



GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL
CHEER

2021-2022

Tryout and Information Packet

April 2021

Dear Cheerleaders, Parents, and Guardians,

We are so excited that you are interested in trying out to be part of the Grove City High School cheerleading program. It is an honor to be part of our program as well as a huge commitment. If you are chosen to be a part of the program, please remember that you are representing Grove City High School and our community at all times. The responsibilities of being a GC cheerleader are numerous and must be fully understood before you choose to join our program. This packet will provide all of the try-out information as well as our program expectations.

GCHS Cheer Squad Mission:

It is our mission to uphold the pride and tradition at Grove City High School through the unification of the student body, alumni and fans. We will support as many athletic events as possible and promote a positive game-day atmosphere for Grove City High School and its athletes.

GCHS Cheer Purpose:

Support, Hard Work, and Spirit remains the sole purpose of the Grove City High School Cheer program with a renewed sense of enthusiasm, pride, teamwork, and integrity! We will be both members of our high school and our community.

GCHS Cheer Staff and Support Mission:

As **coaches** we will strive to instill tradition, honor, commitment and pride in our teams and in each other. We will build a solid foundation based on trust and loyalty. We will work to be organized, consistent and supportive to make this an exemplary cheer program not only for our school but also our community.

<u>Football Coaches</u>	<u>Basketball Coaches</u>
Advisor/Head Coach: Melissa Kelly mlk0410@swcsd.us	Advisor/Head Coach: Meaghan Vogt mvogt@centuryresources.com
Junior Varsity Coach: Bethany Murfin bam0724@swcsd.us	Junior Varsity Coach: Erica Kolianos eck0514@swcsd.us
Freshman Coach: Amanda Smurthwaite aks1002@swcsd.us	Freshman Coach: Marlee Barboza mrb0707@swcsd.us

You can also find updated information and pictures of GC Cheer on Facebook (Grove City High School Cheer) and Instagram (@GroveCityCheer)

2021-2022 Football and Basketball Tryout Information

- **Tryout Clinics:** April 21st-23rd, 4:30-6:30pm, Rec Center
- **Tryout Dates:** April 24th, 9:00am, Rec Center
- **Uniform Fitting:** April 27th, 4:15pm
- **Informational Parent Meeting & Fundraiser Kick Off:** May 3rd, 5:30pm, GCHS Library

- **Team Placement**
 - All 2021 squads will be posted following tryouts on our social media accounts, as well as taped on the high school doors. (Each girl will be assigned a specific number, please look for your number to see what squad you have made)

- **Attire for Tryout Day**
 - White T-Shirt, Dark Shorts (navy or black), Tennis Shoes, Hair Pulled All the Way Back (game day ready!) - Bow is optional. No jewelry of any sort.

Other Information

1. In order to participate in CLINICS and TRYOUTS, students must have a current physical on file at GCHS (must be noted in paperwork with date) as well as all tryout forms completed and turned in.
2. For tryouts, athletes will be required to demonstrate a variety of skills at stations judged by the GCHS cheer coaching staff: jumps/tumbling, band dances, and cheer/chant.
 - a. Scores from these three stations will be combined for an overall score. Coaches will use each athlete's overall score, attendance records, grades, and teacher recommendations to place athletes on the appropriate squad.
 - b. Squad placements are fluid, meaning that based on performance, an athlete may be moved at the coaches discretion throughout the season.
 - c. Athletes making any squad will need to practice and exhibit the same skills displayed at tryouts throughout the seasons in which they cheer (motions, jumps, tumbling, conditioning, etc.).
3. ALL tumbling skills must be performed independently (without a spotter) at tryouts on either the gym floor or tumbling mat. **All skills must land in an appropriate and safe manner. Skills that touch, fall, etc. will not be scored.
4. Cheerleading tryouts are closed to the public and cheerleaders must be present for tryouts and evaluations, unless there is a unique situation that is approved by coaches, prior to the start of tryouts.
5. Team Placements:
 - a. Freshman may only make freshman teams, but may be moved up at the discretion of the coaching staff if deemed necessary during any season.
 - b. JV and Varsity teams are comprised of sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
 - c. Competition squads will be comprised of any athlete in the program.
6. If you have any questions concerning the procedures for tryouts and team placements, please make sure you address them prior to the date of tryouts. After team placements are posted, we require a 72-hour period prior to discussing any results with athletes and families.

General Guidelines of a Grove City High School Cheerleader

- Cheerleaders are expected to be positive role models IN and OUT of uniform at school and in our community.
- Attendance at all practices, games, competitions, spirit events, community events, and fundraising is mandatory. Practice and game schedules are presented and announced in advance, any conflicts with scheduling must be presented to coaches at least 48 hours in advance (with the exception of an emergency situation- i.e. athlete gets sick at school, family emergency, etc).
 - Practices and Games
 1. Practices are generally an hour and a half to two hours long both over the summer and in-season
 2. Summer 3-4 days per week, including one 4-day camp
 3. In season 1-3 days per week, depending on upcoming events, preparedness, etc.
 - Schedule changes are not always in control of the cheerleading coaching staff. We will notify athletes as soon as possible with any changes that may arise during the season.
 - Football Games are one day per week: Fridays for Varsity and Saturday for JV/Freshman
 - Basketball Games are sporadic, usually played on Tuesdays, Fridays, or Saturdays
- When transportation is provided by the school, your athlete must ride to and from the athletic events with the team, unless a coach is advised with a written note from the athletes family prior to the event.
- As a member of the squad, your athlete will be responsible for maintaining a good academic record. Coaches are notified throughout the season(s) per each athletes academic progress.
- All members are required to follow the rules set forth in the Cheerleading Contract and the Students Handbook/Athletic Code of Conduct at Grove City High School and South-Western City Schools. This includes but is not limited to, appropriate displays of affection, drug and alcohol policy, and general guidelines set by GCHS staff and coaches.
- Any team member that quits during a season, is removed from the squad before the season ends, or does not meet requirements for the Grove City High School Cheerleading Program as determined by this contract, coach, or GCHS administration, may not be permitted to cheer the following season (EX. quit basketball season - must sit out the following football season) but can still try out for their permitted season.
- Members of all Cheerleading Squads will be responsible for (not limited to) the purchase of cheerleading equipment: uniforms, warm ups, shoes, camp clothes, and camp. Fundraising opportunities are available for each athlete.
- All deposits/fundraising money MUST be turned in on the deadlines given per coaches. This ensures our program will be able to pay for all merchandise, equipment, and registration fees. **Any fundraising money acquired by cheerleaders can NOT be used for Pay to Participate.**

GCHS CHEERLEADING PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS & REGULATIONS

ACADEMICS

The GCHS Cheerleading program expects academics to be each participant's first priority. GCHS cheerleaders are expected to follow the GCHS rules for eligibility set forth by the OHSAA. It is a student athletes responsibility to utilize their time to balance both sports and academics with homework, studying, and practices.

PRACTICES

Practices are closed to parents; all cheerleaders are expected to arrive at practice 5-10 minutes early. Practice location may vary based on gym availability or space needs. Schedules will be given out at the beginning of each season. Please keep in mind that practices may be changed due to weather or added to prepare for special events.

GAMES

Cheerleaders will cheer at all home and away games, including tournaments. If absent for any reason (excused/unexcused), it is the cheerleaders responsibility to contact their coach by text, e-mail, or phone call PRIOR to the absence.

ABSENCES

Cheerleaders and parents must do their best to limit the number of absences throughout the season. We understand athletes may get sick or injured during the season, but we will require a doctors excuse for these absences. If a participant is absent from school on a practice or game day, he/she may NOT participate in any event that same day. The following is a list of both excused vs. unexcused absence. Please continually communicate with your coaches.

<u>Excused Absence</u>	<u>Unexcused Absence</u>
Sick (Doctors Note or Parent Phone Call)	Work
Doctors Appointment (Doctors Note)	Concerts, Birthday Dinners
Funeral	Hair Appointments/ Nail Appointments
College Visit (must give notice of absence)	Homecoming/ School Dance at another school
Medical Emergency	College/ Pro-Sports Games
Other school extracurricular activities (clubs, choir, school project with teacher, tutoring, anything affilated at GCHS if the time conflicts)	Other

TRANSPORTATION

Cheerleaders must ride the athletic bus to and from events, unless alternate transportation is approved by the coaches. Cheerleaders will only be released to their parent/guardian. No cheerleader will be released to friends, friend's parents, or sibling.

ATTIRE

Athletes are expected to be positive representatives of the program, GCHS, and our community at all times (and especially when wearing GC cheer attire). This includes following all GCHS student handbook policies and program rules. We expect our athletes to be role models for their peers and especially for younger cheerleaders in the community.

- **JEWELRY**

- For safety reasons NO jewelry is to be worn during practices and games: watches, necklaces, rings, hoop or dangling earrings, gauges, and anything else pierced.

- **NAILS**

- Nails are to be kept **short** (athletic cut) and of a **neutral** color
- Cheerleaders will be sat out one quarter for colored fingernail polish
 - The only EXCEPTION to this rule will be for homecoming

- **GAME DAY READY**

- Proper uniform for all games includes:
 - Cheerleading uniform, brief/boy shorts of appropriate color, cheer shoes, appropriate socks, hair and hair bow.
 - If you are not game day ready (ie. missing one of the above), you will sit out of the game
- Warm-ups should be brought to **all** games to accommodate for any possible weather!
- Cheer shoes are not to be worn outside of practices, games, or at school on game days, in order to keep them in the best possible condition.
- Athletes will be expected to wear the appropriate uniform, GC apparel, or warm up at school on game days as decided by the team and coach each week
- If you are sitting out due to non co-curricular reasons, you will sit out in full uniform or warm up.

SPORTSMANSHIP

GCHS Cheerleaders will:

1. Uphold the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, integrity, accountability, and fair play
2. Respect and abide by all program expectations set forth by coaches.
3. Follow the Grove City High School Code of Conduct and SWCS Board Policies.
4. Respect and show courtesy to all coaches, teammates, administrators, competitors, hosts and officials.
5. Parent participation is appreciated and encouraged. Volunteering throughout the season is **required** to stay in good standing with the booster club. Any concerns should follow the appropriate chain of command, beginning with the athlete's coach, and moving up the chain as necessary.
6. Each cheerleader will sign and adhere to the GCHS Expectations and Regulations. Violation of these expectations will result in consequences based on the discretion of coaches and GCHS administration.

EXPENSES

New GCHS cheerleaders will be purchasing uniforms and warm ups for the 2021 season. They will own their uniforms and warm ups and they will be custom fit to each cheerleader. All squads will have the same uniform for football, basketball, and competition seasons. Graduating seniors will be given an option to re-sell their uniforms and warm-ups to incoming underclassmen for the next year at a reduced cost. Many of the items purchased can be used for several years and do not need to be purchased each year.

GCHS cheer will provide poms and liners. These items will be owned by GCHS and must be returned at the end of each season, or an additional cost will be given to the athlete.

Expense (estimation, subject to change)	New GCHS Cheerleaders	Returning GCHS Cheerleaders
Pay to Play (this can not be paid for by fundraisers)	\$150	\$150
Uniform	\$220	-
Warm Up	\$145	-
Personalized Cheer Bag	\$65	-
UCA Summer Camp (Away Camp, August 1st-4th at Great Wolf Lodge)	\$425-450 <i>*price is dependent on # of athletes per room</i>	\$425-450
Spirit Wear (camp clothes, Lil Dawgs Tshirt)	~\$110	~\$110
Shoes	\$70	\$70
Ribbon / Bow	\$15	\$15
Total	~\$1200-\$1250	~\$770-800

Cheerleaders and families will have the opportunity to purchase additional GCHS gear through spiritwear fundraisers. These items will not be mandatory, but will definitely be awesome!

After teams are chosen, fundraisers will be immediately starting. Multiple fundraisers will occur throughout the season to help cover the cost for each athlete. These will include but not be limited to: Century Resources, Spirit Wear sales, Little Dawgs Cheer Camp, and spirit t-shirt sponsorships. If a cheerleader quits, they will be responsible to pay for any pre-ordered items, and/or outstanding balances. There are **no refunds** for any camp, clothing item and or anything else ordered and not received. If you sign up for camp and decide not to go, there are NO refunds.

2021-2022 GCHS Cheerleading Tryouts

Clinics will be held April 21st-23rd from 4:30pm - 6:30pm in the Rec Center.

Tryouts will be held April 24th starting at 9:00am.

You will only need to attend during your scheduled tryout time.

Athlete Name: _____ Grade in Fall: FR SO JR SR

Athlete Phone Number: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Squad Requests

Please note that these are a **request only. Please mark the squads for which you prefer to cheer. There is **no guarantee** you will earn a place on a team you are requesting. You may request all teams. You will NOT be placed on a team that you do not check. Freshman may ONLY make freshman teams. Seniors may make JV or Varsity. **

Freshman Football

Freshman Basketball

JV Football

JV Basketball

Varsity Football

Varsity Basketball

Game Day Competition

Activities you are involved in outside of GCHS cheer:

Any additional information you would like coaches to know or questions you have:

We have read the Grove City High School Cheerleading information packet. I understand the information contained within and the commitments associated with becoming a Grove City High School Cheerleader. We understand the qualifying process and respect the final decisions of the selection for members of the Grove City High School Cheerleading Program.

Athlete Signature: _____

Parent Sginature: _____

Please return this form NO LATER than Friday, April 23rd

