

8th Grade Cheer Tryouts

February 26-March 1, 2018

5:00-6:30, CJHS North Gym

***Please fill out the Contestant Information Sheet and Participation Agreement on the last page**

Tryouts

Tryouts for 8th grade cheer for the 2018-2019 school year will be held from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., February 26-March 1, 2018, at the North Gym at Conway Junior High. Tryouts are open to students currently enrolled in the 7th grade in Conway Public Schools. Students may begin signing-in at 4:45 on Monday the 26th. Students must be picked up promptly at 6:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Thursday's start and ending times will vary and be announced later. Students may have no more than two absences for the week. This is a closed tryout.

All required paperwork must be completed and turned in at sign-in on Monday, February 26th. Students with incomplete paperwork will not be allowed to participate until completion is verified. All forms needed to participate are located on the Athletics page at the district's website: www.conwayschools.org. Current athletes may use their current physical, concussion and consent form on file at the athletic office.

Required forms include

- ✓ Information sheet/participation form
- ✓ Current physical
- ✓ Concussion form
- ✓ Consent form

Tryout numbers for those making the team will be posted on the North Gym door by 10 p.m. on Friday, March 2nd.

What should I wear to tryouts?

All students trying out for cheer should wear blue shorts and a plain white sleeved t-shirt, sports bra (girls), and clean athletic shoes. Tank tops and camis are not sleeved t-shirts. Hair should be pulled back out of one's face. Nails should be clipped short to prevent injuries to oneself and to others. No nail polish or excessive makeup. Do not wear hair bows. Hair should be a natural color. Pink/blue, etc. are not natural colors. Do not wear or bring jewelry to tryouts. Do not get new piercings before tryouts, cheer clinic, or cheer season. These guidelines provide for all contestants to look similar like a team and not stand out or be recognizably different and also provide safety.

Contestant Expectations for Cheer

- ✓ Great attitude
- ✓ Follows and takes direction well
- ✓ Learns quickly
- ✓ Smiles
- ✓ Voice projection not screaming
- ✓ Motions are sharp and accurate
- ✓ Tumbling skills are smooth/connected
- ✓ Jumps: toe-touch, herkie, pike

Top scores make the team.

How much time is required of a cheerleader?

Cheer is a year-long class meeting 6th period, Monday-Friday. We cheer for blue and white side football and basketball home games both boys' and girls' teams. That involves approximately 40 school nights required attendance. Parent/guardians must provide transportation to and prompt pick up after games. Coaches are not allowed to transport cheerleaders/students. Cheer practice may begin as early as the first week of August. Steak Out is typically the first Saturday after school begins and attendance is mandatory. Participation in the Faulkner County Fair Parade in September is under the supervision of parents. Basketball Madness is beginning school-wide scrimmage for basketball teams. Pep assemblies will be held during school hours. Cheer clinic for new cheer teams are held three days in April after school in the South Gym. And...possibly more.

Costs for Personal Items

Required personal items to be purchased MAY include items such as shoes, poms, windsuit/jacket, rain jacket, bag, and bows. This will cost approximately \$300. Extra items that some may choose to purchase might include cheer socks, sports bra, and spirit attire. Cheerleaders will be fitted for items after school on Wednesday, April 25 and items will be paid for by parents at the Varsity website by May 4th. Yearly fundraisers may include spring tumbler sales and Steak Out tee shirts sales.

Uniforms

Cheer uniforms are property of the Conway Athletic Department. They will be assigned by the cheer coach and returned to the cheer coach the week after the last basketball game which is typically mid-February.

Cheer is a Sport!

Cheer is considered a team school sport and part of the Athletic Department. Team members are expected to be in physical shape for athletic participation. Physical conditioning is part of team sports. When basketball season is over, off-season cheer conditioning will be an everyday class expectation.

Behavior Expectations

Cheer represents Conway Junior High and cheerleaders are expected to demonstrate leadership and act as role models for our school. Respect for coaches and teammates is expected at all times whether on or off campus, during school hours or non-school hours.

Texting and social media sites should not be used to gossip or make suggestive, derogatory, or harassing comments about anyone. Harassment or bullying of teammates or other students is strictly forbidden.

Poor attitudes/behavior will prevent stunting for cheer. Stunting can be very dangerous and only teams that work together will stunt.

Poor attitudes/behavior can result in benching or removal from the team.

Questions?

For more information regarding cheer, please contact Leigh Ann Raney, 8th grade cheer coach, at raneyl@conwayschools.net.

***Please fill out the Contestant Information Sheet and Participation Agreement on the next page**

Be sure to bring this form along with physical, consent, and concussion forms. All forms must be signed and completed or you will not be able to participate.

Contestant Information Sheet and Participation Agreement

Name_____ Tryout # (TBA)_____

Middle School (circle one): Courtway Stuart Simon Doyle

Parent(s) Name(s):_____

Best Phone Number:_____

Emergency contact name and number other than above:

Are there any **current** medical conditions that the coaches should know about? For example: allergies, asthma, concussions, breaks/sprains, etc.

Participation Agreement

Please know that if you make the cheer/dance team, it is not just a commitment during school hours; it also requires time outside of school. These out-of-school times will be mandatory, and no absence except another school activity or unforeseen emergency (such as illness or death in the family) will be excused.

If your child is involved in competitive cheer/dance, volleyball or basketball, he/she will not be excused from any school cheer practice or ballgames due to competitive events. If you feel this commitment will be a problem, please don't take a spot of someone who is willing to be committed to our school cheer/dance team.

The financial responsibility for required items will be approximately \$300.

I understand this commitment.

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____

8th Grade Dance tryouts are one week after 8th grade cheer tryouts. If you do not make the cheer team, you may try out for dance with the same forms. If you make the cheer team, you may not also try out for the dance team.

_____ I plan to try out for dance if I do not make the cheer team.

_____ I do not plan to try out for dance if I do not make the cheer team.