



RRISD
McNeil Cheerleading
Addendum
2020-2021

This handbook is a living document. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in this document, the coach(es) and/or school administrators will address the incident on an individual basis. The resolution of an incident may not be addressed with the entire team due to privacy issues involved. In addition, in order to benefit the cheer program, the coach and/or administrators reserve the right to revise this handbook at any time.

I.GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE/SCHEDULE

- ❖ The McNeil Cheer organization is a year round performance group. Members are required to participate in summer camps, practice, football season, basketball season, and other activities as assigned.
- ❖ Cheerleaders are expected to use the information tools shared with them (Remind, Email, Website, Calendar, etc.) and be present at all practices, games, events.
 - The official cheer calendar will be updated regularly with cheer commitments.
 - Tutorials must be scheduled around practice and event times.
- ❖ Absence from school on a performance day may exclude cheer member from participating.

CAMP REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Summer Camps and practices will be MANDATORY. Failure to attend summer camp will result in program dismissal.

TRANSPORTATION EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ Cheer members are expected to travel by bus or school approved transportation to and from assigned events.
 - An exception may be approved if the cheer member's parent or guardian submits a written request that the cheer member be allowed to ride with the parent or guardian or designated adult to the principal and cheer coach(es) 24 hours before the scheduled trip. The District shall not be liable for any injuries that occur to students riding in vehicles not provided by the school.
- ❖ Cheer members will abide by all school transportation rules, procedures and safety guidelines.
- ❖ Cheer members will leave any transportation vehicles free from trash and belongings.

II.EXPECTATIONS

ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR

- ❖ Because participation in Cheerleading is a privilege and not a right, McNeil Cheer is authorized to set higher standards for participants than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Important goals of the program are to give students direction in developing character, self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.
- ❖ A cheer member is one who is willing to set aside his/his/her own personal agenda for the whole program's pursuit of excellence. This is done by hard work, dedication and self-discipline.
- ❖ Members will demonstrate good sportsmanship, promote school spirit and display genuine concern for others.
- ❖ Cheerleaders are expected to be leaders within the school community on and off the field, as well as, on and off the campus.
- ❖ Cheerleaders represent McNeil High School and McNeil Cheer at all times.

- ❖ Cheerleaders must comply with the McNeil Cheerleader Handbook, UIL Rules, the RRISD Cheer Handbook, and the RRISD Student Handbook. Should a student be cited for illegal activities outside of school, they will be removed from the team.

SQUAD LEADERSHIP

There may be several positions available for leadership/officer roles. The leadership/officer application process will be updated each spring after tryouts.

III. DISCIPLINE POLICY

DISCIPLINE

- ❖ Participation in cheer is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the school, the organization, to the student body, and to the community. Therefore, a cheerleader is never truant from class. He/she is never to smoke, drink, or use any kind of illegal drug either on or off campus. Profanity shall not be a part of his/her vocabulary. He/she must maintain sound citizenship and desirable social traits. Attitudes and behaviors of cheer members reflect positively or negatively on the entire team.
- ❖ The cheerleaders are never to be at an event where any illegal activities are taking place. Regardless of whether the cheer member is participating in the activities or not, regardless of whether an adult is present or not. This may result in loss of membership in the program.
- ❖ Cheerleaders will be held accountable for their behavior in and out of school.
- ❖ Cheerleaders must comply with all expectations, which are written and verbally addressed by the coach(es). Non-compliance will result in consequences to be determined by the coach(es).
- ❖ Members that do not comply with set expectations may receive consequences and/or strikes, which may lead to benching or possible dismissal from the program.
 - Benched cheerleaders are still required to attend the performance and sit where designated by the coach
 - Failure to attend to will result in additional strikes
- ❖ 4 strikes=removal from team
- ❖ Strikes accumulate throughout the year, as well as over summer break. It is the cheer member's responsibility to be aware of strikes. Accounting of strikes for each year's team starts the first day of summer practice though the end of the school year.
- ❖ Strikes cannot be removed

Strikes

The list below includes, but is not limited to, examples of behaviors that would be considered

- ❖ Violation of any school rule
- ❖ Tardiness to a practice, game, performance or event
- ❖ Absence from a game, practice, event, or performance (including those with McNeil groups)
- ❖ Failure to wear full, assigned uniform and thus not being able to cheer
 - Including wearing nail polish, nails too long, fake nails extending beyond the fingertip, wrong bow, or jewelry that cannot be removed
- ❖ Using inappropriate language
- ❖ Failure to follow social media guidelines
- ❖ Disrespect to team members or any adult on or off campus
- ❖ Truancy or any other referral
 - Fighting or damaging property will result in immediate removal from the team
- ❖ Leaving a game, event or practice early

STRIKES ARE PERMANENT throughout each individual year of membership; strikes start over each year of membership.

The coach(es) will document each strike. If at any time a cheerleader is removed or resigns from the squad, he/she will not be allowed to attend future events including the cheer program banquet. In addition, he/she may be removed from the class period.

If coach(es) or the school or district administrators deem an offense severe enough, a cheerleader may not receive a strike at all; he/she may be placed directly on probation, or removed from the squad at the discretion of the coach(es) or the school or district administrators. The strike system will be followed to promote character, leadership behavior, academic excellence, and positive cheerleader representation.

Suspensions

Removal from the team will occur when a squad member reaches 4 strikes or commits an immediate removal behavior. Cheer members are still responsible for any monies owed and must return all school issued equipment/uniforms to the coach(es).

Suspensions will be decided on an individual basis and may involve the administrators' decisions.

IV. COMMUNICATION/CHAIN OF COMMAND

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

Communication coach(es) should expect from cheer members:

- ❖ Concerns expressed directly to the coach(es) at the appropriate setting and time
- ❖ Concerns about mental and physical treatment from coach(es) and peers
- ❖ Notification of any injury (minor or major) prior to participation in any activity
- ❖ Notification in advance of absences, emergencies, tardiness, etc. via email, phone, or text
- ❖ Concerns about academic eligibility and plans for success

Communication coach(es) should expect from parents:

- ❖ Concerns regarding a son/daughter should be expressed directly to the coach(es) at the appropriate setting and appropriate time.
- ❖ Issues appropriate for discussion with the coach(es):
 - Mental and physical treatment of your student
 - Plan for success of your student
 - Behavior of your student
 - Safety of your student
 - Other concerns for your student
- ❖ Issues not appropriate for discussion with a coach:
 - Squad selection of cheers, chants, stunts, or elements of a performance
 - Assigned uniform and hair for activities
 - Any situation that includes other cheer members or students

Communication parents/guardians/cheer members should expect from cheer coach(es):

- ❖ Requirements the coach has for each student and the squad.
- ❖ Locations, dates, and times of practices, events, performances, and games. (Please note, sometimes there are last minute changes. Every effort will be made to inform members of changes to locations, dates, and times of activities).
- ❖ Squad requirements of special equipment, uniform, squad rules/regulations, travel arrangements, and expectations (during and off season).
- ❖ Procedures in the event the student becomes injured during a practice, game, or event.
- ❖ Coach(es) communicate using various methods such as, Remind application, google calendar, school e-mails, and/or phone.

Communication between parent, school, and coach(es):

- ❖ If at any time a cheer member or parents feels he/she needs to discuss a issue or complaint, the appropriate channels of communication must be followed:
 - ❖ Do not confront the coach(es) before, during or after a practice, game or event. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.
 - ❖ Do not visit the cheer class without prior permission from the campus principal or his/her designee and the Cheer Coach(es)
 - Approved visitors must check in through front office & wear appropriate credentials
- 1. Call or email to set up an appointment with McNeil Cheer coach(es)
- 2. Outline and define objectives for a meeting and stick to discussing facts
- 3. If meetings with the coach and/or school principal do not provide a satisfactory resolution, a parent or guardian should move to the next step in the appeal process.
 - The process of appealing a decision is provided in the RRISD Parent and Student Handbook.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

McNeil Cheer Booster Club

McNeil High School has a Cheer Booster Club. This optional group exists to support the cheer program. Booster clubs can be disbanded at any time per instructions from the cheer coach(es) or administrators.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- ❖ Read and understand the handbook
- ❖ Accept and sign the cheerleading handbook
- ❖ Agree to arrange or provide transportation for your student to and from assigned events
- ❖ Be on time for drop off and pick up of your student
- ❖ Accept the associated costs of the cheer program
- ❖ Agree to assist with fundraisers
- ❖ Assist with chaperoning as needed
- ❖ Assist with delivering food and/or supplies as needed
- ❖ Report any injury (minor or major) to the coach(es)
- ❖ Obtain a written release from a doctor for a student to return to participation following any injury in which a doctor was seen
- ❖ Set a good example for your student at events
- ❖ Refrain from gossip and/or negative social media use

McNeil Cheer Program Parent/Guardian/Student Agreement

Parent/Guardian/Cheer Member – Read the entire Round Rock ISD and McNeil High School Cheer Handbooks thoroughly. Please initial and/or sign each statement below. This form is required for participation in the tryout process and in the McNeil cheer program

For the Parent/Guardian:

_____ I understand by the very nature of the activity, cheerleading and gymnastics carry a risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the participants and coach(es) are, the number of spotters used, or what landing surface is used, risk of injury cannot be eliminated. The risk of injury includes, but is not limited to, minor injuries such as pulled muscles, dislocated joints and broken bones. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries including, but not limited to, permanent paralysis or even death from landing or falls on the back, neck, or head. I understand these risks and will not hold McNeil High School, the McNeil cheer coach(es), the McNeil cheer consultants, or any of the RRISD personnel responsible in the case of accident or injury at any time during the tryout process or cheer season.

_____ I have read and discussed the responsibilities, rules, and expectations outlined in the McNeil Cheer Handbook and any consequences for non-compliance with my daughter/son and will assist her/him in complying with those aspects.

_____ In the event of an emergency where I cannot be reached, I hereby grant my authorization and consent to all medical care, treatment, procedures, or physician consultations deemed necessary in order to ensure the health of my child.

I have thoroughly read and understand the 2020-2021 MHS Cheerleader Handbook. I agree to help and encourage my child to abide by all rules and expectations laid out in cheer handbook, as well as others that may arise during the season.

I agree to first contact the coach(es) if I ever have any problems or conflicts or disagree with any decisions made.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

For Cheer Members:

I have thoroughly read and understand the 2020-2021 Round Rock ISD and McNeil Cheerleader Handbook. I agree to abide by all rules and expectations laid out in cheer handbook, as well as others that may arise during the season. I give my word to do my best to represent the McNeil Cheer Program positively and will encourage my team members to do the same.

Student Signature

Date