

# 2019-2020 Cheerleading Tryout Packet

***Our Cheer Philosophy:*** *The Faith Academy Cheerleaders will serve to lead, direct, and support the spirit of our athletic teams, and student body at all events and games. Cheerleaders shall promote excellence in education, spirit, sportsmanship, physical fitness, positive image, and leadership whether on or off the field. Cheerleaders shall strive to maintain high standards of morality and social conduct.*

## **FAITH ACADEMY CHEERLEADING OBJECTIVE:**

Participation in our cheerleading program is a privilege and an opportunity. Along with this privilege come certain responsibilities. In addition to representing yourself, you are also representing your squad, the sport and team, your coach, your school, and even your community. Therefore, cheerleaders must conduct themselves appropriately **at all times**, not just at games or school activities. Success of the cheer squad is dependent not only on the team, but also each cheerleader's effort, and willingness to work as a team. This includes behavior displayed on social media as well. Be aware that if it is discovered that a cheerleader has an inappropriate social media post, the coaching staff will be permitted to add or follow the cheerleader and further consequences may occur depending on the situation.

## **CHEERLEADING TRYOUT PROCEDURES:**

The Cheer Coordinator and her coaching staff will conduct cheer tryouts once during the academic year for both football and basketball seasons. A cheerleader who quits mid-season in a prior year will forfeit her opportunity to try out for the next school year. All squad members must tryout every year. Past experiences in cheer or dance is no guarantee that a candidate will be selected for the upcoming year.

1. **TRYOUT INTRODUCTION MEETING:** The cheer coordinator will conduct an introductory parent meeting at which time a packet of important information and consent forms will be available. A Parent/Guardian of the candidates must attend. This year the meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm-7pm in the High School Theater. Cheer Tryouts will be April 1-5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the Big Gym from 3:30pm – 6:00pm. At this meeting, you will...
  1. Meet the Cheer Coaches and coaching staff.
  2. Hear about current staffing needs.
  3. Hear about additional topics which may be of interest which include:
    1. Cheer Rules Guidelines and Informational and Parent Conduct Code, Student Conduct Code
    2. Discussion of the candidate's responsibility to submit to following:
      1. Acknowledgement of the estimated expenses of participation
      2. Physical on official AHSAA form (online)
      3. Complete and paid Registration for the upcoming school year.
    3. Description of tryout clinic and tryouts
    4. Description of the selection process
    5. Discussion of responsibilities of cheerleaders and family support throughout the cheer season
    6. Clarification of conflict management and team building. A life of friendships, family, and fun!
2. **TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS:**
  1. **MUST** attend Tryout Interview, Clinics, and official Tryout. This years dates are Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Candidates must be in good physical condition/health in order to participate in the clinic and tryouts.
  3. Candidates will tryout in groups and will be assigned a random number to determine the tryout order.

4. Candidates are asked to wear hair up in a pony-tail, pulled back and sprayed securely out of her face. In addition, athletic shoes with no-show socks, PE shorts and shirt that can be purchased in the bookstore.

The school administrators, cheerleading coaches, Athletic Director, judges, and cheerleading candidates and graduating senior cheerleaders are the only people permitted in the try out areas. No other spectators will be admitted. Cheerleaders are required to allow these adults to observe their performance.

All cheerleaders will be expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times; this includes good sportsmanship at tryouts and clinics leading up to tryouts and throughout the season.

### 3. CLINIC & JUDGING:

1. Outside judges, with cheer experience or association, will determine a score that reflects the criterion by candidates to make the cheer squad.
2. Candidates will encounter 3 days of a clinic where they will learn the components of a short dance, sideline cheer and band chant. A review of jumps will also be provided.
3. Candidates will be judged on the following:
  1. Dance
  2. One sideline cheer
  3. Band Dance
  4. Toe touch and a jump of their choice
  5. Appearance
  6. Attitude and Teacher Recommendation
  7. Past performance in our cheer program will be considered. If a cheerleader has not met the requirements in the previous year, he or she may not be recommended to the program this year.

### THE BASICS:

1. Uniforms consist of two uniforms (a shell, skirt, body liner), shoes, socks, briefs, poms, bow, warm-ups and any accessories (ie: megaphone, jacket, etc).

*\*Cheerleaders must always conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a Faith Academy Cheerleader whether or not he/she is wearing a district uniform or an optional and whether or not he/she is at an event or activity or outside of school hours.*

### FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

1. Individual Costs: Fundraising is available for uniforms, supplies, and camp costs. Parents/Cheerleaders will have opportunity to fundraise to help cover cost.
2. Group Fundraising: We encourage all cheerleaders to participate in all fundraising projects throughout the year. The money raised with group fundraising will be used for additional agreed upon expenses during the year that help to make the total experience abundantly rewarding. Examples of such group fundraising includes: Car Wash, Cheer Camp, and any other activity the coach deems for group fundraising. Donations to, and fundraising for Faith Academy Cheerleading funds or charity projects may be conducted as agreed by the squad and coach.

### PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Parents must agree and sign the Cheer Parent Code of Conduct as a requirement for acceptance into the program.
2. Parents are asked to be positive role models.

3. Parents are asked not use cheerleading as a punishment, when a cheerleader misses practice or a game, it affects the entire squad since we are a performance team. Parents recognize that “we” all perform together; “we” do not operate independently.
4. Do not schedule dental work, doctor’s appointments, vacations, etc. at this time. A calendar is provided at least a month in advance.
5. Once school begins, practice will be held during 7<sup>th</sup> period for Varsity and after school for Junior High and Youth Cheer in a designated location.

#### **CHEERLEADING RULES:**

1. The Spirit Program Constitution must be agreed upon and signed acceptance submitted after tryouts. Each candidate will be provided one copy to review.
2. For Varsity: Grades for the program are based upon the cheerleader’s leadership initiative, attendance, adherence to the dress code, behavior, & performance at all practices, games and events.
3. A cheerleader recognizes that if she becomes ineligible at any time during the term, she will be dismissed.

#### **FORMS:**

1. Forms are created to help ensure all cheerleaders have a safe and positive cheerleading experience. All forms are required to be turned in prior to participation in Faith Academy Cheerleading Program. **No one** will be allowed to stay at the tryout clinic unless all forms are turned in to the Cheer Coordinator/Head Coach.
2. See the following pages for all forms pertaining to Faith Academy Cheerleading:
  1. Registration form
  2. Physical Form
  3. Interview Form
  4. Estimated Cost of Participation (Keep for your records)
  5. Score Sheet Breakdown (Keep for your records)

**\* Please keep this packet at home for reference.**