handspring poor
6	Jump to back handspring good
7	Back tuck or back handspring to tuck poor
8	Back tuck or back handspring to tuck good
9	Jump to back tuck or back handspring poor
10	Jump to back tuck or back handspring good

Dance

Motion Technique
10 pts.

1-3	Motion levels off, lacking in sharpness, missed motions
4-7	Average motion levels, needing more sharpness
8-10	Good motion levels, sharp, exhibits individuality

Timing
10 pts.

1-3	Timing off throughout
4-7	Ok timing
8-10	Good timing with group

Jumps

Toe touch- 10 pts.

Right Hurdler/Herkie- 10 pts.

Left Hurdler/Herkie- 10 pts.

Spirit/Enthusiasm
10 pts.

1-5	No energy/No smile/No spirit
6-10	Energetic/Smiling/Loud spiriting

Cheer

Motion Technique
10 pts.

1-3	Motion levels off, lacking in sharpness, missed motions
4-7	Average motion levels, needing more sharpness
8-10	Good motion levels, sharp, exhibits individuality

Voice Projection
10 pts.

1-3	Soft/speaking words
4-7	Saying words loud/yelling words without enthusiasm
8-10	Yelling words with enthusiasm

24-25 GHS Cheer Candidate Check List

ALL forms must be COMPLETE with all Information and Signatures to be accepted.

- GISD Cheer Application Front Page
- GHS Cheer Agreement Form
- Social Media Contract/GHS Media Release
- Fine Arts Signature Pages
- GISD Media Release Form
- UIL Pre-Participation Physical
- UIL Concussion Form
- Cardiac Form
- Attendance Report from your Current Campus
- Grades Report from your Current Campus
- Review 360 Behavior Report from your Current Campus

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Garland Independent School District Cheer Application

Name _____ ID# _____

Grade Next Yr. _____ Age _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

School Enrolled for Next Yr. _____

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. 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 squad are expected to maintain their commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year. **Prior to making commitments to be involved in other school activities, cheerleaders should carefully consider specific program requirements, as involvement in other activities may cause participation and time 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.

I understand the above and confirm that I have not voluntarily quit any cheerleading squad at any GISD campus.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____

For parents/guardians:

I understand that I/we will not be allowed in the building on the day of the tryouts.

Parent/Guardian _____

The following items must be returned to the sponsor before clinics begin:

_____Application

_____Fine Arts Handbook Signature Pages

The GISD Fine Arts Handbook will be available online.

[Cheerleading | Garland Independent School District \(garlandisd.net\)](http://garlandisd.net)

_____Preparticipation Form (physical)

_____UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form

_____Cardiac Awareness

_____Media Release Form

GHS CHEERLEADER AGREEMENT FORM

I have received, read, and understand the information outlined in the GHS Cheer Tryouts Packet, including but not limited to -

Student's Initials	Guardian's Initials
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_____	_____
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Mandatory Dates

_____	_____
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*I will arrange transportation to GHS and all other required functions.

_____	_____
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*I will communicate absences in a timely manner as outlined by the GISD Fine Arts Handbook and GHS cheer coaches.

_____	_____
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Estimated Cheer Costs

_____	_____
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*I understand that failure to pay will result in not performing, not receiving an item or service, and can result in removal from the team.

_____	_____
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GHS Hair & Makeup Standard of Uniformity

_____	_____
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*I understand that failure to comply will result in not practicing/performing.

_____	_____
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GISD Fine Arts Handbook

_____	_____
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*I have reviewed the Code of Conduct (FA Handbook, page 7).

_____	_____
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*I have reviewed eligibility requirements. (FA Handbook, page 8).

_____	_____
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*I have reviewed the merit/demerit system. (FA Handbook, page 10).

_____	_____
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*I understand that UIL Competition is required. (FA Handbook, page 18)

I agree to the policies set forth and agree to represent my squad and Garland High School in a positive light. I behave appropriately at school, during school functions, and while in uniform and follow all school rules and policies. I will work hard to maintain my grades so that I can be academically eligible throughout the year.

I also understand that I am responsible for all financial obligations and their due dates. I will be present for all practices and games. I understand that final decisions regarding benching/ point deductions/ demerits/ etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsors, and/ or principals. I understand that being a cheerleader involves inherent risks, which could cause serious or catastrophic injuries or even death.

I understand that the uniforms are the property of Garland High School and GISD. If lost or damaged it is my responsibility to replace them. The uniforms may be altered without cutting the fabric, with the cheer coaches approval. Uniforms will be returned at the designated date and they will be clean.

Guardian Name (Print)

Date

Signature

Cheerleader Name (Print)

Date

Signature

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTRACT & GHS MEDIA RELEASE

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, Vines, 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, Snap Chats, 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.

Students selected as Fine Arts student performers must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. A student has no ordained right to participate in Fine Arts. It is a privilege that has been granted to the student and it is possible that the privilege can be taken away. In addition to the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD Code of Conduct, and the standards outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct will be in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year, in season and out of season, whether in school or school is not in session. (GISD Fine Arts Handbook, page 7)

Guardian Name (Print)	Date	Signature
Cheerleader Name (Print)	Date	Signature

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTRACT & GHS MEDIA RELEASE

I _____ (Print Guardian Name) give my consent for

_____ 's (Print Cheerleader's Name) photographs, video images, and/or voice to be utilized for advertising, illustration, or publication on campus, district, and/or local media TV stations as appropriate. This includes but is not limited to Instagram, newspaper, daily announcements, advertising, and local news stations.

Guardian Name (Print)	Date	Signature
Cheerleader Name (Print)	Date	Signature

Garland Independent School District Fine Arts Handbook
Cheerleading, Drill Team, Step, and World Dance Company
Permission, Commitment, and Signature Page

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Legal Parent/Guardian (Please Print) _____

Check the Fine Arts Group you are auditioning for/joining:

Cheer _____ Junior Varsity Drill Team _____ Varsity Drill Team _____

Step Team _____ World Dance Company _____

Please read each statement and initial. A candidate/member and a legal parent/guardian signature and date is required at the end of the statements.

Candidate/Member:

_____ I have received, read, and understand all of the information in this tryout packet and agree to abide by all rules and regulations regarding tryouts.

_____ I understand that the judges' decision is final.

_____ I have received, read, and understand the Fine Arts Handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the Fine Arts Group.

_____ I have received, read and understand the GISD District Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all rules and regulations. (Internet access www.garlandisd.com)

_____ I have received, read and understand the financial obligation involved with being a member. I also understand that I will not receive any items, but I must still attend any events/performances, if I have not fulfilled my financial contract.

_____ I have received, read and understand that in addition to yearly tryouts, to remain on the team, there may be weekly tryouts conducted by the teacher (coach, director, and sponsor).

_____ I have received, read and understand that I must pass all of my classes, with the exception of waived classes, to be eligible to perform. (Refer to TEA/UII Regulations).

_____ I have read and understand my behavior and conduct will be held to a higher standard on this team, both in and out of school.

_____ I have read and understand that I am required to attend all mandatory practices, performances, contest(s), and events. An unexcused absence will receive consequences.

_____ I understand that I am to ride to and from all events and performances on school transportation with my team. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performances/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher.

_____ I understand and agree to abide by the Standard of Uniformity (hair, makeup, and nails) that was established by a committee of my peers.

_____ I understand that GISD Fine Arts groups will take precedence over any outside non-district group. This includes rehearsals and performances.

_____ I understand that I will be responsible for returning all uniforms, poms, props etc. in good condition. Uniforms must be cleaned according to the instructions given by the director/coach. A cleaning receipt attached to the uniform may be required.

Legal Parent/Guardian:

_____ I have received, read, and understand all of the information in this tryout packet and agree to abide by all rules and regulations regarding tryouts.

_____ I understand the judges' decision is final.

_____ I have received, read, and understand the Fine Arts Handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the Fine Arts Group.

_____ I have received, read and understand the GISD District Code of Conduct and agree to abide by all rules and regulations. (Internet access www.garlandisd.net)

_____ I have received, read and understand the financial obligation and payments involved with my student being a member. I also understand that my student will not receive any items, but must still attend any events/performances, if I have not fulfilled my financial contract.

_____ I have received, read and understand that in addition to yearly tryouts, to remain on the team, there may be weekly tryouts conducted by the teacher (coach, director, and sponsor).

_____ I have received, read and understand that my student must pass all classes, with the exception of waived classes, to be eligible to perform. (Refer to TEA/UII Regulations).

_____ I have read and understand that my student's behavior and conduct will be held to a higher standard on this team, both in and out of school.

_____ I have read and understand that my student is required to attend all mandatory practices, performances, contest(s), and events.

_____ I understand that my student is required to ride to and from all events and performances on school transportation with their team. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performances/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher.

_____ I understand and agree to the Standard of Uniformity (hair, makeup, and nails) that was established by a committee within the Fine Arts group.

_____ I understand that GISD Fine Arts groups will take precedence over any outside non-district group. This includes rehearsals and performances.

_____ I understand that I will be responsible for returning all uniforms, poms, props etc. in good condition. Uniforms must be cleaned according to the instructions given by the director/coach. A cleaning receipt attached to the uniform may be required.

Candidate/Member Printed Name _____

Candidate/Member Signature _____

Date _____

Legal Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Legal Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION -- MEDICAL HISTORY

2020

This **MEDICAL HISTORY FORM** must be completed **annually** by parent (or guardian) and student in order for the student to participate in activities. These questions are designed to determine if the student has developed any condition which would make it hazardous to participate in an event.

Student's Name: (print) _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Grade _____ School _____
 Personal Physician _____ Phone _____

In case of emergency, contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Explain "Yes" answers in the box below**. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.

	Yes	No		Yes	No
1. Have you had a medical illness or injury since your last check up or physical?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Have you ever gotten unexpectedly short of breath with exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you been hospitalized overnight in the past year? Have you ever had surgery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have asthma? Do you have seasonal allergies that require medical treatment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever had prior testing for the heart ordered by a physician? Have you ever passed out during or after exercise? Have you ever had chest pain during or after exercise? Do you get tired more quickly than your friends do during exercise? Have you ever had racing of your heart or skipped heartbeats? Have you had high blood pressure or high cholesterol? Have you ever been told you have a heart murmur? Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or of sudden unexpected death before age 50? Has any family member been diagnosed with enlarged heart, (dilated cardiomyopathy), hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome or other ion channelopathy (Brugada syndrome, etc), Marfan's syndrome, or abnormal heart rhythm? Have you had a severe viral infection (for example, myocarditis or mononucleosis) within the last month? Has a physician ever denied or restricted your participation in activities for any heart problems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Do you use any special protective or corrective equipment or devices that aren't usually used for your activity or position (for example, knee brace, special neck roll, foot orthotics, retainer on your teeth, hearing aid)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion? Have you ever been knocked out, become unconscious, or lost your memory? If yes, how many times? _____ When was your last concussion? _____ How severe was each one? (Explain below) Have you ever had a seizure? Do you have frequent or severe headaches? Have you ever had numbness or tingling in your arms, hands, legs or feet? Have you ever had a stinger, burner, or pinched nerve?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Have you ever had a sprain, strain, or swelling after injury? Have you broken or fractured any bones or dislocated any joints? Have you had any other problems with pain or swelling in muscles, tendons, bones, or joints? If yes, check appropriate box and explain below:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you missing any paired organs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Head	<input type="checkbox"/> Elbow	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip
6. Are you under a doctor's care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Neck	<input type="checkbox"/> Forearm	<input type="checkbox"/> Thigh
7. Are you currently taking any prescription or non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication or pills or using an inhaler?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Back	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrist	<input type="checkbox"/> Knee
8. Do you have any allergies (for example, to pollen, medicine, food, or stinging insects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chest	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Shin/Calf
9. Have you ever been dizzy during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/> Finger	<input type="checkbox"/> Ankle
10. Do you have any current skin problems (for example, itching, rashes, acne, warts, fungus, or blisters)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Arm	<input type="checkbox"/> Foot	
11. Have you ever become ill from exercising in the heat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Do you want to weigh more or less than you do now?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Do you feel stressed out?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			18. Have you ever been diagnosed with or treated for sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<i>Females Only</i>		
			19. When was your first menstrual period? _____ When was your most recent menstrual period? _____ How much time do you usually have from the start of one period to the start of another? _____ How many periods have you had in the last year? _____ What was the longest time between periods in the last year? _____		
			<i>Males Only</i>		
			20. Do you have two testicles? _____		
			21. Do you have any testicular swelling or masses? _____		

An electrocardiogram (ECG) is not required. By checking this box, I choose to obtain an ECG for my student for additional cardiac screening. I have read and understand the information about cardiac screening. I understand it is the responsibility of my family to schedule and pay for such ECG.

EXPLAIN 'YES' ANSWERS IN THE BOX BELOW (attach another sheet if necessary):

It is understood that even though protective equipment is worn by athletes, whenever needed, the possibility of an accident still remains. Neither the University Interscholastic League nor the school assumes any responsibility in case an accident occurs.
 If, in the judgment of any representative of the school, the above student should need immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given said student by any physician, athletic trainer, nurse or school representative. I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school or hospital representative from any claim by any person on account of such care and treatment of said student.

If, between this date and the beginning of participation, any illness or injury should occur that may limit this student's participation, I agree to notify the school authorities of such illness or injury.

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct. Failure to provide truthful responses could subject the student in question to penalties determined by the UIL

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Any Yes answer to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 requires further medical evaluation which may include a physical examination. Written clearance from a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, or nurse practitioner is required before any participation in UIL practices, games or matches. **THIS FORM MUST BE ON FILE PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY PRACTICE, SCRIMMAGE, PERFORMANCE OR CONTEST BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER SCHOOL.**

For School Use Only:

This Medical History Form was reviewed by: Printed Name _____ Date _____ Signature _____

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION -- PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Student's Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Height _____ Weight _____ % Body fat (optional) _____ Pulse _____ BP ____/____ (____/____, ____/____)
brachial blood pressure while sitting

Vision: R 20/____ L 20/____ Corrected: Y N Pupils: Equal Unequal

As a minimum requirement, this **Physical Examination Form** must be completed prior to junior high participation and again prior to first and third years of high school participation. It **must** be completed if there are yes answers to specific questions on the student's MEDICAL HISTORY FORM on the reverse side. * *Local district policy may require an annual physical exam.*

	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS	INITIALS*
MEDICAL			
Appearance			
Eyes/Ears/Nose/Throat			
Lymph Nodes			
Heart-Auscultation of the heart in the supine position.			
Heart-Auscultation of the heart in the standing position.			
Heart-Lower extremity pulses			
Pulses			
Lungs			
Abdomen			
Genitalia (males only)			
Skin			
Marfan's stigmata (arachnodactyly, pectus excavatum, joint hypermobility, scoliosis)			
MUSCULOSKELETAL			
Neck			
Back			
Shoulder/Arm			
Elbow/Forearm			
Wrist/Hand			
Hip/Thigh			
Knee			
Leg/Ankle			
Foot			

*station-based examination only

CLEARANCE

- Cleared
- Cleared after completing evaluation/rehabilitation for: _____

Not cleared for: _____ Reason: _____

Recommendations: _____

The following information must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner, will not be accepted.

Name (print/type) _____ Date of Examination: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

Must be completed before a student participates in any practice, before, during or after school, (both in-season and out-of-season) or performance/games/matches.



CONCUSSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Name of Student _____

Definition of Concussion - means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain caused by a traumatic physical force or impact to the head or body, which may: (A) include temporary or prolonged altered brain function resulting in physical, cognitive, or emotional symptoms or altered sleep patterns; and (B) involve loss of consciousness.

Prevention – Teach and practice safe play & proper technique.
 – Follow the rules of play.
 – Make sure the required protective equipment is worn for all practices and games.
 – Protective equipment must fit properly and be inspected on a regular basis.

Signs and Symptoms of Concussion – The signs and symptoms of concussion may include but are not limited to: Headache, appears to be dazed or stunned, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), fatigue, slurred speech, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, loss of balance, blurry vision, sensitive to light or noise, feel foggy or groggy, memory loss, or confusion.

Oversight - Each district shall appoint and approve a Concussion Oversight Team (COT). The COT shall include at least one physician and an athletic trainer if one is employed by the school district. Other members may include: Advanced Practice Nurse, neuropsychologist or a physician's assistant. The COT is charged with developing the Return to Play protocol based on peer reviewed scientific evidence.

Treatment of Concussion - The student-athlete/cheerleader shall be removed from practice or participation immediately if suspected to have sustained a concussion. Every student-athlete/cheerleader suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be seen by a physician before they may return to athletic or cheerleading participation. The treatment for concussion is cognitive rest. Students should limit external stimulation such as watching television, playing video games, sending text messages, use of computer, and bright lights. When all signs and symptoms of concussion have cleared and the student has received written clearance from a physician, the student-athlete/cheerleader may begin their district's Return to Play protocol as determined by the Concussion Oversight Team.

Return to Play - According to the Texas Education Code, Section 38.157:

A student removed from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition (including per UIL rule, cheerleading) under Section 38.156 may not be permitted to practice or participate again following the force or impact believed to have caused the concussion until:

- (1) the student has been evaluated, using established medical protocols based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, by a treating physician chosen by the student or the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student;
- (2) the student has successfully completed each requirement of the return-to-play protocol established under Section 38.153 necessary for the student to return to play;
- (3) the treating physician has provided a written statement indicating that, in the physician's professional judgment, it is safe for the student to return to play; and
- (4) the student and the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student:
 - (A) have acknowledged that the student has completed the requirements of the return-to-play protocol necessary for the student to return to play;
 - (B) have provided the treating physician's written statement under Subdivision (3) to the person responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol under Subsection (c) and the person who has supervisory responsibilities under Subsection (c); and
 - (C) have signed a consent form indicating that the person signing:
 - (i) has been informed concerning and consents to the student participating in returning to play in accordance with the return-to-play protocol;
 - (ii) understands the risks associated with the student returning to play and will comply with any ongoing requirements in the return-to-play protocol;
 - (iii) consents to the disclosure to appropriate persons, consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-191), of the treating physician's written statement under Subdivision (3) and, if any, the return-to-play recommendations of the treating physician; and
 - (iv) understands the immunity provisions under Section 38.159.

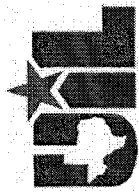
 Parent or Guardian Signature

 Date

 Student Signature

 Date

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SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST (SCA) AWARENESS FORM

The Basic Facts on Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Website Resources:

American Heart Association:
www.heart.org

Lead Author: Arnold Fenrich, MD
and Benjamin Levine, MD

Additional Reviewers: UIL Medical
Advisory Committee

Revised 2016

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Occurs suddenly and often without warning.
- An electrical malfunction (short-circuit) causes the bottom chambers of the heart (ventricles) to beat dangerously fast (ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation) and disrupts the pumping ability of the heart.
- The heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs of the body.
- The person loses consciousness (passes out) and has no pulse.
- Death occurs within minutes if not treated immediately.

What causes Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Inherited (passed on from family) conditions present at birth of the heart muscle:

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – hypertrophy (thickening) of the left ventricle; the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in athletes in the U.S.

Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy – replacement of part of the right ventricle by fat and scar; the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in Italy.

Marfan Syndrome – a disorder of the structure of blood vessels that makes them prone to rupture; often associated with very long arms and unusually flexible joints.

Inherited conditions present at birth of the electrical system:

Long QT Syndrome – abnormality in the ion channels (electrical system) of the heart.

Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia and Brugada Syndrome – other types of electrical abnormalities that are rare but run in families.

NonInherited (not passed on from the family, but still present at birth) conditions:

Coronary Artery Abnormalities – abnormality of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart muscle. This is the second most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in athletes in the U.S.

Aortic valve abnormalities – failure of the aortic valve (the valve between the heart and the aorta) to develop properly; usually causes a loud heart murmur.

Non-compaction Cardiomyopathy – a condition where the heart muscle does not develop normally.

Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome – an extra conducting fiber is present in the heart's electrical system and can increase the risk of arrhythmias.

Conditions not present at birth but acquired later in life:

Commotio Cordis – concussion of the heart that can occur from being hit in the chest by a ball, puck, or fist.

Myocarditis – infection or inflammation of the heart, usually caused by a virus.

Recreational/Performance-Enhancing drug use.

Idiopathic: Sometimes the underlying cause of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest is unknown, even after autopsy.

What are the symptoms/warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Fainting/blackouts (especially during exercise)
- Dizziness
- Unusual fatigue/weakness
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea/vomiting
- Palpitations (heart is beating unusually fast or skipping beats)
- Family history of sudden cardiac arrest at age < 50

ANY of these symptoms and warning signs that occur while exercising may necessitate further evaluation from your physician before returning to practice or a game.

What is the treatment for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Time is critical and an immediate response is vital.
- **CALL 911**
- **Begin CPR**
- **Use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**

What are ways to screen for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

The American Heart Association recommends a pre-participation history and physical including 14 important cardiac elements.

The **UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History form** includes **ALL 14** of these important cardiac elements and is mandatory annually.

What are the current recommendations for screening young athletes?

The University Interscholastic League requires use of the specific Preparticipation Medical History form on a yearly basis. This process begins with the parents and student-athletes answering questions about symptoms during exercise (such as chest pain, dizziness, fainting, palpitations or shortness of breath); and questions about family health history.

It is important to know if any family member died suddenly during physical activity or during a seizure. It is also important to know if anyone in the family under the age of 50 had an unexplained sudden death such as drowning or car accidents. This information must be provided annually because it is essential to identify those at risk for sudden cardiac death.

The University Interscholastic League requires the Preparticipation Physical Examination form prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to the 1st and 3rd years of high school participation. The required physical exam includes measurement of blood pressure and a careful listening examination of the heart, especially for murmurs and rhythm abnormalities. If there are no warning signs reported on the health history and no abnormalities discovered on exam, no additional evaluation or testing is recommended for cardiac issues/concerns.

Are there additional options available to screen for cardiac conditions?

Additional screening using an electrocardiogram (ECG) and/or an echocardiogram (Echo) is readily available to all athletes from their personal physicians, but is not mandatory, and is generally not recommended by either the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American College of Cardiology (ACC). Limitations of additional screening include the possibility (~10%) of "false positives", which leads to unnecessary stress for the student and parent or guardian as well as unnecessary restriction from athletic participation. There is also a possibility of "false negatives", since not all cardiac conditions will be identified by additional screening.

When should a student athlete see a heart specialist?

If a qualified examiner has concerns, a referral to a child heart specialist, a pediatric cardiologist, is recommended. This specialist may perform a more thorough evaluation, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), which is a graph of the electrical activity of the heart. An echocardiogram, which is an ultrasound test to allow for direct visualization of the heart structure, may also be done. The specialist may also order a treadmill exercise test and/or a monitor to enable a longer recording of the heart rhythm. None of the testing is invasive or uncomfortable.

Can Sudden Cardiac Arrest be prevented just through proper screening?

A proper evaluation (Preparticipation Physical Evaluation – Medical History) should find many, but not all, conditions that could cause sudden death in the athlete. This is because some diseases are difficult to uncover and may only develop later in life. Others can develop following a normal screening evaluation, such as an infection of the heart muscle from a virus. This is why a medical history and a review of the family health history need to be performed on a yearly basis. With proper screening and evaluation, most cases can be identified and prevented.

Why have an AED on site during sporting events?

The only effective treatment for ventricular fibrillation is immediate use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED can restore the heart back into a normal rhythm. An AED is also life-saving for ventricular fibrillation caused by a blow to the chest over the heart (commotio cordis).

Texas Senate Bill 7 requires that at any school sponsored athletic event or team practice in Texas public high schools the following must be available:

- An AED is in an unlocked location on school property within a reasonable proximity to the athletic field or gymnasium
- All coaches, athletic trainers, PE teacher, nurses, band directors and cheerleader sponsors are certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of the AED.

- Each school has a developed safety procedure to respond to a medical emergency involving a cardiac arrest.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the AED should be placed in a central location that is accessible and ideally no more than a 1 to 1 1/2 minute walk from any location and that a call is made to activate 911 emergency system while the AED is being retrieved.

Student & Parent/Guardian Signatures

I certify that I have read and understand the above information.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Date

Student Signature

Student Name (Print)

Date

Garland Independent School District Fine Arts Handbook

(MS/HS Cheer, Junior Varsity/Varsity Drill Team, Step, World Dance, Magnet Dance Company)

Table of Contents

Purpose.....	Page 2
Definition.....	Page 2
Statement Concerning Disabilities.....	Page 2
Injury, Use of Video, and Video Guidelines.....	Page 3
Financial Obligations.....	Page 3
Practices and Performances.....	Page 4
Attendance.....	Page 4
Transportation.....	Page 5
Health Issues.....	Page 5
Inclement Weather.....	Page 6
Parents/Guardians/Family Members.....	Page 6
Specialty Groups.....	Page 7
GISD Fine Arts Code of Conduct.....	Page 7
Eligibility.....	Page 8
Academic Probation.....	Page 8
Disciplinary Probation.....	Page 9
Removal.....	Page 9
Demerit/Merit Guidelines.....	Pages 10-14
Handbook Changes.....	Page 13
Appendix A: High School Cheerleading.....	Page 14-19
Appendix B: Drill Team – Junior Varsity.....	Page 20-24
Appendix C: Drill Team – Varsity.....	Page 25-29
Appendix D: Step Team.....	Page 30-31
Appendix E: World Dance Company.....	Page 32-33
Appendix F: Middle School Cheer.....	Page 34-38

** Student/Parent Signature Page will be given by the teacher.

Garland Independent School District

Fine Arts Handbook

(MS/HS Cheer, Junior Varsity/Varsity Drill Team, Step, World Dance, Magnet Dance Company)

Purpose

The purpose of the Garland Independent School District ("GISD") Fine Arts is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing our schools throughout the community, state, and nation.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward the development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

Students are exposed to instruction, practices, performances, competitions, and community service opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

DEFINITION

Performance Year: The rules and procedures outlined in this handbook are in effect from the time the student is selected to the Fine Arts group until the tryout for the next school year. This does not include the academic guidelines. Academic policies are in effect for a school year. Teacher will include coach, director, and sponsor. Student/member will include Varsity/Junior Varsity/Middle School Cheerleaders, Varsity/Junior Varsity Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step.

STATEMENT CONCERNING DISABILITIES:

It is the goal of the GISD Fine Arts Department to provide every qualified student with a disability an opportunity to try out for a program on a level that is equal to that of students without disabilities. We operate under the guidelines outlined by the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to ensure that all GISD Fine Arts programs adhere to the district's responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The GISD students' centralized tryout process is designed so every student is provided with an equitable and nondiscriminatory tryout experience. The tryout process is designed to assess the required level of skill and ability necessary for students to participate in each school's programs. GISD tryouts do not operate on the basis of any generalization, assumption, prejudice, or stereotypes about disability generally, or specific disabilities in particular. The tryout process is open to all qualified students.

Equal opportunity for participation is afforded to any qualified student seeking to try out for a position on a GISD team. GISD will provide reasonable modifications to ensure that every student is afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the tryout process unless doing so

fundamentally alters the tryout process. Requested modifications must not alter essential aspects of the tryout process or provide any student with an unfair advantage.

The GISD centralized tryout process is designed to assess fundamental team skills that are essentially necessary for the teams of each campus. The tryout process assesses a student's ability to learn and perform a specific routine within a set amount of time. The tryout process also assesses a student's ability to perform specific skills including, but not limited to, kicking, leaps, jumps, splits (slide, jump, etc.), motion technique, dance technique, projection, timing, and memory. These skills and abilities are scored according to standardized judging criteria which is used to assess every candidate equally.

INJURY, USE OF VIDEO, AND VIDEO USAGE GUIDELINES

- A. In the case of physical injury prior to the tryout, the Director of Fine Arts must be notified for permission to have any deviations in the tryout procedure. A video can only be used with prior approval from the Director of Fine Arts, and only in the case of an injury that impairs a student from fully participating in the tryouts. If a prior video is used, only a small segment of the video that shows the necessary skills or styles used during tryouts may be judged.
- B. A medical doctor's note indicating the specific skill the student is incapable of performing will be required prior to video use. The student must still be in attendance the day of tryouts.
- C. The judges shall be instructed to consider "absence of pressure," lack of physical/respiratory exertion, vocal ability, and note if a candidate is using a hard or spring floor when performing "specific skills" on video. A candidate must perform each individual "specific skill" required in the tryout to receive credit/points. No score reduction or credit shall be exercised due to the claimed injury. However, in light of the above considerations, a perfect score for any "specific skill" or category should be rare. Teachers will make these guidelines available to judges if a video is used for tryout.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- A. Because Fine Arts groups are extracurricular activities, there are both financial and time commitments involved in being a part of a successful program. These commitments are spelled out clearly for each school in the packets that are distributed prior to tryouts. It is critical that students and parents understand the financial obligations of the organization and the timeline for submitting payments due for materials and/or activities before the student decides to try out for the team. Payment contracts may be requested.
- B. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not be allowed to perform with the organization until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- C. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not receive an item or service ordered until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
- D. Payments that are not made by a certain date (set by the campus), will result in removal from the team. The date of these payments will be clearly communicated.
- E. Any student who has not met their financial obligation for the current school year will not be allowed to try out for the team next school year.
- F. If a member chooses to not continue with the team or is removed from the team, the member will only be refunded for the portion of their expenses for items that have not been ordered.

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES

- A. All members must attend practice sessions as determined by the teacher. Absence from practice may result in a missed performance if the teacher determines that the absence has hindered the ability of the team to practice productively. Tardies to practices and performances will receive demerits.
- B. Members will be required to dress and practice in the correct practice attire. Practice wear will be decided by the teacher.
- C. Activities and practice time must be in accordance with TEA/UII Side-by-Side.
- D. Members should use discretion with their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities and should communicate potential conflicts with other teachers.
- E. There may be tryouts for each performance. The teacher will judge routines/skills. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine/skill to the expected standard or who have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices will not be chosen to perform. Placement in formations or lines is at the discretion of the director/coach.
- F. Members should strive to maintain a reasonable level of fitness.
- G. If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, tardies, illness, attitude, or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits them from doing so.
- H. A member may only perform if in the correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.
- I. A member must follow a standard of uniformity (hair, makeup, nails, etc.) that is developed and established annually by the teacher, a committee of team members, and will be approved by the principal.
- J. Members who have auditioned and passed on the prior week routine will not be disciplined for making mistakes that were clearly unintentional during the performance.

ATTENDANCE

- A. Absences— these rules govern all practices, events, and performances, including those not during school hours.
- B. Attendance at all activities and practices is mandatory.
- C. An absence is recorded if more than 20 minutes late.
- D. An unexcused absence from class periods and other practices receives demerits. Absences are excused for: personal illness with a doctor's note, death in family, illness in family that requires out-of-town travel, funeral, approved college days, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays. The term "family emergency" will need explanation.
- E. Absence from practice will result in the student being benched from the next performance if the teacher determines the student's absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.
- F. Tardies will be recorded and will receive demerits. The only excused tardies will be those with notes from a principal or another teacher.

- G. Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities, including religious holidays, will not be recorded as an absence.
- H. Absences must be communicated in a manner requested by the teacher in advance. Failure to do so results in demerits. Members must keep the teacher informed of all conflicting school activities (field trips, approved college visit day, testing, meetings, etc.) in a timely manner. Failure to do so can result in demerits or inability to perform.
- I. Upon return from any absence, members must bring a note to the teacher from a parent or physician explaining their absence. Failure to do so results in demerits or inability to perform.
- J. Outside employment and/or outside performing groups are not an excuse to miss any part of the school performance group activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence, and will result in demerits or inability to perform.
- K. Members cannot miss a band practice (drill team only) or the last practice before a performance. Doing so will result in the member's inability to perform or demerits.
- L. Members who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. Exceptions will be approved for school field trips, religious holidays, and excused medical reasons. Regular medical checkups should be scheduled outside of team practice/performance dates.

TRANSPORTATION

- A. All members are expected to travel to and from games/competitions/performances/events on school buses (HS Only). Any exemption must be applied for at least 24 hours in advance, use the district form, be for a specific reason, and be approved by the campus principal. Members will be checked out by the teacher at the event. A picture ID will be required of the approved adult before a member can be checked out.
- B. Middle school cheer will be provided two buses in the Fall and 2 buses in the Spring.
- C. All members are to be picked up from the school after games/competitions/performances/events no later than 20 minutes after being dismissed by the teacher. 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 benching or removal may be possible.
- D. Members are not allowed to be transported in the teacher's car.
- E. Booster clubs may provide charter buses at the club's expense if approved by the campus principal.
- F. If a member misses the bus to games/competitions/performances/events, they will not be allowed to join the team by using their personal transportation. Missing the bus is an absence. Absence demerits and other consequences will apply.

HEALTH ISSUES

If the teacher or an administrator suspects a potential or dangerous health condition, they have a right to ask for a doctor's examination at the member's expense and must obtain a doctor's release before continuing to participate.

- A. Participation will be reviewed when a medical or physical condition prohibits safe performance.
- B. Members may not be exempt from practice for longer than 3 days without a note from a doctor.
- C. If the member sits out of practice for medical reasons, they may not be eligible to perform.
- D. Medical devices prescribed by a doctor will be required in all rehearsals and performances. Failure of the member to bring their prescribed medical device will limit their ability to rehearse and perform.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the teacher, in collaboration with the building principal, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interest of the students and their health and welfare.
- B. If a student voluntarily leaves an event, with or without a parent/guardian, they will be subject to the penalties as outlined in the Fine Arts Handbook.
- C. Cancellation of some events may not occur until the day of the event.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS

- A. The GISD Fine Arts Department holds to the belief that communication between teachers, members, and parents/guardians is of the utmost importance. Parents/Guardians have the right to be aware of all rules, guidelines, and expectations for both students and parents/guardians. Teachers have the right to know if a parent/guardian has a concern. Parents/guardians should discuss concerns with the teacher at the appropriate time and place.
- B. There are times when a conference with a teacher is required. If parents/guardians believe that a conference is necessary they must contact the teacher through school email and set up an appointment. A principal may be requested to attend the conference. **Parents/guardians must follow the chain of command.**
- C. All GISD rehearsals are closed to the public. Parents must obtain permission from the teacher and/or principal before attending any practice or class. Parents/guardians must adhere to the GISD visitor policy for any visit to campus or other GISD facilities.
- D. Under no circumstance should a teacher be approached by a parent/guardian before, during or after a practice or performance.
- E. If a parent/guardian chooses to not follow these guidelines, or if a parent/guardian contributes to repeated disruptions, a campus principal review will be required. Disruptions include, but not limited to, unannounced walk-in to a practice/performance area, derogatory language, threats, harassment, and parent/guardian/family member who uses social media as a means to threaten, harass, and bully a teacher, a member of the team, or the parent/guardian of another member. Parent/Guardian disrespect or harassment toward a teacher will not be tolerated.
- F. The campus principal review may result in the parent/guardian being banned from all activities or in a student being removed from the team.

SPECIALTY GROUPS

It is up to the discretion of each school to decide whether to offer specialty groups. Specialty groups are: officers, squad leaders, managers, kick lines, elite teams, travel teams, cheer captains and other special groups. It is considered a privilege to be a part of these specialty groups. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, may be given to each member of a specialty group.

GISD FINE ARTS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Fine Arts student (Cheerleader, JV/V Drill Team, World Dance Company, and Step Performer) is a recognized representative of the individual school as well as the district and as such must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior. It is the responsibility of the campus administrator and teacher (coach, director, and sponsor) to maintain this high level of expectation. Mutual respect and politeness toward members within the team and GISD performance community are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the squad. Fine Arts students are expected to maintain positive relationships with all students, faculty and staff members, members of the general community, and other GISD groups. Students are expected to present themselves in a manner that reflects GISD accepted dress code, including guidelines for hair, tattoos, fingernails, and piercings. These guidelines have been established to ensure that every student is safe and not injured during a rehearsal or performance. A separate rehearsal/performance uniformity dress code will be in effect while the student is participating within the performance group. Any behavior considered detrimental to the reputation of the GISD Fine Arts Department can result in the dismissal of the student from the program. The determination of conduct detrimental to the reputation of the program will be made by the principal, teacher, board policies and applicable law. All Fine Arts students must follow the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD District Code of Conduct, and the Fine Arts Student Code of 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, Vines, 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, Snap Chats, 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.

Students selected as Fine Arts student performers must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held accountable to a greater standard than that of the general school population. A student has no ordained right to participate in Fine Arts. It is a privilege that has been granted to the student and it is possible that the privilege can be taken away. In addition to the GISD Fine Arts Handbook, GISD Code of Conduct, and the standards outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct will be in effect twenty- four hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year, in season and out of season, whether in school or school is not in session.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Fine Arts programs do not operate under Athletic UIL rules but are required to adhere to the UIL-TEA Side-by-Side. All issues regarding eligibility must be in line with the UIL standards of eligibility for extracurricular activities.
- B. A member who becomes academically ineligible two times during a school year will be considered on probation for the rest of that school year with regard to auditioning and performing with specialty groups. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt.
- C. A member who becomes academically ineligible three times during a school year will be removed from the team.
- D. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

- A. A member may be placed on academic probation for academic reasons as stated in the TEA/GISD policies.
- B. If a member is placed on academic probation, that member will also be on probation regarding the specialty groups and may not audition for or perform with such groups for the remainder of the academic probation term.
- C. Students who are placed on academic probation twice in one year will automatically be on probation with regard to specialty groups for the remainder of the school year.
- D. A member on academic probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.
- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

DISCIPLINARY PROBATION

- A. A member may be placed on disciplinary probation for indicated periods of time as described in this document.

- B. Reasons for probation can be, but are not limited to, inappropriate personal web pages/social media accounts, In-School Suspension (1st Offense), or harassment/bullying.
- C. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team, or of specialty groups, as defined in the specialty groups section of this handbook.
- D. A member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason. Pre-paid trips can be an exception, but the member cannot perform/compete. A member on probation cannot expect any reimbursement.
- E. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.
- F. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.

REMOVAL¹

- A. A member may be removed from the performance team or placed on disciplinary probation by the teacher and principal for violation of the Standards of Conduct sections of this handbook.
- B. A member will be removed from the team on the third disciplinary/academic probation period in one year. Removal occurs once demerits reach 22 or more. If the student progresses to 22 or more demerits without having served other disciplinary actions, or during a disciplinary term, removal is still the result, and will be immediate.
- C. If a member of the team suffers loss of credit for the course because of excessive absences, they may be removed from the team subject to principal/teacher review.
- D. A member who is placed in the reassignment room more than one time during the school year will be subject to a principal/teacher review which may result in removal from the squad.
- E. A member who is suspended from school will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- F. A member who is accused of harassment, bullying, theft, or terrorist threats will have a principal/teacher/parent/student conference and may be removed from the team. Subject to conduct review.
- G. A member who is placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- H. A member who is placed in the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (expelled) will be removed from the team.
- I. Immediate dismissal: Citations for Minor in Consumption (MIC), Drugs or Alcohol Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Minor in Possession of Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping, THC products or other illegal substances, other violations of the law (MIP), AEC placement, fighting at school, RAC (second offense), possession of weapons.

¹ Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., 594 U.S. ____ (2021), discipline regarding off-campus speech and behavior will be weighed in light of this recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

- J. Members who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with membership, including attending team-only events, using facilities, and wearing school district purchased team attire.
- K. Any student removed from the team must also be removed from the class. Students will not be removed until all financial obligations are met and all uniforms and equipment are returned in good condition.
- L. A member who has been removed from the squad or voluntarily quits on any GISD campus will not be eligible to participate in the next tryouts without approval from the principal and teacher. Areas to be reviewed will include, but not be limited to, the reasons for the removal, academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal and the teacher.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

The following are considered rule infractions. Demerits are strictly used only to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. Demerits are given for one school year, tryout to tryout. After tryouts, each member's record is cleared. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet served. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student's record will be cleared.

- A. Benching: Member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance. With regard to pep rallies, football and basketball games, the member may perform in the stands with the team but may not perform in pre-game, half-time, or post-game performances or festivities. A benched member will be required to remain in the stands or in an area designated by the teacher. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- B. Probation: Member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team or of specialty groups. The member is not allowed to travel with the team for any reason. The member may not wear the team uniform. The member must continue to attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. A member may participate in group fundraisers and banquets.
- C. If a member is academically ineligible at the time of benching due to disciplinary probation, the penalty will be served after the academic probation has been served.
- D. A member may be required to have a parent/guardian and teacher conference after the first 10 demerits.
- E. If a student receives an excessive amount of demerits that moves them to an advanced disciplinary level, they will also receive the consequence(s) from the level(s) they may have skipped.
- F. A parent contact may be by phone, letter, team application (as established by director/coach) or email. It is the **parent's/guardian's responsibility** to check for these notifications.
- G. The following benching/probation guidelines will be used:

5	Warning	Document and Parent Contact	
10+	Benched from Next Performance	Document and Parent Contact	1 benching until student reaches 15
15+	3 Week Probation	Document and Parent Contact	1 probation until student reaches 20
20+	6 Week Probation	Document and Parent Contact	1 probation until student reaches 22
22	Removal from Team		

DEMERIT/MERIT GUIDE

The following demerit/merit guide will be used.:

RULE INFRACTION	DEMERIT(s)
Incorrect practice uniform	1 per item
Failure of student to dress out for practice	3
Chewing gum during practice or performance	2
Not returning any item with a due date	1 each day
Leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area	2
Tardies to practice, performance/function/area ** Excessive tardies (3 or more) can receive benching	Practice 1 Performance 3
Wearing any jewelry (including clear spacers) during practice and after a warning. Excessive infractions (3+) will not require a warning.	1 per item
Moving or talking in performance line	2

DEMERIT GUIDE - These demerits may not be erased with merits.

Not following instructions for stands, sidelines, and entering/exiting venue	1
Any inappropriate behavior, at school or school events, as outlined in the GISD/Fine Arts Student Codes of Conduct and campus expectations	5 out of uniform 10 in uniform

<p>Wearing unacceptable nail length (safety issue) and hair to a practice *Nails should be worn in a "sports length" *Nails should be barely visible from palm angle. This is in accordance with NFHS Safety Guidelines. See page 4, Practice and Performances, I.</p>	<p>1 per item first offense 2 per item 2nd offense</p>
<p>Wearing nail polish or unacceptable nail length (safety) to a performance *Nails should be worn in a "sports length", nails should be barely visible from palm angle. Acceptable colors: clear, French, or neutral</p>	<p>2 first offense 4 2nd offense</p>
<p>Not notifying the teacher of absences or not bringing a note upon return from absence. The manner of communication is determined by the teacher.</p>	<p>2 per infraction **</p>
<p>Wearing any jewelry to a performance including clear spacers. Benched until corrected.</p>	<p>2 per item</p>
<p>Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets to non-team members</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Wearing uniform to non-team function without teacher approval</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Failing to bring all required items to a practice/performance. This includes game day attire See page 3, Practice and Performances</p>	<p>practice 1 per item game day attire 1 per item performance 2 per item</p>
<p>Having a cell phone, earbuds or a smart watch in practice or performance area without permission from the teacher</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Leaving any practice/performance early without permission from teacher</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Insubordination (eye rolling, arguing, disrespect to faculty/staff, not responding, negative body language, ranting, repeated use of cell phone/smart watch w/out permission, non-compliance), leaving any group activity without permission</p>	<p>Minor infraction 5 Major infraction 10</p>
<p>Inappropriate or obscene social media posts</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Office referral</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Letting a non-member into locker room without teacher's permission</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Unexcused absence from class period, practice outside school hours, or required performance/function</p>	<p>Practice 3 Performance 5 plus possible benching for next game</p>

Reassignment Room **review and refer to GISD Policies	15 **
N in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies	15 **
U in conduct **review and refer to GISD Policies	20 **
Suspension from school **review and refer to GISD Policies	20 **

MERIT GUIDE

- A. Merits must be acquired **prior** to any demerit listed above. See the chart below.
- B. One merit will remove one demerit.
- C. It is up to the student to request possible merit earning opportunities and to provide proof as requested.

Approved Merits (approval of the teacher)	Merit (s)
Parent /Guardian Attending Booster Meetings	1 per meeting, Max 6
Conditioning	1
10 sets of 10 kicks/10 jumps	1
Creating posters/signs for events/fundraisers	1 per poster
Attending and helping at GISD events (literacy, back to school, etc)	2 per hour
Attending and supporting Fine Arts Group performances	1
Extra shift at team community service	2 per hour
Teacher assistant by appointment for 1 hour	2
Extra shift at a team fundraiser	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event
Greeter at after school functions	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event
Volunteer to organized closet, clean locker room, dance area, etc	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event
Assist with faculty dance, school talent show, etc	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event
Volunteer to bring supplies for events	1 per item

Team bonding game winners	1
After school technique/tutoring team members	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event
Attending and supporting other school events to promote unity	2
Volunteer for outside community service (must be approved)	2 per hour, max 3 hrs per event

HANDBOOK CHANGES

The GISD Fine Arts Handbook is subject to change at any time due to court rulings, Texas Education Agency rulings, or Garland Independent School District policy changes.

Appendix A: High School Cheer

SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered at attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.
- B. Each sponsor/coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A MANDATORY parent meeting will be called by the sponsor/coach prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- C. Cheerleader candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the cheerleading squad, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- D. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.

- E. All cheerleaders will be required to try out for the team each year. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. An individual's video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 3)
- F. The Garland Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection of high school cheerleaders. The goal of the tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school cheer candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, Spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and sponsors/coaches. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to try out must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for Cheer.
- G. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be thrown out. Each candidate must score 60 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of 100 points in order to be placed on a cheer squad. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates that fall within the natural break from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- H. Each campus sponsor/coach and principal will establish a uniform tryout outfit. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure. This uniform should be limited to a plain white polo-style shirt or t-shirt with no visible logo (tucked in), a solid colored short (style/color to be determined by sponsor/coach), and any type of white athletic shoe. Hair should be up and/or out of the candidate's face. Schools will not allow any accessory or addition (rings, bracelets, hair bows etc.) to the tryout outfit. No jewelry is permitted.
- I. Mats will be available in all tryout gyms. It is each candidate's choice to use or not to use the mats. Certified judges will be instructed to score each candidate on the difficulty and execution of the candidate's tumbling skills.
- J. Candidates selected to be a cheerleader are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, sporting events, competition, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and sponsor/coach.

TRYOUTS

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, sponsors/coaches, principals, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders who are not part of the audition 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. PARENTS will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.

- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include coaches from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the cheer candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from 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. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Each candidate will have a pre-score based on prior attendance, discipline, grades, clinic effort, and demerits. This score will be added to all candidates that meet the minimum skill score in order to calculate the final rankings.
- D. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible score of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Tumbling (10pts), Spirit (10pts), Jumps (30pts), Cheer (30pts), Dance (20pts)
- E. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation location. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the sponsors/coaches will be allowed to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation location. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped, and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the candidate's score.
Once the candidate has made the minimum skill score, the pre-score will then be averaged in order to calculate the final rankings. In order to be placed on the cheer squad, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel and averaging with the pre- score, a candidate must earn 60 for varsity, 40 for JV A and JV B out of the possible 100 points and **fall within the natural break**. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and/or online. A school designated area and an online address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location. GISD has up to 72 hours to post results.

- G. If the JV squad is abnormally small, the campus **may** host a second round of tryouts on their campus. The same criteria will apply. Fine Arts will be notified.
- H. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

CHEER SQUADS

A. Varsity

- a. The Varsity Squad will be composed of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Select campuses will also include freshmen.
- b. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 60 to earn a spot.
- c. The Fine Arts administration will review the scores for a natural break. The natural break will determine the size of the squad.
- d. The Varsity Squad will have a maximum of **up to** 25 members (this number will be determined by the campus).

B. Junior Varsity

- a. The Junior Varsity Squad can be composed of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- b. Candidates must score above the minimum score of 40 to earn a spot.
- c. The JV Squad will be filled with candidates falling below the natural break for varsity and above the minimum score.
- d. The JV Squad will have a maximum of 32 members (this number will be determined by the campus).

C. Additional Considerations

- a. Any JV Squad consisting of more than 20 members may be, at the campus' discretion, divided into A and B squads or a freshmen squad.
- b. A and B cheerleader squads will be divided for the purpose of covering more games. The make-up of these squads and the cheering schedule for each is left to campus discretion.
- c. Campuses with a JV B squad will be allotted a third cheer sponsor.
- d. If scoring results in a tie for the 25th varsity spot or the 32nd JV spot, all candidates with the tie score will be added to the squad.
- e. If a member of the cheerleading squad moves (or there is an opening for any reason), the principal and sponsor **may** fill the opening based on the tryout rank scores. Any replacement will take place on or before the first day of the first school term and is at the principal's and sponsor's discretion.

CHEERING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with UIL rules, high school cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one contest per school week. It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at the same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. Friday night and weekend contests do not count toward the one contest per week rule.

CHEERLEADER COMPETITION

The requirement is that all cheerleaders will participate in competition. Failure to commit and participate in competition(s) may result in removal at semester. Tryouts may be held to determine competition groups etc. UIL Spirit competition is a requirement of the district.

PARADES

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

SUMMER CAMP

Participation in all days of summer camp is mandatory. No exceptions are made for outside cheer teams or vacations.

FOOTBALL

- A. Varsity cheerleaders`will cheer at all varsity games.
- B. JV cheerleaders will cheer at all JV games at the sponsor's discretion. You may choose to cheer for the A or B team.
- C. JV cheerleaders may be asked to cheer at additional varsity games at the discretion of the campus.
- D. Freshmen games will be covered if there is a JV B squad.
- E. Playoff games will be covered.

VOLLEYBALL

- A. Games can be covered by any squad at the discretion of the campus administration and sponsor.
- B. Playoff games should be covered.

BASKETBALL

- A. All district varsity boys and girls games should be covered. Squad assignments will be at the discretion of the campus administration and the sponsor.
- B. If a campus has a JV B squad, they will be assigned either JV or freshmen games.
- C. Exceptions to the above rules are as follows:
 - 1. No out of town games on Monday through Thursday nights.
 - 2 .No cheering during the holiday break.
- D. Playoff games should be covered.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Additional activities such as community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus principal. Cheerleaders are required to attend each of these events.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Captains, etc.)

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

CHEER COSTS COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide each cheerleader with a uniform (2 shells and 1 skirt). Some squads will have additional pieces.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with a dated cleaning receipt attached, or must pay laundering fees as determined by the coach. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. A transfer can only occur if there are spots available on the new school's team.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the coach and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former cheer team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head coach stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head coach.
- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new coach and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout material from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new cheer items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and other performances will be at the discretion of the coach and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The coach and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new cheer member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

SAFETY

Garland ISD cheerleaders will follow the National Federation of State High Schools Associations Spirit Rules Book.

Appendix B: Drill Team – Junior Varsity

MEMBERSHIP

The junior varsity drill team is open to any student grades 9-12 attending any GISD high school. Tryouts are required; however each campus can dictate the requirements and the minimum score needed.

JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may tryout at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school. Varsity drill team is for students who are entering grades 9-12.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A mandatory parent/student meeting will be called by the director prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Additional information such as cost of membership, rehearsal, and performance dates will be included in the informational packet. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents/guardians must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process. A mandatory meeting for all students and parents/guardians will be required following the tryout process. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend the post tryout meeting will forfeit the members place on the team. Pre-tryout and post-tryout meetings will be determined by the campus principal and director.
- B. All junior varsity candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- C. All current junior varsity drill team members will be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. **EXCEPTION:** Drill team members who have already been selected to serve as a team officer (dance, sergeant, social, squad officer) for the next school year will be exempt from the line tryouts. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. Video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 2)
- D. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.

- E. If a student is ineligible according to UIL standards for extracurricular activities at the time of tryouts, they can participate in any out-of-school workshops or pre-tryout judging. They will be able to try out before the judges.
- F. The Garland Independent School District will hold a centralized tryout for the selection of high school junior varsity drill team line members. The goal of the centralized tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school drill team candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and directors. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to audition must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application, clinic, or tryout fees for students trying out for the drill team.
- G. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be dropped. Each candidate must score a minimum set by the campus in order to be placed on a drill team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates who earn the minimum score from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least an incoming freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- H. Candidates selected to be a member of the team are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, football, basketball, contest, spring show, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and director.
- I. Students with Disabilities: See page 2
- J. Injury, Use of Video, and Video Usage Guidelines: See page 3

TRYOUTS

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, directors, principals, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing drill team members who are not part of the audition 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. Parents/Guardians will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include directors from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or privately taught the drill team candidates

during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of drill team members 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. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.

- C. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Tryout Dance (60 pts), Kick/Field Entrance (30pts), Right Split or Right Jump Split/Left Split (10pts)
- D. Each candidate will have a pre-score based on prior attendance, discipline, grades, clinic effort, and demerits. This score will be added to all candidates that meet the minimum skill score in order to calculate the final rankings.
- E. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation room. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the drill team director and assistant will be allowed in the room to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation room. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the candidate's average score. **Once the candidate has made the minimum skill score, the pre-score will then be averaged in order to calculate the final rankings.** Each campus will set a minimum score. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal. Call backs will be made if necessary.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and/or online. A school designated area and an on-line address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location. GISD has up to 72 hours to post the results.
- G. If the JV squad is abnormally small, the campus **may** host a second round of tryouts on their campus. The same criteria will apply. Fine Arts will be notified. This second tryout will only require 3 judges. Therefore, no scores will be dropped. Students may only try out one time. They may not attend both auditions.
- H. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.

- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A three week, or less, transfer probation will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new drill team items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCE

- A. Performances at pre-district games and non-district GISD games (example: Rockwall, Tyler Lee, etc.) are at the discretion of the director and campus principal.
- B. All GISD junior varsity drill teams must attend at least 5 GISD junior varsity football games. If there is only one director for Junior Varsity and Varsity Drill Team, less games can be attended as approved by the campus principal.

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCES

- A. Each junior varsity team must attend a minimum of 3 varsity games.
- B. Attendance at all other varsity games is optional and at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

BASKETBALL GAME PERFORMANCES

Each junior varsity team must perform a minimum of 3 basketball games (freshman, junior varsity or varsity).

PARADES

Participation in the Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade is mandatory.

CONTEST

Junior varsity teams are required to attend the Garland ISD Dance Festival in the Spring.

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Additional performances such as dance department shows, special events, spring shows, community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the director and campus principal.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.) Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

COST OF JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM

In order to keep the junior varsity drill team affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$700.00 spending limit on camps, practice wear and accessories. A \$50 technique fee can be added if approved by the campus principal. A price list will be provided in each individual school's information packet.

JUNIOR VARSITY COSTS COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide each JV member with a performance field uniform that includes a skirt, overlay, sleeves, and sequin belt.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

Appendix C: Drill Team – Varsity

VARSITY DRILL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may tryout at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school. Varsity drill team is for students who are entering grades 9 (at select schools) -12.

- K. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A mandatory parent/student meeting will be called by the director prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Additional information such as cost of membership, rehearsal, and performance dates will be included in the informational packet. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents/guardians must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process. A mandatory meeting for all students and parents/guardians will be required following the tryout process. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend the post tryout meeting will forfeit the members place on the team. Pre-tryout and post-tryout meetings will be determined by the campus principal and director.
- L. All varsity candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the drill team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- M. All current varsity drill team members will be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. EXCEPTION: Drill team members who have already been selected to serve as a team officer (dance, sergeant, social, squad officer) for the next school year will be exempt from the line tryouts. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. Video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 2)
- N. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.
- O. If a student is ineligible according to UIL standards for extracurricular activities at the time of tryouts, they can participate in any out-of-school workshops or pre-tryout judging. They will be able to try out before the judges.
- P. The Garland Independent School District will hold a centralized tryout for the selection of high school varsity drill team line members. The goal of the centralized tryout will be to

provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school drill team candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and directors. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to audition must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application, clinic, or tryout fees for students trying out for the drill team.

- Q. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be dropped. Each candidate must score a minimum of 80 out of 100 points in order to be placed on a drill team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates who earn the mandatory 80 points from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- R. Candidates selected to be a member of the team are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, football, basketball, contest, spring show, Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade, and special events) for the full year. Any member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and director.
- S. Students with Disabilities: See page 2
- T. Injury, Use of Video, and Video Usage Guidelines: See page 3

TRYOUTS

- I. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, directors, principals, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing drill team members who are not part of the audition 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. Parents/Guardians will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- J. Judges – Five judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include directors from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or privately taught the drill team candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the State of Texas, attended by thousands of drill team members 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. They will be

instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.

- K. Scoring - Each of the five judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Tryout Dance (60 pts), Kick/Field Entrance (30pts), Right Split or Right Jump Split/Left Split (10pts)
- L. Each candidate will have a pre-score based on prior attendance, discipline, grades, clinic effort, and demerits. This score will be added to all candidates that meet the minimum skill score in order to calculate the final rankings.
- M. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation room. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the drill team director and assistant will be allowed in the room to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation room. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. The high and low judge's scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the candidate's average score. **Once the candidate has made the minimum skill score, the pre-score will then be averaged in order to calculate the final rankings.** In order to be placed on the drill team, after dropping the high and low scores from the judging panel and averaging with the pre- score, a candidate must earn an average of 80 out of the possible 100 points and **fall within the natural break.** Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal. Call backs will be made if necessary.
- N. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and/or online. A school designated area and an on-line address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location. GISD has up to 72 hours to post the results.
- O. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

VARSITY DRILL TEAM COSTS COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide field uniform pieces excluding hats, boots, bodysuits, petticoats, and tights. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- B. Award blankets will be provided to senior drill team members who have not already been awarded any other award blanket or jacket by GISD organizations.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former drill team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout dance, kick, and splits from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new drill team items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new drill team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

SUMMER CAMP

Participation in all days of summer camp is mandatory. No exceptions are made for outside dance teams or vacations.

VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONTEST

All varsity drill teams will participate in competition. Members will be required to try out for each contest dance. The expectation is that every member will be in at least one contest routine. Failure to commit and participate in competition(s) will result in removal at semester. All varsity teams are required to attend the Garland ISD Dance Festival in the Spring. A separate handbook, approved by the campus principal, will be given to each contest member.

SPRING SHOW

All team members are required to participate and attend an annual spring show. The spring show date, time, location, and theme will be announced by the teacher and approved by the campus principal.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.) Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

Appendix D: Step Team

STEP TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

At the time of tryouts, one of the two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is not enrolled in 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 only try out for one GISD school.

- A. Each sponsor will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the tryout packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- B. All current members may be required to try out for the team each year. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team. In case of an injury, video audition may be used, but the candidate must be physically present at tryouts (see page 3, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are welcome to try out regardless of grade eligibility.
- D. Tryout clinics and dates will be determined by the sponsor and campus principal. Judges will be the sponsor(s) and one other to be selected by campus administration. This could be another faculty member or a Fine Arts designee.
- E. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team. Selection criteria includes: Personality, Showmanship, Enthusiasm, Facial Expressions, Energy/Stamina, Vocals and Precision.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the sponsor). Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.
- G. Candidates selected to be a member of the step team are expected to make a commitment for the entire school year. Performances and events include, but are not limited to, pep-rallies, parades (Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade), step shows, community events, and other performance opportunities.
- H. Any member who quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have tryout approval from the principal and sponsor.
- I. Auditions will be closed to the public, except for judges, sponsor(s), principal, and Fine Arts designee.
- J. A mandatory meeting will be held after the auditions for parents and members of the team. Financial expectation and payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding after school practices and performances/events.
- K. Step team candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the step team, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than

April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the sponsor and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- C. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- D. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former step team. Tryouts at the new school are required.
- E. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and sponsor stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and sponsor.
- F. The transfer student must try out in front of the new sponsor and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout routine will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- G. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new items are being ordered and have not been received.
- H. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and show performances will be at the discretion of the sponsor and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- I. The sponsor and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

STEP TEAM ACTIVITIES

High school step teams are required to attend the Labor Day Parade, MLK Parade, a minimum of two step shows/competitions, campus Fine Arts showcases, and other district performances as needed.

NATIONALS

Each year, the step coaches and Fine Arts coordinator will decide the approved pathway to a National competition. No other national competition will be covered by the district.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

Appendix E: World Dance Company

WORLD DANCE COMPANY SELECTION PROCESS

At the time of selections, one of the two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is not enrolled in GISD, but is registered to attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student can be a candidate at that campus. A student may only go through the selection process for one GISD school.

- A. Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the WDC packet and will be approved by the campus principal. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the selection process.
- B. All current members will be required to participate in the selection process for the company each year as approved by the campus principal. Failure to participate in the selection process will result in removal from the team. In case of an injury, a video may be used, but the candidate must be physically present during the selection process (see page 3, Injury/Video).
- C. All students are allowed to participate in the selection process regardless of grade eligibility. Separate requirements can be used for leadership positions.
- D. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.
- E. Clinics and dates will be determined by the director and campus principal.
- F. The selection process will be determined by the director and campus principal.
- G. Selection results will be posted at each school in a designated area and also online (indicated by the director). Requests for scores or other selection materials should be made through the school principal's office.
- H. Candidates selected to be a member of the World Dance Company are expected to make a commitment for the entire school year. Performances and events include, but are not limited to, pep-rallies, parades (Martin Luther King Parade and Labor Day Parade), dance concerts, community events, and competition.
- I. Any member who quits or is removed from the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to participate in the selection process unless they have approval from the principal and director.
- J. Clinics and the selection process will be closed to the public.
- K. A mandatory meeting will be held after selections for parents and members of the company. Financial expectations and a payment plan will be provided, as well as information regarding after school practices and performances/events.
- L. World Dance Company candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to any clinics and selection day. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the World Dance Company, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS (Selection process should be used in place of tryout)

- A. If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:
- B. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the director and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head director stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head director.
- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new director and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout routine from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.
- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and spring show performances will be at the discretion of the director and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The director and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new team member, they may be accepted as a non-performing manager or will be transferred to a dance or physical education class. All tryout decisions are final.

WORLD DANCE COMPANY COSTS COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide each WDC member with a costume and shoes.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

SPECIALITY GROUPS (Officers, Elite Groups, etc.)

Refer to page 6 of the Fine Arts Handbook.

Appendix F: Middle School Cheer

SELECTION PROCESS

- A. The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook. At the time of tryouts, one of two conditions must be met. The student must be enrolled in the Garland Independent School District and trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year or if the student is currently not enrolled in GISD, but is registered at attend a GISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus. A student may only try out for one GISD school.
- B. Each sponsor/coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. A MANDATORY parent meeting will be called by the sponsor/coach prior to tryouts. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal and the Fine Arts Department prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
- C. Cheerleader candidates are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to tryouts. If the candidate answers yes to the questions outlined on this form, then the candidate must also complete the physical exam form. Once a candidate is selected as a member of the cheerleading squad, the member will be required to complete the physical form before the first practice but no earlier than April 1st. All members must complete this form each year. Most schools will offer low cost physicals through the athletic department.
- D. Potential candidates that have been assigned ISS, Suspension, or AEC the year prior to tryouts, must have director/coach and principal approval.
- E. All cheerleaders will be required to try out for the team each year. All candidates must be physically present at the tryouts. An individual's video can only be used in the case of injury. (see Injury and Use of Video, page 3)
- F. The Garland Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection of middle school cheerleaders. The goal of the tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all middle school cheer candidates across the district. Tryouts will be held during a designated week, Spring semester, as determined by the Director of Fine Arts, principals and sponsors/coaches. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or state-mandated testing. Every student wishing to try out must do so on this date with no exceptions. There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for cheer.
- G. The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a three-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team. The number of candidates selected each year will be based on the number of candidates that fall within the natural break from the judging panel. In order to try out, a student must meet all State, TEA, and GISD requirements. Scores given to a student by

an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

- H. Each campus sponsor/coach and principal will establish a uniform tryout outfit. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure. This uniform should be limited to a plain white polo-style shirt or t-shirt with no visible logo (tucked in), a solid colored short (style/color to be determined by sponsor), and any type of white athletic shoe. Hair should be up and/or out of the candidate's face. Schools will not allow any accessory or addition (rings, bracelets, hair bows etc.) to the tryout outfit.
- I. Mats will be available in all tryout gyms. It is each candidate's choice to use or not to use the mats. Certified judges will be instructed to score each candidate on the difficulty and execution of the candidate's tumbling skills.
- J. Candidates selected to be a cheerleader are expected to make a commitment to the activity (camp, sporting events, competition, and special events) for the full year. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless they have prior approval from the principal and sponsor/coach.

TRYOUTS

- A. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, sponsors/coaches, principals, and Fine Arts designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders who are not part of the audition 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. PARENTS will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.
- B. Judges – Judges will be hired and compensated by the Director of Fine Arts for tryouts. A Fine Arts designee will be responsible for preparing a list of judges for each tryout location. Efforts will be made to reflect the diversity of the campus in selection of judges. Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include coaches from high school and/or college campuses. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for all tryouts. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the cheer candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students from 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. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.
- C. Each candidate will have a pre-score based on prior attendance, discipline, grades, clinic effort, and demerits. This score will be added to all candidates that meet the minimum skill score in order to calculate the final rankings.

- D. Scoring - Each of the judges will enter each candidate's scores into a spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judge's individual score sheets into a master database. The score sheet will have a possible score of 100 points and each candidate will be judged in following areas: Tumbling (10pts), Spirit (10pts), Jumps (30pts), Cheer (30pts), Dance (20pts)
- E. Tabulation of Scores - When the tryouts are completed, only the campus administrator, technical assistant, and Fine Arts designee will be allowed in the tabulation location. When all scores are reviewed and ranked, the sponsors/coaches will be allowed to review the totals. No one else should be in the tabulation location. The district-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows: Each judge may award up to 100 points total per candidate. These scores will be averaged. **Once the candidate has made the minimum skill score, the pre-score will then be averaged in order to calculate the final rankings.** Candidates must receive a minimum score (as determined by the campus) in order to be selected as a member of the team and fall within the natural break. Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, the Director of Fine Arts, or the Fine Arts designee. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.
- F. Tryout results will be posted at each school in a designated area and/or online. A school designated area and an online address will be given to each candidate prior to leaving the tryout location. GISD has up to 72 hours to post the results.
- G. Requests for scores should be made through the school principal's office.

CHEER SQUADS

Campuses can allow for up to 24 students per campus to participate (this number will be determined by the campus). The 24 students can be divided in any way the campus determines. For example, you may have 12 7th graders and 12 8th graders, or the squads might be unequal in size.

CHEERING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with UIL rules, high school cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one contest per school week. It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at the same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. Friday night and weekend contests do not count toward the one contest per week rule.

SUMMER CHEER CAMP

Each middle school squad is required to attend the GISD middle school cheer camp (provided at no cost). Some campuses may require a second camp.

GAMES-FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL

Games can be covered by any squad at the discretion of the campus administration and sponsor.

DISTRICT SHOW OFF/COMPETITION

The district will host an event in the Spring. This is a mandatory event.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Additional activities such as competitions and community events, etc. will be at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus principal. Cheerleaders are required to attend each of these events.

COST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEER

In order to keep middle school cheer affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$550.00 spending limit on camps, practice wear and accessories, \$450 if not paying for camp. A price list will be provided in each individual school's information packet.

CHEER COSTS COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide each cheerleader with a cheer skirt, and 1 shell. Some squads may have additional pieces.
- B. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with a dated cleaning receipt attached, or must pay laundering fees as determined by the coach. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- C. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

GISD IN-DISTRICT/OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

If a student transfers to Garland ISD or within Garland ISD, the transfer student must meet the following criteria for consideration:

- A. A transfer student must be registered and accepted by the new school.
- B. A transfer can only occur if there are spots available on the new school's team.
- C. The transfer student and legal parent/guardian must contact the coach and request a tryout and transfer tryout packet.
- D. All tryout paperwork must be completed, signed, and dated prior to the tryout.
- E. The transfer student must have participated in tryouts and made the former cheer team. Tryout at the new school is required.
- F. The transfer student must include a letter from their former principal and head coach stating that they made the team in the spring and have a favorable conduct review. The transfer letter must also include contact information for the former principal and head coach.
- G. The transfer student must try out in front of the new coach and campus principal/principal designee. The same tryout material from the spring tryout will be required for the transfer student to learn, perfect, and perform for the evaluation.

- H. A transfer probation of three weeks or less will be required to verify acceptable conduct, grade/graduation credit eligibility, completion of tryout, and financial obligation review. A transfer probation can be extended if new cheer items are being ordered and have not been received.
- I. Once a transfer student is accepted as a member, performance placement, participation in trips or events, contest participation, and other performances will be at the discretion of the coach and principal. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member.
- J. The coach and principal/principal designee will inform the student of the outcome of the tryout. If a student is not selected as a new cheer member, they may be accepted as a non- performing manager. All tryout decisions are final.

SAFETY

Garland ISD cheerleaders will follow the National Federation of State High Schools Associations Spirit Rules Book.