

BILLY MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT SQUAD BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The cheerleaders at Billy Mills Middle School are expected to promote and model good sportsmanship, strengthen school spirit/pride and crowd control through cheers and chants, and to develop individual leadership qualities as well as skills necessary for working as a member of a team or squad.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. A parental/guardian permission form must be signed and turned in before tryouts. The Spirit Squad Behavior Expectations must also be read by the parent/guardian and their child before signing the permission form.
- B. Cheerleaders cannot participate in a sport during the season(s) for which they are elected to cheer.
- C. Physical examinations must be completed and filed with the school prior to the school year in which they will be cheering. Insurance waivers must also be on file in the office. The USD 497 Code of Conduct also must be signed by the student and parent prior to the school year. Physicals cannot be completed before May 1, 2022.
- D. Eligibility requirements for cheerleaders are the same as for all interscholastic activities. To be eligible to participate in cheerleading, a student must be certified by the school principal as meeting all eligibility standards as set by the school and the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA).
- E. Cheerleaders must maintain a “D” or above in core classes to be eligible to cheer. Any member not meeting this requirement will be informed of this on Wednesdays and have until the following Tuesday at practice to provide documentation that the grade is raised. If grade is not a “D” or above by Tuesday, the cheerleader will be ineligible to cheer for the week. Failure to raise a grade of an “F” for 3 consecutive weeks in a season will result in removal from the squad.
- F. Cheerleaders must not receive an “F” on a progress report or report card. Any such member will be placed on probation until the grade is raised. In accordance with the BMMS student handbook, any cheerleader receiving a “F” on their report card prior to, and during an 8-week period they are cheering, will result in removal from the squad.
- G. Only seventh and eighth graders can participate in interscholastic cheerleading at Billy Mills Middle School.
- H. Payment must be received for sports, before they may participate in cheer events and activities.

- I. Multiple activities: During the season you are cheering for, cheerleading needs to be your first priority (after academics). Please discuss with the coach about other activities so we can look at options.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Cheerleaders are responsible for cheering at all of their selected season's games. They will be in charge of pep assemblies, spirit-building activities, posters, and crowd attitude and involvement at games. Cheerleaders will also be expected to participate in all cheerleading practices and activities during their selected season and for pep assemblies. This year cheerleaders will be encouraged to attend pep club to collaborate with students who will be attending games and assisting the cheerleaders from the stands. Pep club is where the cheerleaders and students can come up with chants to do together, as well as create posters and signs.

- A. Attendance and tardies to practices and games
 1. Cheerleaders will attend all practices, games and performances instructed by the coach unless excused from the coach.
 - a. Cheerleaders may be excused for the following reasons: illness, funeral services, school related activities, religious services.
 - b. **Two week advance notice of absence (other than illness) is required in writing or email.** The coach will handle emergencies as they arise.
 - c. Unexcused absences will result in benching for the next game or performance.
 2. The cheerleader must attend at least one half of the regular school day in order to participate in that evening's scheduled activity.
 3. The cheerleader must be PROMPT to all practices and events, otherwise they will be benched for the next game for the same amount of time they were late.
 4. Cheerleading practice is scheduled for mainly Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00, but there are additional practices listed on their practice schedule that they are expected to attend.
 5. All cheerleaders need to be standing in place and ready to cheer one minute prior to the beginning of the game, and one minute prior to the beginning of the second half of the game. If not in place, this will result in a tardy.
 6. Spirit squad members are expected to attend the city showdown clinic (LHS v. Freestate game) in October. The practice is scheduled for a Saturday. They are also expected to cheer at the game on Friday, October 14, 2022.

UNIFORMS

- A. Billy Mills will provide uniforms, bow, white socks, drawstring bag, jacket and poms for each cheerleader.
- B. All cheerleaders are responsible for purchasing black briefs.
- C. A pair of white shoes are preferred but not required.

- D. Uniforms are to be worn **in their entirety** on designated game days and on days in which there is a pep assembly. These uniforms should **not** be placed in the dryer, and they should never be ironed.
- E. Everything that is checked out to the cheerleaders need to be checked back in once their season has ended.

CONDUCT, ATTITUDE, AND DISCIPLINE

- A. Cheerleaders will project a positive attitude at all times concerning cheerleading activities.
- B. Being tolerant of others is a big part of this activity. You must maintain your individuality, yet work well with others.
- C. Members should conduct themselves properly at all times. The coach, in consultation with an administrator, has the power to bench, suspend or dismiss a cheerleader for any of the following:
 - 1. Undesirable behavior towards the coach or squad
 - 2. Negative attitude or lack of cooperation
 - 3. Lack of enthusiasm while cheering
 - 4. Any act that harms the reputation of the coach, school, squad or self
 - 5. Sitting in the stands or leaving the floor (without permission) while the game is in progress
 - 6. Rude language or gestures
 - 7. Violation of USD 497, Billy Mills Middle School, or KSHSAA rules and procedures
 - 8. Wearing jewelry or chewing gum while in uniform
 - 9. Using or having possession of alcohol or other drugs
 - 10. Possession of tobacco products
 - 11. Public display of affection

(Bench = cheerleader must attend the game and sit on the sideline, but will not be permitted to cheer unless given permission by the cheerleading coach. If benched, the cheerleader will not be allowed to dress in uniform.)

Discipline

Discipline will be handled on a situation to situation basis. However, there are a few instances where black and white rules are enforced....

Inappropriate Behavior	Consequence
Unexcused absence to game or practice	1 Game
Tardy to/from game or practice	# of minutes tardy= number of minutes of extra running
Failure to follow instructions of a coach/disrespect/negative attitude	¼ Game

(A middle school administrator may deem a cheerleader “not in good standing” which could lead to a cheerleader being dismissed from the squad.)

TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held for the spirit squad on August 26, 2022 from 3:30pm - 4:15pm. Athletes will be judged throughout the clinic on the following: spiriting, motion sharpness, sideline chant, 8-count dance and overall voice. The scoring will consist of 20% teacher recommendation and 80% judge's scores. The teacher recommendation forms will be given to two core teachers and 1 elective teacher, which are math, language, science and social studies for 7th & 8th graders. Cheerleaders will be evaluated on overall attitude, conduct in class, honesty and integrity, ability to get along with others, leadership qualities, academic responsibility, personal appearance, dependability, and enthusiasm.

There will be a two-day clinic at which time the tryout material will be reviewed. Attendance is required, unless illness or other major conflicts occur. The cheerleading coach must approve of any absences. Results will be posted in Google Classroom by August 27, 2022 by 7pm. **It is possible for a cheerleader not to be placed on a cheerleading squad due to academic ineligibility.**

Attached to this cheerleading constitution is a parental permission form that states you and your parent/guardian have read and will adhere to the rules and regulations of this organization. It is also **essential** that you name the sports in which you intend to participate.

BMMS Cheerleading Permission Slip

I give my child, _____, permission to tryout for the Billy Mills Middle School Cheerleading Squad for the 2022-2023 school year. I understand my son/daughter will be required to pay sport fees and have a physical.

I understand all responsibilities and requirements should my son/daughter become a BMMS Cheerleader. I have read the Tryout packet, the Cheerleading Expectations and fully understand its terms.

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Name _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Emergency Contact Information (If parent/guardian cannot be reached)

Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Relationship to Cheerleader _____