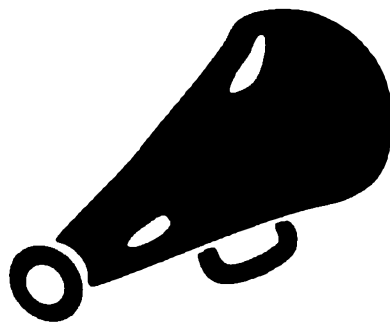


Hudson Middle School



Cheerleader Tryouts

2009-2010

March 23, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians of Cheerleader Candidates:

Your child has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Hudson Middle School 7th or 8th grade cheerleading squad for the 2009-2010 year. If selected, there will be certain personal and financial responsibilities and obligations, which your child must assume in order to qualify and remain a member in good standing. Some of these will require your help and management.

Being a cheerleader makes your child a leader in our school. Because we believe our school and our students are outstanding, we expect the cheerleaders to set good examples of student conduct at all times. We have set forth guidelines that will make our cheerleaders role models in our building. We want our cheerleaders to be exemplary citizens exhibiting high moral and academic standards.

If your child has been academically ineligible for **any two** six week grading periods prior to cheerleading tryouts, a meeting must be scheduled with both sponsors and the principal prior to the clinic.

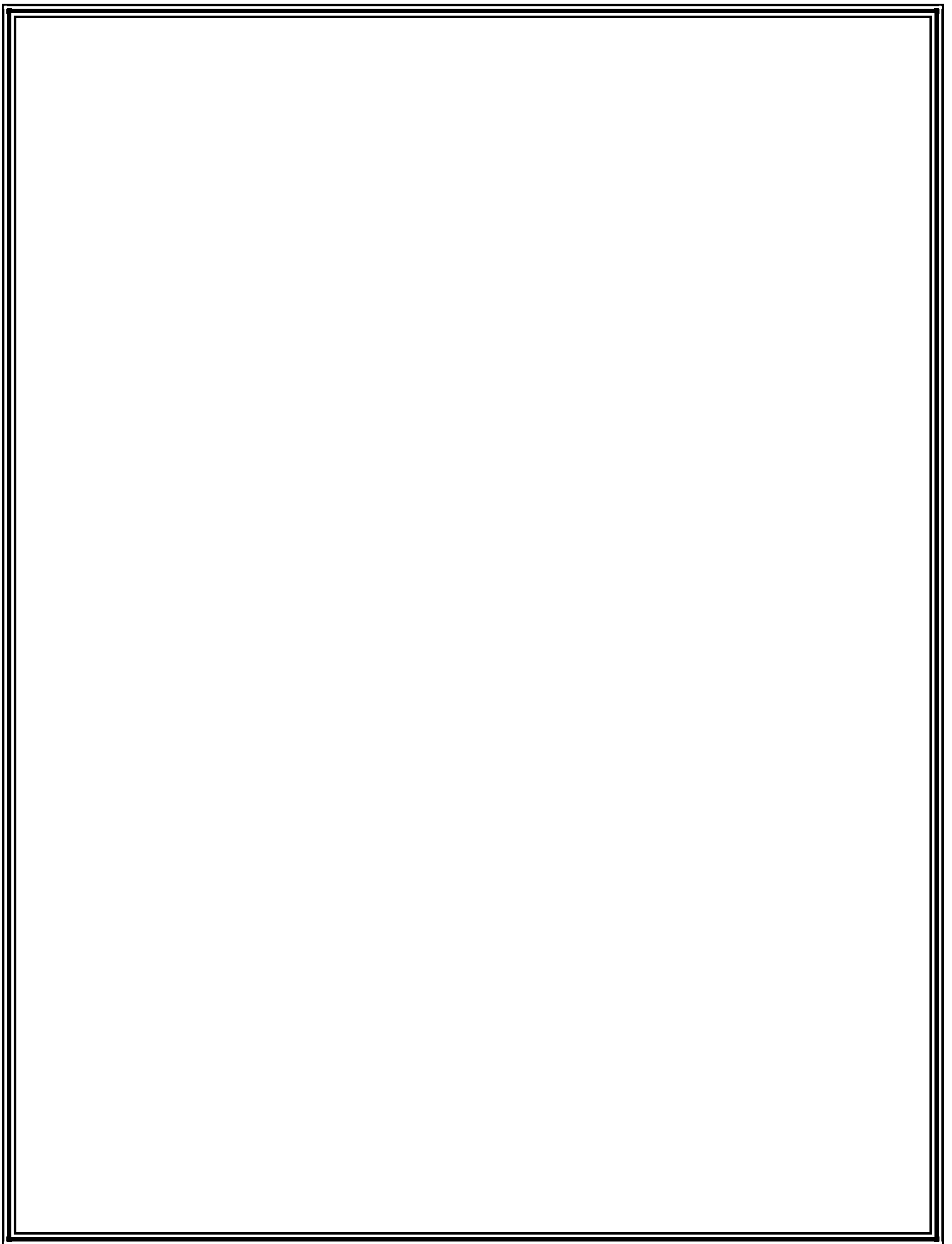
A mandatory parent meeting will be held on Monday April 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria to go over the tryout process and discuss any questions you may have. All candidates and the parent or guardian are required to attend unless prior arrangements have been made with the sponsors.

We wish all the candidates the best of luck. **Please read this packet carefully and be sure you fully understand each rule and procedure before signing.**

Kristin Erspamer
8th grade sponsor

Alisha Snyder
7th grade sponsor

Michelle Bounds
Principal



Physical Evaluation

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History Form – Please notice that you are NOT required to have a physical exam unless you answer yes to questions 1, 2, 7, 11, or 17. If none of these apply, you only need to turn in the first page. If you answer yes to any of these questions, you must have a physical exam and must turn in both pages of the form.

Paperwork

All paperwork must be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on the first day of the clinic. 7th grade candidates will turn in paperwork to Ms. Snyder and 8th grade to Mrs. Erspamer. This includes the pre-participation physical evaluation, cheerleader application, clinic fees, and a copy of your 4th 6 weeks report card. If you failed the 4th 6 weeks, you must also bring a signed copy of your progress report from the 5th 6 weeks. We will hand out grade sheets on April 13th at the clinic to check your 5th six weeks average. These will be due on April 14th. If you would like to turn in your paperwork before the clinic, bring it to Mrs. Erspamer (C67) or Ms. Snyder (D22).

Clinic

Only students who are academically eligible may attend the clinics. Ineligible students may participate in the one-day panel tryout only. (See eligibility rules for 2008)

- The Clinic will cost \$10.00 per candidate. This covers the cost for the choreographer.
- Practices are not mandatory, but the candidate will be held accountable for the material taught during the clinic.
- The clinic will be held in the large gym.
- Dress needs to be appropriate for moving and jumping. Ex: hair in a ponytail, no jewelry, etc.
- Cheers, dance, and jumps to be used at tryouts will be taught at the clinic.
- No video of the clinic will be allowed.

Schedule

Monday, April 6	Parent Meeting	6:00 pm
Monday, April 13	Clinic in Gym	4:05-5:30 pm
Tuesday, April 14	Clinic in Gym	4:05-6:00 pm
Wednesday, April 15	Open Gym	4:05-5:00 pm
Thursday, April 16	Open Gym	4:05-5:00 pm
Friday, April 17	Mock Tryouts	4:05-6:00 pm
Saturday, April 18	Panel Tryouts	8:00-9:30 am

Panel Tryout—Saturday, April 18

Tryouts will be held at Jackson Middle School. Candidates will warm up in the cafeteria from 7:00-8:00. Tryouts will begin at 8:00 and end at 9:30. **Only Hudson candidates, sponsors, administrators, and panel will be permitted at tryouts. Parents are not allowed in the building at any time during tryouts.**

Attire

- Plain white polo-style shirt with no visible logo—must be tucked in
- Number should be attached neatly to the front of shirt—you must keep the same number for both tryouts (the number will be randomly drawn on Thursday, April 16th)
- Solid black knit shorts
- White socks
- White athletic shoes
- Hair needs to be in a ponytail
- No jewelry may be worn

Procedure

- *Group Performance:*
The entire group will perform the cheer, chant, and dance. The judges will only be watching to see what is expected. They will not be judging individual performance at this time. Full-out jumps and tumbling is not necessary but certainly welcome during this demonstration. Judges will put their pencils down during this time.

- *Entrance:*
Candidate number #1 should enter the gym and wait for notification from the judges that they are ready. After the judges have nodded, the candidate should run in showing and soliciting spirit and enthusiasm doing whatever tumbling pass they wish if they are able. Once they are done with their entrance, they should stop in the center of the gym and wait for notification that the judges are ready for the next step.

At this point, the judges will score the tumbling, spirit/enthusiasm, and the candidate's presence/poise. Presence/poise will include appearance with regard to the hair being out of the face, shirts tucked in if possible, shorts not being too short, proper shoes, facial expressions, etc.

- *Jumps:*
Once the nod has been given, the candidate should do whatever jump they wish to do first and then wait for a nod before doing their second jump and then their third jumps giving the judges time to score each jump. Each candidate must do a toe touch, a right herkie or left herkie and an optional jump. The optional jump can include a second herkie or toe touch. Tumbling stunts will not count as jumps.

- *Individual Cheer:*

Once the jumps have been completed and the nod has been given, the candidate should begin their cheer. The cheer should have a section for incorporation allowing the candidate to either include a jump or a standing tumbling trick of their choice. Candidates will be scored based on difficulty and execution as well. Candidates will also be judged on their smile, motion technique and voice projection during this time. Once the candidate has completed their cheer, they should exit the gym. No score will be given for an exit tumbling pass or spirit. As candidate #1 is walking out, candidate #2 should walk in and wait for the judge's nod. These steps should be repeated until all candidates have performed all categories mentioned to this point.

Once all individual categories have been completed, the group categories will begin.

- *Group Chant:*

Groups should consist of 3 or 4 candidates. They should enter the gym so that that they end up standing in numeric order from left to right. (From the judge's viewpoint) There should be no tumbling or spirit during this time, only uniform walking. Once the nod has been given, the designated candidate should call for the group chant to begin. Upon completion, the candidates should wait for the judges to finish scoring.

- *Group Dance:*

Once the nod has been given, the designated candidate should call for the dance to begin, or the school representative should start the music for the dance. Once this has been completed, the candidates should remain in their spots until they are told to leave. This will enable the judges to correspond the scores with the candidate numbers. The group categories mentioned above should be repeated until all groups have been performed.

Tabulation of Scores

- Scores will be tabulated by a person not connected to the tryout using a computer generated formula that will be used district-wide.
- The top ten candidates from each grade will be chosen.
- A copy of the judging criteria is attached.

Judging Criteria for Middle School Cheerleaders

Entrance

- Presence/Poise (5)
- Tumbling during run-in (10)
- Spirit/Enthusiasm (5)

Jumps

- Toe Touch (10)
- Left/Right Herkie (5)
- Optional Jump (5)

Cheer

- Motion Technique (10)
- Voice/Projection (5)
- Incorporation
(Jumps/Standing Tumble) (5)
- Memory (5)

Chant

- Motion Technique (10)
- Timing (5)

Dance

- Motion Technique (10)
- Projection (5)
- Memory (5)

There are 100 points available from each judge.

The high and low score will be dropped.

The remaining three scores will be averaged.

Each 7th grade candidate must score a minimum of 30% in order to be placed on the squad. Each 8th grade candidate must score a minimum of 35% in order to be placed on the squad.

Announcement of 2009-2010 Squads:

Once the tryout process is complete the scores will be tabulated. After the tabulation is complete, each candidate will be given an envelope containing a website address. This website will list the 2009-2010 cheerleaders by their tryout number in numerical order. In case of any technical difficulties, the results will be posted at Hudson on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm.

Do not send congratulatory flowers, gifts, or notes to school. The school will refuse to accept them.

Camp

- Cheerleading Camp is not mandatory but it is strongly encouraged. Those who do not attend will be responsible for learning the material on their own before the season starts and will be benched for the first three performances.
- We will be attending camp at Garland Special Events Center on June 11-13. The approximate cost of the camp is \$131.

Expenses

Cheerleaders are responsible for purchasing the required uniform, camp clothes, and the cost of cheerleading camp, if they attend. There will be a **mandatory** new cheerleader meeting with Ms. Snyder and Mrs. Erspamer Monday, April 20th from 4:00-4:30. The uniform fitting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd at 5:30 pm for 8th grade. 7th grade will begin at 6:30. The cheerleader and a parent **must** be present for the fitting. All payments must be paid with cash. No exceptions!!! The full cost of camp (\$131) will be due on April 23rd at the fitting. Uniform and practice clothes will be divided into two payments that will also need to be paid with cash. We will inform you of these payment dates soon.

Disclaimer

Every attempt is made to hire judges that have not worked with students in the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the state of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out. Professional judges with outstanding credential and references will be hired for all tryouts. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts. Tryout results will not be challenged because of prior knowledge of judges and candidates.

Tryout information packets to each middle and high school in the Garland

Independent School District are available on the district website:

www.garlandisd.net/cheerleader

The constitution can also be found at this link.

Hudson Middle School Cheerleader Application

Name _____ Grade _____

- I understand that there is a parent meeting April 6th at 6:00 p.m. and that all paperwork is due by the first day of the clinic. (Application, the pre-participation physical evaluation, cheerleader application, clinic fees, and a copy of your 4th 6 weeks report card). If you failed the 4th 6 weeks, you must also bring a signed copy of your progress report from the 5th 6 weeks.
- As a parent, I understand that I am not allowed in the building during the panel tryouts.
- All cheerleaders will be expected to follow all rules and policies of Hudson Middle School, GISD, and the cheerleader constitution.
- My child did choose Hudson Middle School as choice of school for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Transportation to and from games is up to the parent/guardian.
- The point system will be followed with consistency.
- All final decisions regarding uniform, practices, and consequences are up to the sponsors and principal.
- As a cheerleader, your child is covered by the school insurance, providing that the proper GISD channels are followed. However, you are encouraged to have your own insurance or to take the additional school insurance.
- For additional information concerning tryouts or other information included in the packet, please contact Michelle Bounds, Kristin Erspamer, or Alisha Snyder at: (972) 675-3070

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the point system listed in the GISD cheerleader constitution and all information listed in this packet.

Candidate Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

