2026 - 2027

Sanger High School

Cheerleading

Addendum



PHILOSOPHY/PURPOSE

The Sanger ISD High School Cheerleaders and Mascots are a select group of individuals who promote school spirit and enthusiasm for all school and community events. All cheerleaders trying out for the Sanger High School Spirit Squad will also be considered a part of the Sanger High School UIL Competitive Cheer Team for 2026-2027. Sanger cheer is considered a sport and, as such, requires the same level of commitment equivalent to any other sport or school activity. ***The cheer program will follow the Sanger ISD Athletic Policy Handbook.*** You will fully accept responsibility and commitment to your team, your school, and your community. Because of these responsibilities, members of the spirit team, which consists of all cheerleaders and mascots will maintain a higher standard of academic achievement and behavior both on and off campus than that of their peers. ***A Sanger Cheerleader's and Mascot's positive attitude is demonstrated in all areas including academics, athletic events, community events, social festivities, electronic or digital communication, social media, and practices***. Cheerleaders and Mascots have a natural desire for lifelong learning and self-discovery. ***All Sanger High School Cheerleaders and Mascots promise to be committed to Sanger High School and abide by all rules designated by the coach/coaches, administration, and Sanger ISD Student Code of Conduct.***

The Sanger ISD High School Cheerleaders and Mascots will:

1. Develop physical skills and learn about personal conditioning, good health habits, and safety.
2. Develop psychologically through increased self-confidence, self-esteem, and emotional maturity.
3. Develop socially through cooperation, competition, and appropriate standards of behavior.
4. Develop character, leadership, and commitment both personally and within the squads.
5. Develop effective time management strategies.
6. Be Goodwill Ambassadors between Sanger ISD and the Community of Sanger.
7. Promote good relationships with opponent schools.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Cheerleading and Mascot Tryouts are unique from other sports. Therefore, we have added information here that is in addition to and not addressed by the Athletic Handbook. As with any sport, coaches and/or administration maintain the right to determine all aspects of the cheer program. This includes, but is not limited to 1) participation, 2) performance quality, 3) squad placement in routine, 4) discipline, and any other aspects of the cheer program.

A. Candidates and their families must agree to and be fully aware of the financial responsibilities of being a spirit team member and meet all financial obligations by the required due date.
B. Cheerleader candidates must be willing to compete for Sanger High School (SHS) on the 2026-2027 UIL Competitive Cheer Team. This commitment will require cheerleaders to practice after school and/or during the cheer class (including alternates), as well as any additional practices set by the coach/coaches. Cheerleaders will travel out of town with the team, and compete at local competitions as well as the UIL State Cheer Competition. If you cannot fulfill responsibilities as part of the UIL team due to outside activities, jobs, or attendance, you will be removed from both the SHS school cheer and the UIL Competitive Cheer Teams.
C. Candidates must be willing to give their time to all squad activities throughout the **entire** year. They are 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 coach and/or the principal. *Coaches can extend practice time and require additional practices/performances at any time. (Prior notice may not be given.)*
D. A student is eligible to try out for cheerleader or mascot if: 1) at the time of the tryout, the student is enrolled in SISD and is trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year. 2) If the student is not currently enrolled in SISD but provides documentation of intent to register with a housing contract within the district and a closing date prior to April practices, the student may try out at that campus. Transfers must provide a letter of intent and provide proof of residency or documentation from Sanger ISD with district approval. Candidates must attend all mandatory meetings and/or practices.
E. Candidates must attend all mandatory meetings and/or practices.
F. Each candidate must try out each year, regardless of whether or not he/she has previously been a cheerleader.
G. All financial obligations to any Sanger ISD-affiliated program must be cleared.
H. A current physical will be required by ***February 25, 2026,*** in order to try out for the spirit squad.
I. The candidate did not quit nor was removed from a cheer squad the current/prior year.
J. School discipline records will be checked prior to tryouts. The candidates cannot try out if he/she has a discipline referral in any of the following offenses the current school year: theft, fighting, drugs, alcohol, vandalism and/or graffiti, or nudity or partial nudity. Students with more than one discipline referral for vaping, smoking, tobacco, insubordination, or other ISS-related offenses will not be allowed to try out.
K. The candidate cannot try out if they have any discipline infractions during the school year in which tryouts occur that resulted in Out-of-school suspension, DAEP placement, and/or JJAEP placement.

L. All candidates for cheerleader must be enrolled in the cheer class, if offered. If another school sport or elective class falls during the same period as the cheer class, the candidate MUST choose between cheer and the sport/elective. For example, if Sports Medicine is during the same class period as Cheer, the candidate MUST choose Cheer to remain on the squad.

M. All candidates who are involved in UIL activities or any other school activities other than cheer (i.e. theatre, choir, band, one-act play, etc.), must be present at the majority of practices and performances. If a candidate is absent from the majority of practices or performances due to another sport or activity, he or she will not be strongly considered for the UIL competitive cheer team or be allowed to participate in performances.

N. Resignation: If a candidate or elected cheerleader wishes to either decline their appointment or resign their position as an SHS Cheerleader they must either: Submit a signed letter of resignation from a parent or guardian, or the coach must conference with the parent or guardian either by phone or in person. An email is not sufficient.
    a. A 24 hour grace period will be allowed for a Cheerleader to rejoin his/her squad; however, any missed practices will be treated as an unexcused absence.
    b. Cheerleader will forfeit any letter or award and the option to try out the subsequent year.
    c. Vacancies: Prior to camp, vacancies will be filled by the student with the next highest point total from tryouts for that squad. In the event that there is a cheerleading vacancy (after camp), the cheerleading coaches will decide on possible promotion based on judges' scores.

O. Varsity Lettering Requirements
    a. Be a Varsity Cheerleader/Mascot.
    b. Fulfill all duties of a Varsity Cheerleader/Mascot for an entire tryout year.
    c. Students filling vacancies on the Varsity spirit squad will letter at the cheer coach's discretion.
    d. Letter jackets will be ordered at the end of the spring semester.

RULES GOVERNING CHEERLEADERS/MASCOTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & CHEERLEADING

As with any sport, coaches and/or administration maintain the right to determine all aspects of the cheer program. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) participation, 2) performance quality, 3) squad placement in routine, 4) discipline and any other aspects of the cheer program.

1. Cheerleader/Mascot must be enrolled in cheer class if offered. In order to perform at pep rallies and games, cheerleaders and mascots must attend in class and outside of class practice based on the practice schedule decided upon by the coaches. As with all sports, if cheerleaders and/or mascots are unable to attend **all** practices, the coach has the right to exclude the cheerleader/mascot from performing certain skills that could result in injury or performance quality.
2. Cheerleader/Mascot who is unable to attend practices due to additional sport and/or UIL activity may not perform any routine or stunt that is done at that cheerleading practice at the event in which it is performed (i.e. pep rally or performance).
3. A cheerleader/mascot must be at school the **entire day** of any performance. Exception: a doctor's visit in which an **official DOCTOR'S note MUST** be given to the coach immediately upon return to school. **Cheerleaders/Mascots will not perform if they miss any part of the school day without a Doctor's note. If a cheerleader/mascot is going to miss any part of a day, they must contact the coach.**
4. **Warming up stunts appropriately is essential to a safe performance; therefore, any Cheerleader/Mascot who cannot be at the assigned location at the assigned time will not be allowed to cheer at that event/game.**
5. All Cheerleader/Mascots must ride the bus to and from all out-of-town cheerleading events. This is necessary due to equipment loading and unloading. If a cheerleader/mascot athlete cannot ride the bus, they **will not** be allowed to cheer at that event. Special circumstances include illness, death in the immediate family, religious holidays, or University Interscholastic League (UIL) game/match/performance (game/match/performance only, not practice).
6. All Cheerleaders/Mascots and Parents must have the Parent Square/Student Square on a device. This will be the main way the coach contacts the cheerleaders about what uniform to wear, what time to be at practices/games, etc. If a cheerleader becomes grounded and the Band app is on her phone, I am relying on the parents to relay information to their child.

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

Before you make the decision to try out, please carefully consider the following:

Spirit squads involve more time and responsibility than most people realize. The demands upon a person's time and energy are great and all members must be able to successfully balance school, spirit duties, homework, jobs, other extra-curricular activities, and their social lives. **Cheerleader candidates must be willing to compete for Sanger High School (SHS) on the 2026-2027 UIL Competitive Cheer Team. This commitment will require cheerleaders to practice after school and/or during cheer class (including alternates), as well as any additional practices set by the coaches. Cheerleaders will travel out of town with the team, and compete at local competitions, as well as the UIL State Cheer Competition. If a cheerleader/mascot cannot fulfill the responsibilities as part of the UIL team due to outside activities, jobs, or attendance, you will be removed from both the SHS school cheer and the UIL Competitive Cheer Teams.**

Your various commitments must be taken into consideration before you decide to try out.

A. All tryout information will be listed in the Sanger High School Spirit Tryouts paperwork.
B. Residency/Enrollment:
   A student is eligible to try out for cheerleader and mascot if: 1) at the time of the tryout, the student is enrolled in SISD and is trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year. 2) If the student is not currently enrolled in SISD but provides documentation of intent to register with a housing contract within the district and a closing date prior to April practices, the student may try out at that campus. Transfers must provide a letter of intent and provide proof of residency or documentation from Sanger ISD with district approval. Candidates must attend all mandatory meetings and/or practices.
C. Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Mascots:
   1. A spirit tryout form must be completed both online and turned in to the **SHS front office** by the scheduled due date. Forms not turned in by 4:00 pm on the due date to the SHS front office will not be accepted.
   2. Spirit squad candidates must attend a ***mandatory*** informational meeting prior to tryouts. Failure to attend will result in the candidate not being allowed to try out unless **prior arrangements** were made for emergent extenuating circumstances or currently living outside of Sanger ISD.
   3. All candidates will attend closed scheduled training sessions prior to tryouts.
      All candidates will be monitored by coaches.
   4. All current cheerleaders and mascots must try out each year regardless of experience on the squad.
   5. Candidates will furnish their tryout equipment and clothing.
   6. During the tryout process, each applicant is required to have a physical on file prior to participating in the training session. If a candidate has any injuries, a release from the candidate's doctor stating the exact extent of allowed participation must be provided.

D. Character, Citizenship, and Academics
    1. If a student is academically ineligible for any two grading periods during the current school year that student is not eligible for tryouts.
    2. If elected, eligibility must be maintained. Spirit squad members are under UIL no pass, no play regulations.
    3. School discipline records will be checked prior to tryouts. The candidates cannot try out if he/she has a discipline referral in any of the following offenses the current school year: theft, fighting, drugs, alcohol, vandalism and/or graffiti, or nudity or partial nudity. Students with more than one discipline referral for vaping, smoking, tobacco, insubordination, or other ISS-related offenses will not be allowed to try out.
    4. The candidate cannot try out if they have any discipline infractions during the school year in which tryouts occur that resulted in Out-of-school suspension, DAEP placement, and/or JJAEP placement.
    5. Candidates cannot have been removed from any spirit squad the prior year. This includes middle school candidates trying out for high school spirit squads.

PROCEDURES FOR TRYOUTS (AUDITIONS)

A. Philosophy: It is the belief of SISD that every candidate should have the opportunity to try out for cheerleader or mascot if all requirements have been met. Through this selection process, each candidate will mathematically have the opportunity to be selected.
B. Students desiring to try out must pick up a tryout packet **and read** the Athletic Policy and Cheer Addendum **online**. ***It is the candidate's responsibility to read all provided information.***
C. Students desiring to try out must return all required forms to the **SHS front office** by the designated deadline.
    (Parent/Guardian and/or candidate must personally turn in the form to the SHS Front office.)
D. Coaches will hold a mandatory parent meeting to go over the tryout guidelines, Athletic Policies and Cheer Addendum as approved by the principal. Parents and students must sign that they understand and will follow all rules.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR CHEERLEADERS AND MASCOTS

A. All candidates will try out before a panel of judges who have been selected by the district.
B. Candidates will only be judged specifically for the skills performed on the tryout day. To provide equity in scoring, candidates may not receive credit in areas they cannot perform.
C. A maximum of 12 cheerleaders will be on each squad. Coaches and administration reserve the right to increase the number.

D. Students trying out must wear solid black shorts, white t-shirt, white no-show ankle socks, white athletic shoes, hair in a secure ponytail (no partial ponytails), and no jewelry. (No attire may be worn that indicates past cheerleading experience. No beads or tags on shoes.) Senior Cheerleaders will provide hair bows at the cheer clinic for all candidates to wear at tryouts.

E. In order to remain on the squad, the student must have been promoted to the grade level the squad represents, i.e. Junior Varsity members must be classified freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and Varsity must be classified as sophomores, juniors, or seniors.
F. All candidates for mascot will follow the same procedures as outlined in the spirit tryouts, using the "SISD Mascot Judges Form." (See Spirit tryout paperwork.) Mascots will follow the same requirements and scoring procedures. There will be one Varsity mascot and one JV mascot.

JUDGE SELECTION FOR CHEERLEADER AND MASCOT

There will be a minimum of three judges, from outside Sanger ISD who are neither related to, teaching, nor coaching any student trying out. Judges will be selected from NCA, UCA, ACA, other professional cheerleading associations, universities, and/or out-of-district coaches.

SCORING FOR CHEERLEADER AND MASCOT

A. "Sanger ISD Cheerleader Form" or "Sanger ISD Mascot Form" will be used. (See Spirit tryout paperwork.) The building principal or a designee will make arrangements for the judges.
B. Candidates will only be judged for exactly the skills performed on the tryout day. To provide equity in scoring, candidates may not receive credit in areas they cannot perform.
C. All cheerleader and mascot candidates must try out before a panel of judges for technical ranking. The ranking will be based on the cumulative scores given by the judges.
D. In the event of a tie, the categories of Dance and Ability To Perform In A Group will be combined. The highest score with this will be given the highest ranking.
E. After adding all the judges' scores, the totals of those scores are divided by the number of judges. These averages will be used to assign rank, i.e., first, second, third, etc.
F. An administrator will recalculate the scores/ranks, and sign off on the judge's sheet.
G. Candidates with the top 12 scores with an average of 80 or above will make the Varsity squad. The next 12 scores eligible will make the Junior Varsity squad.
H. Beginning 2026-2027, all candidates must tryout for all spots. There will not be automatic placement.
I. Parents can request and pick up scores for their children only. Parents have 10 school days after the conclusion of the tryouts to request their own child's scores from the principal. Parent requests must be made in writing by the morning of the tenth day. Ranks will not be given.

RESULTS OF TRYOUTS

Results will be listed in order by candidate number with no indication of ranking. Tryout results may not be appealed beyond the campus level.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: CAPTAINS

Each squad will have two Captains. Interested Candidates must interview with tryout judges on day of tryouts.

1. Requirements for Application:

    a. The varsity team captains must have one year of SHS Varsity Cheerleading experience.
    b. The JV team captains must have one year of verified cheerleading experience in a public or private school setting.
    c. Coaches will select captains for each squad considering the following criteria.
        i. Squad Vote
        ii. Attendance
        iii. Coach Input
        iv. Tryout Score
        v. Interview with Tryout Judges: Captain candidates will be given a list of possible interview questions during Tryout Clinic. Tryout judges will ask 6 questions of each candidate.

Captains must be able to maintain a 75 average in all classes and maintain good attendance. He/She must have mature leadership skills, maintain good organizational skills, demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility, and be willing to set a good example ON and OFF campus at all times.

Captain Responsibilities:

1. SHS cheerleading must be the captain's number one priority. No other squad or activities will be allowed to take precedence over the SHS cheer squad. Those considering captain must agree to this.
2. Meet with the coach weekly to discuss the development and progress of the team.
3. Maintain a good working relationship with the Coach, co-captain, and other team members at all times.
4. Responsible for warm-up each day.
5. Provide encouragement and motivational support to team members.
6. Call cheer/chants and say last time during performances.

Captains will be put on probation if they do not uphold the responsibilities of the position. If the Captain is put on Probation two (2) times they will be removed from the leadership position and a new Captain will be assigned.

CONDUCT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Cheerleaders and Mascots are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as the organization they represent. They understand that either in or out of uniform they represent both the team and Sanger High School and should act accordingly in maintaining a higher standard of conduct. Cheerleaders and Mascots will abide by school codes of conduct both in and out of uniform, both at and away from school. Any question of appropriateness will be determined by the principal, principal's designee, and/or cheer coach.

B. During a game performance, each individual squad member will constantly display good sportsmanship throughout the entire performance in regards to respect for themselves, other teams, and the viewing audience. During a game performance, a cheerleader or mascot will not sit in the stands or leave the squad without direct permission from the coach.

C. Cheerleaders and Mascots must "refrain from taunting, bragging, or suggestive expressions or gestures, as well as discrimination of any nature", as stated in the UIL Spirit State Championships Rules and Regulations. This includes electronic or digital communication and/or social media. Part of the UIL Spirit Guidelines expects cheerleaders to be ambassadors for their school, demonstrating both good character and sportsmanship.

D. Cheerleaders and Mascots are expected to carry squad equipment, set up performance areas, stretch, and warm-up stunts prior to all activities.

E. Cheerleaders and Mascots are expected to follow the team captain's directives for that week, including line-up, performance, cheers, chants, and any additional requests made by the coach.

F. Cheerleaders and Mascots will not eat food, candy, or chew gum while performing or practicing.

G. Cheerleaders and Mascots cannot be in possession or use drugs, alcohol, a vape device, e-liquid, or tobacco on or off-campus. Evidence of this violation will result in suspension from performances for a minimum of three weeks. Repeated violations may result in removal from the squad.

H. After tryouts, **if elected**, the spirit squad member is considered part of the new school year spirit squad; therefore, infractions that occur after tryouts then become a part of the new school year. Spirit squad members may be placed on probation, receive a written warning, removed temporarily, or removed permanently.

I. Cheerleaders and Mascots will be required to know the school song and be able to sing it at the conclusion of all sporting events.

J. Any spirit squad member that fails to follow the coaches' directives with regard to: ***behavior, conduct, dress code, and/or other violations of the Students Code of Conduct or Cheerleading Constitution (with the exception of electronic or digital communication and/or social media, see below)*** **may receive discipline.**

UNIFORM & APPEARANCE

A. Cheerleaders may receive issued uniforms supplied by the district. When uniforms are distributed, it is the cheerleader's responsibility to notify the coach of any damage. Replacement costs, damage, or excess wear will be the financial responsibility of the cheerleader/mascot. Personally purchased uniforms must fit appropriately or cheerleaders will be required to purchase a replacement piece.
B. The length and style of the cheerleading uniform will be selected by the coaches with the approval of the principal.
C. The uniform is only to be worn in conjunction with school events where the entire squad is present.
    1. Spirit Squad members must keep the uniform clean for every performance.
    2. Spirit Squad members will not wear any part of the uniform to a non-cheerleading function.
    3. Spirit Squad members will not lend out uniforms to someone who is not a spirit squad member without the approval of the coach.
    4. No cheerleader/mascot uniform may be altered without coach approval. If this occurs, cheerleader/mascot will pay for the uniform.
    5. Issued uniforms will be turned in by the scheduled due date. Cheerleaders/mascots may be fined and grade reports can be held until cleared.
    6. Cheerleaders/Mascots are responsible for damage to or loss of any part of a uniform. Cheerleaders/Mascots will be responsible for the replacement of the uniform or repair costs.
D. **Hair will be worn securely out of the face at ALL times** in a location determined by the coach (this includes practice and performances). If the hair falls down during a performance, the cheerleader will be required to put it back up immediately. During performances, cheerleaders will wear the required ribbon in their hair in order to complete the look of the uniform and provide unity in appearance.
E. **No jewelry** will be worn during practices, performances, or pictures without the approval of the coach.
F. If a cheerleader shows up to an event out of uniform/with the wrong uniform, they will not be allowed to participate and may be instructed to leave the event.

ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA PROCEDURES

Cheerleaders and Mascots are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as the organization they represent. They are to promote school spirit and team unity. Therefore, Cheer Squad members should conduct themselves appropriately via any and all electronic or digital communication and/or social media including but not limited to:

- Not posting, texting, tweeting, snapchatting, (any electronic or digital communication) etc. inappropriate pictures or videos including, but not limited to, those with nudity or partial nudity, inappropriate language and/or gestures, taunting, or suggestive expressions, racial comments, sexually-oriented

comments/pictures, bullying or other harassing comments, smoking, vaping, fighting, vandalism, graffiti, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, etc. All information must be verifiable before it can be acted upon.

a. **FIRST VIOLATION;** parents will be notified, a written notice will be signed by parent and student, and spirit team member will be suspended for a minimum of three weeks.
b. **SECOND VIOLATION;** results in the student's immediate removal from the squad for the remainder of the school year. A spirit squad member that quits and/or is dismissed from the squad will be unable to try out for the squad for the following year without approval from both the coach and principal.

SISD CODE OF CONDUCT

Involvement in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and with that privilege is responsibility. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary fashion that will be a source of pride to both the school district and the community. At Sanger ISD, we encourage student involvement in extracurricular activities and we expect them to abide by these policies in exchange for the lifelong benefits gained through this involvement.

All spirit team members MUST follow the Sanger ISD Student Code of Conduct and Sanger ISD Student Handbook. All documents can be found on the Sanger ISD website. Spirit team members, who are disciplined through either the Student Code of Conduct or Sanger ISD Student Handbook, may receive additional consequences from cheer team coaches.

Team members are given grades for the class. That grade may be affected by not being properly prepared for class (tardy, not dressed out), not performing prep duties such as setting up mats and equipment and not participating properly in class.

UIL STATE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each January, Texas UIL hosts the State Spirit Championships. Cheer teams from all across the state compete in a Game Day format. Each team performs a Band Chant, Crowd-Leading Cheer and their Fight Song. The emphasis for this competition is crowd-leading effectiveness as you would see during a game. SHS preparations for this competition begin in September. The coaches may schedule extra practice sessions and weekend competitions to prepare. Efforts are made to communicate this schedule as early as possible. Coaches will make decisions on participation in the routine based on skills and motions in an effort to put the best routine on the mat. Every role in the routine is important. Absences from practices for UIL may affect participation in the routine.