

**2021– 2022**  
Kaufman High  
Cheerleading  
*Informational Packet*  
&  
*Code of Conduct*



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Kaufman High Cheerleading Program! The organization's reputation precedes itself, and the entire Coaching Staff feels extremely privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the Kaufman Cheer family. The Coaching Staff is of the belief that passion breeds conviction and turns mediocrity into excellence. We are all *extremely* passionate about making KHS Cheerleaders the best people that they can possibly be, and we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to do that through cheerleading. Our goal as coaches is to cultivate a fun, spiritually and physically balanced, and disciplined environment in which to participate.

The purpose of our program is to promote spirit among students, support our sports programs and local community, and advance our own athletic skills, while learning team skills and maintaining academic excellence.

As is expected of an Informational Packet, the successive material is meant to be informative and straightforward, and does not express all of the ideals and attitudes of the Coaching Staff in their entirety. Please review the following information carefully. Being a cheerleader at Kaufman High School is a VERY BIG commitment. This packet will help you to make an informed decision in regard to trying out for the Cheerleading Program.

Please take the time to look over to decide if your child will have your permission to tryout to be a Kaufman High School Cheerleader. We hope that you, as a parent/guardian of a prospective cheerleader, are aware of the time and energy it takes to be an effective student leader at the games and at school events.

In addition to all the practices and games, KHS cheerleaders will have other duties in which they will be required to perform throughout the school year and summer. These duties include, but are not limited to, planning for pep rallies, painting signs & windows for games and pep rallies, parades, camps, and acting as hostesses for various school activities.

A great amount of time, energy and money will also be asked of the parent/guardians in providing transportation to and from activities and in other miscellaneous functions during the year.

A list of specific obligations for KHS cheerleaders will be given to each new member when the information becomes available. It is very important that all newly selected cheerleaders attend all practices and functions noted. The absence of any member affects the productivity of the entire squad.

The estimated cost of cheerleading for the school year is approximately \$900 up front, which may be broken into 2 payments across the course of 2 months as follows. Additional expenses may arise throughout the year.

Payment 1	\$500	Due April 2nd
Payment 2	Remainder of the balance	Due May 24th

We hope that you will discuss the expectations and obligations of being a KHS cheerleader with your child and agree that it is a valuable and meaningful organization that is held to a higher standard. Cheerleading helps students to form friendships, to improve communication skills, opportunities to give back to others, and to develop leadership skills that will prove to be beneficial later in life.

We look forward to meeting with each of you but due to COVID the candidate and parent meeting will be via a video posted to our cheer web-page on February 26th. We will discuss expectations and guidelines. Any questions you may have after the video can be answered by emailing Landy Hetmer. All paperwork, including the \$10 tryout fee is due that Friday February 26th, however paperwork may be turned in prior to the release of the video to Coach Hetmer (Varsity), Coach Manning (JV) or to the Junior High front office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the high school at (972) 932-2811 or email the coaches.

Sincerely,

Landy Hetmer – Varsity Coach

[lhetermer@kaufman-isd.net](mailto:lhetermer@kaufman-isd.net)

Kristie Manning– JV Coach

[kmanning@kaufman-isd.net](mailto:kmanning@kaufman-isd.net)

*KHS Cheerleading Important  
Dates*

## 2021-2020 Important Dates

February 19th	Cheer/Mascot packets will begin being handed out
February 26th	Last day to sign up to tryout for Cheer/Mascot
February 26th	Parent and Cheerleader video release on cheer website All Paperwork for Cheer/Mascot is due on this day or before Tryout DVD will be handed out on this day by Mrs. Hetmer and Mrs. Kidd by announcements only at school.
March 3rd,5th,8th and March 9th	<b>Mandatory</b> Cheer/Mascot Tryout Clinic 4pm to 5pm in the KHS Gym. Mock tryouts on the 9th. Mask must be worn at all times.
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cheer/Mascot Tryouts @ 8:30am in the KHS Gym. You must arrive and check in no later than 7:30a.m.
April 2nd	1 <sup>st</sup> Payment of \$450 due
April or May	TBA due to COVID. May be virtual like last year
May 24th	Final Payment due of the remaining balance
May 3-7th	Cheer Practice after school @TBA in KHS Gym
May 10-14th	Cheer Practice after school @TBA in KHS Gym
May 17-21st	Cheer Practice after school @TBA in KHS Gym
July 29-August 1st	<b>Mandatory</b> Cheer Camp @ Great Wolf Lodge, Grapevine, TX
1 <sup>st</sup> week of August	Cheer Practice @TBA in KHS Gym/Football field
Mid -August	Meet the Lions@ TBA at Football field
TBA	UIL State Championship Competition – location is TBA
Christmas Break(TBA)	Competition Practices TBA

# *Duties of KHS Cheerleader*

**The Duties of a KHS Cheerleader Include (but are not limited to):**

- Attending all tryout clinics and tryout day in its entirety.
- Practicing one to two weeks during summer before school starts.
- Attending **mandatory** choreography practice during competition season.
- Attending **mandatory** UCA camp in its entirety during July 29-August 1st
- Performing at all football and home district basketball games.
- Performing at all playoff games as specified by the Coaching Staff.
- Performing at other KHS sports events throughout the school year as specified by the Coaching Staff.
- Performing during or before all halftimes of home JV football games as well as Varsity and JV basketball season games.
- Performing during Meet the Lions and community pep rally.
- Attending all fundraising, social, and community-related events as specified by the Coaching Staff.

Please understand the Kaufman High cheer program is a full year commitment (from tryouts to the last day of the academic calendar for each particular year) with the exception of early graduation.

We will practice two weeks before camp. We also practice after school the month of May to prepare our home routine for camp. Also the week before school starts we will practice to prepare for Meet the Lions and football season. It is at the discretion of the Coaching Staff to make changes to the practice schedule. Please be sure and sign up for Remind 101 with your coaches.

There is approximately one game per week during the regular football season. Junior Varsity will only travel to games within hour drive since they are on a school night. We will only cheer at HOME district basketball games; attendance at playoff games for sports other than football will be announced by the Coaching Staff once they are aware of the dates.

All KHS cheerleaders must publicly represent the profile of a Kaufman student-athletes described as the characteristics of a person who seeks the fullest development of his or her talents and puts his or her best foot forward in action toward being open to growth, intellectually competent, physically fit, loving, and committed to working at making KHS a better place for all.

KHS Cheer Priorities:
Family
Education
Cheerleading

*KHS Cheerleading  
Guidelines*

# **Cheerleading Guidelines**

These guidelines are designed to serve as a set of general rules/guidelines for administrators, sponsors, parents and student cheerleaders. The purposes of the guidelines are to communicate these guidelines in order to help the Kaufman High School cheerleading squads be the best possible representatives for their school. Good judgment and common sense will be used when events are not covered in the constitution.

## **Philosophy/Purpose**

- Being a cheerleader is an honor and special privilege.
- Cheerleaders exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit and are first and foremost representatives of their school.
- Cheerleaders should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the KISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and help in the school achieve its goals and objectives.
- Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers.

## **Objectives**

Cheerleaders are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering cheers. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Off the field they are to enthusiastically support ALL athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude, and attendance at events chosen by the sponsor and approved by the principal.

## **Moral and Ethical Expectations**

Certain standards and expectations are necessary for the integrity and reputation of the cheerleaders. KISD Cheerleaders should be leaders within their school and set a good example at all times. Cheerleaders are expected to maintain a character above reproach and to exhibit personal appearance and habits that will reflect a positive image. Cheerleaders are constantly representing the school before the public; they are never to smoke, drink, use drugs, or show inappropriate public display of affection. These expectations apply at all times, not just at school functions.

## **Definition**

Cheerleading year: The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time the student is selected to the cheerleading squad until the next tryout date. This does not include the academic guidelines. Because of UIL rules, the academic policies are in effect for a school year.

## **Eligibility for Tryouts**

- At the time of the tryouts, the student is enrolled in the Kaufman Independent School District.
- Any student who has been placed in ALC during the current academic year will not be eligible to participate in tryouts.
- Academic waivers will be permitted for tryouts.
- Any student that has been removed from or quits the cheer squad within the same year is ineligible for tryouts.
- Any student that has been removed from any other athletic organization is ineligible for tryouts.
- Any outstanding cheer fines will cause a student to be ineligible for tryouts.
- All current infractions must be cleared prior to tryouts.

## **Commitment**

Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year. Cheerleaders are expected to attend cheer camp. Any cheerleader who voluntarily quits the squad before the end of the cheerleading year will not be allowed to try out for the next year and if a senior they forfeit their scholarship from the cheer booster club.

## **Tryout Guidelines**

The cheer coaches will prepare and distribute a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Candidates and parents or guardians will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the information and turn in all required paperwork. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process. Cheer candidates must have an application and the Participation Medical Evaluation & Medical History form at the required deadline. Please notice that the students are NOT required to have a physical exam unless they answer yes to questions 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, or 17. If none of these apply, they only need to turn in the first page. If they answered yes to any of these questions, they must have a physical exam and must turn in both pages and the form.

## **Squad Makeup**

There will be three teams for the 2021 –2022 season. Freshmen and sophomores will be trying out for the Junior Varsity team. Juniors and seniors will be trying out for positions on the Varsity team for 17 spots. Three additional spots will be open to sophomores with the highest score. If we cannot make up a team of 17 juniors or seniors due to lack of participants or minimum score achievement those open spots will become available to top sophomore scores but only then. Otherwise only three positions are open for that grade level. 20 on Varsity team (17 juniors/seniors and 3 sophomores).

After the Varsity team is filled we take the remaining top 16 scores for the JV team (mix of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades). The Coaching Staff reserves the right to move Freshmen or Sophomores up to Varsity at any point during the season for playoff games.

Our third team, UIL state competition team, will be the Varsity squads for the 2021-2022 season. If a Varsity girl declines her spot to be on competition team we will move up next highest score to fill the spot. A waiver must be signed by parent and cheerleader declining or accepting the commitment to be on the competition team. There may be other competitions in the year that we would take all teams and not just competition team but UIL state competition team will consist of the 2021-22 Varsity team unless a cheerleader declines her spot. We do not have tie breakers. In the event of a tie we take those that tie.

## **Mascots**

- Kaufman High has two mascot positions. The Varsity mascot will be chosen from the mascot candidate with the highest score. The next score will be the JV mascot. We will only take 2 mascots.

## **Use of Video or DVD for Tryouts**

A live tryout is mandatory, but in the event of illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances (death of or life threatening injury to an immediate family member) that are approved by the campus administrative team, candidates may request to tryout with a digital copy. If such a request is made, they must provide a doctor's note indicating the specific injury or illness that limits the ability to participate or other documentation. The digital performance must show cheerleader skills within the last six months. The digital copy must be unedited and must be no longer than 2 <sup>1/2</sup> minutes. A request for a digital tryout must be made to the campus principal no later than 10 school days before the tryout (unless injury occurs during the 20-day period preceding the tryout). The principal must approve all digital copies. It will be up to the judges' discretion to score the digital copy as they deem appropriate based on what skills they are able to see. Candidates are required, if they are requesting to tryout via digital copy to present their doctor's note at the time of tryouts.

## Judging Criteria for Cheerleaders

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Points Possible</b>
<b>Entrance</b>	
<b>Presence/Poise</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tumbling</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Spirit/Enthusiasm</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Jumps</b>	
<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Height</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Form</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cheer</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Voice/Projection</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Enthusiasm/Confidence</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chant</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Enthusiasm/Confidence</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dance</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall Impression</b>	<b>3</b>

## Judges

There will be 3 judges on the panel. Judges will be selected from UCA, NCA, ACA, and other professional cheerleading associations, universities, and/or out of district sponsors. Judges will not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught any cheerleading candidate during the current school year. Professional judges with credentials and references will be hired for the 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.

## **Panel Tryouts**

Cheerleader tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges and administrators. There will be no sponsors/coaches, students, parents, or existing cheerleaders in the tryout area; nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Cheer coaches and or designees will be in the holding areas. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in disqualification of the candidate.

## **Mascot Tryouts**

At tryouts, candidates for mascot will perform a school spirit and crowd involvement performance. Music and props can be used. Candidates must tryout in the Lion costume. Routine cannot exceed **one (1)** minute.

## **Tabulation of Scores**

Scores will be tabulated on an Excel spreadsheet by a KISD administrator. Candidates will be ranked from high to low and the appropriate number selected for each squad. Each judge may award up to 103 points per candidate. The three scores will be averaged together to get the judges' average score. Scores given to a candidate by an individual judge will not be changed by a sponsor/coach, principal, or tryout manager. Tryout scores will not be modified because a candidate is injured. In the case of a tie for the last position on each squad, both shall be selected.

## **Notification**

After all tryout scores have been tabulated and confirmed by a principal, the results will be posted on the KISD website by candidate number.

## **Parent Request for Scores**

A candidate may elect to privately view his/her own individual judges' tryout score sheets. The score sheets may be reviewed in an administrators' office by appointment and may not be removed from the school. Score sheets will be maintained after tryouts for 2 years and will be destroyed at the end of that period.

## **Eligibility-Maintenance**

To be eligible to serve as a cheerleader at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned the accumulated number of credits in the state approved courses indicated below:

- Beginning of the 10 grade year- at least five credits toward graduation
- Beginning of the 11th grade year- at least ten credits toward graduation or total of 5 credits which count towards graduation that have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

A student who lacks the prescribed number of credits shall remain ineligible for the first six weeks of the fall term. If, at that time, the student has passed all classes for the six- week period, the student becomes eligible.

Cheerleaders will follow UIL No Pass No Play Guideline. To be eligible to participate in the six-week period following the initial six week period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 in any course for that preceding six week period. A student whose recorded six week grade average in any course is lower than a 70 at the end of the six week period shall be suspended from competition or performance. A suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student is passing all subjects taken. This suspension shall become effective seven calendar days after the last day of the six week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned. A student who regains eligibility at the end of the a six week or three week grading period shall not become eligible until the end of the school day seven calendar days later.

Students on academic probation must continue to attend classes and all practices, must sit out of all performances, and may not sit with or ride with the team to appearances or performances. Ineligible students are not allowed to wear the cheerleading uniform.

If an average of below 70 exists for two (2) six weeks in the same course or in different courses during the school year, the student will be removed from the cheerleading squad for the balance of the school year.

**General Conduct Rules**

Cheerleaders are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as to the organization they represent. They should be aware that in or out of uniform they are representatives of the cheerleading squad and the school they attend and should act accordingly. Any Cheerleader removed from his/her squad for disciplinary reasons during the current cheerleading year will not be eligible to participate in the next year's tryouts. If a member of the cheerleading squad quits the squad, he/she will be required to drop the cheerleading class immediately and if a senior forfeit their scholarship.

Proper manners should be used at all times to address adults. Mutual respect and politeness toward members within the squad are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the squad. Anyone assigned to PASS for any reason will be subject to the following actions:

First Offense	One Smoke Session or Coaches' Discretion
Second Offense	Two Smoke Sessions or Coaches' Discretion
Third Offense	Parent Conference and contract review

Any member placed in the Alternative Education Program will be removed from the cheerleading squad. Students involved in major disciplinary infractions (including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, client behavior, and other illegal offenses) or who violate the Student Code of Conduct resulting in an AEP assignment will be removed from the cheerleading squad for the remainder of the school year.

Due to the compromising nature of social networking through the internet, cheerleaders will be expected to maintain any web pages, social media accounts, (such as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok, YouTube or other forms of personal publications) in a manner that displays a positive image and is not morally demeaning. Coaches and administrator will be the judge of what is considered inappropriate social media behavior. All cheerleaders and mascot are required to sign the KISD social media contract.

### **Fundraising**

It is mandatory for KHS cheerleaders to participate in all fundraising events. If a cheerleader quits or is removed from the squad at any time during the school year, all money raised by that student will be forfeited and remains in the cheerleading activity fund. **This includes all scholarship money.**

### **Cheer Camp**

Cheerleaders are expected to attend cheer camp. Absence from cheer camp may be excused by Coaches AND KHS administrators only. Sponsors/coaches will accompany the squads to camp. Cheerleaders are expected to be on their best behavior at cheer camp. Any complications or complaints from camp staff or hotel staff could result in removal from camp without a refund. Parent will be expected to come pick child in a timely manner. Parents please make sure your child is aware and on their best behavior. Coaches and administration discretion will make final decision in the event a cheerleader does not apply with camp, school and hotel rules.

### **Uniforms**

The school will provide all KHS cheerleader uniforms. Cheerleaders will be responsible for maintaining all issued uniforms and alterations. Alterations must be done before we leave for cheer camp. Cheerleaders are responsible for and required to pay for cheer shoes, tights, socks (white no show), warm-ups, ribbon/bow, unity uniform, camp clothes, and camp fees. Uniforms must be returned when requested by sponsors/coaches. Uniforms must be returned clean with the cheerleaders name attached. Any lost or damaged uniforms or issued equipment will be figured at replacement cost. KISD will purchase a new shell, unifit and skirt for each member of Varsity squad each academic year. Uniforms will then be passed down to JV squads.

All cheerleaders are required to wear spirit shirt on game days or designate spirit days throughout the school year. Clothes must be clean and neat. Failure to dress up on "theme days" can result in discipline at coaches' discretion.

## **Mascots**

Mascots are considered cheerleaders and are expected to follow the constitution accordingly. The mascot should be a spirited figure whom can develop simple short routines coordinated with the cheerleaders. The mascot must attend all practices and cheer functions. The mascot costume is very warm and the student must understand this before considering the mascot position. All measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the mascot at all times. The mascot is expected to attend cheer camp. The mascot is responsible for and required to pay for camp fees, camp clothes, shoes, and any other accessory deemed appropriate by the sponsor/coach. The mascot will be chosen from all candidates (freshman, sophomore, junior or senior).

## **Captains**

Captains will be chosen by the sponsors/coaches. Criteria for Captain Candidates will include, but are not limited to grades, attendance (tardies) at school, practice and performances, judges' scores and teacher evaluations. Captains must make cheerleading and captain duties top priority. There are no excuses. The captain cheerleaders should be prepared to spend extra time on cheerleading. The captain cheerleaders must exhibit a positive attitude and be prepared to follow all rules and enforce them as well as set a good example. The captain cheerleaders must maintain a good academic record throughout the year.

*The judges' scores will be used as a guideline only. The Coaching Staff has the final decision on captain positions.*

## **Injuries:**

1. Injuries: If an injury occurs that keeps the student out of two practices, a note from the school's athletic trainer or doctor stating the reason will be required. If the injury restricts the student from three or more practices, a doctor's note will be required. This note should state the nature of the injury, the length of time of the restriction, the specific task the student cannot perform, and any special instructions. Lack of participation will be categorized as missing practice if there is no note.

### **General Reminder:**

1. Accumulation of three or more benching/contest suspensions may result in a principal/sponsor/coach review which could result in removal from the squad.
2. Repeated/excessive offenses may result in a sponsor/coach/principal review. Repeated/excessive is defines as repetition of the same offense three or more times during the duration of a season. Seasons are:
  - Football-beginning of school until December 1 or the last football game.
  - Basketball-December 2 until March 1 or the last basketball game.

Violation of the same rule or guideline three or more times in a season will result in the cheerleader being placed on probation for the remainder of that season. Violation of

the probation by further misconduct could result in dismissal from the squad.

4. Any sponsor/coach and principal review of student's actions may result in dismissal from the squads.
5. **Guidelines:** These are general rules and guidelines for all KHS cheerleaders/mascots. Failure to comply may at times require judgment calls to be made. These decisions will be left up to the individual sponsors/coaches for each squad. Sponsors/coaches reserve the right to upgrade any penalty (immediate benching, office referral) depending on the severity of the situation.

## **Transportation**

All away games will require bus transportation. Cheerleaders must ride TO the game on the bus. Varsity girls must ride bus to and from all games unless preapproved by a sponsor/coach or administrator due to school extracurricular activity or family emergencies.

JV girls must ride bus to all games unless PREapproved by a sponsor/coach or administrator due to school extracurricular activity or family emergencies but may ride home with parent. However, the JV girl must be signed out by the parent with the sponsor/coach before leaving the game. If riding home with another, other than a parent or guardian, a note from the cheerleader's parent or guardian must be turned into sponsor/coach BEFORE leaving for the event. Notes/phone calls/text messages will not be allowed after departure. Parents are responsible for picking up students following a cheerleading event in a timely fashion. Failure to abide by this rule may result in a parent conference and a principal/sponsor/coach review. A sponsor/coach will stay with the students until the last child has been picked up. Sponsor/Coach may assign designated seat assignments on the bus to away games.

## **Monies Collected By Sponsor/Coach**

Cheerleader sponsors/coaches collecting monies from students will give receipts to students stating the amount of monies collected and what the money is to be charged toward (trip, uniform, shirts, etc.) Sponsors **WILL** keep a detailed accounting of income and expenditures of students' monies and make it available to parents upon request.

## **Booster Club**

All monies collected by the booster club will be carefully itemized equally. A monthly expense report will be published and distributed at each booster club meeting. All parents and their cheerleader/mascot are expected to dedicate themselves to helping the booster club with fundraisers, concession stands for baseball and softball, and working the cheer booth to help build funds to ease the costly expenses involved with cheering.

*KHS*  
*Cheerleading*  
*Code of Conduct*

## **Kaufman Cheerleader Code of Conduct**

1. Cheerleaders (CL) are required to wear assigned uniform/clothing to events. No one will dress or groom in the manner that will draw special attention to themselves and away from the squad. "Uniform" includes shoes, poms, tights, unifit, bow/ribbon, rain coat, pullover, pants, bloomers, but not limited to.
2. Any CL assigned PASS on event day will not be allowed to participate until PASS assignment is completed.
3. Any CL placed in ALC will be removed from the program.
4. Any CL given out of school suspension will result in, 2 benched game, 3 smoke sessions or coaches discretion.
5. Anyone who quits or is removed from a squad will not be allowed to tryout the following year.
6. All tattoos must be covered. Hair must be pulled up per discretion of sponsor. No jewelry, gum, painted fingernails or will result in smoke session or coaches' discretion.
7. Possession or use of tobacco is a violation of the Cheer Code of Conduct. Each offense will result in a smoke session for 5 days. Lying/Dishonesty will also fall under this plan. A 3rd offense will in dismissal from the cheer program.
8. Possession or use of alcohol is a violation of the Cheer Code of Conduct. The first offense will result in on smoke session for 5 days and a 7 day suspension from any contest. The second offense will result in dismal from the program for the rest of the school semester. The third offense will result in permanent dismissal from the program.
9. Anyone guilty of a misdemeanor (ex. Stealing) will fall under the alcohol discipline plan.
10. Failing the drug test: 1st offense will result in a 4 school week suspension from participation in all practices and games. The CL will attend practices but cannot participate. 2nd offense will result in 1 calendar year suspension from the cheer program. 3rd offense will result in permanent dismissal from the cheer program.
11. Anyone charged with a felony will be suspended from all contested pending the outcome. Conviction will fall under the drug discipline plan, and is at the discretion of the head sponsor/coach or administrator.
12. Failing grades at the end of any 6 weeks-1smoke session per week until the 3 week period. If failing again at 3 weeks, the CL will continue to do 2 smoke sessions per week until the next 6 weeks mark. If the CL is still failing they will continue with 2 smoke sessions per week and also be required to have a parent conference and contract.

13. Not taking care of grades and discipline in any classroom will result in 1 smoke session or coaches' discretion.

14. CL must attend all events. A missed event with an unexcused absence, 2 smoke sessions. Tardy to practice/game will result in 1 smoke session. Repeat offenders, the number of sessions will raise and possible dismissal from squad.

15. Failure to follow cheer sponsor/coach directive will result in 1 smoke session or coaches' discretion.

### **Kaufman Cheerleader Discipline Policy**

1. PASS 1st offense -1 smoke session. 2nd offense-2 smoke sessions. 3rd offense- parent conference and contract.

2. ASD 1st offense -1 smoke session. 2nd offense-2 smoke sessions. 3rd offense- parent conference and contract.

3. Use of profanity/vulgarity, fighting, and disrespectful behavior- 1 smoke session or coach's discretion.

4. Missed practice/event because of injury- NO penalty at coaches' discretion; must attend all practices.

5. Missed practice /event because of excused absence- Must notify sponsor in advance- 1 smoke session or coaches discretion

6. Missed practice because of unexcused absence-2 smoke sessions. Missed practice/event may result in benched events and possible removal from squad.

7. Late to practice/event- 1 smoke session or coaches discretion

\*Remember- don't do anything to embarrass yourself or our cheer program.

\*\*Smoke Sessions or any disciplinary workouts must be completed before next practice or event before designated time per sponsor/coach. Failure to do so could result in benching. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from squad.

**Cheer Smoke Session** consist of the following:

3 sets of 10 up downs, 3 sets of 10 pushups, 3 sets of 10 crunches, 3 sets of 10 squats, 3 down and back(gym floor) bare crawls, 3 down and back(gym floor) towel pushes.

**Any special circumstances will be handled at the discretion of our Cheerleader Sponsors/Coaches**

# *Tryout Information*

# Tryout Information

**TRYOUT DAY WILL BE A CLOSED FORUM AND NO PARENTS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND**

There will be three teams for the 2021 –2022 season. Freshmen and sophomores will be trying out for the Junior Varsity team. Juniors and seniors will be trying out for positions on the Varsity team for 17 spots. Three additional spots will be open to sophomores with the highest score. If we cannot make up a team of 17 juniors or seniors due to lack of participants or minimum score achievement those open spots will become available to top sophomore scores but only then. Otherwise only three positions are open for that grade level. 20 on Varsity team (17 juniors/seniors and 3 sophomores). After the Varsity team is filled we take the remaining top 16 scores for the JV team (mix of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades). Also there are two mascots. Highest score will be the Varsity mascot and next score will be the JV mascot. We will only take 2 mascots. The Coaching Staff reserves the right to move Freshmen or Sophomores up to Varsity at any point during the season for playoff games. Our third team, UIL state competition team, will be the Varsity squads for the 2020-2021 season. If a Varsity girl declines her spot to be on competition team we will move up next highest score to fill the spot. A waiver must be signed by parent and cheerleader declining or accepting the commitment to be on the competition team. There may be other competitions in the year that we would take all teams and not just competition team but UIL state competition team will consist of the 2021-22 Varsity team unless a cheerleader declines her spot. We do not have tie breakers. In the event of a tie we take those that tie.

<b>Tryout Clinic Week:</b>	March 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th(Mock Tryout Day) 4:00pm-5:00pm
<b>Tryout Day:</b>	Wednesday, March 10th Begins at 8:30am. Must be in gym by 7:30am
<b>Camp:</b>	July 29th-August 1st Mandatory Attendance

All candidates must be able to attend Tryout Clinic Week and Tryout Day in its entirety. Furthermore, all potential KHS cheerleaders must be able to fulfill the obligations required of a squad member to be considered for placement on the team, including but not limited to ALL MANDATORY DATES.

All candidates will be given a tryout number to ensure the privacy of their names and scores during the tryout process. During the four days of the tryout clinic, the Coaching Staff will work on stunting techniques with the candidates to determine what position(s) each candidate is best suited for (*i.e. flyer, base, or backspot*). The candidates must be fully aware that even though they may want to be a certain position in a stunt group, the Coaching Staff has the final decision based on what the needs of the team are. If a candidate only wants to be a specific position in a stunt group, then that candidate should not try out. **There will be no stunting on the final day of tryouts.**

On the last day of tryouts, the candidates will individually perform three of their best jumps, the cheer taught throughout the tryout week and may enter the mat with their best tumbling pass but tumbling is not a mandatory requirement. In pairs, the candidates will perform the chant and dance they learned throughout the tryout week.

Please note that there will NOT be spotters available during Tryout Clinic Week or on Tryout Day. If you do not feel comfortable throwing standing tumbling or tumbling pass without a spotter, please DO NOT feel the need to throw it. All candidates who make KHS Cheer will be required throughout the year to perform the tumbling they were evaluated on during tryouts. If you are unwilling to tumble at performances, **DO NOT TUMBLE AT TRYOUTS**. All KHS cheerleaders who can tumble will be required to do so at timeouts, quarters, and halftimes.

All candidates are required to try out with selected group from random draw, and are strongly encouraged to practice with the group they draw beforehand at try out practice later in the week. This will allow the group to understand one another's cheerleading ability before the try out day.

All candidates are required to wear black-colored shorts, a plain white t-shirt, white no-show socks, and white tennis shoes on the FINAL DAY of tryouts. Hair must be pulled back in a high, clean ponytail. No jewelry or excessive make-up will be allowed; a solid black or solid white bow is encouraged. Also a plain white, black or gray mask must be worn. Points will be deducted from the cheerleader's score sheet if the appropriate attire is not worn, jewelry is worn, or if make-up does not follow the guidelines as stated in the Handbook.

All candidates will be evaluated on the following during the ENTIRE WEEK of tryouts for captain positions:

- Punctuality
- Participation
- Demeanor/Attitude
- Respectfulness

Tryout results will be posted on the website approximately **2** hours after tryouts have ended.

Under NO circumstances is the Coaching Staff to be contacted after tryouts have ended to discuss scoring and/or team placement. All scores are confidential in nature, and all decisions are FINAL.

Phone calls or e-mails sent to the Coaching Staff that are found to be rude or inappropriate will NOT be addressed.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**No one is allowed in the gym during cheer activities except for the sponsor, candidates, administrators, and other designated personnel. There is no videotaping or camera of any kind at any of the tryout activities. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Tryout open gym is NOT optional this year unless preapproval from coaches due to KHS sporting engagement. Candidates will review tryout cheer, group chant and group dance. Videotaping is not allowed. The group chant will be repeated three times. Proper attire should be worn during the workshop and practices for safety reasons. The attire consists of KHS spirit shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes. Hair must be securely pulled out of the face, no jewelry, no gum, and no food.

## **Tryout Material**

Tryout material will be posted on the school website by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Candidates will be expected to learn material. We will also be giving each girl a DVD with the material so they can practice at home. Also graduating senior cheerleaders will be there during open gym to teach and review all material with the tryout candidates. This year all cheer candidates trying out will need to pay a \$10 try out fee to cover expense of DVD and other tryout materials by February 26th. Poms will be provided by us to use at open gym and tryouts if the routine requires them.

## **Tryout Uniform**

- White t-shirt (no logo) (no polos)
- Solid Black shorts (elastic waist) (Athletic or Sophie style)
- White socks or no show-socks
- White athletic shoes
- Hair must be securely pulled out of face
- Solid black or solid white bow may be worn
- Absolutely NO JEWELRY, Clear nail polish ONLY
- A plain white, black or gray mask must be worn
- Your tryout number must be securely attached to the front of your shirt. You will be given a number to wear. YOU MAY NOT SWITCH NUMBERS WITH OTHER CANDIDATES!!!

## **Tryout Judges Procedures**

Any deviation from the tryout procedures/requirements by candidate may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

## **Performance Overview**

- A selected senior captain of the current year will walk into the gym and perform the material for the judges. This is to show the judges what the material should look like and no one will be judged at this time.
- Tumbling is not necessary, but can be done during this demonstration and is encouraged.

## **Individual Performances**

- The candidate will enter the gym and wait for notification from the judges that they are ready.
- The candidate will spirit in with enthusiasm. Tumbling passes are not mandatory but highly recommended.
- Once they are finished with their entrance, they should stop in the center of the mat and wait for notification from the judges.
- The candidate will perform a 3 jump series.
- Upon notification, the candidate will perform the cheer. After the cheer, the candidate will spirit off the mat and walk to the holding area.

## **Group Performance**

Once a group of 3-4 has completed the individual performances, the group will enter the gym and walk to the center of the mat. Upon notification, they will perform the chant together. They will reset and upon notification, they will perform the dance.

- Candidates will perform in groups of 3-4
- Candidates will walk out in reverse number order
- Candidates will perform the chant and the dance, and then exit

This process will continue until all candidates have performed both individually and with the group.

## Judging Criteria-Cheerleaders

Scoring- There will be 3 qualified judges used in the tryouts. There are 103 points available from each judge. The three scores will be averaged.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Points Possible</b>
<b>Entrance</b>	
<b>Presence/Poise</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tumbling</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Spirit/Enthusiasm</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Jumps</b>	
<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Height</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Form</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cheer</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Voice/Projection</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Enthusiasm/Confidence</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chant</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Enthusiasm/Confidence</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dance</b>	
<b>Motion Technique</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall Impression</b>	<b>3</b>

Each candidate must score a minimum of points in order to place on the cheerleading squad.

Junior Varsity      60

Varsity              65

## Tabulation of Scores

- An administrator will be present at tryouts.
- A computer generated formula will be used to tabulate the final score for each candidate

## Judging Criteria-Mascots

Scoring- There will be 3 qualified judges used in the tryouts. There are 30 points available from each judge. The three scores will be averaged. Mascot tryout routines cannot exceed 1 minute. Props are encouraged and you must supply your own CD for music for approval before tryouts.



<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Points Possible</b>
Enthusiasm/Crowd Appeal	5
Character/Antics	5
Use of Props	5
Creativity	5
Appropriateness of Skit	5
Overall Impression	5

### Tabulation of Scores

- An administrator will be present at tryouts.
- A computer generated formula will be used to tabulate the final score for each candidate
- The top score will be selected as Varsity mascot and the next score will be Junior Varsity mascot

*Required Paperwork –  
Due on  
February 26th*

All candidates must turn in their pre-tryout paperwork to the KHS Cheer Coaches. **February 26<sup>th</sup> all paper work is due before or at the parent meeting.** Pre-tryout paperwork includes the following:

- Tryout Application 2021-2022
- Tryout Application Fee \$10 for cheerleader candidates ONLY (Check or Cashier's check only)
- JV & Varsity Captain Questionnaire (Please put "not interested" in Question 1 if you DO NOT want to be considered for captain.)
- Permission Slip 2021-2022
- Risk Acknowledgment 2021-2022
- Parent Contract 2021-2022 Pre-participation Physical Evaluation – Medical History
- Request for Grades/Attendance 2021-2022 (This form will allow the coaches to get the grades/attendance needed for you.)
- Student Activity and Transportation Permission Form
- Drug Testing Authorization and Consent to Release Information
- KHS Code of Conduct & Cheer Guidelines Agreement
- Competition Commitment Form
- Medical History and Physical Evaluation Form
- Social Media Contract
- COVID Recommendation (Very important please read)

# Tryout Application

## 2021 – 2022

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Birthdate:</u>
<u>Grade Next Year:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 9 – Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – Junior <input type="checkbox"/> 12 – Senior	<u>Applicant Phone #:</u>
<u>School:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Kaufman High School <input type="checkbox"/> O.P. Norman Jr. High School	<u>Applicant Address:</u>
<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>
<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>
<u>Cell Phone:</u>	<u>Cell Phone:</u>
<u>Employer:</u>	<u>Employer:</u>
<u>Work Phone:</u>	<u>Work Phone:</u>
<u>Emergency Contact 1:</u>	<u>Emergency Phone Number:</u>
<u>Emergency Contact 2:</u>	<u>Emergency Phone Number:</u>
<u>Family Doctor:</u>	<u>Doctor's Phone:</u>
<u>Insurance Company:</u>	<u>Policy Number:</u>
<u>List medical conditions/allergies:</u>	
<u>Other information:</u>	

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JV &Varsity Captain Questionnaire**  
*2021-2022*

1. Why do you want to be a KHS cheerleader captain?

2. Do you have any prior captain or leadership experience? If so, what is it?

3. What intrigues you most about being a captain for the KHS Varsity cheer squad?  
Why does this intrigue you?

4. Positive attitudes and delivery of instructions are essential in the position of a cheer captain. How would you describe your attitude and delivery?

5. Have you ever quit a team before? If so, why?

6. Is there anything else that you feel that the Coaching Staff should know about you?

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We will also be doing teacher evaluations for those interested in the captain position. Please note that these evaluations play a huge role in your consideration and selection for captain.

# Permission Slip

2021 – 2022

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to try out for cheerleading at Kaufman High School. I understand that he/she must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Coaching Staff, Athletic Director, and Principal of Kaufman High School. I also understand that he/she must be present for all mandatory events, practices, and games. I have read the rules and regulations and understand that the violation of any of these rules may lead to temporary or permanent suspension from the squad. I understand and give permission for my child to ride with the coach and/or other parents when necessary. I understand that all forms attached must be completed and turned in by the date specified or my child will not be eligible to try out. I understand that my child must attend all JV and Varsity tryout sessions (*unless specifically excused by the Head Coach*) and summer camp in its entirety or my child will not be considered for a position on a cheerleading squad.

I understand that qualified judges will evaluate my child and I agree to abide by the decision they make. I will not contact the Coaching Staff to discuss the outcome of tryouts.

I understand that I am responsible for all costs involved in my child participating in Kaufman Cheer.

I understand that the very nature of cheerleading and gymnastics carries a risk of physical injury. I also understand that no matter how careful the participant and Coaching Staff may be, regardless of how many spotters are used, or what landing surface is, the risk cannot be eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as muscle pulls, dislocation, and broken bones. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis, or even death, from landing or falling on the back, neck, or head. I understand these risks and will not hold Kaufman High School or any of its personnel responsible in the event of an accident or injury at any time.

<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>
<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>

# **Risk Acknowledgment**

*2021 – 2022*

I am interested in being a cheerleader at KHS. I understand the risks as stated above. If elected, I promise to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Coaching Staff, Athletic Director, and Principal of KHS. I promise to cooperate and follow the instructions of the Coaching Staff. I also acknowledge that if I make the cheerleading squad, it does not guarantee that I will be in one set stunt group for the entire year.

<p><u>Participant Name:</u></p>
<p><u>Participant Signature:</u></p>

# **Parent Contract**

**2021-2022**

## **Let the Coaching Staff Do Their Job**

The most important aspect of your child's KHS Cheer experience is for him/her to have fun while developing physical, emotional, and spiritual skills that will serve him/her in life. A healthy environment that emphasizes the importance of safety, sportsmanship, respect and discipline will be invaluable for your child as he/she continues to develop into a well-rounded individual.

Do not compete with the Coaching Staff. Become familiar with the Coaching Staff's philosophy so that you can rest assured that their attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under their leadership. The KHS Cheer Coaching Staff is extremely skilled, knowledgeable, and highly trained. It is enormously important that you respect any and all decisions made by the staff. Each decision is made in the best interest of the team, not in the interest of the Coaching Staff or an individual cheerleader.

## **Coaches, Not Parents**

The Coaching Staff is not in a position to act as parents. They are in place to challenge and better your child in the field of cheerleading. Be forewarned – your child will not be mollycoddled on KHS Cheer. The reputation of KHS Cheer is based on the intense efforts of the staff and its cheerleaders to constantly improve, upgrade, and advance.

## **Don't Overreact**

Always remember that your child may tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting. Your child will get as much out of the program as he/she puts into it; keep this in mind. Do not sweat the small stuff, and do not get caught up in a whirlwind of gossip and untruths. Girls will be girls, and boys will be boys. However, as parents, it is extremely important to lead by example and not become part of the problem.

## **Be a Support**

The degree to which your child benefits from his/her time spent as a KHS Cheerleader is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. In order for your child to get the most out of the program, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement whilst allowing him/her the independence and responsibility required to participate in this program.

## **Be a Team Player**

KHS is lucky to have a cheer booster club but this club needs commitment from all parents and cheerleaders in order to be successful. We are trying to restructure the booster club so that it can be a profitable organization that can help offset some of the cost involved in cheering here at KHS. We understand it is a huge financial obligation but with your commitment to the booster club we hope in the future to have the ability to lessen that financial burden. But it will take us all working as a team to achieve such high goals and expectations.

# Parent Contract Continued

2021-2022

I have read all of the above and will adhere to the conduct as stated in this contract. I will respect the authority of the KHS Cheer Staff as they will run the program as set forth by the rules and guidelines as listed in the KHS Cheer Handbook. I understand that these rules have been laid out for the benefit of my child, his/her team, and the entire cheerleading program.

<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>
<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>

# Request for Grades/Attendance

2021-2022

<u>Name:</u>
<u>Current Grade:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 8 – Junior High <input type="checkbox"/> 9 – Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – Junior
<u>School:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Kaufman High School <input type="checkbox"/> O.P. Norman Jr. High School <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

The above student is trying out for the cheerleading program at Kaufman High School for the 2021-2022 season. They will need a printout of their grades for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as a copy of their attendance record in order to try out. By signing below I give permission for the school district to release a copy of these records to the coaches/sponsors.

***Please submit form to us so we can get a copy of your grades.***

<u>Participant Name:</u>
<u>Participant Signature:</u>

<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>
<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>

# KHS CODE OF CONDUCT & CHEER GUIDELINES AGREEMENT

I have read, fully understand and will abide by the policies/guidelines of the Kaufman High School Cheer Code of Conduct and Cheer Guidelines for the year.

As a Cheerleader/Mascot, I realize that it will take my full support and commitment to the KHS Cheer Program and I am willing to accept all responsibilities and obligations that are required to make the squad one of excellence.

As a Parent/Guardian, I realize that it will take my full support and commitment to the KHS Cheer Program, and that I will do everything necessary to help my child meet her/his responsibilities and obligations. I understand that it will be my responsibility to provide transportation in a timely manner to and from all cheer functions. I also understand that parents, family and friends will not be allowed in the building for any event the week of cheer tryouts.

<u>Participant Name:</u>
<u>Participant Signature:</u>

<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian Name:</u>
<u>Signature:</u>	<u>Signature:</u>

## Competition Commitment

We want to insure that all cheerleaders participating on the competition team are 100% committed to the team. Commitment is not only to your teammates and coaches but to yourself. Accepting the role on the competition team requires that you attend ALL practices with the exception of injury or illness. These following exceptions must be followed with a parent or doctors note and cannot exceed two days without doctor's note. Please make sure that you and your child are fully committed to practices, competitions, and any extra activities that follow along with competing at a higher level. We hope that you will help us build the cheer program here at KHS. It takes everyone to play a role in success and we want your full commitment to play your role.

**Please make your decision by selecting one of the following and signing below.**

\_\_\_ I hereby **decline** to be a part of the competition team if I am eligible to do so in the 2021-22 season

\_\_\_ I hereby **accept** the commitment to give the competition team 110% if I am eligible to do so in the 2021-22 season

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Parent Signature

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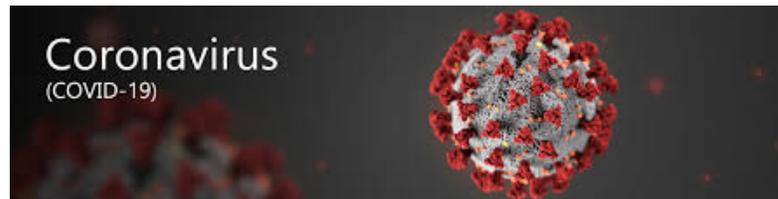
Cheerleader Signature

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Coaches Signature

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **CHEER COVID RECCOMENDATIONS**

Due to COVID, all athletes trying out for cheer/mascot are strongly encouraged to make a tryout video. This video will be submitted to me. On the day of tryouts, the video will be reviewed by the judges should you be quarantined or contract COVID. If you do not submit a tryout video to me and are quarantined or ill the day of tryouts, you lose your opportunity to tryout. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [lhetmer@kaufman-isd.net](mailto:lhetmer@kaufman-isd.net).





## Cheer Practice Correction

Note there will be a practice change on Friday March 5. We will now practice on that day from 2:00-3:00pm. This is due to early release on Fridays. If you have any questions please reach out to Mrs. Hetmer at [lhetermer@kaufman-isd.net](mailto:lhetermer@kaufman-isd.net)

Be sure and sign up for the Remind for details and reminders about tryouts. Good Luck! Go Lions!

