

BHS/BMS Cheerleader & Mascot Handbook



CHEERLEADER GUIDELINES 2026-2027

Purpose

The purpose of Brazos High School and Brazos Middle School cheerleaders is to promote school spirit and a positive school climate by participating at athletic events and extracurricular activities as deemed appropriate by the administration and cheer coach. Cheerleaders are expected to be positive role models, serving as role models, serving as high school and middle school ambassadors at school, in the district, and community.

The information provided in the brochure explains qualifications and responsibilities of high school cheerleaders

- Required qualifications for tryout
- Selection process
- Responsibilities of cheerleaders
- Discipline and consequences
- Tryout evaluation form
- Dates for tryouts, practices, camp
- Approximate cost
- Calendar

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS TO TRYOUT FOR
A POSITION AS 2025-2026 BRAZOS HIGH
SCHOOL CHEERLEADER

There will be 14 positions on the Varsity cheer squad, and 8 on the JV squad. Students

entering 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th during the 2026-2027 will be eligible to try out this spring. UIL maximum age requirements are in effect for all the cheerleaders.

Academic Standing

Cheerleader candidates must:

- Meet UIL eligibility requirements to try out.
- Be passing all classes with a minimum of 70
- Earn five academic credits at the end of the year of tryouts in order to assume their cheerleader role for the subsequent year.
- Have good attendance (90%) with no truancy charges in the current school year
- Must be enrolled by the beginning of the 1st day of the Spring Semester prior to tryouts

School Behavior

Candidates must have exhibited appropriate conduct in the classroom, other school functions, and community settings. Therefore, a candidate may not have:

- Committed any offense that leads to an alternative campus (DAEP) assignment.
- Returning cheerleaders must be in good standing in order to try out the following year.

Physical Examination

Candidates must submit a statement from a physician prior to our camp on Monday, May 31st which indicates that the candidate is capable of performing all the essential functions of a cheerleader. The physician is to document the physical examination on the Pre-participation physical evaluation-medical history forms included in the back of this packet.

Requirement physical skills

Essential physical functions of a cheerleader are:

- Perform jumps and other physical moves that are a part of a cheerleader routines
- Perform stunts that may involve climbing, balance, agility, and upper body strength
- Exhibit rhythm and coordination in performing cheerleading routines
- Demonstrates stamina in a performing regular physical activities that involve physical endurance and fitness
- Perform routines in both indoor and outdoor settings, in hot and cold weather.
- Demonstrate clear diction and strong vocal qualities.

Participation in pre-tryout clinic

The pre-tryout clinic acquaints candidates with the format of tryouts and offers instruction in the routines/ skills to be evaluated by judges during the cheerleading selection process.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend each day of the pre-tryout clinic offered in order to be as well prepared as possible for tryout. Should a candidate not be present at a clinic session, he/she is responsible for learning any missed material on his/her own time from other participants: clinic leaders are not permitted to provide make-up instruction. Candidates must attend at least 3 of the 4 pre-tryout practices. Students must be present before the judges in order to be eligible for selections. Students must attend at least one half-day of school on the day of judging in order to participate.

Documents

Students must submit specified documents by their published due date in order to be a cheerleader. Documents include:

- Trip authorization form
- Pre-participation physical evaluation / medical history
- Person student information for cheerleader squad
- Parent / student acknowledgments to uphold cheerleader obligations / requirements

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS TO TRYOUT FOR A POSITION AS 2025-2026 BRAZOS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADER

There will be 12 positions on the BMS cheer squad, six 7th graders and six 8th graders. Students entering 7th and 8th grade during the 2026-2027 will be eligible to try out this spring. In the event there are not six members trying out from one grade level, then the remaining spots may be filled with additional members from the other grade level. Additionally, in the event there are only six candidates from a grade level trying out, candidates must still attend tryouts to receive the experience and feedback. In the event of an exact tying score for the 6th position, in either grade level, an additional position will be added.

1. Candidates for tryouts must have an overall 70 average in all classes. Applicants

cannot have a six weeks grade of F (69 or less) in any class. Grades will be checked through the last report card date prior to tryouts. Any candidate that is academically ineligible will not be able to participate in the tryouts.

2. Candidates must have maintained a 90% or higher attendance rate for the year at the time of tryouts.
3. Candidates must attend the required amount of practices, as set by the coach, unless prior notice is given to the coach.
4. Candidates must have a signed parent permission form and have all necessary paperwork complete and turned in by the due date set by the coach.
5. Candidates must have successfully completed one year of BMS Pep Squad to try out.

School Behavior

Candidates must have exhibited appropriate conduct in the classroom, other school functions, and community settings. Therefore, a candidate may not have:

- Committed any offense that leads to an alternative campus (DAEP) assignment.
- Returning cheerleaders must be in good standing in order to try out the following year.

Physical Examination

Candidates must submit a statement from a physician prior to our camp this summer, which indicates that the candidate is capable of performing all the essential functions of a cheerleader. The physician is to document the physical examination.

Requirement physical skills

Essential physical functions of a cheerleader are:

- Perform jumps and other physical moves that are a part of a cheerleader routines
- Perform stunts that may involve climbing, balance, agility, and upper body strength
- Exhibit rhythm and coordination in performing cheerleading routines
- Demonstrates stamina in a performing regular physical activities that involve physical endurance and fitness
- Perform routines in both indoor and outdoor settings, in hot and cold weather.
- Demonstrate clear diction and strong vocal qualities.

Participation in pre-tryout clinic

The pre-tryout practices acquaint candidates with the format of tryouts and offers instruction in the routines/skills to be evaluated by judges during the cheerleading selection process.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend each day of the pre-tryout practices offered to be as well prepared as possible for tryouts. Should a candidate not be present at a clinic session, he/she is responsible for learning any missed material on his/her own time. Candidates must attend the 3 after school, pre-tryout practices. We will do mock tryouts on two of the days. Students must be present before the judges in order to

be eligible for selections. Students must attend at least one half-day of school on the day of judging in order to participate.

Documents

Students must submit specified documents by their published due date in order to be a cheerleader.

SELECTION PROCESS BHS

The selection process of high school cheerleaders is done by knowledgeable, impartial judges observing the candidate in a series of activities performed on a single afternoon. The results of impartial judging determines which cheerleader candidates are selected for the squad.

Pre- tryout clinic

- The tryout clinic
 - Candidates must attend 3 tryout clinics to be eligible.

Tryout Format (Judging)

- The tryout process is organized and facilitated by the cheer coach. In addition to the judges, the cheer coach, senior cheerleaders, and a faculty member may be present in the tryout room to give directions and assist students who are waiting. The tryout room is closed to all spectators, including parents, friends, and uninvolved school personnel.
- Judges shall be acknowledged cheer coaches, former college cheerleaders, or UCA/NCA staff. Judges shall not be BISD employees. Judges shall not be a relative of any candidate or a private coach of any candidate.
- Candidates perform in front of the judges individually
- The activities performed at the tryouts will be:
 - SIDELINE
 - DANCE
 - CHEER
- While viewing the prescribed activities, the judges will assign points of candidates on their potential to perform cheerleading skills and functions. The specific skills and attributes to be judged include:
 - Spirit/Enthusiasm/Poise
 - Voice Projection
 - Motion Technique
 - Jump Technique

- Gymnastics/Tumbling

- The scoring template is included in this packet.
- Candidates draw for a participant number
- During the judging and tabulation of scores, students are referred to by number only.
- Candidates must adhere to the required dress for tryouts. All high school students must wear a WHITE SHIRT or RED SHIRT and BLACK SHORTS. No logos or words can be on their shirts or shorts. All candidates must wear tennis shoes, long hair must be pulled back, and all jewelry removed.

Tabulation of results

- Each judge scores the candidates' performance using a numerical scale. The judge will initial any change to rating.
- All scores will be added to determine the final score for each candidate.
- Candidates' scores are ranked in numerical order.
- The twelve candidates with the highest rating will be named as the new varsity cheerleaders, with the remaining eight named junior varsity.
- Squad results will be posted outside the gym immediately following tryouts.
- In the event of a tie for the last spot on varsity, those whom the tie is between will be asked to reappear in front of judges to do their best jump, tumble, and repeat the dance one more time for a tie breaker evaluation.
- In the event that we end up with less than 4 members on JV, the 3 or fewer members will be moved to Varsity.

Mascots (High School Only)

Candidates trying out for mascot will perform a 2-4 minute skit before the judges. Mascots may use props in their skits. No additional individuals will be allowed as part of the skit. Music used in the skit must be school appropriate and approved by the sponsor prior to tryouts. **Two mascots will be chosen.**

Expectations:

- **Mascots will be expected to perform for all football and basketball games, but will be permitted water breaks when needed.**
- **Mascots will also be required to keep their entire suit on for all events. • Mascots are expected to not speak while in uniform and keep their heads on at all times when in front of a crowd.**
- **One mascot will be in uniform 1st and 3rd quarter, while the other mascot will be in uniform 2nd and 4th quarter.**

There will be no Brazos Middle School Mascot.



SELECTION PROCESS BMS

The selection process of middle school cheerleaders is done by knowledgeable, impartial judges observing the candidate in a series of activities performed on a single afternoon. The results of impartial judging determines which cheerleader candidates are selected for the squad.

Tryout Format (Judging)

- The tryout process is organized and facilitated by the cheer coach. In addition to the judges, the cheer coach, and a faculty member may be present in the tryout room to give directions and assist students who are waiting. The tryout room is closed to all spectators, including parents, friends, and uninvolved school personnel.
- Judges shall be acknowledged cheer coaches, former college cheerleaders, or UCA/NCA staff. Judges shall not be BISD employees. Judges shall not be a relative of any candidate or a private coach of any candidate.
- Candidates perform in front of the judges individually
- The activities performed at the tryouts will be:
 - SIDELINE
 - DANCE
 - CHEER
- While viewing the prescribed activities, the judges will assign points of candidates on their potential to perform cheerleading skills and functions. The specific skills and attributes to be judged include:
 - Gymnastic Skills/Tumbling
 - Spirit
 - Communication Skills (voice, facial expressions, confidence)
 - Motion Technique (arm levels, sharp motions, correct fists)
 - Dance Technique (sharp motions, keeps beat, expression)
 - Jumps

Contestants will perform in a group and as an individual.

- The scoring template is included in this packet.
- Candidates draw for a participant number on a date determined by the coach.
- During the judging and tabulation of scores, students are referred to by number only. ●

Candidates must adhere to the required dress for tryouts. All middle school students must wear a WHITE or RED SHIRT and BLACK SHORTS. No logos or words can be on their shirts or shorts. All candidates must wear tennis shoes, long hair must be pulled back, and all jewelry removed.

Tabulation of results

- Each judge scores the candidates' performance using a numerical scale. The judge will initial any change to rating.
- All scores will be added to determine the final score for each candidate.
- Results of the tryouts will be announced no later than the end of the day of tryouts. Sealed envelopes will be given to each candidate indicating if they made the squad.

Brazos Middle School Additional Info:

BMS Cheerleaders will cheer at all home football games.
BMS Cheerleaders will travel to two away football games.
They will assist BHS cheerleaders as needed with mini-cheer camp.
Additional events may be added throughout the year.

Cheerleaders will ride the bus or school transportation to and from out of town athletic events. If a parent is at an event, the cheerleader may ride home with the parent or an adult approved by the parent, provided a note from the parent is given to the sponsor prior to the event.

Pep Rallies: BMS will hold pep rallies as determined by the sponsor.

There is no middle school mascot.

Purpose

The purpose of Brazos cheerleading is twofold. It is to create, promote, and uphold school spirit in accordance with school rules and regulations of Brazos ISD at cheerleading activities. Cheerleaders/Mascot encourage high academic standards and promote leadership, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and good citizenship for school and fellow cheerleaders. Cheerleaders/Mascot plan and initiate activities, which will promote student body and community support and involvement in the promotion of athletic events and other school activities.

Expectations– Grades

Grades will be checked at the end of each six weeks' grade reporting period. In accordance with Texas Education Code §3.081 a cheerleader failing a course will be ineligible to cheer according to dates listed on the eligibility calendar. The eligibility calendar is created yearly based on the school instructional calendar. A copy is available by request to the cheer sponsor. During that time, the member will dress out and participate in all practices, but may not participate in any pep rallies, games, e

Expectations– Attendance: Events/Practices

1. Cheerleaders are expected to attend and participate in all practices and activities. Excused absences are: Personal illness or accident, Death in the family, Other school activities with advanced approval from sponsor
2. Unexcused absences are grounds for disciplinary action. Any cheerleader with absences that prevent them from participating in events for more than two consecutive days must bring a note from the doctor or the parent.
3. Sponsors must be notified if a cheerleader is ill and will miss an event. Any cheerleader unable to perform because of an injury will appear at the event in full uniform and sit in a designated area. Any member found not to be truthful about an absence at a cheering event will be dismissed from the squad.
4. Any cheerleader whose absence from OR lack of performance in getting the gym ready for pep rallies, decorating or collecting materials after cheering WILL NOT perform at the next pep rally

and/or game.

5. Cheerleaders/Mascot will ride the bus or transportation to and from out town athletic events. If a parent is at an event, the cheerleader may ride home with the parent or an adult approved by the parent, provided a note from the parent is given to the sponsor prior to the event. In addition, if a cheerleader/mascot is attending another school event they may travel to the cheer event with their parent or an adult approved by the parent with prior written notice given to the sponsor.

6. Band members that are also cheer, must be prepared to cheer at the quarters and perform at halftime. (BHS)

UIL State Cheer Competition

- All Varsity and JV members are required to participate in the UIL spirit competition in Mid-January (BHS) There is not an option to quit or not participate. Failure to compete will result in not being able to cheer the following year.
- Every Competition practice is mandatory. Failure to comply will result in consequences.
- There will be at least 2 or more cheerleaders that will be selected as alternates for state competition. The alternates will be decided by the cheer coach.

Expectations Practices

Since most cheerleaders participate in other extra-curricular activities we will try to limit any practices after school. However, it may be necessary to schedule some after school or weekend practices. Should that be necessary those practices will be set so as to not interfere with any extra-curricular events. Any scheduled practice will be mandatory and required by all cheerleaders & mascots to attend. No practices or meetings may be held without the sponsor's supervision.

Expectations– Uniforms

1. Cheerleaders are responsible for maintaining all uniforms and accessories.
2. Uniforms may only be worn by cheerleaders to approved activities.

3. All cheer clothing is to be clean and in good repair before each cheer activity. 4. When in uniform at school or in public, the proper cheerleading shoes, socks, accessories must be worn at all times.
5. Jewelry may not be worn while in uniform.
6. Hair must be pulled away from the face while in uniform.
7. It is the discretion of the sponsors to determine the proper fit of the uniform.
8. Cheerleaders are expected to pay for all of their cheer obligations **sum before cheer camp** A payment breakdown and schedule will be given to each member.

Expectations– Fundraising

Cheerleaders are expected to participate fully with fundraisers ~~benefit~~ the entire program.

A fundraiser will be held to help each member raise money towards their bill.

Expected Participation during Events

1. Summer camp
2. Summer work weeks.
3. Cheer throughout the game or lose. No one is to leave the track or court during a game without permission.
4. Cheerleader duties do not expire until the end of the school year. Those who do not uphold their obligations will not be allowed to ~~try out~~ the following year as a cheerleader.

Brazos Cheerleading/Mascot Discipline System

A cheerleader/mascot will receive consequences when he/she fails to satisfactorily

complete any responsibility or violates the student code of conduct. The consequence will coincide with the student handbook and/or will be determined by the cheer sponsor. A demerit/merit system will be in place and records kept to document behavior.

Removal/Suspension from the Squad

Certain acts or violations may result in removal from the squad. This will be at the discretion of the sponsor and district administration. School discipline problems resulting in ISS, Saturday School, Swats or Suspension may result in dismissal from the cheer program. The following violations may also result in suspension or dismissal from the Brazos Cheer Program:

1. Using illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time.
2. Allowing yourself to be in a situation, in school or away from school, where you are accused of/arrested for illegal activity.
3. Missing practice (unless excused by the sponsor).
4. Skipping class or school.
5. Poor sportsmanship
6. Harassment (verbal/physical/sexual/etc...) of another student or team member.
7. Any act (either in school or away from school) which in the opinion of the sponsor and/or school administration reflects in a negative manner on the Brazos Cheer Program.
8. Electronic communication (text, Facebook, Twitter, etc...) should be positive and should never negatively reflect on other teammates or coaches. If it is not positive don't post it.

In School Suspension (ISS) Procedures

A Cheerleader/Mascot assigned ISS will be permitted to practice before and after school hours. The athlete becomes eligible for competition/events at the end of the school day on the final day of the ISS assignment. The athlete will not be allowed to leave ISS prior to the school day to travel to a competition.

If a Cheerleader Quits/Moves

High School After tryouts, the top 14 scorers will be selected for varsity cheer. If a varsity cheerleader quits BEFORE trying out and there is a junior varsity squad, the junior varsity

cheerleader who is next in line, based on tryout scores, will have the opportunity to move up to varsity cheer. If there is no junior varsity squad and more than 14 students tried out, the candidate with the next highest score will be offered the opportunity to join the varsity cheer squad. If there were 14 or fewer candidates who tried out for cheer, the position would remain vacant.

additional tryouts will be held.

Middle School: If a middle school cheerleader quits or moves before the date of the uniform fitting, the candidate with the next score in line will have the opportunity to join the squad. No spots will be filled after uniform fittings are held.

Expenses

1. Cheerleaders will be responsible for the cost of their own uniforms, camp, camp clothes, pom poms, shoes, and other accessories. A fundraising activity will be conducted to help pay for costs. Any funds raised above the total amount of the bill will be deposited to the group account.

2. The cheerleading uniform will be worn only when cheering as a group member at pep rallies, football or basketball games, or another school sponsored event.

3. A list of cheer expenses will be included with the tryout registration packet.

Captain/Co-Captain- Sideline Cheer

The JV and Varsity cheer captain will be determined by the highest seniors and leadership

skills The captain must be a returning varsity cheerleader. When the captain is not present, the co captain/captains will assume the captain's position and duties.

Captain/Co-Captain Responsibilities/Duties:

Weekly meetings with sponsors to develop and plan practices and events

Be early to all events and practices

Call out cheers at all events

Plan and run weekly practices

UIL Competition Captain/ Co-Captain

The competition captain and co captain will be decided on and voted by their peers. The captain and co captain will be determined by leadership skills, determination, drive, and knowledge of cheer. Captain and Co Captain can be any Varsity Senior or Junior cheerleader

Being a cheerleader is an honor. Cheerleaders are to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit, and are first and foremost representatives of their school. Cheerleaders should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the BMS/BHS Student Code of Conduct. Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers.

Whenever a rule is not followed, cheerleaders will be given a fixed number of demerits, or negative points. Likewise, merits, or positive points will be given for superior conduct or performance.

Demerits Given	Offense
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Late for a game, function, or practice - Chewing gum, eating, or drinking while cheering or practicing - Cell phone or electronic device use during practice or games without permission - Unnecessary conversation during practice or games with squad, crowd, or team - Failure to learn cheers/chants/dances - Horseplay during stunting
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appearance: uniform, jewelry, fingernail polish, incorrect uniform/ribbon/socks and/or unsuitable hairstyle (falling down, not in ponytail), - Failing to meet deadlines – paperwork, financial, etc.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inability to cooperate with squad or coach, lying to coach, engaging in drama with squad members - “social” drama (at school, out of school or online) - Profanity, vulgar gestures - Disrespectful behavior toward squad members, coach or school staff - Unexcused absence from practice/game/event - Negative reports from teachers - Inappropriate interactions (pictures/comments/status) on any social media platform
5 – 20	Discipline referrals (subject to principal and coach’s discretion)
Immediate Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possession or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco - DAEP assignment - Suspension from school

10 demerits = suspension from participation in cheer activities (games and pep rally) for 1 week. Cheerleader must all attend events, but will sit out with coaches – out of uniform.

15 demerits = suspension from participation in cheer activities (games and pep rally) for 2 weeks. Cheerleaders must all attend events, but will sit out with coaches – out of uniform.

BMS Cheerleading Tryouts Judging Sheet

Judge's Signature: _____

Squad: Brazos Middle School

Candidate: _____ Group #: _____

Category	Possible Points	Points
Gymnastic Skills/Tumbling	5	
Spirit	5	
Communication Skills (voice, facial expression, confidence)	10	
Motion Technique (Arm levels, sharp motions, correct fists)	10	
Dance Technique (Sharp motions, keeps beat, expression)	10	
Jumps	10	

		Judge's Total:
--	--	----------------

BHS Cheerleading Tryouts Judging Sheet

Judge's Number: _____

Squad: Brazos High School

Candidate: _____

Category	Possible Points	Points
Gymnastic Skills/Tumbling	5	
Spirit	5	
Communication Skills (voice, facial expression, confidence)	10	
Motion Technique (Arm levels, sharp motions, correct fists)	10	
Dance Technique (Sharp motions, keeps beat, expression)	10	

Jumps	10	
	Judge's Total:	