

2014-2015 BROKEN ARROW CHEER PROGRAM TRYOUT INFORMATION

Important Dates for 8th Grade: *See Competitive Tryout Info Below**

March 11th – Mandatory Parent Information Meeting – 7:00 p.m. at the Centennial Middle School Cafeteria

March 31st – April 3rd: Tryout Clinic

- Oliver, Childers, and Sequoyah will be held at Oliver Middle School in the gym from 3:30-5:00 pm each day.
- Oneta Ridge will be held at Oneta Ridge Middle School in the gym from 3:30-5:00 pm each day.
- Centennial will be held at Centennial Middle School in the gym from 3:30-5:00 pm each day.

April 4th: Tryouts for all school 8th Grade teams will be at Centennial Middle School starting at 3:30 p.m.

- **Clinic and Tryouts are closed. Squad Membership will be posted the day after tryouts on the District webpage under Athletics, then select the Cheer tab.**

Important Dates for High School (9th – 12th Grades):

April 7th – Mandatory Parent Information Meeting – 7:00 pm in the High School Gym

April 28th – April 30th: Tryout Clinic at BAHS Cheer Gym

- 9th & 10th Graders: 3:30 – 5:00 pm
- 11th & 12th Graders: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

May 1st – Final Day of Tryouts

- All High School Grades: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Clinic and Tryouts are closed. Squad Membership will be posted on the www.batigercheer.org the following day.**

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8th/9th Competitive Tryouts:

May 5th & 6th at the BAHS Cheer Gym from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Clinic and Tryouts are closed. Squad memberships will be posted the day after tryouts on the district webpage under Athletics, then select Cheer tab.

Responsibilities and Obligations:

All candidates who are interested in trying out for a Broken Arrow Cheer squad need to understand that there are specific responsibilities and obligations which your son/daughter must assume in order to qualify and remain part of the squad. These obligations will remain for the entire 2014-2015 school year. All cheerleaders will be considered athletes and will follow guidelines under the Broken Arrow Public Schools Athletic Department. As a leader, your child will be held to a higher standard and expectation of the coaches, teachers, and school administrators. Being a member of the Broken Arrow Cheer Program has many rewards and is a valuable experience they will remember for a lifetime. Additionally, your son/daughter will provide pride, leadership, and enthusiasm to their school, peers, and community through their dedication to the Broken Arrow Cheer Program!

8th Grade Cheer Squads:

The 8th Grade Squads will consist of 8th graders only. All team members will attend one of the Broken Arrow Middle Schools. Cheer is not considered a class during the school day at this time. All practices will be held after school or in the evenings. The 8th grade squad will cheer at football and basketball games. The squad will attend other events, such as community service events, deemed necessary by Athletics and the coaches. Some fundraising may be required in order to cover some of the expenses.

9th Grade Cheer Squads:

The 9th Grade Squads will consist of 9th graders only. All team members will attend the Freshmen Academy in Broken Arrow Public Schools. Cheer is not considered a class during the school day at this time. All practices will be held after school or in the evenings. The 9th grade squad will cheer at football, basketball, and some wrestling events. The squad will attend any other events, such as community service events, deemed necessary by Athletics and the coaches. Various fundraisers will be required in order to cover some of the expenses.

Junior Varsity Cheer Squad:

The Junior Varsity Cheer Squad will consist of Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors. All team members will attend either the Broken Arrow Freshman Academy or Broken Arrow Senior High School in the Broken Arrow Public Schools district. Your student will have cheer as their 1st hour class throughout the school year. *All team members will receive*

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an academic grade for this class. Practices are held after school and during 1st hour. The Junior Varsity squad will cheer at Football and Basketball. The squad will attend any other events, community service, and competitions deemed necessary by Athletics and the coaches. This squad may attend local, regional, and out-of-state competitions. The squad will have evening and weekend practices as necessary to prepare for camp, pep assemblies, competition, etc. Various fundraising will be required in order to cover some of the expenses. These fundraisers may occur during breaks and on weekends.

Varsity Cheer Squad:

The Varsity Cheer Squad preferably consists of Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores. Freshman may be used if their scores are consistent with those of the Varsity team. All team members will attend Broken Arrow Freshman Academy or Broken Arrow Senior High School in the Broken Arrow Public Schools district. Cheer is considered a class during the school day throughout the school year. Cheer will be during 6th hour and after school. *All team members will receive an academic grade for this class.* The squad may have weekend, afternoon or evening practices as essential for preparing for camp, pep assemblies, competitions, etc. The Varsity squad will cheer at football and basketball. Participation at other sporting events may also be required. The squad will attend other events, community service, and regional/state* competitions deemed necessary by Athletics and the coaches. The Varsity squad will also attend a Nationals Competition**. Participation in competitions is expected in order to continue the strong tradition of Broken Arrow Cheer. All team members will be required to attend and fundraise for competitions. Frequent fundraising occurs at the Varsity level. Fundraisers involve the help and support of both cheerleaders and parents. The fundraisers do involve time in the evening and on weekends. *Coaches want to reiterate that Varsity Cheer is a time commitment and requires each cheerleader to be organized and utilize their time wisely in order to be a successful student-athlete.* If athletes would like to hold a part-time job, the coaches ask that they present calendars to their managers beforehand and must realize that last-minute school events do arise. Conflicts with work schedules are not excused. If team members would like to participate in All Star Cheer squads or additional sports, athletes must understand that Broken Arrow Cheer comes first, and we ask that they communicate with coaches regarding scheduling issues.

*It is an OSSAA ruling that only 20 cheerleaders are allowed on the OSSAA Regional and State Floor. The 20 team members will be selected by the coaches based on skill level, building groups, attitude/effort, and physical abilities.

**Division will be determined by Athletics and coaches. The decisions will be made in the best interest of the entire squad.

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Tumbling Requirements:

Each cheerleader will be expected to maintain the tumbling passes that are displayed at tryouts in order to make the respective team. Therefore, the skills will be performed on a weekly basis and must be mastered on the surface that the squad is performing on that week. If a team member is unable to meet his or her obligations, they may be benched for a performance. As in any sport, in anticipation for games, coaches expect players to be prepared and perform their sport to certain ability. The following are the tumbling requirements for each squad:

8th Grade Squad: Round-off

9th Grade Squad: Round-off with a jump or back handspring

Junior Varsity: Round-off back handspring and standing back handspring

Varsity: Standing back handspring, Standing Tuck, Round-off Back handspring Tuck, Jump to Back.

These are MINIMUM requirements for Varsity. Freshman and sophomores that possess these skills will not be guaranteed a spot on Varsity.

Expectations at Clinic/Tryouts

Cheer candidates must attend at least half of the school day in order to participate in clinic and/or tryouts. Cheer candidates must attend clinic and fully participate each day. If full participation is not possible due to a documented emergency or serious medical injury (under a physician's care accompanied by documentation), the participant must perform 75% of the tryout scoresheet and have prior approval from the Athletic Department. If 75% cannot be performed at the scheduled tryout, the Athlete in question may request a secondary tryout prior to the beginning of the academic school year. The Athlete in question must petition the Athletic Department in writing with appropriate documentation before the initial tryout date. If emergency or injury constitutes a potentially valid request for a later tryout date, a meeting may be requested with the Athlete in question and his/her parents. Students who enroll in the Broken Arrow School District after initial tryout date may request a second tryout date by petitioning the Athletic Department.

Cheer Candidates must be on time to clinic in order to start learning material promptly each day, have a good attitude and be attentive to the coaches and those teaching the material. No jewelry should be worn while cheering. Come to clinic and tryouts with a clean, All-American appearance—hair pulled up, shirt tucked in, etc.

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Please understand that limited individuals who are upcoming 9th and 10th graders will make the Varsity Cheer team. Teams are broken down by the natural break which included tryouts scores and coaches recommendations. Coaches will fill 9th grade, Junior Varsity, and Varsity team based on physical abilities and needs for stunting groups.

Please encourage your child to be proud of each team and support the squad that they make. Each team will push your cheerleader to improve throughout the year.

Expectations of being a Broken Arrow Cheerleader – Attendance/Practice Schedule

Cheerleaders must attend practices, game and events as scheduled by coaches. All events listed on the monthly calendars are mandatory. Older cheerleaders should provide calendar to employers in order to take off work. Work is NOT excused! Come to practice with a good attitude and willingness to work hard. Broken Arrow Cheer and squad practices, games and events come before All-Star Cheer. All-Star practices are not excused.

JV and Varsity practice every school day during 1st and 6th hour, after school and on some weekends as they prepare for upcoming events.

8th & 9th Grade Cheer holds practice after school and on some weekends as they prepare for upcoming events.

If a family vacation is planned during a practice time, the coaches must be made aware in advance and must approve the absence. Please know that your child will receive a make-up workout(s) for missing a practice or game/event and may be excluded from cheering an event or competition. If you are aware of future vacation dates, please make sure your coaches are aware of them in advance.

Appearance:

Broken Arrow Cheerleaders are held to a higher standard by their teachers, coaches and Administrators. Cheerleaders need to understand that all rules apply to them and should be an example and leader at school. Each team member will follow the Spirit Handbook and Broken Arrow Student Athlete Social Networking contract once they make the squad.

No visible tattoos, ink drawing of tattoos, or unusual/unnatural hair colors shall be displayed by Broken Arrow Cheerleaders. The coaches have the ability to sit a cheerleader out until their appearance is within our expectation guidelines. **No jewelry should be work to practice, games, or competitions – including belly rings, nose rings, and ear jewelry.** We strongly suggest that you do not get any new piercings during the

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cheer season (May 2014-April 2015) due to the fact that all piercings need to be removed when in practice, uniform, or while representing Broken Arrow Cheer. If you do not take a piercing out, you will sit out of practice and not participate in ANY cheer related activities and subject to point deductions and consequences until it is removed. Hair will be worn as instructed by the coaches with a designated ribbon or bow. We expect that each cheerleader's school day attire is following the school dress code and represents Broken Arrow Cheer to the fullest.

Behavior In and Out of School

Be respectful of all coaches during practice and outside of practice.
Be respectful of teammates both inside and outside of cheer.
Commit to being a Broken Arrow Cheerleader for the entire season.

Bullying, intimidation or harassment of fellow cheerleaders, students, or coaches at practice, after practice, at school, at home, or on any multimedia medium (for example, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Text Messages, or by Email) is 100% not tolerated by Broken Arrow Cheer, Athletics, or Broken Arrow School Administration. Any such behavior can result in removal from the Broken Arrow Cheer Program.

Expectations of Varsity Cheer Booster Club and Parents:

There is one Varsity Cheer parent who will serve as a liaison to Athletics. Each team will elect an at-large representative to represent their team at monthly booster club meetings. Boosters will meet one day each month. This ensures that all squads can be represented and informed at all meetings.

Parent Expectations

In order for each 2014-2015 Cheer Squad to be successful, we want to encourage involvement in the Broken Arrow Cheer Booster Club. The Cheer Booster Club is established as a means to SUPPORT the cheer program and coaches in a positive manner. The Booster Club is NOT a means to make decisions for coaches. Please keep in mind that coaching decisions are made in the best interest of the entire squad. All coaches want the best for the program and each individual cheerleader.

Lines of Communication

The following lines of communications will be followed for the upcoming year:

1. Cheerleader discusses concern with their coach.
2. If the concern cannot be resolved through this discussion, the Coach will then discuss the concern with the parent either via email or phone.
3. If the concern is still unable to be resolved, the coach will discuss the concern with the Spirit Coordinator/Athletic Director.

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4. Coaching staff and concerned parent will be able to resolve any concerns. Please keep in mind that coaches have other responsibilities and commitments outside of cheerleading and it is asked that parents respect their personal and professional time.

The Booster Club shall focus on the betterment of the Program. All parents and cheerleaders will follow the communication protocol as established in the Cheer Program outline. Parents must work together, support the coaches, and demonstrate appropriate behaviors for the cheerleaders to model. All parents will be expected to fundraise (especially at the Varsity level). Parents must be willing to participate in events and help with various fundraisers, socials, and meals in order to have a successful year. Please do not text, email or talk to coaches in an inappropriate manner (or past quiet hours).

We look forward to an exciting and successful year!

Broken Arrow Coaches and Athletic Directors