

**GRIFFITH HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION
REVISED JULY 2020 by Julianne Long**

All individual participants trying out/current members, parents/guardians will receive and **MUST** sign a copy of the constitution in order to remain eligible for the team. **All decisions made by the coach are final. This is a living document and you will be notified if any changes are made.**

Purpose

The Purpose of Griffith cheer is to promote and uphold school spirit during games, practice, fundraisers and within the community.

Selection of the team

- ALL final obligations to the school and fees from the previous dance season must be paid in full prior to auditioning.
- ALL team members are required to attend all games, events, and competitions whether they are cheering or not.
- A panel of judges will judge the tryouts based of the qualities listed on the audition sheet that will be sent home with all participants.
- All judges and coach(es) decisions at tryouts are FINAL and no exceptions will be made.
- To maintain confidentiality, no scores will be given out or shared to parents, participants, or guardians for any reason.
- Tallying scores, teacher's recommendations, grade check, and discipline eligibility will all be in consideration with the selection of the team.
- Behavior and disturbances from the previous season by returning participants, **including parents and guardians**, will be put into consideration during the decision process of selecting the team. consideration of the selection of the team.
- All participants are required to attend at least 2 of the 3 days of the assigned clinic days the week of try outs. *Participants are expected to know all material they may have missed*
- All participants are required to stay in the building the entire time during the day of try outs until they are all released by the coach.
- Participants will know if they are selected for the team or not either immediately after try outs or at a selected time later than same evening by a letter they will be given at the school.
- All letters are PROHIBITED from being opened on Griffith High School property unless instructed otherwise by the coach. All participants will need to be picked up individually by their parent or guardian, off of school property, before they may open their letter.
- **It is highly advised each participant does not open their letter with other participants**
- Try outs and clinics are closed to the public. Only participants trying out may attend.
- Coaches have the ability to dismiss any participant due to ANY circumstance at any time during the audition process and season.
- Coaches will NOT discuss their decision to any participant, parent or guardian after the try out under any circumstance. All decisions are final.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Distinction of Squads

Junior Varsity

- required to dress at school for **all** Varsity football games and basketball games.
- required to attend all Varsity and JV home football games, all Varsity and JV home basketball games and all JV away games unless otherwise asked by coach.
- must attend first middle school football game

Varsity

- must attend ALL home and away football and basketball games.
- must attend the first JV game and first middle school football game.
- IF the coach sees fit (skill level, expenses and time commitment) the team may compete at local competitions. *competing is a privilege not a right*

Grades and Academic performance

- Grades must be maintained throughout the season to maintain eligibility. Cheerleaders must maintain a 2.5 gpa to remain eligible.
- Any participant needing after school accommodations for academics during practice time must inform coach prior.

Attendance

- all events are mandatory. Appointments and obligations need to be scheduled around all practices, games, and events.
- members are expected to contact coach by noon if they are not in school and cannot make it to practice.
- absence from a game, practice or event must be approved by the coach prior. This includes leaving any event early.
- More than 3 unexcused absences or late attendance will result in dismissal of the team.

No tolerance policy.

- cheerleaders will follow a “no tolerance policy” with 3 *non negotiable* strikes
- strikes include, but are not limited to
 - attendance failure
 - misbehavior and attitude
 - missing uniform pieces
 - failure to pay obligations on time
 - grades/GPA
 - parent/guardian disturbances
 - inappropriate behavior in/out school
 - failure to meet deadlines
 - inappropriate use of phone at events
 - school handbook failure
 - failure to bring materials to practice
 - lying
 - failure of being prepared
 - hazing

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Costs, Debt, and Booster Club

- Cheerleading is an expensive sport but is provided with many fundraisers to help with costs. We highly encourage and require participation in these.
- not all fees will be due at once. Families will be given a spreadsheet of their dues throughout the season.
- No diploma will be given if there are outstanding balances.
- I am in the process of setting up a booster club for families to take part in. This will help excessively with getting fundraisers approved faster and easier access to money.
- cheerleaders are financially responsible for personal items such as: backpacks, socks, shoes, warm up jackets and pants, hair bows, body liners, spankies, sweatshirts, t shirts, wrist weights, and anything else I may decide throughout the season.
- if any family needs extra time to pay balances I am flexible with setting up payment plans just talk to coach ahead of time.

GHS booster club

- ALL cheerleaders are required to be participating members of the high school booster club and attend all meetings

Appearance and behavior

- cheerleaders must not use foul language while in uniform
- no PDA in uniform
- no gum chewing
- no talking to spectators while cheering
- absolutely no crying at games
- no jewelry
- no lotion
- uniform hair and makeup will be decided for each game by the coach and captain. Failure to wear correct uniform and have the proper hair and makeup to school and games will result in a strike.

Jobs, other sports, clubs

- All outside jobs, sports and clubs need to be scheduled around cheerleading or approved by the coach.
- cheerleading is number 1 priority
- coach has the right to not approve any if it conflicts with cheer

Injuries

- If an athlete is injured at any point throughout the season, the coach and athletic trainer must be given a doctor's note including the injury, activities restricted, and release date.
- Athlete is still expected to dress in uniform at school and attend and dress for games.
- Athlete cannot return to sport unless doctor gives a note of release.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Games

- Being late to any game will result in being benched for half the game
- Missing a game without an excused absence will result in being benched the next full game.
- All cheerleaders will be responsible for transportation to and from home and away games.
- Lack of transportation will never be an excuse and result in a strike if late.

Practices

- Cheerleaders must attend all practices.
- Appointments must be scheduled around practice unless injured or you will receive a strike.
- You must attend the practice before a game in order to cheer at that game.
- If you are absent from school you must contact coach before 12pm.
- Athletes must learn anything missed at practice before the next practice.
- All cheerleaders are expected to work on motions, jumps, tumbling, stretching, and strengthening on their own outside of practice and games.

Captains

- Cheerleaders must have completed 1 full season to be a varsity captain.
- Eligible candidates interested will be interviewed at tryouts.
- Captains must have a positive attitude, be a leader, have great work ethic, passion for the sport, always give effort, be in good standings at school, and be a great role model.
- Decisions on captain will be final and non negotiable.

Covid-19

-Covid-19 has been one of the most challenging times in our lives. I will be extremely fluid and communicate everything I know. As of now, football season and fall sports are a go. We are still learning the best we can. Masks will be required at practice unless we are conditioning. No car pooling will be allowed and athletes must bring a water bottle given the fountains will be off and they cannot share. The bus will not be a form of transportation to and from away games anymore so athletes must find their own rides.

- I hereby understand the rules and policies of the *revised cheerleading constitution*. I understand that all decisions, revisions, and guidelines are to the discretion of the coach(es). I acknowledge that these policies are effective immediately and they are all final. I give my athlete permission to be an active member of/try out for the Cheer Team. I understand this constitution needs to be signed again every new season or when any changes to the constitution are made mid-season. I am aware of the expectations required of my dancer for this team and have read through the constitution entirely. I am aware after 3 strikes my athlete will be dismissed from the team
- I understand my athlete needs an updated physical from the current new year on file with the Athletic Department, a 2.5 or higher GPA, and a full and signed copy of the constitution in order to try out.

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

_____ Date: _____

