

BHS CHEERLEADER

Tryout Packet

The 2025-2026 BHS Cheerleading Squad will hold a tryout process Monday, March 9th through Friday, March 13th for additional members to be added to the team.

Qualifications

Tryouts are opened to any student enrolled at Berwick High School in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and at Berwick Junior High School in the 8th grade. You need to have at least a 2.0 GPA and no grade of an F (please submit a copy of your last report card for verification purposes), and the ability to pass a physical examination verifying that all girls qualify to be admitted on the squad.

Clinics

Candidates will meet at the BHS gym on March 9th (5:30- 7:30p), March 10th (5:30- 7:30p), March 12th (5:30-7:30p) and March 13th (3:00 – until). Each candidate should attend all practices. The only excused absences must be school related AND approved by the sponsor or BHS administration. The attached application must be filled out, signed by the candidate and her parent/guardian (indicating she will comply with all of the rules), and turned in by 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 4th to the office at Berwick High School. If the application is not received on time, the student will not be allowed to tryout. Candidates should dress in loose fitting, comfortable shirts and shorts for the days of practice. No revealing or indecent outfits will be allowed.

Tryouts

On Friday, March 13th the members of the BHS Cheerleading Team will be chosen from those candidates that show up to compete. The tryouts will be held at the BHS gym from 3:00 PM until. Tryouts will be closed to the public, so please don't bring or invite family or friends to watch. All the doors to the gym will be closed with the windows covered.

During the tryout, applicants will perform a chant individually. A cheer and short dance will be performed in a small assigned group. The candidates will be judged on their entrance/exit skills, spirit and appearance, performance techniques, jumps and overall performance.

Attached is a copy of the form the judges will use to evaluate the performance. The questions attached must be answered and turned in with the form and permission slip in order to be allowed to tryout. You must also submit two forms of residency.

The candidates are to wear loose fitting black athletic shorts, a mostly white T-shirt (cannot have school name), white socks, athletic type shoes (not cheerleading shoes), no loose or hanging type jewelry, and have their hair entirely pulled back out of their face with a gold, white, or black ribbon.

The 2026-2027 team will consist of 14-18 members. The break will be decided by the result of the scores. Once all the scores have been tabulated, the top two from the 9th grade and 8th grade will be chosen and the remaining members will be chosen from the accumulated classes' top candidates with the total highest score.

Run-Out Entrance: _____ out of 5 pts.

Double Toe Touch: _____ out of 5 pts.

Jump(Toe Touch, Herkie, Pike, Hurdler, etc): _____ out of 5 pts.

SCORE

1

2

3

4

5

LOW

HIGH

Spirit/Appearance
(crowd appeal, facial expressions)

Execution/Memory
(projection, enthusiasm)

Voice (Cheer & Chant only)

Placement

(arms, wrists, legs, feet, etc.)

Technique/Sharpness
(timing, rhythm)

Overall Performance

Subtotals

(out of 25 pts.)

(out of 25 pts.)

(out of 25 pts.)

TOTAL: out of 90 pts.

Obligations

If you are chosen to be a member of the BHS Cheerleading Team, there are several requirements you need to prepare for. To be on the squad, you will be expected to endure expenses of approximately **\$750 to \$1500**. These amounts vary and may be higher or lower than what's projected. All the members will be required to participate in different types of fundraising projects to help defray the cost of the team and the individual member. With each fundraiser, the member will be given a set quota to achieve. Any portion of your sales that is above the required quota may be used to help pay off some of the expenses you might sustain for uniforms, etc.

The weeks following the tryout will be consumed with practices, meetings, and planning sessions. Starting in April, each member will be expected to attend practices during the week and on weekends. A calendar of practice times will be distributed after tryouts. All practices are **mandatory**. This summer each member will be expected to attend practices, meetings, and camps. Cheer functions will conclude at the end of June. We will take a break for vacation time in July; then we will resume a more condensed practice schedule at the beginning of August.

The members are also obligated to help with various cheer clinics, annual spirit shirt sale, and any cheerleader or athletic department sponsored events. The squad will be expected to cheer at many BHS athletic events and rallies. They may also be required to make public appearances and other valuable tasks representing Berwick High School. Being a member of the BHS Cheerleading Team will be a major commitment and all interested in trying out, should consider all the aspects of the team when deciding to take on this obligation.

UCA Cheerleading Camp will be Sunday, May 31nd through Thursday, June 4th at Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge.

This is a mandatory requirement.

Little Girls Camp Fundraiser will be Monday, June 8th through Thursday, June 11th.

This is a mandatory requirement.

IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND CAMPS, THEN YOU CAN'T BE ON THE TEAM.

For girls who do make the squad- these dates are mandatory also:

- **March 16th – Parent and Cheerleader meeting** - meet in the BHS library at 6:00 pm.
Every cheerleader must attend with at least one parent/guardian.
New girls, you must pay \$75 deposit for our uniform fee.
- **TBA – Varsity Fitting** - meet in the BHS library for uniform sizing at 2:30PM.
We will do uniform sizing on this day.
If you have uniforms, you must bring your uniforms for approval.

Please Note

- The members of the 2026-2027 squad will be posted on the Berwick High Cheerleading webpage the evening of try-outs. No lists will be posted at the school. There will be no need to return to BHS after try-outs.
- A squad of 14-20 will be selected due to stunting and other needs. Squad size will be based upon score distribution. Gaps in the candidate scores will guide the squad size.
- All decisions are final and will not be debated.
- Tryout candidates are allowed to view only their own scores after tryouts. The cut off score will be noted.
- The sponsor should only be contacted through school the following week to request copies of score sheets. Jewalker@stmaryk12.net
- A copy of the candidate's score will be left in the office when requested.

**** The previous information is for your keeping. Only return the completed portions below.****

Berwick High School Cheerleading Application

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Mrs. Walker BEFORE 12:00 pm on March 4th.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT Mrs. Walker AT BHS, 384-8450.

***** This application is CONFIDENTIAL. Only the cheerleading executive branch will read this.*****

G.P.A. _____ Guidance Counselor Initials _____

Name _____ Date of birth _____

Address _____ Candidates Cell # _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Cell # _____

Family Doctor _____ Phone # _____

In case of emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Relationship _____

The undersigned are aware of and acknowledge the obligations and risks associated with the participation in cheerleading activities. Nevertheless, it is her desire to participate in the cheerleading clinics and tryout for the BHS Cheerleading Team.

Candidate Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Please answer the following questions on another sheet of paper honestly to the best of your ability.

1. List any cheerleading, athletic, gymnastic, dance, etc. experiences you've had.
2. What three characteristics do you feel are most important for cheerleaders to possess?
3. How can cheerleaders best represent their school and student body?
4. Why should cheerleaders be responsible for maintaining good grades?
5. Describe any other non-school related activities, club, hobbies, etc. that you are involved in or will be involved in.
6. If you've received any awards or honors within the past 3 years, list and describe each.
7. Cheerleading involves physical exertion like most athletic type sports. For safety and athletic training purposes, list any prior injuries or unusual physical conditions that you are affected by.
8. Name two ways to get students' interest in backing school spirit at BHS?
9. How can cheerleaders get the teachers', administrators, and the school's support staff involved with school spirit?
10. What was something the cheerleaders did last year that you feel was effective to promote the school spirit?
11. What new idea(s) would you like to see implemented in next year's cheerleading program?
12. Do you feel cheerleaders are an important part of the athletic program? Why?
13. How would you feel if you couldn't catch on to something the team is learning? Member(s) of our team are having difficulty learning something for cheerleading, how would you react?
14. What would you think about a member of the team that does not pull her load, participate the way she should, or do what the coach tells her to do? If an instance like this occurs, how should this be handled?
15. What would you do if a member of your squad had a bad attitude problem?
16. What are your personal thoughts about community service events?
17. Member(s) of the team are unable to learn/keep up with the rest of the team, would you be willing to help them to get caught up with the squad? How would you achieve this goal?
18. Why do you want to be a member of the BHS Cheerleading Team?
19. Do you or will you maintain a job during the summer and/or school year
If you answered yes to any of the questions, what might your work schedule be?
Would you be willing to sign the area below confirming that your job will not interfere with you and cheerleading obligations? Yes No
If yes, please sign here _____.