

# RIVERSPRINGS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHEERLEADING HANDBOOK

2021-2022

## RMS Cheerleaders Handbook



2021-2022

### **PURPOSE/PHILOSOPHY**

The primary function of the cheerleading squad is to promote school spirit and to cheer at football games, basketball games or other events. This makes each cheerleader an important representative of the school. Cheerleaders are expected to set an example for other students; therefore, they must always behave. Each member's behavior and reputation will affect the image of the entire squad. A Riversprings Cheerleader should appear friendly, courteous, responsible, dependable, and cooperative. Cheerleading is a demanding extra-curricular activity, yet it is rewarding and will help develop mature values that will assist the participants throughout their lives.

### **TRY-OUTS:**

Cheerleading Candidates:

- The cheerleading coach sets up eligibility rules. Suspension out of school and/or two or more referrals shall result in ineligibility.
- To be eligible for tryouts, a girl must maintain a 2.5 grade point average for the year.
- No cheerleader candidate may tryout unless all physical, handbook, liability, and permission forms are signed and turned in on time.
- No student with an outstanding balance of money due (to any Wakulla County School), shall be allowed to try-out.
- On tryout day, the candidates must wear blue or black shorts, white shirt, tennis shoes, and white socks. Hair must be out of face!
- Candidates will learn a cheer, chants, jumps and a dance.
- Method of selecting cheerleaders:
  - Judges will evaluate candidates on group chant (15pts), group dance (15pts), voice and spirit (10 pts), jumps (10 pts), individual cheer (20 pts). This is 70% of the score.
  - Classroom teacher evaluations and scholastics will make up the other 20%. Teachers will evaluate candidates on leadership, attitude, peer relations, conduct, and attendance. Grade point averages will be added to the score sheet.

- Coaches points will also be given at the coaches' discretion during tryouts. Candidates can earn up to 10 points based on their ability to work well with others during tryouts and their willingness to be involved in the tryout process. This will count for 10% of their score.
- Tryout practice, tryouts, or mock tryouts will not be open to parents or guardians.

## **Official Cheerleader Policies:**

- It shall be the responsibility of the individual cheerleader to acquire the complete uniform and pay for camp. Our uniform representative will come before the end of school to take the measurements of each new cheerleader for the next school year. A \$150.00 deposit will be required by that time. The remaining amount will be due before summer camp. In order to attend camp, all fees must be paid in advance.
- Fundraisers will be arranged during the year. The coach will send information to the parents making them aware of the upcoming fundraisers. All cheerleaders will be required to participate in any fundraisers.
- For discipline, a merit system will be used.
- If a cheerleader earns an "F" in any subject on a progress report/report card, or does not make the required word count, they will be benched from games/activities until they bring proof from a teacher, that the grade has been brought up to at least a "D", or word count requirement has been met.
- Each cheerleader must participate in every activity in which the squad is participating in. Games, camp and all cheer functions are school sponsored activities, and all school rules apply.
- The coaches and/or administration will have the final decision about any issue that concerns the squad.

**\*\*\*The coaches or administration will deal with any matters not specifically addressed in the cheerleading handbook!\*\*\***

## **Cheerleading Discipline System**

Explanation of Behavior Expectations:

As a chosen member of the Riversprings Middle School Cheerleading Squad, you are always responsible to your school and coaches. You are expected to uphold the highest standards of personal conduct both in and out of school. This includes sportsmanship, public displays of affection (PDA), punctuality, cooperation, respect for others, respect for coach, respect for yourself, and respect for the school.

In order to function properly and orderly, a merit system will be used. Merits and demerits can range from 1-6, as determined by the coaches.

The merit system is a series of rewards for appropriate behavior and academic excellence. Merits may also be used to "work off" any demerits accumulated. For every 1 Demerit given it will take 2 merits to

work off.

The demerit system is a series of consequences for inappropriate behavior and infractions of the Cheerleading handbook or Riversprings Middle School Code of Conduct/Handbook. Demerits are assigned by the coaches based on the disciplinary action taken for the behavior.

Merits and demerits will be kept on file by the coaches and are assigned by the coaches.

The merit and demerit system may be changed or amended by coaches and/or administration as needed. Merits and demerits are not limited to the following examples but rather give an overview of expected behavior and rewards or consequences.

Merit examples:

- All A's on report card
- A/B on report card
- Community service - (prior coach approval required)
- Any action the coach deems meritable

Demerit examples:

- Tardy to an activity, practice, or game.
- Disrespectful speech or action toward the coach or teammates.
- Bad sportsmanship.
- Wearing jewelry during a game.
- Not being dressed properly for a game or function.
- Talking to spectators during the game.
- Failure to take part in a squad activity.
- Missing practice without prior excusal, approved by the coach.
- Missing a game/function without a valid reason or prior excusal, approved by the coach. (Parents should be advised that restricting their child from cheerleading functions will not be excused.)
- Referral or disciplinary action.
- Any improper actions made by cheerleaders that require the attention of the principal may lead to dismissal from the squad.
- leaving a game or event without proper dismissal.
- Inappropriate display of behavior on social media accounts.
- Any direction given by the coach that is not followed.
- Grade of "F" on progress report / report card.
- Not meeting required word count in time for game/function.

In any event in which the squad may be participating, the coach has authority to bench a cheerleader in lieu of, or in addition to, demerits. Regardless of the number of demerits, if a cheerleader is not prepared for the performance, she will NOT cheer. This includes knowing dance, cheers, and having the proper uniform.

Consequences of Demerits

- 2 demerits will result in sitting out of one quarter of the next game day (must attend in uniform the entire game)

- 4 demerits will result in sitting out of two quarters of the next game day (must attend in uniform the entire game)
- 6 demerits will result in sitting out of the next activity, game, or pep rally (must attend in uniform)
- 10 demerits will result in a meeting with the cheerleader, parent(s), coaches, and/or the principal. The coach and principal will determine the course of discipline. Possible consequences could be missing an activity or dismissal from the squad.
- Once the determined number of demerits is reached the consequences will follow regardless of the date or if merits could be earned prior to the function in question.
- A coach will notify the cheerleader in writing or verbally when a cheerleader or mascot has earned demerits.

#### Resignation and Dismissal

- If a cheerleader resigns or is dismissed from any RMS squad, any time after the selection process is completed, they will not be eligible to tryout the following year.
- Refusing to cheer at a scheduled event is considered resignation.
- Losing all merits, refusing to ride the bus to and from games. Refusal to stay with the group when traveling, A second placement in ISS, missing more than three cheer events (unexcused or excused) Cheer events are identified as practices, games, pep rallies, and fundraisers.
- Through joint discussion of the Principal and Coach, a cheerleader may be dismissed at any time. This will only happen if the cheerleader's behavior warrants such action. This may occur even if the cheerleader has not lost all merits.
- If any cheerleader is dismissed or quits from the squad at any time during the year, the cheerleader is responsible for their remaining balance.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HANDBOOK AND DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

Cheerleading is one of many honors a student at Riversprings Middle School can obtain. With that honor comes many responsibilities above the regular student responsibilities. The Handbook and discipline system were created as a guide for the expectations of cheerleaders at Riversprings Middle School. It is not intended to be used as a tool against anyone or their beliefs, but instead to protect those who wish to do all they can to keep cheerleading the honorable position it should be. A student's signature signifies that he/she has read and understands the handbook and discipline system and they will abide by these rules, expectations, and consequences.

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Student Signature

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Date

As Parent(s)/guardian(s) you should understand that with your child being selected as cheerleader, your help is vital to the organization's success. Prompt payment on accounts, and support in following guidelines set forth in the handbook and discipline system are expected. Parent/guardian signatures signify that you have read and understand the handbook and discipline system and you will do your best, to support cheerleading and see that your child abides by these guidelines.

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Parent/guardian Signature

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Date

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Parent/guardian Signature

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Date

**Volunteers: Due to COVID 19 we will be unable to have volunteers in our buildings. The safety of our students and community is our top priority.**

# Wakulla County Schools

## COMMITTED TO SUCCESS

### NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The School Board of Wakulla County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information for applicants and employees, or any other reason prohibited by Federal and State law regarding non-discrimination. See 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25.

In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9.

Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required in advance to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation.

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to any opportunity or event associated with Wakulla County Schools.

The designated Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator as required by 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d) is Angie Walker, Executive Director of Human Resources, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; 850.926.0065; [angela.walker@wcsb.us](mailto:angela.walker@wcsb.us).

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