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COMMERCE CHEERLEADING TRY-OUTS

DEAR PARENT:

YOUR CHILD HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE COMMERCE CHEERLEADING SQUAD FOR THE 2001-2002 SCHOOL YEAR. IF ELECTED, THERE ARE CERTAIN PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH YOUR CHILD MUST ASSUME. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF THE COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY WITH YOUR DAUGHTER BEFORE SIGNING THE PARENTAL FORM.

TRY-OUT CLINICS WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14**, AND ON **THURSDAY, MARCH 15**. THE CLINICS WILL BE HELD AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM. PARTICIPANTS TRYING OUT FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SQUAD WILL START AT 3:30 P.M. AND THE HIGH SCHOOL GROUP WILL START AT 5:00 P.M. BOTH DAYS. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY** UNLESS AN EMERGENCY ARISES. IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN CONTACT THE SPONSOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. THE MATERIAL NEEDED FOR TRY-OUTS WILL BE TAUGHT DURING THE CLINICS.

TRY-OUTS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 28** AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM. MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD WILL BE JUDGES. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRY-OUTS WILL START AT 4:00 P.M. WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TRY-OUTS FOLLOWING.

CHEERLEADING ACTIVITIES ARE VERY TIME CONSUMING. SHOULD YOUR CHILD WIN A PLACE ON THE SQUAD, THEY WILL BE INVOLVED IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES WHICH TAKE PLACE DURING THE SUMMER. THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CHEERLEADING CAMP FOR ONE WEEK AND ATTEND SCHEDULED PRACTICES THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. IF YOUR CHILD WORKS, THEY MUST ARRANGE THEIR SCHEDULE AROUND THEIR CHEERLEADING DUTIES. WORK IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE FOR MISSED PRACTICES OR ACTIVITIES. ALL CHEERLEADERS MUST MAINTAIN THEIR GRADES AND ELIGIBILITY AT ALL TIMES IF THEY WISH TO CHEER. A "C" AVERAGE MUST BE MAINTAINED DURING THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PRIOR TO TRY-OUTS IN ORDER TO TRY-OUT FOR CHEERLEADER.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE MONEY INVOLVED IN CHEERLEADING. THE CHEERLEADER IS REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN SHOES, BLOOMERS, SOCKS, TURTLE NECK, SWEATSHIRT, AND CAMP CLOTHING. THERE MAY ALSO BE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES AT CAMP AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.

CHEERLEADING IS A GREAT HONOR AT THE COMMERCE SCHOOLS, BUT WITH IT COMES A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL KRISTY MOUDY AT THE COMMERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, 675-4101.

SINCERELY,

KRISTY MOUDY
CHEERLEADING SPONSOR

**COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION 2001-2002**

A. PURPOSE

1. THE CHEERLEADERS WILL PROMOTE AND UPHOLD SCHOOL SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL SEASONS.
2. THEY WILL DEVELOP A SENSE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AMONG THE STUDENTS AND CROWD.
3. THEY WILL PROMOTE UNIFICATION OF THE CROWDS YELLING.
4. THEY WILL STRIVE TO BUILD BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN SCHOOLS.
5. THEY WILL PERFORM AT A LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE SO AS TO BE A SOURCE OF PRIDE TO THE SCHOOL, THE SQUAD, AND THEMSELVES.
6. THEY WILL SET A GOOD EXAMPLE AT ALL TIMES.

B. REQUIREMENTS

1. PARENTAL PERMISSION SLIP AND CANDIDATE CONTRACT.
2. CANDIDATE MUST MAINTAIN A "C" AVERAGE THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PRIOR TO TRY-OUTS.
3. THE CANDIDATE MUST ATTEND ALL CLINIC MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO TRY-OUTS.
4. THE CANDIDATE MUST NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REMOVED FROM OR QUIT THE SQUAD.
5. THE CANDIDATE MUST AGREE TO CHEER DURING ALL OF THE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL SEASONS.
6. THE CANDIDATE MUST PASS A DOCTOR'S PHYSICAL EXAM AND DRUG TEST PRIOR TO THE CHEERLEADING SEASON AND HAVE IT ALONG WITH INSURANCE VERIFICATION ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

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C. TRY-OUTS

1. EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES WILL BE WEIGHED AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. JUDGE'S CRITERIA SHEETS WILL COUNT 75% OF SCORE.
 - B. TEACHER EVALUATIONS WILL COUNT 25% OF SCORE.
 1. EACH CANDIDATE MUST HAND OUT 5 TEACHER EVALUATIONS.
 2. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CANDIDATE TO GIVE THE EVALUATIONS TO THE TEACHERS.
 3. THE CANDIDATE MUST CHOOSE 5 TEACHERS FROM THEIR CURRENT SCHEDULE.
 4. TEACHER EVALUATIONS WILL BE AVERAGED AND THE AVERAGE WILL COUNT AS 25% OF THE TOTAL SCORE.
2. CANDIDATES WILL BE JUDGED ON SUCH THINGS AS MOVEMENT, BALANCE AND RHYTHM, APPEARANCE, FACIAL EXPRESSION, SPIRIT, AND JUMPS.
3. CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO DO ONE CHEER, ONE CHANT, THREE JUMPS, SOME TYPE OF EXTRA SKILL (SUCH AS WALKOVER, ROUND OFF, OR HANDSPRING), AND PERFORM TO THE SCHOOL FIGHT SONG.
4. CANDIDATES WILL TRY-OUT IN PAIRS. PAIRS WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE TRY-OUT CLINIC.
5. THERE WILL BE TWELVE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS CHOSEN. THE TOP SCORE FROM EACH GRADE, IF THE SCORE IS A MINIMUM OF 80 OUT OF THE POSSIBLE 120 TOTAL, AND THE NEXT HIGHEST SCORES THAT TOTAL TWELVE WILL REPRESENT THE SQUAD.
6. THERE WILL BE EIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS CHOSEN. THE TOP SCORE FROM EACH GRADE, IF THE SCORE IS A MINIMUM OF 80 OUT OF THE POSSIBLE 120 TOTAL, AND THE NEXT HIGHEST SCORES THAT TOTAL EIGHT WILL REPRESENT THE SQUAD.

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7. THERE WILL BE ONE HIGH SCHOOL AND ONE MIDDLE SCHOOL MASCOT CHOSEN.
 - A. MASCOTS WILL FOLLOW THE SAME GUIDELINES AS THE CHEERLEADERS EXCEPT THEY WILL MAKE UP THEIR OWN ACTIONS TO THE TRY-OUT MATERIAL.
 - B. MASCOTS MAY CHOOSE TWO CHEERLEADERS TO HELP THEM WITH TRY-OUTS.
8. IF AN EMERGENCY SHOULD ARISE THAT WOULD KEEP THE CANDIDATE FROM ATTENDING TRY-OUTS OR THE TRY-OUT CLINICS, THEY SHOULD NOTIFY THE SPONSOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

D. CONDUCT

1. CHEERLEADERS ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY.
2. THE SPONSOR WILL HAVE THE POWER TO SUSPEND, DROP PERMANENTLY, OR GIVE A DEMERIT TO ANY CHEERLEADER FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 - A. UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOR, (SMOKING, DRINKING, DRUGS, PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION WITH BOYFRIEND, ETC.)
 - B. FAILURE TO PERFORM DUTIES.
 - C. FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHEDULED PRACTICES OR EVENTS.
 - D. UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR.
 - E. ANY ACT OR DEED THAT HARMS THE REPUTATION OF THE SCHOOL.
 - F. VIOLATION OF THE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS OF THE SCHOOL.
 - G. SCHOOL SUSPENSION.

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3. THE SPONSOR WILL HAVE THE POWER TO BENCH OR GIVE A DEMERIT TO ANY CHEERLEADER FOR THE FOLLOWING:
- A. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL, (TRUANCY, LYING, ETC.)
 - B. PROFANE LANGUAGE.
 - C. FAILURE TO MEET GRADE REQUIREMENTS.
 - D. TARDY TO PRACTICE, PERFORMANCE, OR SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.
 - E. EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REQUIRED EVENT OR RALLY WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE.
 - F. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REQUIRED EVENTS.
 - G. CHEWING GUM DURING A PERFORMANCE.
 - H. EXCESSIVE CONVERSATION WITH CROWD, TEAM, OR EACH OTHER.
 - I. LEAVING AN EVENT UNEXCUSED.
 - J. INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF CHEERS AT GAMES AND RALLIES.
 - K. UNTIDY UNIFORM OR APPEARANCE.
 - L. WEARING WRONG UNIFORM TO SCHOOL OR EVENT.
 - M. ARGUING IN PUBLIC WITH ANOTHER CHEERLEADER OR ANYONE ELSE.
 - N. CHEERLEADERS WILL NOT BE BENCHED FROM GAME OR EVENT IF THEY HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY. (PARENTS MUST CONTACT THE SPONSOR PRIOR TO THE EVENT.)

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E. UNIFORMS

1. UNIFORMS ARE TO BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION AT ALL TIMES.
2. THEY MUST BE REPLACED IF DAMAGED, LOST OR STOLEN.
3. UNIFORMS MUST BE WASHED AND HUNG ON HANGERS BEFORE TURNING THEM IN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

F. ATTENDANCE

1. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT ALL ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES. (IF UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY THE SPONSOR MUST BE NOTIFIED PRIOR TO THE ACTIVITY.)
2. EACH CHEERLEADER WILL BE PRESENT AT LEAST 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED ACTIVITY.
3. CHEERLEADERS ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN PROMPTLY DURING HALF-TIME BREAKS AND AT THE START OF THE GAMES.
4. EACH CHEERLEADER MUST BE PRESENT AT SCHOOL AT LEAST ONE HALF OF THE DAY THE DAY OF THE GAME IN ORDER TO CHEER AT THE GAME.
5. WORK WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.
6. MISSING THE BUS COUNTS AS A GAME MISSED. DO NOT SHOW UP AT THE GAME, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CHEER!
7. TARDIES WILL BE GIVEN FOR LATENESS OR EARLY DEPARTURE OF GAMES, PRACTICES, OR MEETINGS.
8. THREE TARDIES WILL RESULT IN ONE UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.
9. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES RESULT IN ONE DEMERIT.
10. A TOTAL OF 5 DEMERITS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE SQUAD.

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G. FUND RAISERS

1. ALL CHEERLEADERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL FUND RAISERS.
2. ALL CHEERLEADERS WILL BE EXPECTED TO STAY AND CLEAN UP AFTER ALL FUND RAISERS.

H. HEAD CHEERLEADER

1. THE HEAD CHEERLEADER WILL BE ASSIGNED BY THE SPONSOR.
2. THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE SQUAD, INCLUDING PERSONAL APPEARANCE, FORMATIONS, AND CHEER SELECTION.
3. THEY WILL REPORT INTER-SQUAD CONFLICTS OR ANY OTHER SITUATIONS TO THE SPONSOR.
4. THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE SQUAD MEMBERS OF ANY MESSAGES SENT BY THE SPONSOR.
5. THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE SQUAD OF DEPARTURE TIMES FOR ACTIVITIES AND UNIFORM SELECTION.

I. TRANSPORTATION

1. CHEERLEADERS WILL TRAVEL TO THE AWAY GAMES AND AUTHORIZED SCHOOL EVENTS IN SCHOOL PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SCHOOL SPONSOR.
2. AFTER THE SCHEDULED EVENT THE CHEERLEADERS MAY BE RELEASED TO PARENTS ONLY. THEY WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES, BROTHERS, OR SISTERS UNLESS PRIOR APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.
3. THE CHEERLEADER MUST NOT LEAVE WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE SPONSOR IF LEAVING WITH PARENTS. **(PARENT SHOULD NOTIFY THE SPONSOR PERSONALLY BEFORE TAKING THE CHILD.)**

**COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHEERLEADING PARENT PERMISSION FORM**

I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION WHICH COMMERCE CHEERLEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY. I AGREE THAT I WILL AT ALL TIMES ABIDE BY THOSE RULES AS LONG AS I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD. I PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE HIGH STANDARDS OF MYSELF IN A WAY THAT WILL ALWAYS BE A CREDIT TO THE COMMERCE SCHOOLS. I ALSO REALIZE THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES CAN MEAN MY DISMISSAL FROM THE SQUAD.

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GRADE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR _____

YOUR CHILD HAS SIGNIFIED THE DESIRE TO BECOME A CHEERLEADER FOR THE COMMERCE SCHOOL. IF THEY ARE ELECTED THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH THEY MUST ASSUME IN ORDER TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD.

I HAVE READ THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN THE COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONSTITUTION. I WILL, IN SO FAR AS I AM ABLE, ASSIST TO SEE THAT THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT. I WILL, WHENEVER A QUESTION ARISES, CONTACT THE CHEERLEADING SPONSOR FOR CLARIFICATION OF THAT MATTER. IF MY CHILD IS ELECTED I WILL SEE THAT THEY GETS A PHYSICAL EXAM, DRUG TEST, PURCHASE INSURANCE, PURCHASE CAMP CLOTHES, SHOES, BLOOMERS, SOCKS, ATTEND CAMP AND ALL PRACTICE SESSIONS UNLESS EXCUSED BY THE SPONSOR, AS WELL AS PARTICIPATE IN ALL MONEY MAKING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

I HEREBY GIVE _____ PERMISSION TO TRY-OUT AND TAKE PART IN CHEERLEADING ACTIVITIES AT COMMERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____ PHONE _____

PERMISSION SLIP NEEDS TO BE SIGNED AND BROUGHT TO THE TRY-OUT CLINIC MARCH 14.