

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHEERLEADER
CONSTITUTION**

2009-2010 School Year

**Georgetown Independent School District
603 Lakeway Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78626**

A School District of Excellence

**2009-2010
BENOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION**

Article I. Mission Statement:

Benold Middle School Cheerleading Team will make a positive difference in the lives of its members and the entire student body of BMS by developing unity, competitiveness, creativity, leadership, personal growth and success through its membership. BMS Cheerleaders will dedicate the time and energy needed to make our school outstanding in all areas of competitiveness.

Article II. Try out Eligibility:

- Section 1. Each student must be enrolled as a 6th or 7th grader at Benold Middle School.
- Section 2. Each student must have a clean citizenship record for the current school year, and have had no GAP placement for the present school year, or received any demerits per GISD student code of conduct.
- Section 3. All cheerleaders must maintain a 70% average in all classes with no N conduct for each grading period to be eligible to try out and to cheer.
- Section 4. Any student with three (3) or more office referrals or who has been suspended from school will not be allowed to try out for cheerleader.

Article III. Selection Process:

- Section 1. Candidates will receive a copy of the guidelines prior to try out. Candidates and their parent/guardian will read, sign and **return permission forms and applications to the cheer sponsor, Mrs. Haas, (Rm. 139) at Benold no later than 4pm on Wednesday, March 4th.**

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON!!!

- Section 2. There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Monday, February 23rd, 2009 at 5:30 in the cafeteria.
- Section 3. The second progress report of the 3rd nine weeks will be checked through the office for each potential candidate. **Letters will be handed out at the bubble on Thursday, March 5th at 4pm to each candidate regarding their eligibility.**
- Section 4. The district will schedule the try out and clinic dates. The try out clinic will be closed to the public. Absolutely no one is allowed to videotape try out material during the pre-tryout clinic, however, an audiocassette tape or CD may be brought to copy the dance music.

Article III. Selection Process (Continued)

Section 5. Try out practice will be held from 4:15-5:30 pm in the Benold Middle School main gym on the following dates: March 6th, 9th and 10th. There will be a pre-tryout practice at Georgetown High School on Wednesday, March 11th. Try outs will take place on Thursday, March 12th at _____ pm in the Georgetown High School lower gym. Candidates need to be at the high school no later than _____ pm.

Because try out material is taught at all practices, **all candidates must attend ALL practices**. Candidates are encouraged to bring an audio tape or writeable CD to record try-out music on the first day.

Section 6. Attire for tryouts - Every candidate should wear blue soffe shorts and a white t-shirt with white socks, cheer shoes are permitted. Their hair should be pulled out of their eyes.
***No jewelry will be allowed.**

Section 7. Scoring procedures:

Scores will be posted the evening of try outs.

Parental viewing of their own child's scores will be allowed after the results are posted. All scores are final.

Cheerleader candidates will be scored by a 100% judges' rating of the following:

- A cheer to be taught at the above mentioned practices
- Four jumps: left and right hurkie, front hurdler, and toe touch
- A group dance to be taught at above mentioned practices

Section 8. Judges will evaluate each candidate based on cheer motion and technique, jumping ability, voice projection, poise, spirit and overall appearance.

Section 9. The cheerleader teams will consist of up to 10-7th graders and 10-8th graders. There will be no alternate positions. Both squads will cheer for both 7th and 8th grade events as determined by the sponsor. Judges scores count 100%. Results of the try out are final.

Article IV. Obligations

Section 1. A cheerleader will serve from the day of selection.

Section 2. Cheerleaders must remain in compliance with the Cheerleader Constitution, the Benold Middle School Handbook, and GISD Code of Conduct at all times.

Section 3. Cheerleaders will cheer for all BMS sports as determined by the sponsor. Cheerleaders will cheer at all home football games and home basketball games. Cheerleaders will cheer at football games on Tuesday's during the first semester and basketball games on Monday's or Thursday's during the first and second semester. Other obligations of cheerleaders include:

- Cheer at all designated pep rallies
- Organize and run pep rallies
- Participate fully in any sponsor designated fund raisers
- Participate in any other function designated by the sponsor and/or administration
- Cheer in no more than one event a week (excluding practices)
- Participate only in events in which the sponsor or designated representative is present
- Create locker and spirit signs for athletic teams

Section 4. Cheerleaders will be required to attend all practices and performances as well as any camps. **Any and all practices and camps are mandatory.** Summer practices will consist of mandatory sessions prior to camp and other designated practices before the start of school. All dates and times are to be announced. The sponsor retains the right to change practice dates and times as best fits the needs of the squad in order to limit conflicts.

Section 5. Absences:
Cheerleaders are required to attend ALL practices and performances. Unexcused absences result in receiving 3 demerits. All absences are unexcused except for the following:

- Ill with a note from a medical doctor
- BMS competition/performance (i.e. cross country meet, show choir, etc)
- Special circumstances pre-approved by the cheerleader coach (ie. family funeral, family wedding, etc.).
- **Two (2) unexcused absences from a cheer related activity may result in suspension from 2 cheering events. The cheerleader must still attend the events scheduled and sit with the sponsor.**
- **A cheerleader who has an unexcused absence from school on a game day will not be able to cheer at the event, but must sit with the sponsor.**
- **Participation in non-school related activities instead of attending a cheer practice or function will be considered an unexcused absence.**

Section 6. Practice:

- Cheerleaders will have practice 2 days a week as determined by the sponsors. Times and days to be determined later.

Section 7. All cheerleaders/mascot must arrive on time to games and practices and must be present during post-game clean up. This includes, being dressed in uniform and on the side-lines when the sponsor states and expected to stay for a brief meeting/evaluation after a game/event.

Article V. Conduct:

Section 1. Cheerleaders are school representatives and should act accordingly. This includes meeting all requirements of the GISD Dress Code and Code of Conduct.

Section 2. Cheerleaders are responsible for crowd response and conduct. They should lead appropriate cheers and chants to avoid inappropriate crowd response.

Section 3. Disrespect towards a Cheerleading Coach/Sponsor will not be tolerated. Cheerleaders should respect the authority of the sponsor/coach at all times. This includes following any and all decisions as made by the sponsor for the best interest for the squad. Concern should be voiced in an appropriate manner during school hours.

Section 4. Cheerleaders are never to use profanity, smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or use illegal drugs either in uniform or out of uniform. Consequences for these activities will coincide with the GISD Code of Conduct. A first offense will result in suspension of cheer activities (except practice), and a second offense may result in dismissal pending approval of Principal and Director of Fine Arts.

Section 5. Cheerleaders should never allow team conflicts to be evident while they are performing.

Section 6. Cheerleaders are not to make derogatory remarks about the school, squad members, game officials, the opposing team, the sponsor or any school representative.

Article V. Conduct (Continued)

- Section 7. Cheerleaders should conduct themselves as positive leaders in the classroom. If a teacher comments to a sponsor that a cheerleader has unsatisfactory conduct in the classroom; the cheerleader will have a meeting with the sponsors and be asked to correct the behavior. The second offense will result in a meeting with the sponsor, teacher, and cheerleader. The third offense will result in suspension from one cheer related activity, however still be required to attend and sit with the sponsor.
- Section 8. **GAME ETIQUETTE:**
Cheerleaders are not to converse with each other or with people in the stands during a game/performance. Cheerleaders should be attentive to the game and lead cheers/chants when appropriate. When not cheering, cheerleaders should stand in formation with hands behind the back.
- Section 9. Attached at the end of the constitution is the GISD Secondary Code of Conduct as it applies to extracurricular activities.

Article VI. Demerits:

- Section 1. Cheerleading demerits will be given by the sponsor. An accumulation of 10 or more demerits will result in dismissal from the squad.
- Section 2. Cheerleading demerits are not to be confused with office demerits. Cheerleading demerits will accumulate separately from office demerits. If a cheerleader receives an office demerit, they will be removed from the squad.
- Section 3. The accumulation of seven demerits will result in suspension from all cheer activities until the demerits are removed. At this time a letter will be sent home notifying the parent and cheerleader of their status. It is the cheerleader's responsibility to uphold probationary requirements and approach the sponsor about earning merits by ways outlined in this constitution. 14 days will be given to remove demerits.
- Section 4. Demerits will be assigned for unexcused absences or for excused absences where prior notification was not given to the sponsor.
- Section 5. Cheerleaders will not be exempt from classroom disciplinary procedures to which they have been assigned. If a cheerleader receives a detention which occurs simultaneously with a game or practice, detention will be served at the appointed time. Failure to do so will result in additional consequences by the teacher and/or administrator. In addition, the cheerleader will receive an unexcused absence and any other consequences or demerits that may be associated with this absence, including suspension from the next cheer event.

Article VI. Demerits (Continued)

Section 6. Cheerleader demerits will be given as follows

- 3 Demerits:** Office referral (or any referable offense)
Unexcused absence
Leaving a cheer event without permission
Blatant disrespect toward the sponsor (including arguing)
Reckless behavior while stunting or stunting without permission
Negative behavior report from a classroom teacher
Conduct unbecoming of a Benold cheerleader
- 2 Demerits:** Failure to turn in required paper work
Arguing with team members
Visiting while on the sidelines or during a performance
Talking or horseplay during a practice
Wearing uniform to a non-Benold event without the sponsor being present
- 1 Demerit:** Being tardy to a game or practice
Dressing inappropriately to practice (t-shirt, shorts, socks, tennis shoes, hair pulled back is appropriate attire)
Wearing jewelry to a practice or performance
Wearing fingernail polish (other than clear) while cheering
Wearing incomplete uniform (including bow) or wearing a dirty uniform

Section 7. The demerit system is a guideline for behavior and conduct of a cheerleader. At any time during a cheerleader's participation in cheerleading, the demerit system may be waived and a cheerleader may be dismissed from the squad for insubordination, non-participation, failure to cooperate, or any other serious violation of policy or law.

Article VII. Merits:

- Section 1. Merits will be given by the sponsor to cheerleaders who wish to clear demerits from their record. Merits CANNOT be earned before a demerit is received. All merit points will be decided by sponsor.
- Section 2. Two merits equal one demerit.
- Section 3. Demerits can be worked off by the following
- Doing ten toe touches in a row (2 merits)
 - Running one mile (2 merits)
 - Any other activity approved by sponsor such as teaching a chant/cheer, choreographing a routine, making locker signs, etc...
- Section 4. The cheerleader must consult the sponsor for approval prior to any merit work being performed.

Article VIII. Expense:

- Section 1. Cheerleaders should be prepared to meet the costs incurred while cheering. Uniforms and summer camps will be the main expenses.
- Section 2. The approximate initial cost of cheerleading is \$500 which includes the following items: skirt and top, shoes, bloomers, hair ribbon, camp, camp wear, sweatshirt, cheer leggings and bag.
- Section 3. Uniform and shoe fittings will take place in April. All money will be due prior to the close of school that year, in other words 100% of the costs will be due by May 2009.
- Section 4. Fund raising will be done prior to the end of the school year. This is your opportunity to get your costs paid for. No other scholarship opportunities will be available.

Article IX. Rules Concerning Uniforms:

- Section 1. Uniforms are to be worn **only by BMS cheerleaders** and only at approved times (i.e. games and appearances). Appropriate conduct should be displayed while representing BMS in uniform.
- Section 2. If any part of the uniforms are damaged or lost, it must be replaced by the student, at the current catalog cost.
- Section 3. Team uniformity is a must. When in uniform, cheerleaders must wear identical shoes, shoelaces, socks, bows, etc. Jewelry is **never** part of the cheerleader's uniform and should not be worn at school or during games/events; this includes all body piercing's too.
- Section 4. Only school-approved uniform items are to be worn. The Benold Middle School approved uniform consists of:
- One skirt and one shell
 - One pair of cheerleading shoes
 - One hair bow or ribbon
 - One pair of bloomers
 - White athletic low cut socks
 - Cheer sweatshirt
 - Cheer leggings
 - Cheer Bag
- All approved uniform parts are ordered by the sponsor for the group.
Failure to wear complete uniform while participating in cheer event will result in not cheering at the game/event.

Article X. Suspension and Ineligibility:

Section 1. All Benold cheerleaders must be enrolled at Benold Middle School to cheer. Moving from Benold to another school will result in dismissal from the squad.

Section 2. Suspension of a cheerleader is a period when the student is not allowed to cheer, but still must attend all scheduled cheer related activities, such as games, practices, fundraisers, etc.

A sponsor may suspend a cheerleader from cheer activities for ineligibility, displaying inappropriate conduct, or having a negative attitude.

Section 3. All students must maintain an average of 70% or above to participate in extracurricular activities. U.I.L. rules will be followed. Ineligibility for two (2) grading periods during the current school year will result in permanent dismissal from the team. Failure does not have to be in the same class or in consecutive grading periods.

If a cheerleader becomes ineligible they must follow these procedures:

- Attend all cheer events and sit with the sponsor
- Turn in a weekly grade sheet
- Attend tutorials three times a week in the subject they are failing
- If failing more than one subject, then the cheerleader will attend tutorials every morning, alternating subjects
- Will do extra conditioning and may be required to do a writing assignment

Section 4. After two probationary or suspension periods for any reason, any other infringement on the rules will result in immediate permanent dismissal from the squad.

Section 5. Any member given out of school suspension will be dismissed from the squad.

Section 6. Cheerleaders who miss a practice prior to an event will not be allowed to cheer at that event. Cheerleaders who miss more than half (determined by lunch) of the school day prior to an event will not be allowed to cheer at that event.

Section 7. Cheerleaders who receive in school suspension from the office for any reason will be immediately suspended for one cheer event. The accumulation of two days of BIC for any reason will result in dismissal from the squad.

Section 8. Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior. In addition, members who receive 3 disciplinary referrals where disciplinary action was taken will be removed from the squad immediately.

Article XI. Special Situations

- Section 1. The administration may alter any part of this constitution at any time in the best interest of the Cheerleading Program. Participants will be advised of the changes.
- Section 2. Any special situations which may arise and are not specifically addressed in this constitution will be dealt with on an individual basis by the sponsor and administration.
- Section 3. Cheerleaders are encouraged to participate in other school activities. Any cheerleader may try out for other sports teams on campus. We strongly encourage the student to determine how well they can manage multiple activities and commitments. Practice time will be shared between the teams/band/organization and exceptions made for participation in all cheer activities. The coaches/directors/sponsors will decide how best to divide the time of the student so they may responsibly participate in all activities. It is the cheerleader's responsibility to bring all time conflicts to the attention of the sponsors/coaches/directors involved well before a conflict arises. Failure to give notice to the sponsor may result in consequences including suspension.
- Section 4. This Constitution becomes effective with its issuance at the first meeting on February 23, 2009 and will remain in effect until the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Acceptance of the Constitution

Parents and Cheerleaders,

After thoroughly reading the BMS Cheerleader Constitution for the 2009-2010 school year, and after you are sure that the cheerleader understands and accepts all her responsibilities if selected to the squad, please sign the following statement. **This page should be detached and turned in with the application packet by 4:00pm, Wednesday, March 4th to Mrs. Haas in room 139. NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.**

I have read the BMS Cheerleader constitution for the 2009-2010 school year and have a complete understanding of the responsibilities I hereby accept if selected as a member of the BMS Cheerleading Squad. I pledge to fully abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this constitution. I understand that failure to abide by these policies could result in dismissal from the squad.

Candidate Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date