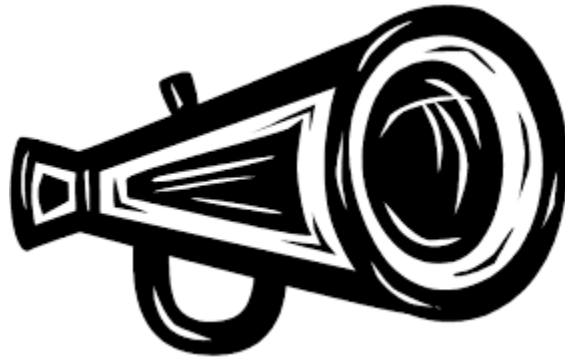


Wetumpka Middle School Cheer



Wetumpka Middle School
Cheer Contract
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"It doesn't matter what people think about cheerleading. If it's something that you love to do that's all that counts."

Cheerleader Program Contract/Manual

The following guidelines outlined in this manual must be adhered to by all Wetumpka Middle School Cheerleaders. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, the student becomes a representative of Wetumpka Middle School and each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards. **Membership is from cheer tryout date of this year to the last day of tryouts the following school year.** Violations of these regulations will result in disciplinary action which may include suspension or termination from the squad.

The Cheerleader and Mascot Handbook guidelines have been developed to outline the standard expectations and accompanying procedures for the WMS cheerleading program. This handbook was designed and prepared as a basic operating instrument to define the program. The cheer coach is granted the authority to make daily decisions which are in the best interest of the cheer program. The handbook guidelines and procedures are reviewed annually and revised when warranted by the cheer coach, principal, or athletic director. This handbook is subject to change at any time due to ECPS or WMS rule changes.

Purpose:

- to promote and uphold school spirit
- to be a good example for others
- to develop and promote a sense of good sportsmanship among students, spectators, and the general public
- to strive to build better relationships between schools

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2021-2022 Contract/Cheer Manual

Congratulations!

Congratulations on an awesome tryout and welcome to the 2021-2022MC WMS family. It is going to be a successful and rewarding season and we look forward to seeing you all at our first stunt clinic in April!

Please take the time to sit down with your athlete and thoroughly go through all of Wetumpka Middle School Cheer procedures and policies listed in this contract. This will ensure that the athlete fully understands the expectations that will be put into place regarding individual and team commitments. ***Also, please initial every yellow box throughout the document agreeing to each procedure and policy.***

Conduct and Sportsmanship

During your cheer season with Wetumpka Middle School Cheer, you the student will be the public face for our program. We expect our students to conduct themselves at cheers and community functions with high moral character when they represent our school. To be a good competitor, you must be a good sportsman. In saying that, we want every team member to support one another during practices and cheers. We also want you to cheer for other squads in our area at all events. We want everyone to be present for award ceremonies and demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout every cheer. We expect you to treat your coaches with respect as they will treat you the same. If your attitude or actions interfere with a practice or performance, then you will be disciplined, and, if necessary, removed from the team. We believe in the value of every athlete and we will do everything we can to have a positive influence on our athletes. Our program is intended to teach teamwork, goal-setting, personal commitment and leadership qualities that will last a lifetime.

Grades

We feel it is vital that all our students also perform well in the classroom. We do not ask that all our students make straight A's, but we do want you to perform up to your potential. We will make every effort possible to help students with subjects that they are having a hard time in. School comes first. With that said, students will **NOT** be excused from practices or cheers because of a test or project. Wetumpka Middle School Cheer is a commitment just like family, school, and church. It is the student's job to plan ahead. Practice and cheer dates are set upfront so that students can be proactive and prioritize.

Teamwork Expectations

We expect all WMS members to put the team ahead of the individual athlete. All decisions made by the coaches and staff are made for the benefit of the team's performance, scoring and success. Each member of the team will have a strategic and equally important role throughout the routine. There is no position on the team that is too big or too small. Every member will serve as an important entity in the full routine. When everyone works together for the betterment of the team, then and only then, will we be successful. Each athlete will set individual and team goals for the season. Through instruction, the athlete will work hard to obtain and even exceed those goals, building a strong work ethic for the future. We are dedicated to developing the lifelong success of the athlete, not on merely winning trophies.

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Communication

Throughout the season we will predominately communicate through remind and Facebook to inform parents and athletes with team information. Please check your reminds daily for updates and announcements. Group Me, and/or other messaging services may be used as an additional outlet for quick communication for parents and team members on cheer days. The coach will set up these group messages well in advance and inform each family as to how you should join. Coach will be available following team practices to answer any questions regarding your athlete, their needs, and their individual progress. It is my goal to keep an open-door policy with communication to help each parent and athlete understand every decision in which they are involved BUT do REQUIRE that it is communicated in an appropriate and respectful manor. We strongly encourage that parents have their athlete speak with coaches directly to remove any feelings of a communication barrier. During classes and practices, coaches are needed to instruct the athletes. We ask that parents DO NOT approach a coach during a class or practice. Any issues may be discussed at the end of the session. Also, please keep in mind that while coaches are there to speak openly with you about any questions or concerns regarding your athlete, we will never speak about a decision made regarding another athlete.

Coaches Commitment

I am thoroughly trained, motivated, and committed to the success of your athlete. Parents and athletes can expect me to provide a fun, safe, and overall positive atmosphere and training experience. I am committed to always being approachable while maintaining a professional relationship with each athlete and parent. I am also committed to teaching skills in a technically precise and safe format. We will continue to challenge each athlete to reach their full potential throughout the entire season.

IMPORTANT TEAM DATES/EVENTS

● Stunt Clinic	April 24	Sat	TBA
● Practice Schedule	April/May	Tues	3:00 - 5:30 pm
(Mostly conditioning and season prep)	June	Tues & Thurs	3:00 – 5:30 pm
● Tumbling	Spring	Mon	6:00-7:30 PM
	Summer	Mon & Thurs	6:00-7:30 PM
	Fall	Mon	6:00-7:30 PM
● All Fees Due	May 21	Thurs	5:00 pm
● BAMA BLAZE Camp	May 25-27	Tues-Fri	TBD
● UCA Home Summer Camp	June 1-3	Tues-Thurs	Overnight Camp
	Hilton Garden East-Montgomery, Al (Eastchase)		
● Camp Parent Showcase	June 3	Thurs	TBD
● WMS Cheer Clinic	July 20-21	Tues-Wed	11:00 am-4:00 pm
● Parent Showcase	July 21	Wed	TBD
● Football Season	August-October	Thurs nights	
● Basketball Season	November-December	Tues & Thurs	
● Christmas on the Coosa Parade	December	Sat	
● Spring Showcase/Banquet	January 2022	Sat	TBD

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Practices

Summer Camps: In addition to having weekly practice times during the summer we will be having 2 camps. The camps are required by all members. We will be learning choreography for the entire season during these 2 camps. We hope this will allow everyone more flexibility with Summer vacations. Tumbling classes will resume as normal during the summer. Summer tumbling begins June 3, 2019. The tumbling class is NOT included in your WMS cheer fees. You may sign up for those online at this time if you haven't already.

Each squad has MANDATORY practice twice a week starting August 2022. While we understand that family emergencies and school or church events occur, practices must be attended by ALL team members for our squad to be prepared and competitive. One team practice after school and one team tumbling class a week at Bama Blaze gym. The coach reserves the right to require an extra tumbling class for individual members of the team if they feel like the athletes' skills are not progressing at the rate they should be. The coach also reserves the right to require extra team practices as needed.

Mandatory Team Practices:

Summer Schedule:

Camp One: May 25-27 from 9:00-3:00 each day

Camp Two: June 1-3 from 9:00-3:00 each day

Two Weekly Tumbling Class- Mondays and Thursdays 6:00-7:30

One Weekly Team Practice-Tuesdays 10:00-12:00

***Vacation-July 1-July 19-No team practices but tumbling twice a week is still Mandatory.**

Cheer Clinic: July 20-21

Athletes will be required to do conditioning daily.

Fall Schedule:

[Starting August 3rd]

Monday-Bama Blaze 6:00-7:30

Tuesday-Practice 3:00-5:00

Holidays/Days off

The practice will be cancelled ONLY for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break.

Attendance Policy

Practice attendance is mandatory and compliance with the attendance policy will be strictly enforced. An athlete's team position will be jeopardized for noncompliance with all the attendance policies. Cheerleading is a "team sport" in the truest sense of the term. Our practices are planned, and our routines are choreographed to include every cheerleader. We do not have 2nd and 3rd string positions in our sport. If an athlete is not present for a practice, we cannot simply put another member in their place. Everyone has a specific job that cannot be executed without EVERY member present.

- Unexcused absences are NEVER allowed.
- We ask that you put any conflict in writing at least 2 weeks ahead of time and submit the notice through email directly to me. Should you become sick for any reason, please give us a 24-hour. 10 minutes before practice starts will not be accepted and the athlete will be expected to be at practice. This rule will be strictly enforced.

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- Tardiness to mandatory practices or leaving early will result in extra conditioning. Practices are very important because each member is an integral part of the routine. It is impossible to practice the routine full out if even one athlete is missing.
- If you are more than 10 minutes late to a practice the parent will be fined \$25 for each occurrence and the athlete will be expected to stay after practice for conditioning. If you miss a practice without getting it excused through Coach LaToya ONLY (No other coach or captain can excuse an athlete from practice) the athlete will be expected to stay after the next practice for conditioning and make up any material that was missed.
- Sickness is only an excuse if you have a doctor note saying you are contagious. If you are not contagious you are expected to be at practice whether you participate or not. Scheduling a doctor's appointment during practice will not be accepted. If you feel that you are too ill to come to practice and that you are contagious please go to the doctor before practice so you can adequately provide a doctor's note before practice begins.
- **IMPORTANT:** If your child is not feeling well, I have no problem with them taking it easy during practice. Tumbling and jumps can all be excused, and extra water breaks can be given. Stunt groups are really the ones that suffer when a member is not able to participate, so we ask that they do as much as they can within reason even if that means they only stunt and sit out the rest of practice.
- Injuries are not an excuse as you should be at practice for team bonding time and to learn any routine changes that might have been made while you are out.
- Any removal from a squad based on the lack of attendance will result in no refund of any fees paid during the year for any reason.
- If an athlete is absent from practice for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, he or she is responsible for learning ALL routine changes made prior to the next practice.
- Practices may be changed or added at any time throughout the year. Although this is highly unlikely. Parents must check emails, social media, and team calendars done by the team mom(s), regularly for updates. We will give ample time to all parents should we add or change a practice.
- No absences for anyone prior to a cheer, the week before. If an athlete is absent, they could be removed from the routine for that event.
- Missing a cheer without prior notice, and/or approval, will result in immediate suspension.

Absences Defined

Excused Absences- Absences that fit the following and have been approved via email (205.283.9900) or email (latoya.davis@elmoreco.com) through Coach.

- a. School functions that result in a grade
- b. Illness that results in doctor requiring athlete to be at home

Unexcused Absences- Absences that do not meet the above allowances and absences that have been rejected by Coach are unexcused. Examples include:

- a. Any absence without receiving confirmation from Coach
- b. Academics: While these are highly important and we stress the priority of education, homework, projects and studying are unexcused. Proper time management is expected.
- c. Extracurricular activities and jobs
- d. Family Vacations
- e. School clubs and team sports that were not excused by Coach at the beginning of the season.

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f. All other activities that do not include mandatory academic school functions.

2021-2022 Quitting & Financial Policy

If you decide that you no longer want to compete with Wetumpka Middle School Cheer, a meeting must occur with the athlete and Coach. All payments must be made for any outstanding uniforms and practice gear that has been purchased. If you decide for any reason to leave the squad, you also will be responsible for all uniforms and items we have already purchased for you. The mandatory and optional items listed above will be finalized through Varsity during the summer. More information will be sent out through email once we have met with our Varsity rep.

If at any time a student owes the Bama Blaze gym more than one month's fee, he or she will be moved to an inactive roster until the balance is zero. Any student who falls behind in payments can be removed immediately and all late fees will be charged.

Dress Code

Athletes will be required to wear the designated practice wear to each practice. NO jewelry is allowed of any kind. Hair must be worn in a ponytail to practice and be able to withstand all activities during practice without falling out. *If that means you need to use 2, 3, or 10 rubber-bands in your hair... do it!* If a student comes to practice out of uniform, they will be given demerits.

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Sign, Date and Return this portion to Coach

I have carefully read, fully understand, and agree to the 2021-2022 Wetumpka Middle School Cheerleading contract. I understand that this contract will be followed and enforced throughout the 2021-2022 cheerleading season.

Cheerleader's Signature (print and sign): _____

Date: _____

Cheerleader's cell phone number: _____

Cheerleader's Date of Birth and Current Grade:

Parent's Signature(s) (print and sign): _____

Date: _____