



# Bussey Middle School

**Cheerleading Tryouts Information Packet**

**2026-2027**

# PAPERWORK CHECKLIST

The following is a checklist of the paperwork items each candidate must submit by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 13, 2026.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cheer Application
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts Signature Page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation
- \_\_\_\_\_ UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cardiac Awareness Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Official Report Card (Front office)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Media Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Teacher Recommendations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Why I want to be a Bussey Cheerleader Essay (no more than 500 words)

# WELCOME

Dear parents and guardians,

Your child has expressed interest in joining the Bussey Middle School 7th or 8th-grade cheerleading squad for the 2026–2027 school year. If selected, your child will need to meet certain personal and financial responsibilities to remain in good standing. The GISD cheerleading program requires a significant time and financial commitment. This packet provides essential information for you to decide whether to allow your child to try out. We encourage you to review the expectations and responsibilities with your child before proceeding.

**We will hold a mandatory informational meeting for candidates and their parents/guardians on Wednesday, February 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in room 429. Attendance is required unless you have prior arrangements with the sponsors.**

Please read this packet carefully, and return the signed forms by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2026. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

AUBRIANNA VENTERS  
SPONSOR

BRIANNE OLIPHANT  
SPONSOR

BRANDI DAWSON  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

# CHEERLEADING RULES AND GUIDELINES

## Expectations

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

## Eligibility

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

## Respect

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

# ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

## Attendance

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

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

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

Doing so will result in being benched for that game.

## Punctuality

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

## Uniformity

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

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

Acceptable colors: clear, French, or neutral

# CONDUCT

## **Cheerleader Conduct & Social Media Expectations**

Cheerleaders represent Bussey at all times. A high standard of behavior is expected both in person and online.

## **Social Media & Electronic Communication**

The internet is public. Even posts marked “private” can be shared or screenshot. Students are responsible for everything they post or send.

Inappropriate content includes, but is not limited to:

- Profanity or suggestive language
- Sexual or explicit references
- Bullying or harassment of anyone or any campus
- Images involving improper clothing, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigs, or vapes
- Posting during the school day or excessive daytime activity

Negative comments about Bussey Middle School or content that does not reflect positively on the campus may result in discipline.

All decisions regarding appropriateness will be made by the principal and sponsor/coach.

## **Discipline & Review**

An office referral results in an immediate principal/sponsor review.

Depending on severity, a parent meeting may be required and consequences may include probation or removal from the squad.

## **Following Directions**

Cheerleaders must follow directions from the sponsor and head cheerleader(s).

- At a game → may be benched for one quarter
- At practice → a workout will be assigned

## **Team Behavior**

Cheerleaders are expected to treat one another with respect. They will not:

- Argue with teammates
- Show verbal or non-verbal disrespect (eye-rolling, silent treatment, name-calling)
- Speak negatively about the team, members, or assignments

**Depending on the situation, workouts or demerits may be issued.**

# MISCELLANEOUS

## **Performance Standard**

Bussey cheerleaders are expected to yell chants, perform with sharp, crisp motions, and maintain smiles and spirit at all times.

Failure to meet this expectation will result in immediate benching for the remainder of the event (pep rally, game, performance, etc.).

## **Time Commitment**

If selected, cheerleaders should plan for:

- ~3 hours per week of practice for performances
- 2–3 hours per week for games

## **Transportation**

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from all practices and events.

A calendar will be provided, so athletes must arrive on time and be picked up promptly.

## **Attendance**

Do not try out unless you can commit to all games, practices, and team functions.

- All-star practices and doctor appointments are not excused.
- Notify the coach as early as possible for planned absences.
- Demerits may still be assigned.
- Please see the district handbook for the updated demerit system.

## **Rules**

Being a cheerleader is a privilege. Strict adherence to all team, school, and district rules is required.

### Paperwork Deadline

All required forms must be submitted by 4:00 PM on March 13, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS.

- 7th grade → Ms. Oliphant (Room 312)
- 8th grade → Ms. Venters (Room 429)

# PHYSICAL EVALUATION

Pre-participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History Form. Please notice that you are NOT required to have a physical exam unless you answer YES to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. If none of these apply, you only need to turn in the first page for tryouts.. If you answer yes to any of these questions, you must have a physical exam from a physician and must turn in both pages of the form.

- Due by March 13, 2026 (candidate CANNOT attend clinic without form)
- UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form (form included in packet):

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

- Due with tryout packet on March 13, 2026

## **Camp:**

- Cheerleading camp is mandatory. We will be attending camp at Garland High School on July 8-10 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Transportation is not provided by GISD

# FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cheerleaders must meet all financial obligations. Failure to pay may result in removal from the squad and ineligibility for next year's tryouts.

## **Estimated Costs for BMS Cheer 2026–2027:**

**Total cost:** approximately \$400 (includes accessories—pom poms, socks, bows and camp clothes)

Payment due: May 4, 2026, to the school secretary (cashier's check, personal check, or money order)

## **Additional Required Items (Not Included Above)**

- Solid black racerback sports bra (worn to uniform fitting; must be sponsor-approved)
- White cheer shoes (due by July 1st; available at Varsity, Amazon, Dick's, Academy, etc.)
- Extra bows (if needed)
- Team pictures
- Optional squad teamwear

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR **BMS** CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS

## **Feb. 19, 2026 – Parent & Candidate Meeting | Uniform Fitting**

Room 429 | 5:30–6:30 PM

A parent/guardian must attend unless prior arrangements are made with a coach.

Required paperwork will be distributed.

Athletes must wear a sports bra and briefs

## **March 13, 2026 – Interest Form & Paperwork Due**

- 7th grade → Ms. Oliphant (Rm. 312)
- 8th grade → Ms. Venters (Rm. 429)

## **March 24–27, 2026 – Mandatory Tryout Clinic**

4:30–5:30 PM | Competition Gym

Physical/pre-participation form due by March 6 or candidate cannot attend.

Attire: White T-shirt, black shorts, white athletic shoes, sports bra, hair back.

No crop tops, spaghetti straps, spandex shorts, or jewelry.

## **March 27 – Mock Tryouts**

Candidates perform jumps, cheer, optional tumbling, spirit, and dance.

## **March 28 – Official Tryouts @ Garland HS**

8:00 AM

Wear solid white shirt, black athletic shorts, white shoes, hair back.

No bows or spandex/Nike Pro shorts.

## **April 2 – New Cheerleader & Parent Meeting**

5:30 PM | Cafeteria

Expectations, team parent info, fundraiser details.

## **July 8–10 – Cheer Camp**

9:00 AM–3:00 PM | Garland HS

Parents provide transportation.

# TRYOUT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. FULL GROUP PERFORMANCE

2. INDIVIDUAL TUMBLING

3. INDIVIDUAL JUMPS

4. GROUP CHEER/DANCE

## **What we are looking for at BMS Cheer:**

### **7th Grade**

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

### **8th Grade**

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

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

# NOTE TO PARENTS

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation

Coach Venters

[aventers@garlandisd.net](mailto:aventers@garlandisd.net)

Coach Oliphant

[boliphant@garlandisd.net](mailto:boliphant@garlandisd.net)

# IMPORTANT LINKS

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

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

[Cardiac Awareness Form](#)

[Concussion Acknowledgement Form/link Spanish](#)

[Concussion Acknowledgement Form/Link English](#)

[Cheer Application](#)

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

[Sample Scoresheet](#)

[Fine Arts Handbook/Link](#)

[Signature Page](#)

[Media Release Form English](#)

# PACKAGE ITEMS



# OPTIONAL PACKAGE ITEMS



OPTIONAL ITEM  
SWEATPANTS  
APPROX. \$50.30  
NEED 6 TO ORDER



JERSEY IDEA  
APPROX. \$44.37



OPTIONAL ITEM  
GREY SS- APPROX. \$35.10  
SWEATER (PUFF)- APPROX. \$40.80  
NEED 6 TO ORDER

