

West Geauga Middle School Cheerleading

Tryout Information Packet

Tryout Checklist

- ✓ Up to date physical on record with the middle school office (forms are available in the office or on Final Forms). Candidates must have an up-to-date physical on file in the middle school office to tryout.

Football tryouts will be held Aug. 11th and 12th at WGMS cafeteria. 10-12

Basketball will be later in the Fall. TBD

West Geauga Middle School Cheerleading Program

Philosophy:

The most important goal at West Geauga Middle School is to provide each West Geauga cheerleader the opportunity to grow mentally, ethically, physically, and emotionally.

Cheerleaders are visible symbols of spirit leaders and are responsible for conveying West Geauga spirit to the community, fans, faculty, staff, team, and students of West Geauga Middle School through positive attitudes, sportsmanship, and leadership.

To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each cheerleader. Self-discipline involves compliance with the rules and regulations concerning personal behavior.

Rules promote order and safety and assist cheerleaders in reaching maximum performance potential. Dedication and personal sacrifice by each cheerleader promote a sense of group unity and common goals.

Compliance with the rules and regulations can help each cheerleader learn values that carry beyond the extracurricular program and into daily living and future adulthood.

Goals:

- To promote and uphold school spirit

- To develop leadership qualities

To develop a sense of good sportsmanship

To build relationships among school

To foster skills promoting teamwork, mutual respect for others, and responsibilities

To develop and refine skills required in cheerleading including, but not limited

to, precision in movement and body coordination.

RULES and REGULATIONS

Expectations of a West Geauga Middle School Cheerleader:

Being a cheerleader is not only an honor; it is a privilege as well. Therefore, you have been chosen to represent West Geauga Middle School. It is imperative that you follow all squad rules, school rules, and regulations. Disrespect to authority, school personnel, school policy, fellow students, adults, and visiting guests will not be tolerated and may result in temporary or permanent dismissal from the squad.

Eligibility criteria:

For eligibility as a cheerleader at West Geauga Middle School, the following criteria must be met:

1. All athletes/cheerleaders must meet and maintain eligibility as set forth in the extracurricular eligibility requirements of West Geauga Middle School.

"The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 1.0 grade-point average; and must not have received more than one failing grade in any course for the grading period prior to the grading period in which s/he wishes to participate."

The coach may consult with middle school staff regarding academic progress and use discretion to issue consequences for cheerleaders not passing all courses during the season or not completing assignments (without a valid excuse such as extended absence). For example, if during the season the cheerleader is not passing two of her seven classes the cheerleader may sit a portion of the game until the grades are passing. This policy is in place to build strong student-athletes. The coach will inform both parents and cheerleaders if there is concern about the student's academics.

2. All athletes selected to the cheerleading squad must have on file, prior to the tryout first practice, a physical examination and parental consent certificate as prescribed by the athletic association signed by a licensed physician and at least one parent.
3. Cheerleaders must maintain an acceptable code of conduct to remain on the squad. Cheerleaders are possibly the most visible group of young people representing our school. Conduct should, at all times, reflect good sportsmanship and citizenship. Behavior that is negative, vindictive, rude or unethical AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR is subject to disciplinary measures.

Financial Obligations:

1. Upon becoming a cheerleader, you are required to purchase spandex shorts, socks, shoes, turtleneck/long-sleeved underliner. It is suggested for cheerleaders have a pair of navy blue sweatpants for cold weather. Other clothing purchases will be considered optional.
2. At times squad members request "extras". Example: t-shirts/sweatshirts, jackets, etc. Any uniform owned by the school may not be cut, damaged, or altered without the coaches' approval.
3. Failure to return school-issued uniform/equipment will result in ineligibility for future tryouts and cheerleaders will be fined.
4. Cheerleaders and their parents must understand that they are responsible for their debts. Any cheerleader who cannot meet financial obligations by due dates must contact their respective coach and athletic director.

**Note: In the event of financial difficulties, arrangements can usually be made between the coach and the parent, and the athletic director. Parents are*

encouraged to communicate with the coach if such difficulties arise. These conversations will remain confidential.

5. The athletic participation fee, is a one-time fee, per year, and must be paid before participating in the first game. The dollar amount will be announced each year. 110 dollars.
6. Spirit bags, locker signs, or other expenses may arise during the season.
7. If cheerleaders choose to share snacks with other cheerleaders or players families are encouraged to abide by the WG BOE shared snack list and must be approved by a coach.
8. If the squad is invited to attend a cheerleading camp (which would be an additional cost to be paid by the family) the coach will discuss this option with parents and cheerleaders.

Practices/Games/Events:

1. Practices/games/events (pep rallies, etc.) are mandatory.
2. Practices times will be determined by the coach. Football cheerleading practices will begin in August and basketball cheerleading practices will begin in October or December, depending on the year. Typically, practice will begin at 3:00 pm and end around 4:30 pm unless otherwise noted by the coaches. If you have to leave before practice ends you must notify the coaches 24 hours in advance in writing to be excused. Practices and dismissals will be determined by the coaches, and may be changed, rescheduled or canceled at any time. (Please, have an alternate plan of action for pick-up if the above happens i.e. go to the public library).
3. Cheerleaders are personally responsible for knowing practice schedules. A monthly calendar will be distributed.
4. Any cheerleader missing a practice/game/event must have their parent notify the coach in writing /or by e-mail 24 hours in advance. (Reporting your child's absence to the school attendance office does not qualify as calling a coach directly, we do not get these reports.)
5. Excused absences include the following: illness, death in the family, or participation in A REQUIRED school activity OR AN ABSENCE ACCEPTED BY THE COACH. Practice or a game for another activity (non-school activity/team) is considered an unexcused absence. Approval for other kinds of absences will be at the discretion of the coach. Verbal notice to your coach must be given 24 hours prior to your absence. Unexcused absences may result in the cheerleader sitting out a portion of a game or an entire game.

6. All games and events: You MUST be on TIME (Call the coach, not a squad member if an EMERGENCY SITUATION occurs). No glitter make-up, only apply a light amount of regular make-up, no jewelry of any kind (this includes string jewelry), no iPod/phone use during any game, cell phones are to be in cheer bags on vibrate mode only (if your parents need to reach you they can call the coach's cell phone at any time). Failure to comply with these rules may result in not being permitted to cheer.
7. The squad and coach will make group decisions about clothing choices for game days (uniform, dress clothes, or spirit wear). Cheerleaders must be dressed appropriately at all times in accordance with the WGMS dress code and any other regulations determined by the coach.
8. Each cheerleader will receive the opportunity to be the captain for one game during the season. Captain responsibilities include: calling chants and cheers, leading stretching, and any other duties assigned by the coach.

Away games:

1. Middle school cheerleaders will not go home after school; they will meet in the middle school cafeteria.
2. Parents: your child will call you about 10-15 minutes before we arrive at WGMS. This gives you time to drive to the parking lot and be there on time to pick your child up from the bus. It is imperative that you be on time.
3. Official snow days: no school = no practice and usually no game (unless determined otherwise.)

Discipline:

1. The cheerleading coach has direct authority in all matters regarding the squad from instruction, discipline, activity selection, uniform selection, and evaluation.
2. Benching is another discipline tool used as a result of a rule violation. When benched, the cheerleader will sit in full uniform with the coach for the duration of the event.
3. Cheerleaders may be benched or suspended for part/ or all of an event for any of the following behaviors but not limited to: unexcused absence from practice/game/ or event, ineligibility due to grades, receiving/serving a suspension or detention, not wearing the proper uniform at the event, wearing your uniform outside a school function,

allowing anyone to wear your uniform, not checking out by parent/ guardian signature from an away game, and absence from practices the day before a game/or event. Any inappropriate behavior or language, insubordination, lying, lack of enthusiasm in cheering, tardiness, causing dissension on the squad, or unexcused absences may warrant discipline.

Conduct unbecoming of a WGMS cheerleader; which includes but is not limited to: lack of cooperation, disrespect, sportsmanship, rude attitude, inappropriate behavior, and the use of inappropriate language to any one fan, school official, team, coach, parent, layman coach, or squad member will result in the above stated.

Permanent Removal from Squad:

1. Removal from the cheerleading squad will be determined by the coach and approved by the athletic director and principal.
2. If a cheerleader is dismissed from either squad, he/ she will not be allowed to try-out the following season.
3. Any West Geauga Middle School cheerleader caught using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, being involved in a fight, using profanity or inappropriate internet/cell phone activity will be dismissed from the squad immediately. Each squad member must be a strong representative of the program and a positive reflection of his/her squad members. **Squad members represent the school, exemplary behavior is mandatory at all times in the community and at any function where students can be recognized as representatives of West Geauga Middle School.** Abusive, uncontrollable, irresponsible, or any form of negative behavior, in or out of uniform, will NOT be tolerated. This includes drug and/ or alcohol usage, smoking or other tobacco products, fighting, vulgarity, vandalism, stealing, PDA, or gambling. High moral standards and character are of the utmost importance to this organization and will be regarded as a high priority of all its members. A cheerleader may face immediate dismissal from the squad if the cheerleader or the parent exhibits negative or abusive behavior that is damaging to the squad in any way.

Complaint/ concern "chain of command" procedure:

1. All complaints/ concerns regarding the performance of the cheerleading squad's individual members of either squad or the squad coach will be

conducted in a chain of command procedure. This procedure is as follows:

Step one: The person with complaints/concerns will speak to the cheerleading coach about the complaints/concerns during regular school hours.

Step two: If reasonable satisfaction cannot be gained from the coach, the complaints/concerns will be forwarded by the coach to the athletic director and/or principal who will be responsible for making final decisions regarding complaints and/or concerns.

General addendum:

It is hoped that the rules and regulations will address the majority of situations which may arise during the season. It has been written in an attempt to ensure the utmost fairness to all cheerleaders. No document, however, can address the particular circumstances of every situation; therefore, as the coaches, we must reserve the right of flexibility in enforcing rules and applying the rules and regulations. As a parent/guardians and cheerleaders, you must have faith in our desire and responsibility to treat each cheerleader as fairly as possible.

We look forward to working with you and your children. Best wishes for a wonderful season!

WGMS Cheerleading Coach

WGMS Cheerleading Confirmation of Understanding

We, the undersigned, have read the entire **West Geauga Middle School Cheerleading Information Packet** and understand the contents within.

We also acknowledge that:

1. Candidates must be registered to attend West Geauga Middle School for the 22-23 school year.
2. **Candidates must have a current physical examination on file in the middle school office. Candidates cannot tryout without a current physical on file in the middle school office.**
3. Parents, family, and friends are encouraged not to distract the participant during clinic and tryouts by attending practice sessions, etc. There is a tremendous amount of material to cover and time is vital.
4. We will not contest the final decisions resulting from the panel of judges and scores are confidential.
5. Selected cheerleaders must:
 - a. Always display a positive attitude and represent themselves respectfully publically and on social media at all times; it is essential that all members be responsible and work well with others.
 - b. Abide by the WGMS Cheerleading Rules and Regulations or be subjected to the consequences therein,
 - c. Work hard in the classroom and in practice
 - d. Attend scheduled events
 - e. Provide their own transportation to and from practices and,
 - f. Remain athletically eligible at all times to participate: 1.0 grade point average and must not have received more than one failing grade in any course for the grading period prior to the grading period in which s/he wishes to participate. The coach may consult with middle school staff regarding academic progress and use discretion to issue consequences for cheerleaders not passing all courses during the season or not completing assignments (without a valid excuse such as extended absence). For example, if during the season the cheerleader is not passing two of her seven classes the cheerleader may sit a portion of the game until the grades are passing. This policy is in place to build strong student-athletes. The coach will inform both parents and cheerleaders if there is concern about the student's academics.

WGMS Cheerleading Tryout Information

Candidates will perform the following skills:

1 Cheer

2 Chants

1 Fight Song Dance

Jumps: Toe Touch; Hurdler; Herkie; Double Toe Touch OR Tumbling

Attire: Please wear comfortable athletic clothes, athletic shoes, no jewelry, no gum and have your hair pulled back out of your face. For your tryout you must wear a plain white t-shirt and dark athletic shorts.