

BHRA High School Cheerleading

Try-out practice dates and times

- Thursday, April 4 6:00 - 7:30pm
- Monday, April 8 6:00 - 7:30pm
- Friday, April 12 5:00 - 6:30pm

Tryouts: Saturday, April 13th 10:00 - 12:00 pm

You will need the following items to try-out:

- 3 teacher evaluation forms (turned in by Monday, April 8th). These should be filled out by a teacher you have THIS YEAR for a class with a grade. (Study hall and homeroom don't count). Link listed below for teacher evaluations
<https://forms.gle/7Yyc1URLoJBbHJt56>
- Application for cheerleading (signed by cheerleading candidate and parent)
- Student/parent contract signed by cheer candidate and parent
- 1 original Floor cheer (must include a jump)

ALL FORMS MUST be turned in by Thursday, April 11th in order for students to participate in tryouts. **All outstanding cheer accounts from previous year must be settled before tryouts.**

You will be taught a floor cheer and a sideline during practices that you will use at the try-out along with the floor cheer you have created. If you miss one of these practices, you will need to obtain the video to learn the cheer.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask!

Coach Tidwell

stidwell@bismarck.k12.il.us

Procedures for Tryouts

Thursday, April 4th 6:00 - 7:30 pm learn group cheer, work on individual cheer, be assigned a cheer group for the day of tryouts.

Monday, April 8th 6:00-7:30 p.m. practice group cheer, practice jumping, mock try-out.

Parent Meeting @ 7:15 pm

Friday, April 12, 5:00 - 6:30 pm this will be a time to work on cheer clean up and work with group. This time may not be needed if girls and their groups were able to work together the first two nights.

Tryouts - Saturday, April 13th 10:00 - 12:00

- Cheerleading candidates should be in the high school gym fully ready for tryouts by 9:50. They should wear shorts, t-shirt and athletic shoes. Buying a new outfit is not necessary. No jewelry! Candidates will not be judged on their clothes, just appearance (shirt tucked in, hair pulled back and SMILE).
- Cheerleading candidates will wait in the team room. They will not be watching tryouts.
- The candidates will begin with their group cheer, followed by their individual cheer.
- Tryouts are closed for outside viewing. Only coaches, judges, tabulators and school administration are allowed in the gym during tryouts.
- Tryouts should conclude around 12:00 pm. Everyone will be asked to leave the school grounds.
- Results will be posted by Saturday afternoon April 13th on the Wilcox Gym lobby doors. All doors will be locked. Cheerleading candidates can come back to school to check the list. It will remain posted until Sunday evening, April 14th.

Try-out Judging

- Tryouts will be judged by qualified judges.
- Candidates will be judged on a group cheer and an individual cheer. (They will be judged on *appearance*: overall neatness, smile, spirit, confidence; *voice*: volume, clarity, memorization of words; and *motions*: sharpness, technique, timing, memorization of motions, jumps, originality and creativity.

Teacher Evaluations

- Teacher evaluations (3) will be added to the candidates score.
- The maximum number of cheerleaders allowed on the varsity squad is 16. There is no minimum number. The total scores will be tabulated and members will be selected according to those scores. There will be a minimum score that candidates will have to meet.
- Teacher evaluation link: <https://forms.gle/7Yyc1URLoJBbHJt56>

Financial Responsibility

After tryouts, we will order a football and basketball uniform for you. (This includes warm-up, skirt, shell, bodysuit, shoes, socks, poms, bow). You will be responsible for paying the amount. Below is an approximation of what these items could run. We will have fundraisers that the girls will be expected to participate in to help with costs. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Costs: We will try to raise money through fundraisers as much as possible. Money raised will be tracked through individual accounts. Any charges not covered by deposits and fundraisers will be the responsibility of the cheerleader. Uniforms will not be handed out if the deposits are not in by due dates.

Approximate costs - (** This is very subject to change depending on the style the girls select and the company we go with. We do try to be considerate of the cost wherever we can.)

Skirt: \$75

Bodysuit: \$150

Lettering: \$35

Shoes: \$80

Poms: \$15

Warm-Up: \$150

Camp: \$200

Bows - \$15 (We typically have one for each season)

Bag is optional but runs from \$40 - \$60

Total: \$ 750 plus shipping

- Returning cheerleaders may have some items already purchased from previous seasons. This will be a conversation that I have with the team as we decide what we want to do next year.

THINGS TO KNOW

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES: *A. Individual Costs:* Fundraising is how we pay for uniforms, supplies, and camp costs. Parents/Cheerleaders may find ways to raise funds for activities such as personal garage sales, personal car washes, and personal donations. We will have a **big fundraiser** through the month of June that will coordinate with our August youth cheer camps. If girls are motivated, this can provide for their uniforms **entirely**. Smaller scale fundraisers will be offered through the seasons. However, these are not likely to be able to pay a bill fully.

B. 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. I.e. - dinners, t-shirts for cancer nights, etc.

Time Commitment :

Practices will begin in June. A camp will also be in June. We do need a commitment from each girl to be at practices during the summer. (Roughly once a week in June and then August). **Practices and games are mandatory.** Our success depends on the group as a whole. Girls who cheer for basketball will be asked to participate in certain fall events (Homecoming decorating, etc.).

ALL practices, games, organized fundraisers (youth camp) and any other cheerleading function are mandatory. Football season ends late October/early November. Basketball season usually ends in early March. We will give you the schedule as soon as we have it but it doesn't give postseason exact dates. **Please keep in mind that the postseason is still part of the season. Girls are expected to be at those games.**

The squad is expected to cheer all football games regular season and postseason as well as all boys JV/Varsity basketball games (including Thanksgiving and Christmas tournaments as well as rescheduled games). This is a

definite time commitment. If a cheerleader has a job/commitment outside of cheer and school, please understand that cheer is expected to come first.

If this is a conflict - please consider if cheerleading is for you.

Our Cheer Philosophy: The BHRA 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, positive image, and leadership whether on or off the field. Cheerleaders shall strive to maintain high standards of morality and social conduct. As in all BHRA sports - we must remember we are representing our squad, coach, school and community.

Cheerleader Parental Agreement Parent/Guardian: As a parent/guardian, I give my child permission to try out for cheerleading. By initialing next to each statement below, I am verifying that I understand and agree to abide by each: _____ All forms must be turned in by Thursday April 11th, 2024 or my child will not be eligible to try out.

_____ If my child makes the squad, I understand that she must attend uniform fittings (date to be announced).

_____ I agree to pay the costs described, minus any profits my child raises during fundraising activities, by the deadlines outlined in the information packet.

_____ If my child is chosen, I understand that she must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the coach and the principal and be present for all practices and games. I agree not to question the coach's decisions regarding the enforcement of said rules and regulations once the cheer season begins.

_____ I agree to serve as a positive participant in the BHRA cheer family and to convey my support of the coach and the cheer program to my daughter.

_____ I understand my child will have to purchase items so everyone will look uniform and as a team.

_____ If my child does not know the material or routine I understand that she will be subject to benching.

_____ There are inherent risks involved in the sport of cheerleading. I agree not to hold BHRA or any of its personnel responsible in the case of accident or injury at any time.

_____ I understand that cheer is a group sport and my child needs to prioritize practices and games. If my child has too many unexcused absences, she may be removed from the squad.

_____ I understand that cheerleading tryouts are a process and that qualified judges will evaluate my daughter. I agree to abide by the decision of the judges and understand that their decision is final. My signature below verifies that I have read the entire information packet and understand the selection requirements as well as what is involved in cheerleading for BHRA High School.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

Student Agreement: I am trying out for cheerleading. By initialing by each statement below, I am verifying that I understand and agree to abide by each:

_____ I agree to follow all guidelines stated in this packet. I understand what is required for tryouts for BHRA cheer.

_____ If I do not follow the rules and guidelines set by the school and the coach, I understand that consequences will result, and I may be removed from the squad.

_____ I know that I am expected to maintain my grades during the entire season.

_____ I know that I am expected to do my fair share of fundraising in order to help my parents and team with the expense of cheerleading.

_____ I know that if I am selected, I am agreeing to put cheer first when it comes to schedules i.e. outside activities, work. I understand that if I have 3 or more unexcused absences that I may be removed from the squad. I understand that County Cheer competition will require extra time and practices and will make sure I am present at these practices and County competition.

_____ I know that if I am selected as a cheerleader, I will not only be representing my team, and myself, I will be representing BHRA High School.

_____ I agree to serve as a positive participant in the BHRA cheer family. I understand that negativity among my cheer sisters and/ or others only contributes to the division of our squad. I will handle my questions or complaints maturely and will approach the coach at an appropriate time to discuss cheer issues. My signature below verifies that I have read the entire information packet and understand how I will be selected, as well as what is involved in cheerleading for BHRA High School.

Cheerleader Personal Evaluation:

Have you been a cheerleader before? Why do you want to be a cheerleader?

Do you have tumbling experience? List

Do you want to be a cheerleader or is someone else encouraging you to do it?

What do you see yourself contributing to the squad?

Do you understand that cheerleading at BHRA involves competition in certain circumstances but also strongly focuses on being a spirit squad (organizing activities that create and encourage school spirit)? This involves making signs, leading pep assemblies, decorating lockers, etc.

Do you agree that upon making the BHRA cheer squad, you commit to all it entails **and free your schedule up to accommodate it? (Games, practices, special events such as HOCO week and County week.)**

_____ Student Signature and Date