

2017-2018  
Mandeville High School  
CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size (circle one) YM YL AXS AS AM AL AXL  
Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian email \_\_\_\_\_

**Packet Checklist:**

- Letter to participants
- Tryout expectations and suggestions
- Scoring information
- Copy of scoring sheet used by UCA judges
- Copy of MHS cheer constitution
- Acceptance of Rules and Regulations in Constitution
- MHS Cheerleader Tryout Information Sheet
- Cheerleader application
- Permission Slip for Cheerleader Tryouts
- Teacher evaluations (7) + coach's evaluation (if cheered previous year)
- Clearance slip from front office (MHS only)

**To be turned in by FRIDAY, MARCH 17th to Mrs. Reid's room (811), Mrs. Butler's room (808), or the MHS front office ALL AT ONCE! PUT YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING!**

**\*Please only return papers listed below!**

- Cheerleader Application
- MHS Cheerleader Tryout Information Sheet
- Permission Slip of Cheerleader Tryouts- signed by parent and participant
- \$20.00 tryout fee- check made payable to MHS
- Constitution agreement signed by parent and participant
- Clearance slip from front office (MHS students)

Mandeville High School  
#1 Skipper Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
(985)626-5225

## To: Students Participating in Cheerleading Squad Tryouts

Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the Cheerleading Program at Mandeville High School. It is important that you are aware of the high level of commitment that is required and the standard of excellence that is expected from each of the squad members. Before completing the registration packet, please consider the following:

- ❑ Cheerleading requires after school time commitments nearly every day of the week all year long, as well as in the evenings and on weekends for scheduled sporting events. In the height of the various sport seasons, it is not uncommon to have two or more evening sporting events per week.
- ❑ Cheerleading does not only encompass football, but also includes basketball, and on some occasions, volleyball, and boys/girls soccer play-off games. Cheering obligations extend well into the spring making participation in other extracurricular sports and/or activities impractical if not totally impossible.
- ❑ The varsity and junior varsity squad will compete. Making the varsity or junior varsity squad does ensure you a spot on one of the competition teams. It will be mandatory to compete if you make the team.
- ❑ All cheerleaders are required to participate in regular fundraising activities. We will have group fundraisers as well as individual fundraisers. There will be a minimum requirement amount for group fund raisers. Any cheerleader who does not raise the minimum required amount will need to pay for what he/she has not raised.
- ❑ Cheerleaders are not replaced during the school year if they quit or lose their position on the squad. By participating in tryouts, you are presenting yourself as someone who plans to work hard consistently for the benefit of the squad and remain committed for the entire school year.
- ❑ Being a cheerleader involves significant financial obligations. Last year, the costs for camp, uniforms, and miscellaneous expenses were approximately \$1000-\$1200 for some squad members (mainly new members). In addition, competition cost approximately \$1000 last year. Please be aware that this can be costly; however, we are implementing new ways to fundraise and each member will have ample opportunity to raise money. Some cheerleaders were able to raise all of their competition fees through provided fundraising opportunities.
- ❑ All cheerleaders are required to attend the mandatory summer UCA camp.
- ❑ We will also practice during the summer- 2 days a week for up to 4 hours each day. We will also organize and conduct a Youth Cheer Camp! There will be several weeks that we will not practice; calendars are posted on Mrs. Reid's and Mrs. Butler's websites. You will be responsible for attending all practices and camps. Please schedule your summer plans accordingly. **IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YCC and UCA CAMP, DO NOT TRY OUT FOR THE SQUAD!**

## TRYOUT EXPECTATIONS

### DATES

Tuesday	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	MHS GYM	4-6 PM	dance, cheer, motions, stunts
Wednesday	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	MHS GYM	4-6 PM	dance, cheer, motions, stunts
Thursday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	MHS GYM	4-UNTIL	stunting portion of tryouts
Friday	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	MHS GYM	4-UNTIL	tryouts

- Day to day activities may be slightly altered.

### ATTIRE

- Appropriate athletic wear for all days with supportive tennis shoes and socks
- Any colors accepted Monday and Tuesday.
- Blue athletic shorts and white t-shirt mandatory for tryout days.
- No school, cheer, or all-star affiliation allowed – you will be asked to change or not be allowed to tryout
- Hair must be pulled back in a high, slicked back pony tail for tryout days. Bow is optional.

### TRYOUTS

Tuesday and Wednesday will be teaching and reviewing all material. All prospective team members will learn a chant, dance, and proper technique for a toe-touch plus optional jumps. Basic stunting will be incorporated as well. We will conduct a stunt tryouts this year on Thursday. Each prospective cheerleader will be expected to try out for two positions. Extended liberties and toe touch baskets will be required of all those wishing to be a flier.

All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be alphabetized and put into groups of three, and all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be alphabetized and put into groups of three as well. Each prospective member will receive a tryout number that should be displayed in an area that the judges can see. There will be 3 UCA judges, two sponsors, and one score tabulator. The judges may have each group perform the chant, dance, and fight song as many times as needed for them to make their evaluations. Each candidate will perform the toe-touch and the optional jump. Each candidate will be asked to show their best tumbling skill as well. A mat will be provided, but there will be no spots allowed. Call backs will be utilized as necessary. If a potential cheerleader leaves before being officially dismissed and he/she is called back, he or she will not be considered for a spot.

The final list for Varsity and Junior Varsity will be posted Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> on Mrs. Reid's and Mrs. Butler's teacherweb websites.

***GOOD LUCK TO ALL!***

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE SCORING PROCESS  
FOR TRYOUTS**

We feel that it is very important to communicate the scoring process to all tryout participants and their parents. The way scores are earned and used are:

Teacher recommendation score	average of 7(8) recommendations	<b>10% of total score</b>
Stunting score		<b>15% of total score</b>
Tryout score		<b>75% of total score</b>

For PAST MHS Cheerleaders- Point System:

Acquired numerous demerits, missed several games, and/ or other behavioral offense – 0 points added to overall score.

Acquired some demerits and/or missed one game/event- 1 point added to overall score

Acquired few demerits and missed no games/events- 2 points added to overall score

Gymnastics scores:

no skill displayed	0 points
back handspring	2 points
round-off back handspring	2.5 points
round-off back handspring series	3 points
round-off tuck	3.5 points
round-off back HS back tuck	4 points
standing tuck	5 points

The Varsity and Junior Varsity squads will consist of the top 16-24 scores (70% of team members selected from judges' score sheets, remaining 30% of team members selected from coaches' score sheets, judges' score sheets, stunt position needed). The Varsity team will be composed of rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The Junior Varsity squad will be composed of rising freshmen and sophomores. We will follow with the natural break on scores when determining the size of the squads.

As tryout registration packets are returned, numbers, names, grade levels, scores from teacher recommendations, and points from years of experience are entered into a computer program for each participant. A cross-referenced list including each assigned number and points from years of experience is created at that time and stored in another file. At the time of the tryouts, the participant's score from three UCA judges is entered into the program by reference number only and tabulated with points from years of experience. The program will then order the scores from top to bottom.

## SAMPLE TRYOUT SCORE SHEET

CANDIDATE # \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE # \_\_\_\_\_

*Score each participant on a scale of 1-10 with 1=poor and 10=superior.*

Category	Points
<b>Communication/Spirit</b> - voice, words, expressions, showmanship	____/10
<b>Motions</b> - placement, sharpness	____/15
<b>Chant</b> - timing, knowledge, and overall performance	____/10
<b>Fight Song</b> - timing, knowledge, and overall performance	____/10
<b>Dance</b> - skill, rhythm, knowledge	____/10
<b>Jumps</b> - form, approach, height, pointed toes <i>(toe-touch and one optional jump)</i>	____/15
<b>Gymnastics</b> skill performed: _____	____/5
<b>Total: ____/75</b>	

**Comments:**

**MANDEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION**

**PURPOSE**

To create spirit, pride and loyalty, to promote interest in school activities, to develop a sense of good sportsmanship, to improve relations among schools during athletic events, to develop responsibility, teach self-respect, encourage honesty, strive for perfection, and develop character, and to teach teamwork and pride in a quality performance while maintaining high standards.

**ELGIBILITY**

- A student must have a 1.5 GPA for the first semester. If the student falls below a 1.5 at any time during the school year, he/she will be removed from the squad. It is the squad member's responsibility to bring his/her report card to Mrs. Reid or Mrs. Butler as soon as it is received.
- No fees or fines to MHS
- Must not have been suspended, ISS or OSS, at any time during the school year and have a clean discipline record
- Must pass 6 units in the Fall semester and 6 units in the Spring Semester
- We will have a 7<sup>th</sup> hr cheer class to prepare for events throughout the year. All Varsity cheerleaders must take this class. Seniors must take this class as well. Internship is not an excuse. IF YOU ARE NOT ENROLLED IN 7<sup>TH</sup> HR CHEER, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

**CAPTAINS**

**Varsity and Junior Varsity**

The Mandeville High Cheerleading squad will be supervised by two sponsors with the help of team leaders selected by the sponsors. Captain selection will be carried out by the cheerleading sponsors. Captains will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. Captain Interview: Each person interested must interview with the sponsors.
2. Captain applicant's letter of intent: Applicant must submit a letter of intent that should answer/address the following:
  - a. The applicant's statement of which leadership role or roles the member would be interested in. \*You may apply for all positions as well as just one position.\*
  - b. Why does the applicant desire to be captain of the squad?
  - c. What does the captain want to accomplish during that year as captain?
  - d. What does the applicant believe are the main responsibilities of the captain and how will the applicant fulfill this role?
3. Must have at least 1 year of membership (unless special circumstances apply)
4. Clean discipline record and must maintain "good standing" status.
5. Leadership, responsibility, cooperation, and enthusiasm previously shown during squad membership.

6. Squad members will have an opportunity to have input, however the final decision rests on the sponsors.
7. Teacher recommendation letters (2)
8. Members applying for the captain position will be required to present a sample pep-rally itinerary and assumed responsibilities of the captain.

A due date will be assigned for the previously mentioned materials after tryouts. Selections will be announced at a practice before school ends in May.

### **TRYOUTS**

- Potential cheerleaders shall be required to participate in a pre-tryout clinic, at which time, he/she will be taught a chant and dance routine to be evaluated by a panel of independent judges. There will also be a band dance (probably fight song) posted online that the potential cheerleader will need to learn independently.
- Students will be required to submit an evaluation form to 7 current teachers.
  1. *The forms will be returned directly to the sponsor from the individual teacher.*
  2. *Candidates are not allowed to view the evaluations.*
  3. *If these forms are tampered with or not returned, you will not receive these points.*
- Candidates must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian to tryout and participate if selected. This permission slip will release the school and sponsors of liability in case of injury.
- If selected, the students **MUST** have a physical before the team attends summer camp stating that he/she is in good physical condition for this type of activity.
- All students trying out must presently be a student at MHS or an MHS feeder school, with the exception of those transferring from other schools. Transferring students need documentation confirming the transfer.
- Candidates must attend all days of the workshop and pay the tryout fees in order to be eligible for the tryouts.
  1. On the day of tryouts, the student must arrive no later than 4 PM to sign in.
  2. Candidates are not allowed to wear any apparel item, including shoes, uniform shirts and shorts, or socks, that will distinguish them as a member of a particular cheerleading team. If they do so, they will not be allowed to participate in tryouts. Blue shorts and a white shirt are required for tryouts. Hair must be in a high slicked back pony tail.
- Campus is closed to all spectators during cheerleading tryouts and workshops.
- The sponsors will not answer any questions regarding team selection on the day of tryouts or prior or after try-outs.
- Any student dismissed from the cheerleading squad, dance team, or flag team will not be allowed to try out for cheerleading the following year.
- Any cheerleader, dance team, or flag member resigning from their respective squad will not be allowed to try out for cheerleading the following year. *(This does not include those dismissed because of failure to meet the 1.5 grade requirement or other extenuating circumstances such as health or family emergencies.)*

- Selection of teams will be based on choosing athletes that best suit the needs of the team AND who show the highest proficiency in the following areas:
  - Skills (tumbling, stunting, jumps, etc) progression/level
  - Role/Position (flyer, base, back spot)
  - Previous experience
  - Floor presence/performance
- Out of fairness and consideration for the judges, the scores will not be made available to any of the candidates. Score sheets become the property of the principal, and all judges' decisions are final.

### **PRACTICES AND GAMES**

- A tentative spring/ summer and fall calendar is provided with this packet. The calendar is also on Mrs. Reid's and Mrs. Butler's Teacher web and is updated frequently. All V and JV cheerleaders are responsible for attending all practices, camps and fundraisers. An unexcused practice or event will result in disciplinary action.
- The coach MAY call additional practices as the need arises. Practice times are merely a guideline, and the coach reserves the right to extend practice at any given time. Do not plan other after school activities during practice or game times.
- If you participate on an All-Star team, be aware that those practices and competitions cannot interfere with your responsibilities as a MHS cheerleader.
- VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY- There will be NO SUMMER VACATION DATES. ALL PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY. The only excuse is illness provided with a doctor note TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE NEXT PRACTICE AFTER YOU RETURN. Failure to turn in a doctor note in a timely manner will result in a demerit.
- **JV will cheer for:**
  - ☐ All JV home and away football games (Wednesdays)
  - ☐ JV will also have the opportunity to cheer at some Varsity events, such as the last quarter of some varsity football games. JV cheerleaders MUST cheer in the stands with the team for the first three quarters in order to cheer on the field for the last quarter.
  - ☐ JV will also cheer at all basketball games. Rotations will be established.
- **Varsity will cheer for:**
  - ☐ All V home games (Friday)
  - ☐ All V away games (Friday)
  - ☐ Varsity will cheer at all basketball games. Rotations will be established.
- Practice typically lasts 2-3 hours.
- The basketball schedule can vary depending on who the team is playing. Each squad will be given a calendar of events in ample time to prepare. Depending on squad size, squads may be split up into three or even four teams and cheer for different games.
- A monthly calendar will be provided so cheerleaders can plan around cheer dates.



- All practices, games, and competitions will be supervised by the sponsors or a designated school official.

### COMPETITION

The decision of competition is the sole decision of the coach. We will decide if the squad is going to compete based on athlete participation, talent, and parent cooperation and funding. If we do compete, it will be required of ALL cheerleaders.

### REGULATIONS/SAFETY

- Cheerleaders must provide transportation to and from away games that are in the area (FHS, CHS, SPS). It is a possibility that a bus may be provided for away games. If this is the case, all cheerleaders MUST ride the bus. We will arrange parent carpools if an away game is a considerable distance away and there is no bus provided for us.
- If a cheerleader is unable to attend a scheduled event and a doctor's note (NOT prescheduled) is not presented, the cheerleader will receive demerits. No exceptions. Do NOT schedule doctor appointments, dentist appointments, etc during practice or events. They will NOT be excused.
- Please be mindful of the fact that JV and Varsity are two separate squads. Any questions or concerns must be directed to the sponsor or coach of your cheerleader's team.
- The sponsor will not transport any member of the squad in her private vehicle due to insurance stipulations and the consideration of your child.
- During all games cheerleaders should be ready to cheer at all times. There will be no jewelry or fingernail polish worn at any time. False fingernails should not extend beyond the fingertip. Cheerleaders who are in violation of this rule will not be allowed to cheer or practice until they are in compliance due to safety regulations. Grooming, gum chewing, eating (except during half- time), **cell phone usage or texting**, socializing with each other, talking to friends in the crowd or on the field will not be tolerated. In the case of emergency, the sponsor will notify necessary individuals. The coach(es) or captain(s) will conduct a check before every game to ensure that these rules are being adhered to.
- Cell phone usage during practice is strictly prohibited and will result in demerits.
- Cheerleaders must maintain an acceptable appearance at all times per St. Tammany School Board Policy; body piercing is limited to the earlobe. Any additional body art is limited to temporary school spirit related items. No tattoos should be visible when in uniform; no jewelry should be worn at all. If a cheerleader is in violation of these rules, he/she is out of uniform and will be asked to sit out. Demerits will also be deducted.
- No male or female spectators or parents are allowed at practices.
- **CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM SHOULD BE OF CALIBER THAT DEMONSTRATES A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR HIS/HER PEERS.**
  1. Any continuous reports of misconduct or disrespect involving teachers or students after selection may result in dismissal from the squad. This decision is left to the discretion of the sponsor

2. Suspension from school may result in dismissal from the squad. This also includes *in-school suspension*.
  3. Saturday detention will result in probation for one month. During the month of probation, any behavior by the student that results in disciplinary action by a teacher, sponsor, or administrator will result in dismissal from the squad. Because this action supersedes our demerit system, it is under the coach's discretion whether or not to give additional punishment to the cheerleader depending on the circumstances.
- Each cheerleader shall attend all games and functions unless the sponsor, prior to the scheduled event, excuses it. This includes illness and other extenuating circumstances. The decision is left to the discretion of the sponsor. Every effort of the squad member must be made to attend all events.
  - Any decisions concerning cheerleader activities shall be determined by the sponsors.
  - Serious disrespect directed towards the sponsors will result in immediate dismissal from the squad. The sponsor reserves the right to determine which circumstances that may include.
  - All cheerleaders must have a CURRENT home phone number/email address on file with the sponsors, captain, and co-captains. If this information changes, all should be notified.
  - Each cheerleader is responsible for checking emails or other information source as updated information including practice times, notes, reminders, and events is sent out daily. It is necessary to check your email the night before a game/event to receive important messages from the sponsors or captains.
  - Each cheerleader MUST have a binder or folder. This is to hold all information that is necessary for events throughout the year. We will also be making videos for new cheers and dances. We will teach and review this material during practices; however, it is the cheerleader's responsibility to use this technology to his/her advantage and to have new material memorized by dates that will be set by the captains and/or coaches.
  - Each cheerleader must have all required forms with CURRENT information on file with the sponsors prior to summer camp. Please be sure to update any information as needed during the school year.
  - Any and all stunting must be supervised by a sponsor at all times.

### **MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES**

- Captain standards are necessary to uphold the integrity and reputation of any leading organization. Members of the squad should be leaders in the school and set a good example at all times. Members are expected to maintain a character that is above reproach. Personal appearance and habits of which there can be no criticism are required since members are constantly representing the school and the community.

- A cheerleader must **NEVER** be seen smoking, drinking alcohol, or using any other kind of illegal drugs or making obscene gestures **IN OR OUT OF UNIFORM, PERIOD.** This also includes posting videos, pictures, or status updates of yourself OR others doing any of the previously mentioned violations on Facebook, Instagram or any other social networking site. This also includes any other pictures or videos of questionable behavior. If it is questionable, DON'T POST IT! If, for any reason, these rules are violated and it is reported to the sponsors, the sponsors have the authority to immediately dismiss the member from the squad. You are a MHS cheerleader **AT ALL TIMES** and are responsible for acting on behalf of the school.

\*\*\* Please note that we DO NOT advise, encourage or approve of the use of dietary supplements. Student athletes who are found taking part in the consumption of potentially harmful products will be reported to school officials and may be removed from the team. Cheerleaders are athletes and as such must maintain a healthy dietary lifestyle. Excessive weight loss to gain or maintain a specific stunting position is never encouraged. \*\*\*

### POINTS SYSTEM FOR 7<sup>th</sup> PERIOD

Cheerleading is a privilege, not a right. Being able to cheer at football games, pep rallies and being able to participate in competition is something that each cheerleader must earn. Every member **must earn 80%** of the possible amount of points attainable per month. If any cheerleader falls below 80%, he/she will be faced with disciplinary action including but not limited to: sitting out at a game, and/or not having the right to participate in a pep rally or any other activity to be determined by the coaches. It will be possible to earn extra points throughout the year; members with more points will be awarded with various opportunities, privileges, megaphone merits, and/or "goodies."

#### HOW TO EARN POINTS:

- **Practices** – Each practice is worth 3 points.
  - **1 point** for being present/ and actively participating.
  - **1 point** for wearing the appropriate practice uniform, this includes the FULL uniform.
  - **1 point** for being on time.
    - Cheerleaders DO have the opportunity to earn **1 extra point** during practice at the coach's discretion. Examples for earning extra points are: showing extreme dedication, leading peers, having a positive attitude or working extra hard to achieve success.
  - **If a cheerleader is absent for any reason (excused or unexcused) she will not be awarded his or her points.** Even when an absence is excused, it has an impact on the rest of the squad. **Excused practices= loss of points and/or extra conditioning. Unexcused practices= disciplinary action in the form of demerits and/or extra conditioning.**

- Excused absences vs. unexcused absences- For an absence to be excused the cheerleader MUST speak with the coach BEFORE practice.
  - Doctor's appointments will only be excused if accompanied with a Doctor's note. This is ONLY for acute onset illnesses, not prescheduled appointments. Appointments should be scheduled around practice/games.
  - If a cheerleader has an official excused absence from the front office on the day of a practice, she will also be excused for practice.
  - It is understandable that certain situations do arise and need special consideration. The matter of this type of absence being excused or unexcused is up to the coach's discretion. This is for extreme circumstances only. The coaches may also contact the parent if further information is needed.
  - WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSE.
- Points will be tallied by the coaches.

### **DISCIPLINE AND DEMERITS**

- Demerits are assigned as part of the disciplinary process. They shall be administered for violation of squad rules. The demerit system shall be strictly enforced. The demerit system begins immediately following selection and will be recorded and determined by the sponsors.
- There will be a demerit sheet kept for each cheerleader that will include the dates, reasons, and how many demerits issued for each infraction. Each cheerleader will sign off on the sheet when they receive a demerit.
- There will be situations that arise that are not covered by the constitution. These cases will be handled with the discretion of the sponsors in cooperation with the school administration.
- Varsity cheerleaders will be eligible to letter for the sport of cheerleading this year. Letterman members will be selected by the coaches. **IF A CHEERLEADER RECEIVES A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DEMERITS, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY HE/SHE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO LETTER.**

### **UNIFORMS**

- All cheerleaders must be in proper uniform at all times. This includes practices. This means wearing the correct ribbon, correct foot attire and having poms with them.
- The captain makes decisions regarding color of hair ribbons, bloomers, under garments and jackets. The captain usually makes these decisions depending on the weather and/or type of event. **If you are out of uniform for any reason, you will not participate or be issued demerits.** Coaches will oversee these decisions.
- Uniformity is very important in order to maintain an organized and elite status while performing. This includes games as well as pep rallies or any other events that

may arise throughout the year. While performing all members must adhere to the guidance from the team captain. This can be something as minor as wearing or not wearing a jacket, the cheerleader will be asked to sit out until he or she complies.

### **ATTENDANCE**

- We do not want there to be an absenteeism problem with the MHS cheerleaders.
- In order to cheer at a game, the cheerleader must be present at school for at least one-half of the school day on the day of a game per St. Tammany Parish Policy.
- A cheerleader cannot attend practices when absent from school. An unexcused absence from school means an unexcused absence from practice as well. **All excuses must be brought to the sponsor upon return to school/practice.**
  1. Members must bring a note from home/doctor explaining the absence. A Doctor's excuse for acute onset illness, a death in the family, pre-approved school activity, pre-approved college campus visit, or personal extenuating circumstances will be the only acceptable excuses. This is left to the discretion of the sponsor.
  2. A parental note or email is not an excusable note.
  3. Members who are absent the day of a game or any other mandatory cheerleader activity must have a doctor's excuse (due to acute illness) and are not allowed to participate when they return until an excuse is brought.
- Members are expected to attend the summer UCA camp. The camp is for four days, three nights. Vacation and job responsibilities are not acceptable excuses for not attending camp. Any member not attending camp will be immediately dismissed from the squad and any deposit fees will not be returned. Exact camp dates will be announced before tryouts.
- Employment or employment interviews are not acceptable excuses for missing practice or leaving practice early. There will be no exceptions to this policy even if practice runs later than the expected time for dismissal. Failure to comply with this rule can result in dismissal from the squad. It is EXTREMELY difficult to conduct a practice successfully when all members are not present to practice a routine, stunt, or dance. When you agree to become a MHS cheerleader, you must put the needs and priorities of the squad above your personal responsibilities. **If you are not prepared to agree to this stipulation, DO NOT TRYOUT FOR THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD.**
- Cheerleaders may participate in other extracurricular activities that DO NOT interfere with cheerleading. However, cheerleading must be your priority above other organizations. We expect 100% commitment from each member. If a cheerleader chooses to miss practice or to leave early in order to participate in other activities, demerits will be given accordingly. If this behavior becomes frequent, then the coaches reserve the right to dismiss the cheerleader from the squad.
- Cheerleaders will be allowed to participate in Homecoming court, but they must participate in all other homecoming activities involving the cheerleading squad, including practices.

- After-school detentions and individual make-up assignments given by individual teachers are not acceptable excuses for arriving late for practice. This will result in loss of points and/or extra conditioning.
- If any cheerleader misses a practice that is vital to the upcoming performances, he/she may be pulled from that performance under coach's discretion.
- If a member is absent (excused or unexcused) the week of any performance, the member is not allowed to participate. This does not include games.
- If a member misses a weekly choreography practice (excused or unexcused), he/she will not be able to cheer at the upcoming event/game and demerits may be issued.
- If a member misses more than 2 practices a week during football season (excused or unexcused), he/she will not be able to cheer at the upcoming event/game and demerits may be issued.
- If a cheerleader is being picked up by someone other than his/her guardian, an e-mail must be sent from the guardian to the sponsor during school hours before practice. A demerit will be given if the cheerleader does not comply with this policy.
- If a cheerleader is late being picked up from practice, it affects the schedules of the sponsor and coach (appointments, household responsibilities, family time, etc.), as we cannot leave until after your child has been picked up. The only case in which your child can stay for an after-school event is when that event is already in progress. The sponsor must see the child enter said event AND an e-mail must be sent from the guardian to the sponsor during school hours to give prior notification.

### EXPENSES

- The individual cheerleader purchases all uniforms for practice, games, and possible competition.
- Each member will be responsible for paying her own camp fees. Some years the booster club is able to cover some or all of this expense. This is determined by how much is raised in sponsorships by the previous year participants.
- Group tumbling classes are mandatory. In the past cheerleaders have been assessed a \$50 per month fee. Sometimes we have a one hour class once a week; sometimes it is a two hour class twice a month.
- We are a competition team. We do cover the costs of choreography, music, stunt coaching, and local registration fees. You will be responsible for travel, room, tickets, and food if we qualify for Nationals at Disney in February. This past year that cost was approximately \$1000. There are plenty of fundraising opportunities for this expense. These fundraisers are optional, though.
- If you owe fees at the end of the year for any reason, you will not be allowed to tryout again until they are paid.
- If a student is dismissed or resigns from the squad, ALL financial obligations must be met.
- Uniform payments are now paid directly to Varsity through an online account. There will be due dates set that must be followed. Varsity does not process our order until all payments are made. So if you are late, the entire team suffers.

### **FUNDRAISING**

A booster club for varsity and junior varsity was formed during the 2013-14 school year. The booster club is responsible for fundraising for team expenses. Sponsorships and other ways of fundraising are to be done with the cooperation of the booster club. Disbursement of funds will be decided on by the booster club and its members/officers.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- It is the responsibility of the member to meet at the scheduled times for home and away purposes. Failure to meet transportation requirements will be counted as an unexcused absence.

### **SPONSOR/COACH**

- The sponsor(s)/coach(es) will work with the squads in the best interest of the team. They make all final decisions and assign demerits. Discipline, as well as demerits, is the responsibility of the sponsors.
- Members and or parents experiencing problems should talk with the sponsors/coaches and work with them in finding suitable solutions at the appropriate times.
- Members should treat the sponsors/coaches with respect. The sponsors/coaches are giving up valuable personal and professional time for the squad. Serious disrespect is cause for dismissal from the squad.
- Any questions or problems concerning the squad should be directed to the sponsors/coaches during school hours. The sponsors/coaches will return phone calls and/or emails at their earliest convenience. Issues should not be addressed during practices, games, or other school events. The sponsors/coaches need to fully supervise both squads while at these events.
- There is a proper chain of command, starting with the sponsor/coach, assistant principal, principal, and finally school board. In fairness to all parties involved, please follow the chain of command. Please do not address problems with other parents and/or booster club members.
- Teaching duties of the coach take precedence over cheerleading responsibilities.

**THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED, WITH WRITTEN NOTIFICATION, BY THE SPONSORS/ADMINISTRATION AT ANY TIME**

## CONSTITUTION AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire MHS Cheerleader Constitution and understand all the rules and regulations set forth in it. I understand that I will be held accountable and responsible for all of the information listed in it. I also understand that if I do not follow the rules and regulations, I am subject to the appropriate disciplinary action. I further understand that MHS cheerleaders are held to the highest standards possible, and if I am selected, I will respect and honor the privilege given to me to represent MHS in the best manner possible.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please state any physical injury that would prevent your son/daughter from fully participating in cheerleading. If there is a known issue and it is not reported here, your cheerleader may be removed from the team upon discovery:

\_\_\_\_\_



## Mandeville High School Cheerleader Tryout Information

Thank you for your interest in our organization. Every prospective cheerleader and a parent must read and sign this form **BEFORE** tryouts. This is due, along with all other materials, by March 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30PM. This means everything must be either in the sponsors' faculty mailbox at the high school or turned in at the front office of MHS.

- Cheer tryout clinic will be held at MHS March 21-22 from 4-6 p.m.
- Tryouts will be held at MHS on March 23 and 24 beginning at 4 p.m.
- Only those students participating in tryouts will be allowed to enter the building during the clinic and tryouts.
- There is a \$20.00 fee for tryouts that must be submitted with this form. Make checks payable to MHS. Staple or paperclip the check to this form.
- A list of cheerleaders selected for the 2017-2018 academic year will be posted on teacherweb the evening of March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The varsity squad will consist of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and the top 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- The junior varsity squad will consist of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- 7 teacher recommendations are required. You must choose **current** teachers. If you currently are a cheerleader for either the high school or the junior high, then you will have an additional recommendation that must be given to your current sponsor. You are responsible for making copies of the form provided and making sure they are turned in before the deadline.
- Your tryout score is 75%; teacher recommendations score is 10%, and stunting tryout score is 15%.**
  - INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- There is a mandatory meeting scheduled for all potential varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders and their parents on March 8th, at 5:30PM in the library to review material in this packet and to answer any questions.**
  - INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- MANDATORY DATES UPON MAKING THE SQUAD.**
  - Meeting: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:00PM in the library
  - Uniform fitting: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM also in the library
  - UCA CAMP in Gulf Shores, Alabama: May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Youth Cheer Camp: June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> at MHS
  - INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, you have agreed to attend all mandatory events and understand that missing a mandatory event will result in immediate dismissal from the squad with no exceptions. Your signature also indicates that you have read and understand the cheerleader constitution and agree to adhere to MHS cheerleader rules, regulations, and policies.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MHS CHEERLEADER APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian names:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' cell: \_\_\_\_\_

*Previous cheerleading experience:*

When/where:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Position on squad/skills:  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Previous gymnastics experience:*

Skills performed:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you employed: Yes/No  
Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your job understand that cheerleading comes first? Yes/No

How many hours do you work weekly? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to get to and from practices and games? \_\_\_\_\_

Permission Slip for Cheerleader Tryouts

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to be a cheerleader at Mandeville High School. I understand that she must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsors and administration of Mandeville High School and be present for all games and practices. I have read the rules and regulations of the squad and understand that the violation of any of these rules may lead to temporary/permanent suspension from the squad. I understand and give permission for my daughter to ride with the sponsor and/or other parents when necessary on the school provided transportation. I understand that all attached forms must be completed and returned by March 4th or my child will not be able to tryout. I understand that my child must attend all practices (unless excused by the sponsor/administration) and tryout sessions or my child will not be considered for the cheerleading position.

I understand that qualified judges will evaluate my daughter and I agree to abide by the decision of said judges. I also understand that each cheerleader may be videotaped during tryouts to eliminate any possibility of callbacks. I also understand that the video tape is the property of the judges, which will be destroyed by the judges at the conclusion of tryouts.

I understand that the cheerleader clinics and tryouts are closed to all spectators. Parents and spectators are not allowed at MHS, including the parking lot, any time DURING the clinic or tryouts. I understand that at the conclusion of my child's tryouts, if my child needs a ride, she will call me to pick her up.

I understand that cheerleading at Mandeville High School is a large financial responsibility. Parents will need to fundraise to help supplement their payments.

I understand by the very nature of the activity, cheerleading and gymnastics carry a risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the participant and coaches are, how many spotters are used, and what landing surface is used, the risk cannot be eliminated. This risk of injury includes minor injuries such as muscle pulls, dislocation, and broken bones. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death from landing or falls on the back, neck, or head. I understand these risks and will not hold Mandeville High School or any of its personnel responsible in the case of accident or injury at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent or guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent or guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Teachers,

Please complete the questionnaire on \_\_\_\_\_. He/she is a candidate for one of the cheerleading squads at Mandeville High School. Please add any additional comments you believe would be helpful in making successful selections. The cheerleaders should be exemplary students who can set good examples for other students and be leaders both in and outside school. Place the evaluation forms in Mrs. Reid's mailbox by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Junior High Teachers: Please send the evaluations to the MHS office in an envelope by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for completing these evaluations since they will **count** towards the candidate's score on the day of tryouts. We appreciate your valuable time. **PLEASE DO NOT SHOW OR RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STUDENTS.**

Many thanks,  
Chasidy Reid

Subject Taught \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_

**Rate each of the following: Using a ratio of 1 (poor) to 5 (superior).**

1. Work Habits in Class	1	2	3	4	5
2. Respect for teachers, administrators, and school policies	1	2	3	4	5
3. Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
4. Cooperates with fellow students	1	2	3	4	5
5. Accepts criticism with an open attitude	1	2	3	4	5
6. Classroom behavior	1	2	3	4	5
7. Attendance/Punctuality	1	2	3	4	5
8. General Attitude	1	2	3	4	5

**Comments:**

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_