# PAYNE CHEER

# TRYOUT

## INFORMATION PACKET

2026-2027



# Welcome to PAYNE CHEER

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**2026-2027**

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# MEET YOUR Coaches











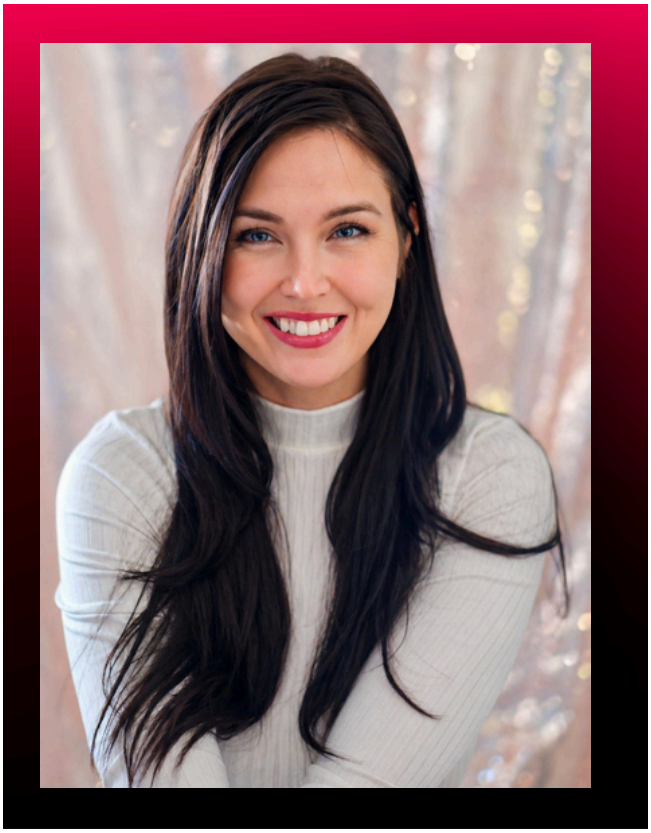









# Coach Malaika



## Malaika Husk




Coach Malaika is excited to join the Payne Junior High Cheer program and bring her love of cheer, performance, teamwork, and school spirit to the team. She is a former youth and high school cheerleader and has experience coaching cheer at multiple schools, working with athletes of different ages and skill levels to build strong fundamentals, confidence, and team culture.

Coach Malaika currently coaches at Weinberg Gifted Academy and is going into her 3rd year with the program. During her time at Weinberg, she has helped grow the cheer program to over 50 athletes and developed both Sideline and Performance Squads. In her first season there, she led the team to their first competition placement, taking home 2nd place in Cheer and the Spirit Stick. At their second competition, she led them to a clean sweep, earning 1st place in Cheer, 1st place in Dance, and the Spirit Stick.

As a coach, Malaika focuses on building confidence in her athletes. She believes cheer is about more than learning routines. It's about building a foundation of proper technique, teamwork, leadership, commitment, school spirit, and continuing to grow as an athlete both during and outside of practice.

Coach Malaika is passionate about creating a positive, structured, and supportive environment where athletes feel challenged, motivated, and proud to be part of the team. She is looking forward to a great season with Payne Cheer!

# Coach Apple



## Apple Lahey

ASSISTANT COACH

Coach Apple is excited to be Payne's Assistant Coach this season! She cheered throughout most of her school life, initially being drawn to the energy, confidence, and athleticism it brought out in her, and the school spirit, friendship, and the opportunity to encourage others that came with it.

Coach Apple began coaching alongside Coach Malaika at Weinberg, where they instantly became best friends. It didn't take long for her to realize that they shared the same mission and passion: creating a positive environment where kids feel supported, challenged, and celebrated for exactly who they are.

Coach Apple's goal as a coach is to help each cheerleader reach their goals. Every child comes to cheer with different strengths, challenges, and dreams. Some want to learn new skills, some want to gain confidence, some want to make friends, and some simply want to be part of a team. She believes her job is to meet them where they are, encourage them along the way, and help them see what they're capable of achieving.

Her hope is that every cheerleader leaves the season feeling proud of what they've accomplished and believing a little more in themselves than they did when they started.

Coach Apple is honored to be a part of the Payne Junior High Cheer program and can't wait for the opportunity to build confidence, friendship, teamwork, and spirit this season.

2026-2027

# PAYNE CHEER INFORMATION

## TRYOUTS:

- Parent Meeting (MANDATORY): Tuesday, July 21st from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Cafe
- Pre Tryout Clinic (optional): Saturday, August 1st from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Cafe
- Tryouts: Monday, August 3rd- Thursday, August 6th from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM in the Cafe
- What to wear: Black athletic shorts, black fitted t-shirt, white athletic sneakers (cheer shoes prefered), hair up, NO JEWELRY, NO LONG NAILS!
- Tryout Information can be found in the 26-27 tryout packet on our website and on Instagram: @paynecheerleading

## GET REGISTERED:

- All athletes must be registered on https://www.aktivate.com/ and have their Sports Physicals completed to be eligible for tryouts.
- Registrations and the Cheer Tryout Questionnaire must be completed by July 30th. Questionnaire link can be found on the website: https://pjhs.cusd80.com/athletics/cheer
- Information on associated cheer costs can be found in the Tryout Packet

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **MANDATORY** practices Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM in the Cafe.
- Performances at all home Basketball and Football games and championships
- Appearances at other school events and pep rallies
- Maintain passing grades
- Positive representation of Payne Jr High and the squad at all times-on and off campus
- Commitment to growth in cheer skills during practices and at home.

Questions?
Contact Coach Malaika - husk.malaika@cusd80.com

# PAYNE CHEER
# Tryout Information

## Before Tryouts:

- Submit online Parent Questionnaire and Athlete Questionnaire.
- Complete athletic clearance packet online through Aktivate which includes a sports physical dated after March 1st. You must be cleared by July 31st.
- Register for the Pre-Tryout Clinic. (optional)

## Tryouts Week:

- August 3rd-6th from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
- Check in at Cafe by 4:15 pm
- Tryouts are CLOSED to observers, including parents
- Videos are not permitted at tryouts
- Link with tryout materials will be sent out prior to the first day of tryouts.
- Results will be posted on Instagram and sent via text message by end of day Friday, August 7th.
- Bring a snack and LOTS of water
- Attire: Black athletic shorts, fitted black tshirt, white sneakers, hair worn in neat low ponytail
- NO LONG NAILS, NO JEWELRY

## Evaluations

Athletes will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Motion technique
- Jumps including - toe touch, pike, hurdler,
- Flexibility
- Tumbling (HIGHLY encouraged, not required)
- Spiriting - energy & vocal projection
- Cheer
- Dance
- General Fitness

# PAYNE CHEER

# Requirements & Expectations

## Requirements

- Remain eligible for participation by maintaining a minimum of D in all academic courses.
- Follow all Payne Junior High School and Chandler Unified School District rules and regulations set forth in the student handbook.
- Abide by all guidelines set forth by the Payne Cheer Program
- Attend ALL scheduled cheer practices, camps and clinics
- Perform at home games and championships, school events, and cheer competitions.
- Commit to the entire season. Resigning from the team mid-season is a serious decision and will require an athletic director and coach review before tryout out the following season.

## Expectations

- Possess a strong dedication to the Payne Cheerleading Program
- Represent a well-rounded athlete that others can look up to
- Grow with the program and as a cheerleader by accepting instruction and constructive criticism from coaches with a positive attitude
- Represent your squad as a positive influence during cheer camps, clinics and practices, at athletic games and competitions, as well as on campus, and in your community
- Possess strong time management and communication skills and an ability to balance responsibilities as an athlete, student, family member and friend
- Show an understanding of their responsibility and commitments regarding mainitaining health and wellness, nutrition, safety, and injusty preventions.
- Possess a desire to grow as cheerleader in strength, skill and ability outside of regularly scheduled cheer practices, camps,and clinics through enrollment in skill growth programs such as tumbling and stunting classes, strength training, and by practicing at home.

**THE PAYNE CHEER PROGRAM MAINTAINS**
**A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY FOR BULLYING. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

# Code of Conduct

## Program Standards

Payne Cheerleaders will strive to represent Payne Junior High with pride, positivity, and strong leadership by supporting Panther athletic events, encouraging school spirit, and by serving as a role model to their community both on and off campus. The Payne Cheer program gives athletes the opportunity to grow as cheerleaders by focusing on building each athlete's skills, confidence, commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork and school spirit.

## Cheerleader Code of Conduct

As a Payne Junior High Cheerleader, I understand that I represent my squad, my school, my coaches, and myself. I will show respect to my teammates, coaches, teachers, competitors, and classmates at all times. I will come to practices, games, events, and performances prepared, on time, and ready to work hard with a positive attitude. I will follow all safety rules, give my best effort, and support my teammates both on and off the mat. I understand that bullying, disrespect, poor sportsmanship, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

## Parent Code of Conduct

As a Payne Cheer parent/guardian, I understand that my support plays an important role in my cheerleader's success. I will encourage my athlete to be committed, respectful, responsible, and coachable. I will communicate with coaches in a respectful and appropriate manner and support the decisions made in the best interest of the team. I will model positive sportsmanship at games, events, competitions, and practices. I understand that negative behavior, gossip, disrespect toward coaches, athletes, parents, or staff, and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

# PAYNE CHEER

# Investment Breakdown

## Cheer Gear

$300-$500

- Uniforms
- Practice Wear & Apparel
- Shoes
- Bows
- Gear

## Camps/Clinics/Trainings

$400-$500

- Stunting Clinics
- Tumbling Clinics
- Choreography

## Disclaimer:

This investment breakdown is an estimate!! Costs are subject to change, and fundraising opportunities may be available to cover costs. We recognize cheer is expensive and payment plans are available, if needed.

**PLEASE DO NOT LET THE COST OF CHEER PREVENT YOU FROM TRYING OUT. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO COACH MALAIKA!**

JOIN US FOR A

# PAYNE JUNIOR HIGH

# PRE - TRYOUT CHEER CLINIC

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**IN THE CAFETERIA**

**COST: $50**

Registration link can be found on the Payne Cheerleading Instagram.