

Austin Academy



Cheerleading

Tryout Information

2019-2020

Austin Eagles Cheerleaders
2019-2020

Dear parents,

Your student has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Austin Academy Cheerleading Squad for the 2019-2020 school year. If selected, there are certain personal and financial responsibilities and obligations which your student must assume in order to qualify and remain a member in good standing.

We hope that you are aware of the vast amount of time and energy that is necessary to be an effective school leader. Austin cheerleaders must exemplify good student conduct, not only at games and at other types of school-sponsored or cheerleading activities, but also in any other aspect of life. It is a great honor to be an Austin Academy cheerleader, and it is only with a complete effort from both the cheerleader and his/her parents that we can have a successful year.

The costs of cheerleading for the school year have been estimated. Costs could vary according to what clothing/accessories a cheerleader may wish to purchase. Also, please keep expenses in mind early, as you may want to set aside funds to ensure they are available when the money is due for uniforms, camps, etc., in April and May.

The Garland Independent School District Cheerleader Constitution and procedures and the tryout information packets for each GISD middle and high school are available on the district website: www.garlandisd.net Click "Departments & Programs" and select "Cheerleading".

There will be an informational meeting at Austin Academy for parents and candidates on **Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 pm in the library**. All candidates and parents are required to attend this meeting unless prior arrangements have been made with a sponsor. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Portillo or Mrs. Lambright at (972) 926-2620. We look forward to meeting you.

CHEER CAMP

- ❖ Mandatory summer cheer camp will be held on the Austin Academy Campus **July 30-Aug.1st**. Camp will be held for 3 days and will provide instruction on all cheers, chants, and dances to be performed during the season. All girls will learn every routine before the first football game, and it will require all camp sessions to accomplish this task. Cheerleaders are expected to be at all cheer camp sessions as this will also be a time set aside for teambuilding and fellowship within our cheerleading squad.
- ❖ The cheer camp will be sponsored and hosted by Mrs. Portillo and Lambright at no additional cost to parents.

ESTIMATED COST OF CHEERLEADING FOR THE 2019-2020 Season

UNIFORM & ACCESSORIES

- Uniform Package
 - Cheerleader Uniform (shell & skirt) \$100.00
 - Accessories Package (briefs, poms, bag, bow) \$50.00
 - Warm-ups \$80.00
 - Camp wear (shirts and shorts) \$40.00
- UNIFORM PACKAGE – TOTAL \$270.00*†**

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|--|-----------------|
| Uniform Total – Paid to Austin Academy in two installments | \$270.00 |
| 1 st Installment – Due May 1st, 2019 | \$135.00 |
| 2 nd Installment – Due May 22nd, 2019 | \$135.00 |

**The amount for the Uniform Package is the estimate: these amounts are only averages and may vary based on the number of cheerleaders per squad*

BREAKDOWN OF UPCOMING PAYMENTS BY DUE DATE:

- **Wednesday, May 8th:** 1st Installment of Uniform & Camp Total Due - \$135.00 (pay at fitting)
 - **Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019:** 2nd Installment of Uniform & Camp Total Due - \$135.00
 - **July 30th:** White Cheer Shoes (by start of camp): approximately \$30.00
- ❖ Acceptable payment methods – Cash, Check (made out to Austin Academy), Money Order, Credit Card through Skyward

AT LEAST ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT AT THE FITTING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 1st, 2019.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SEND PAYMENT FOR THE INSTALLMENTS ON THE DATES DESIGNATED ABOVE.
CHEER SHOES WILL BE ORDERED AND PAID FOR SEPARATELY.**

CHEERLEADER TRYOUT DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Wednesday | March 27 | Informational meeting for parents and candidates 5:30 p.m. in Austin Academy Library |
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|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Tuesday | April 23 | Candidates turn in cheer packet with all requested forms filled out, signed, and returned to Mrs. Portillo or Mrs. Lambright by 4:00 p.m. This includes the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History form. |
| Tuesday | April 23 | Cheer Clinic from 4:10 – 6:00 p.m. in the Austin Academy Practice Gym Wear shorts, t- shirt, socks, and tennis shoes. No video of the clinic will be allowed. **ONLY CANDIDATES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE MAY ATTEND THIS CLINIC: Candidates must have passed all classes with a 70+ on their 4 th grading cycle report card. |
| Wednesday | April 24 | Cheer Clinic from 4:10 – 6:00 p.m. in the Austin Academy Practice Gym Report to competition gym dressed and ready to practice at 4:10 |
| Thursday | April 25 | 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. - Mock tryouts/evaluations/rehearsal in competition gym |
| Friday | April 26 | 5:30-6:45 p.m. – Video Tryouts at Austin Academy The 2019 – 2020 Austin Academy cheerleaders will be announced by tryout number on a website that will be given to all candidates before warm-ups begin. |
| Wednesday | May 8 | 4:15 - Mandatory cheerleader and parent meeting. 1st installment of uniform package due. PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING. |
| Wednesday | May 22 | 2nd installment of uniform package total due. |
| **Tuesday-Thursday | July 30-Aug. 1 | Cheer Camp at Austin Academy from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |

PLEASE NOTE:

- ❖ The clinic is not mandatory. Candidates may tryout without attending the clinic.
- ❖ Only students who are academically eligible may attend the clinic. Ineligible students may participate in the one-day judge tryout only.
- ❖ No one may video any part of the clinic or tryouts.

TRYOUT PROCEDURE FOR CHEERLEADING CANDIDATES

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| Full Group Performance | <p>ALL candidates will walk in and perform chant, dance, cheer as a group in that order. This is only so the judges can see what the material should look like. Judges will put their pencils down and candidates will not be judged at this time.</p> <p>*</p> |
| Group Chant | <p>Groups of 2-3 candidates will enter the gym so that they are standing in numeric order from left to right. 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.</p> |
| Group Dance | <p>Once the nod has been given, the administrator in the gym will start the music for the dance. Once this has been completed, the candidates should remain in their spots until they are told to leave. The group categories mentioned above should be repeated until all groups have performed.</p> |
| Individual Entrance | <p>Candidate #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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Individual Jumps | <p>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 and then third jump, giving the judges time to score each jump. Each middle school candidate must perform a toe touch, left or right hurdler, and a jump of their choice. The jump of their choice can include, but is not limited to, a jump that they have already performed. Tumbling stunts will not count as jumps.</p> |
| Individual Cheer | <p>Once the jumps have been completed and the nod has been given, the candidate should begin their cheer. The cheer will have a section(s) incorporating a jump(s) and/or tumbling. Candidates will be scored based on difficulty and execution. 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.</p> |

JUDGING CRITERIA

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Entrance: | Chant: |
| Presence/poise – 5 | Motion technique – 10 |
| Tumbling (during run-in) – 10 | Timing – 5 |
| Spirit/enthusiasm – 5 | Projection – 5 |
| Jumps: | Dance: |
| Toe touch – 10 | Motion technique – 10 |
| Left/Right hurdler - 5 | Timing – 5 |
| Optional jump – 5 | |
| Cheer: | |
| Motion technique – 10 | |
| Voice/projection – 5 | |
| Incorporation – 5 | |
| Memory - 5 | |

There are 100 points available from each judge.

There are 5 judges.

The high and low score will be dropped.

The remaining three scores will be averaged.

Candidates must earn a minimum score of 30% for 7th grade and 35% for 8th grade in order to be placed on the squad.

TRYOUT DETAILS

THIS YEAR, ALL TRYOUTS WILL BE VIDEO RECORDED USING A DISTRICT ISSUED IPAD AND TRYOUT VIDEOS WILL BE EVALUATED BY THE JUDGES PANEL. THERE WILL BE NO CENTRALIZED DISTRICT TRYOUT. TRYOUT WINDOW WILL BE APRIL 25TH-27TH. TIMES AND LOCATION WILL BE DETERMINED BY INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS CHEER SPONSORS.

- ❖ Candidates should be in the Austin Academy competition gym by **5:00 p.m.** dressed in their tryout attire and ready for the warm-up session.
- ❖ Tryouts begin promptly at 5:30 a.m. and end at 6:45 a.m. on Friday, April 26th, 2019 at Austin Academy in the competition gym. **Any student who arrives at the tryout site after the tryouts for that campus have started (5:30 p.m.) will not be allowed to try out.** All candidates are responsible for transportation to and from tryouts.
- ❖ Tryout attire - it is required that the candidate wear solid black shorts with an elastic waist, a plain white T-shirt, or polo shirt (no labels or logos; this also can be a plain white shirt with or without a collar), white socks, and white tennis shoes. Candidates must wear their hair up. Hair ribbons or any type of bow, earrings, or other jewelry are not permitted. The shorts and/or t-shirt may not carry emblems, names, etc. that would identify the candidate as a previous cheerleader.
- ❖ Candidates may not receive gifts at school at any time during the tryout week.
- ❖ The candidates choose random tryout numbers on the day of mock tryouts. The number will be safety-pinned to the front of the shirt on the afternoon of the tryout. There will be no switching of numbers after they have been drawn.
- ❖ An administrator will be present at all tryouts.
- ❖ Scores will be tabulated by a person not connected to the tryout using a computer generated formula that will be used district-wide.
- ❖ 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 credentials 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.
- ❖ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History form is included in this packet. A sports physical is not required before tryouts if none of the items from #1-6 have been marked “yes”. Any candidate who makes the team will be required to get a physical before camp, but signed by a physician after May 1, 2019, per GISD policy.

AUSTIN ACADEMY CHEER EXPECTATIONS

Attendance:

Cheerleaders should plan to attend all games, practices and cheerleader functions. Please familiarize yourself with the Garland ISD Cheer Constitution for information on what absences are excused and what is not excused. All absences, regardless of whether or not they are excused, result in benching, which means sitting out at least a portion of a cheer event.

Attendance at Friday morning practices is mandatory to practice stunting. No stunt group will be allowed to stunt at football games until they have successfully stunted at practice. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader to schedule tutorials around Friday morning practices, as tutorials are not excused absences.

Transportation:

Each parent/guardian must arrange for his/her own child's ride to and from games, practices and cheerleading functions. Repeated failure to arrive to events or be picked up from events on time can result in removal from the squad. Please make sure you are able to make the time commitment necessary to get your cheerleader to and from events on time.

Rules and Behavior:

Cheerleaders are LEADERS on our campus and represent AAE at all times. Keep in mind that being a cheerleader is a privilege to which one is elected. The strictest consideration for, and adherence to all rules is mandatory. Anything other than following the rules and policies is unacceptable. This includes, dress code, grades, behavior, and general attitude. Cheerleaders will be issued demerits for rule infractions. Demerits lead up to benching during performances and possible removal from the squad. Consequences for misbehavior are outlined in the GISD Cheer Handbook.

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The schedule listed below is based on information known at the present time. It may be amended if scheduling conflicts arise. Please keep in mind that middle school squads are only permitted to cheer at one sporting event per school week.

7th/8th Grade Schedule:

During football / volleyball season, cheerleading practice is tentatively scheduled for **Friday mornings** beginning at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 8:40 a.m. The cheerleaders are expected to be in the competition gym dressed and ready to begin practice by 7:45 a.m.

Football season runs from mid-September to the beginning of November. Games are normally on Tuesday evenings beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Basketball season runs from mid-November through January. Games will be on Thursday evenings beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will end around 8:00 p.m. Cheerleaders will cheer at all home games. There is a home game at Austin Academy every week during the season.

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TRYOUT PACKET CHECKLIST

1. Cheerleader Candidate Information form (page 9)
2. Cheerleader Application and Expectation form (page 10)
3. Parent/Cheerleader Candidate Acknowledgement of Constitution form (page 11)
4. Parent/Cheerleader Candidate Acknowledgement of Voluntary Quitting Policy form (page 12)
5. Pre-participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History form signed by parent/guardian.
Check to see if you need a physician's signature!
6. Report Card from 4th grading cycle (**NOT** progress report)- can be obtained in counselor's office

In order to be eligible for tryouts, you must submit all of the above (#1-6) to Mrs. Portillo or Mrs. Lambright BEFORE 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22rd, 2019.

Please consider the cost of cheerleading before you commit. If your child makes the squad, all of the money is due within the next several weeks.

If you have any questions regarding these payments, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Portillo or Mrs. Lambright before your child tries out for the squad.

Thank you for your interest in cheerleading! We look forward to a great 2019 – 2020 season!

Mrs. Laura Portillo
lportillo@garlandisd.net

Mrs. Karen Lambright
klambright@garlandisd.net

Austin Academy Cheerleader Candidate Information



Name: _____
Last First

2019-2020 Grade (circle one): 7 8

Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: _____
Month Day Year

Ethnicity: ____ Hispanic/Latino
 ____ Not Hispanic/Latino

Race: ____ American Indian or Alaskan Native
 ____ Asian
 ____ Black or African American
 ____ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 ____ White

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian: _____
Last First

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Austin Academy Cheerleader Application and Expectation Form

Candidate name: _____ Grade: 7 _____ 8 _____

My child, _____ has my permission to be a cheerleader at Austin Academy for Excellence, and I am initialing the items below to verify that I understand and will abide by all of the following:

_____ I understand that my cheerleader must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsor and principal of Austin Academy for Excellence, and be present for all practices and games. It is my responsibility to have my child at all functions on time, and to pick up my child from all functions on time, as stated in the Cheerleader Constitution and/or Austin Academy school policy. I also understand that if I pick up my cheerleader more than 30 minutes late from a school function (practice or game), she will be ineligible to cheer at the next game.

_____ I understand that my cheerleader is expected to act in an exemplary way regarding behavior in and out of the classroom and/or school, and will be representing our school in and out of uniform. I understand that ANY incident that could result in an office referral or placement in the Reassignment Room could result in removal from the squad, and my cheerleader will behave and hold herself or himself to a higher standard because she is being selected to represent our school.

_____ I understand that my cheerleader is required to attend all practices, and I understand what an excused absence is (see Cheerleader Constitution, attached). I also understand that serving detentions and/or attending tutorials on a practice day, as well as routine doctor appointments, are NOT EXCUSABLE absences. Detentions/tutorials must be arranged on non-practice days. I also am aware that there may be occasional summer practice sessions, including an NCA Camp, which my cheerleader will be required to attend.

_____ I understand that my cheerleader must receive at least a 70 for every class on all report cards/progress reports. A failing grade on a report will cause the cheerleader to be benched for practices and games until the grade is brought up to passing. I understand that if I have access to a computer, I can monitor my cheerleader's grades on Skyward on a daily basis, and, if necessary, I can set the grade book up to alert me if grades fall below a certain point.

_____ I understand that my cheerleader will treat every member of the squad with respect at all times, and my daughter will be held accountable for any negative or derogatory actions made toward another cheerleader, or any other person in or out of school. All squad members will act as a team, regardless of level of ability, and will always put the squad first.

_____ I understand that **anything** put online, i.e. **Facebook, Instagram or any public social media**, is public domain even if it is marked "private". Any question of appropriateness, respectfulness or kindness will be decided by the principal and sponsor; discretionary consequences may be applicable.

_____ I understand that I must pay all of my cheerleader fees at the time they are required. No uniforms for the squad will be shipped until all payments are made in full. I understand that cheerleading requires several fees up front, and I acknowledge that I will pay them when I am required to do so.

_____ I understand that my cheerleader will be required to pay attention and be serious in practice at all times. I understand that if my cheerleader does not show that she knows the material for the upcoming game, she may be benched during the half-time show until she shows she can perform it in synch with her teammates. I also understand that my cheerleader may have to practice routines at home in order to master them.

_____ I understand that as a cheerleader, my child is covered at school-sponsored events by the school insurance, providing that the proper GISD channels are followed. However, this GISD insurance coverage is a supplemental coverage, and not primary coverage and is limited in scope. I am encouraged to have my own insurance coverage, and/or to take the additional insurance made available through GISD.

_____ I understand that if my child cannot attend the Mandatory Summer Camp at Austin Academy, she will be benched for 3 performances.

_____ I confirm that I have selected Austin Academy as the school of choice for the 2019-2020 school year for my student.

I agree to the above statements, and have read all the attached forms regarding cost, regulations, tryouts, and the standards of cheerleading. I understand and will abide by all the rules, and I understand that parents/guardians are not allowed in the building during the clinic, open gym time, or during tryouts.

Parent/Guardian Signature and date

Cheerleader Candidate Signature and date

**Parent/Cheerleader Candidate Acknowledgement
Receipt of Middle School Cheerleader Handbook**

I, _____ parent of _____, a cheerleader candidate for Austin Academy 2019-2020, do acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Garland Independent School District Middle School Cheerleader Handbook, and that I am aware of the policies and procedures involved in Middle School Cheerleading.

I also acknowledge that I am aware of the guidelines, required conduct, and deduction system, which is located on pages 3-20 of the Handbook.

I pledge that I will and can abide by, and agree to all the contents therein, and I understand that my cheerleader candidate, should she/he make the squad, will be held accountable and disciplined according to the information found in the Constitution. I also understand that not following these rules could result in my cheerleader being benched, or possibly dismissed from the squad, if the rules are not followed.

Cheerleader Candidate

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Parent Name

**Parent/Cheerleader Candidate Acknowledgement
Voluntary Quitting Policy**

The Garland ISD Cheerleading Constitution states:

Participation in the GISD cheerleading program carries both a significant time and financial commitment. Each cheerleader is expected to meet all financial responsibilities identified by their specific campus. Dedication to, and the prioritization of, cheerleading is obligatory from all cheerleaders to meet the objectives of the program. Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to maintain their commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year. Prior to making commitments to be involved in other school activities, cheerleaders should carefully consider specific program requirements, as involvement in other activities may cause participation and time conflicts with cheerleading duties. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the squad before the end of the cheerleading year without the approval of the principal and sponsor will not be allowed to try out for the next year on any GISD campus.

I understand the above portion of the constitution and confirm that I have not voluntarily quit any cheerleading squad at any GISD campus.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____