

Etoile Junior High



2014 - 2015

Handbook

Article I: Purpose

The purposes of the EJM Cheerleading program are to

- Promote a sense of pride and dignity in Etoile School
- Promote school spirit Etoile School
- Foster academic excellence among its members
- Uphold, reflect, and project the ideals of the school and community
- Support Interscholastic activities

Article II: Membership

The EISM Junior High cheerleading program shall consist of students from 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. Enrollment is open to all students who meet the eligibility criteria listed below.

Article III: Eligibility/Enrollment

Although cheerleading is not a UIL event, TEA eligibility rules apply to all extra-curricular activities.

- Sec. 1: Candidates must currently be enrolled as an Etoile ISD student.
- Sec. 2: Each candidate must have a statement from a US medical doctor verifying that he/she is in good physical condition and is able to engage in vigorous physical activity. The district will provide physicals in August.
- Sec. 3: A candidate must meet UIL Academic and Attendance requirements. They are also required to pass 3 out of 4 Nine-Week grading periods prior to his/her application.
- Sec. 4: Candidates may not have more than 2 disciplinary referrals for the current school year prior to enrollment.
- Sec. 5: All candidates selected as a member of the cheer/mascot team

have the obligation to remain a member for the entire year. Failure to fulfill this obligation will result in ineligibility to try-out the next school year.

Sec. 6: Students who drop out of the program or are dismissed from the program shall not be eligible to enroll the following year.

Sec. 7: All previous financial obligations to Etoile ISD, Junior High Cheerleaders must be met and cleared in order to be eligible to try out for the coming year.

Article IV: Qualifications and Requirements of Members

Sec. 1: Grades – A member must meet UIL Academic Requirements (enrolled in at least 5 academic subjects and passing all classes with at least a 70 average).

Sec. 2: Attendance Requirements –

- A. Cheerleaders/mascot must attend and support all Boys and Girls Junior High Basketball games at home and out of town as designated by the cheer coach.
- B. Cheerleaders/mascot must attend and support all pep rallies or other events planned to create school spirit.
- C. Cheerleaders/mascot must attend summer camp and pre-camp practice for forfeit their position on the team.
- D. Summer practice will be held at the discretion of the cheer coach for the purpose of preparing for fall performances.
- E. Members must contact the cheer coach prior to any activity that will be missed. We will follow the Etoile ISD Policy for excused absences.
- F. Absences from any practice, regardless of whether it is excused or unexcused, interfere with the entire squad's performance because cheerleading is a team sport. The

cheer coach shall have the authority to exclude any cheerleader/mascot from participating in a performance if deemed necessary due to absences.

- G. A cheerleader may not perform at a game or activity if absent more than half a school day the day of the game or activity unless excused by the sponsor/coach in advance.

Sec. 3: General Expectations –

- A. Etoile ISD Cheerleaders will represent their program at all times in and out of school. This means no smoking, under-age drinking, and illicit drug use of any kind, bullying, profanity, inappropriate public affection, or derogatory on-line behavior. Failure to comply with these rules may result in immediate removal from the squad.
- B. If a cheerleader is not eligible to cheer at a game they are required to attend the game in uniform and sit with the coach/sponsor.
- C. If any part of the uniform is forgotten, the cheerleader will not be permitted to participate.
- D. Cheerleaders are expected to ride the bus to away games.
- E. No excessive socializing with observers/fans during practices or games.
- F. Appropriate attire is expected at all practices - No jewelry, fingernails must be short, and hair is to be worn up at all times.
- G. All cheerleaders are expected to be in full dress uniform for ANY and ALL performances. The Cheer Coach will make any amendments to this policy when necessary.

H. Cheerleaders/mascot are expected to lead the crowd in cheering for our Etoile athletic teams. If at any time during the year a member fails to perform their duties, they will be asked to "sit-out" a prescribed number of games deemed necessary by the Cheer Coach for behavior modification purposes.

Sec. 4: Qualifications and Selection of Co-Captains-

- A. The Co-Captains will be selected by secret ballot voting from the newly selected cheerleaders and Cheer Coach. The Cheer Coach will have the final say.
- B. The Co-Captains will be selected from the 8th grade class and must have had one full year of previous experience as an Etoile Junior High Cheerleader.
- C. The Co-Captains will be the field leaders at all performances, assisting the Cheer Coach in anyway necessary. They should be excellent role models for all the cheerleaders and student body to follow. UIL Academic and Attendance Requirements, peer respect, positive attitude, and capable leadership skills must be possessed.

Article V: Purchasing Uniforms

The Cheer Coach will have the final judgment on the selection of uniforms. Cheerleader will be responsible for purchasing their own uniforms, camp clothes, and other items deemed necessary for Etoile Junior High Cheerleaders/Mascot.

Article VI: Camp

Cheerleaders/mascot must attend summer camp and training as a group at their own expense or forfeit their position on the squad. EJH Cheerleaders will also assist with Pep Squad Camp.

Article VII: Loss of Membership/Dismissal

- Sec. 1: Failure to complete uniform payment costs by the **first day of school.**
- Sec. 2: A member who is placed on academic probation for any two Nine-weeks grading periods shall be dismissed from the organization.
- Sec. 3: A member may be removed at the administration's discretion for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amendments can be made to this handbook when deemed necessary by the Cheer Coach and Etoile ISD Administration. Ample notice will be given to the team before enforcement of any new policy.

Please note: at any time the loss of position by a member on the squad will result in the forfeit of any funds and/or monies collected previously from the squad member/parent for cheerleading activities, including uniform components.