

Wetumpka Middle School



Dear Cheerleading Candidates and Parents/guardians,

Thank you for your interest in trying out for the 2021-2022 Wetumpka Middle School Cheer Squad. We at Wetumpka Middle School believe that cheerleading is an exciting and rewarding sport that teaches teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, leadership, school spirit, and hard work. Being chosen to represent Wetumpka Middle School as a cheerleader is both an honor and a privilege. As a WMS cheerleader, you will be in the forefront as a representative of our school and will be expected to always adhere to a strict code of conduct with honor, both on and off campus.

While deciding whether or not to be part of our program, please remember and consider the time commitment this sport will require from both student and parent. Your commitment will involve active participation in afterschool practices (3 times weekly maximum), tumbling practice (1 time weekly), pep rallies, summer practices, clinics and camp, fund raising, team bonding, community service activities, weekly games (football- once weekly and basketball- maximum two times weekly), and potentially competitions.

It is also required that each student have an updated AHSAA (Alabama High School Athletic Association) sports physical signed by a physician before participation in tryouts or practice will be permitted. Sports physicals expire one year from the date signed by the physician.

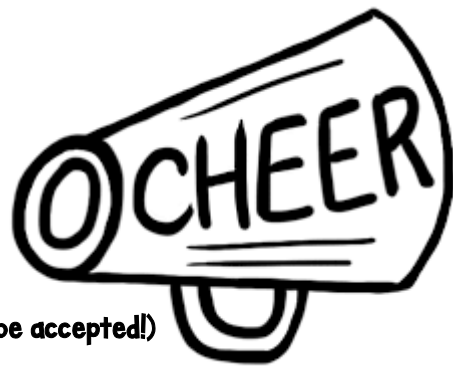
I look forward to an exciting try-out clinic and wish everyone the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Latoya M. Davis, Ed. S.
Wetumpka Middle School Cheer Coach
latoya.davis@elmoreco.com



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Cheerleading Tryout Checklist:

(All of the following must be submitted or the application will not be accepted!)

- Signed and Dated Cheerleader Rules and Expectations Signature Page 2020-2021-Pg. 2
- Completed Wetumpka Middle School Cheerleading Application-Pg.3
- Completed Wetumpka Middle School Cheerleading Tryout Permission Form-Pg. 4
- T-Shirt Order form and \$10 T-shirt Fee *Checks made out to WMS-Pg. 5
- Cheerleader/Parental Agreement-Pg. 6
- Cheer Experience Questionnaire-Pg. 7
- Completed Release of Liability Form-Pg. 8
- Coach/Teacher Recommendation *Read the front page of the Cheerleading Coach/Teacher Evaluation Form in the packet for specific details-Pgs. 9-10
- Copy of Quarter 2 Report Card
- Copy of Proof of Insurance-front and back
- AHSAA Physical signed by the physician

MANDATORY DATES UPON MAKING THE SQUAD

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| ● 1 st Practice/Attire Fitting | March 30, 2021 | Tues | 3:30 pm (closed to parents) |
| ● Parent Meeting | March 30, 2021 | Tues | 5:00 pm-\$450.00 due |
| ● Stunt Clinic | April 24, 2021 | Sat | TBA |
| ● Practice Schedule | April | Tuesdays | 3:00 - 5:30 pm |
| | May | Tues-Thurs | 3:00 — 5:30 pm |
| | June | TBD | |
| ● Tumbling | Summer | Mon & Thurs | 6:00-7:30 PM |
| | Fall & Spring | Mon | 6:00-7:30 PM |
| ● All Fees Due | May 21, 2021 | Thurs | 5:00 pm |
| ● BAMA BLAZE Camp | May 25-27, 2021 | Tues-Fri | TBD |
| ● UCA Home Summer Camp | June 1-3 | Tues-Thurs | Overnight Local Camp |
| Cheerleaders must be picked up by parent/legal guardian-NO EXCEPTIONS!! | | | |
| ● WMS Cheer Clinic | July 20-21 | Tues-Wed | 11:00 am-4:00 pm |

A detailed calendar/schedule will be provided to all who make the squad.

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Tryout Requirements and Guidelines

2.0 grade point average or higher in the 1st semester. Provide a printout of your child's grades (Quarter 2 Report Card) with tryout registration packet. Must be official (parent portal or school).

Required paperwork- see checklist on previous page

Satisfactory Discipline Record (as determined by the coach)

Each candidate will be judged on:

- Cheerleading Skills**- Chant; Cheer; Dance (will be taught at clinic) Due to the short time frame, potential cheerleaders will need to have the ability to learn new material quickly and well.
- Jumps**: Tumbling NOT REQUIRED (Tumbling skills used for tryouts will be expected to be maintained and improved upon throughout the season)
- Character/Academics**-Attitude and work ethic during clinic
- Recommendation** from prior coach or teacher recommendation
- Grades**

Judges for cheerleading tryouts will be neutral adults. The decisions of the judges will be considered final.

No grandfathering clause is in effect. A position on the squad for the current year does not guarantee a position on the squad for the next year.

Parents assume the responsibility for the applicant's health, medical, and accidental insurance for both the tryouts and the cheer season.

Financial Obligations: Upon becoming a cheerleader, there are some immediate financial obligations.

Payment:

There will be a \$450 deposit for camp due at the parent meeting after making the cheer team. Your bill must be paid in full on May 21, 2021. Bills can be paid in monthly payments or they may be paid in full. I will provide you with an exact amount after uniform fittings.

Tumbling Class:

Cheerleaders will be required to take a team tumbling class. It is your responsibility to pay the monthly fee. Fees will be paid directly to Bama Blaze. You must send a check at the beginning of each month for this fee. The contract with Bama Blaze will run from June 2021-March 2022. Cheer shoes must always be worn in tumbling class.



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TRYOUT EXPECTATIONS

DATES: (Daily Attendance is Mandatory)

- Monday, March 1, 2021 5/6 Grade Gym, 3:00-5:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5/6 Grade Gym, 3:00-5:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5/6 Grade Gym 3:00-5:00 PM
- Thursday, March 4, 2021 5/6 Grade Gym, 3:00-5:00 PM
- Friday, March 5, 2021 5/6 Grade Gym, 3:30-5:30 PM-\$7.00 admission

CLINIC ATTIRE:

- White plain t-shirts with black athletic shorts, including compression shorts underneath. Cheer/Athletic shoes are required each day.
- NO baggy T-shirts! This is for stunt safety and viewing of techniques taught.

TRYOUT ATTIRE:

- BLACK athletic shorts mandatory for tryout day — with compression shorts underneath
- Tryout T-shirt- \$10.00
- Hair in "high and tight" ponytail completely off the face. (No "fly aways")
- Cheer/Athletic Shoes

TRYOUTS:

- During clinic week, WHS Senior Cheerleaders will present all material.
- We will conduct a mock tryout to demonstrate the proper way to enter, stand, perform, and exit before dismissing on the last day of clinic.
- We will also have mats available for those who wish to tumble for their tryout session.
 - * No gum/candy or jewelry allowed during clinic and tryouts.
- Each candidate will receive a tryout number that should be displayed as instructions are given on tryout date. All participants will be lined up according to number order.
- If you are offered a spot on the cheer team, you will be notified via Facebook (Wetumpka Middle School page) before midnight on March 5, 2020.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

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Cheerleader Rules and Expectations 2021-2022

The Wetumpka Middle School Cheerleading team will follow ALL school Rules and Policies. Furthermore, all cheerleaders **MUST** abide by the following policies:

1. **ATTENDANCE:** You will be expected to attend ALL practices, games, and all activities that the Wetumpka Middle Cheerleaders are participating in, with the **ONLY** exceptions being that of a doctor's excuse, death in the family, medical emergency, or special permission from the coach. A note is **ALWAYS** needed for any absence! (More than 1 unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.) EX: Needing a haircut, color or nails or tan, going to an event whether it be a play, dance or other, does not constitute an "emergency" as referenced above. Please schedule these types of appointments on a weekend or after practice times.

If you are aware of **ANY** potential absence, you must contact the coach immediately so that routines can be adjusted accordingly! Do not come the day prior or the week of if you have known about something that is a conflict weeks or months before! Being on a team is a commitment and your first responsibility is to your team and the practice times and games and competitions set out. If you miss a day of school and will not be able to make a practice or a game because of one of the above reasons, **YOU** (not your parent) must call or text your coach. If you leave school due to illness, you must have checked out from the doctor for it to be excused. **Sending a message through a friend or teammate is not acceptable.** A note written by a parent/guardian will be necessary the first day back to practice after your absence. Schedule personal/routine appointments around practice times to earn your privilege to cheer, as leaving early is considered unexcused. **Family vacations are unexcused absences.** Please take this into consideration when you try out. A cheerleader must be at the practice(s) leading up to and before a game/performance/activity to cheer in the next game/performance/activity. It is the coach's decision to determine if a cheerleader is prepared for a game/performance/activity. If a cheerleader has missed a practice in which cheers, chants, formations, and/or dances have been learned, it is up to the coach to decide if that cheerleader will cheer in that week's game(s)/performance/activity.

2. **TRANSPORTATION:** Cheerleaders will have their own bus transportation to and from all away football games and bus transportation to all home football games and all home basketball games. **ALL CHEERLEADERS WILL RIDE THE BUS TO AND FROM AWAY GAMES OR WITH A PARENT.** No cheerleader is permitted to ride home from a game with friends or siblings.

3. **CELL PHONES:** There will be **NO CELL PHONE USAGE** at any time when you are actively participating in a Wetumpka Middle Cheerleader performance, camp, clinic, game, practice, or activity. Should you need to contact your family for emergencies or change of times for pick up, you will be allowed to use the coach's phone.

4. **REPRESENTATION OF WMS:** Cheerleaders represent their team as well as the school, therefore appropriate behavior is expected not only when a cheerleader is wearing the uniform, but also always throughout the season. (No public displays of affection, inappropriate attire, inappropriate disrespectful behavior in school, practices, or games, and watch social media!!) Cheerleaders will abide by the rules set out in the Student Handbook. (See student handbook.) Represent your team well and **DO NOT** put yourself in a compromising position!

5. **RESPECT and ATTITUDE:** Cheerleaders will have a good attitude throughout the season and will work as a team cooperatively. We succeed as a team and meet challenges together as a team. Negative attitudes and behavior that displays bullying amongst team members **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Respect will be given to all teammates, coaches, officials, and always opposing teams.

6. **UNIFORMS and ATTIRE:** A cheerleader will be prepared for all activities. This includes having the proper uniform, shoes, hair bow, poms, etc. Proper practice attire consists of cheer shoes, cheer shorts, and cheer shirt. (A calendar/schedule for uniforms will be provided) Hair should be **PULLED BACK INTO A HIGH PONY WITH THE DESIGNATED BOW.** **THERE WILL BE NO PULLING UP or ROLLING OF SKIRTS AT ANY TIME!!**



7. **RESPONSIBILITY:** A cheerleader is RESPONSIBLE!! This includes being aware of practice and game dates and times, competition dates, knowledge of material, care of uniform and warm-up, care of facilities, pick up trash, etc. A cheerleader is responsible for arriving on time for all practices, games, and activities, as well as being properly dressed in your uniform. At home games, NO CHEERLEADER IS DISMISSED until you sign off with your coach. EVERY cheerleader will participate in the rolling of the mats, cleaning your trash, etc.

8. **ACCESSORIES:** NO gum, NO jewelry, hair must ALWAYS be up and away from your face at a game, and nails MUST be TRIMMED with NO POLISH (unless clear or French painted)!

9. **WARM UP and CONDITIONING:** Jumping, stunting, and tumbling without being warmed up and without a coach present is PROHIBITED! We will be conditioning during each practice. Safety is most important!

10. **PERFORMANCE:** Your performance in practice and activities will determine whether you may cheer at a future game. Lack of effort, insufficient knowledge of the material, poor attendance, and poor attitude are some examples of reasons for being benched from a game or performance, or for being removed from the team.