BMS Cheerleading
Tryout Information Packet
2014-2015
Dear Parents,

Your child has shown an interest in trying out for the 2014-2015 Benton Middle School Cheerleading Squad. Please note the important dates:

- Monday & Tuesday, April 14-15: Clinic 2:45-4:30 BMS Gym
- Wednesday, April 16: Mock Tryouts 2:45-5:00 BMS Gym
- Thursday, April 17: Tryouts 2:45-finished BMS Gym
- Thursday, April 24: Parent Meeting at 6:00 BMS Library
- Tuesday-Thursday, July 15-17: Mandatory Cheer Camp

We are very excited about beginning a new year with a new group of girls! Please make sure that you read each component of this packet in detail. Girls trying out for BMS cheer and their parents need to be aware that the squad spends many hours in practices, supporting school activities, attending football and basketball games, and conducting fundraisers. We want all parents to be aware of the $500 cost of cheer ($400 uniform & $100 camp). For candidates who make the squad, the first $250 is due on Thursday, April 24 at our parent meeting. The remaining balance of $250 is due prior to uniform fittings on May 1st.

For many students, this will be the first time to try out for a group for which there is a selection process that will result in some not making the squad. For this reason, there will be a panel of highly qualified judges who are not associated with Benton Middle School who will judge each candidate on her individual performance of material taught at clinic. Candidates are asked to wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes and avoid clothing that is too revealing to clinic. Attire for tryouts should consist of a solid white top and black or purple shorts/bottoms. There is to be NO writing, slogans, designs, etc. on clothing. Judging will begin at 3:00. There is no way to know how long tryouts will take; however, please have your child’s ride waiting outside the gym by 4:45 PM. Tryouts will consist of an individual cheer and jump series, as well as a group cheer, chant, and dance. Within each category, judging will be on projection, technique, and knowledge. The clinic and tryouts are closed to everyone except the participants.

Tryout results will be posted on the cheer website that evening (www.bentonmiddle.com under Athletics- Cheer) as well as information regarding a celebration dinner for the newly selected squad. Please read carefully with your child the below criteria and expectations for Benton Middle School Cheer candidates. Please know that students who make the squad will be expected to attend all practices, functions, games, community involvement, and other events from beginning to end. Your dedication and commitment to the team is imperative. Strongly consider this and all of the other requirements before you make this year long obligation.

After reviewing all information and requirements in the packet, please remove the pages that require a signature and return them to Mrs. Crawford (Library) or Mrs. Eagle (A-3) along with your $20 tryout fee in an envelope labeled with the student’s name on the front by Wednesday, April 9. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please contact us with any questions you may have. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Crawford & Mrs. Eagle
In order to tryout, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Maintained a 2.5 with no Fs for the first three 9 weeks grading periods

- Sixth grade students must not be 14 by September 1, 2014

- Sixth grade students must have been a member in good standing of pep squad 2013-2014 school year

- Seventh grade students must not be 15 by September 1, 2014

- Seventh grade students must have been a member in good standing of pep squad, choir, band, BMS Tigerline, BMS cheerleaders, Archery, Lady Tigers basketball, or Lady Tigers softball for the 2013-2014 school year

- Only exceptions will be for students who are new to BMS and were not able to join any of the above

- Must attend a full day of school the day of tryouts in order to tryout

- Must be physically able to accept the challenges of cheer activities

- Must have had no behavioral referrals resulting in GASP or suspension

- Meet the monetary obligation of $500- $250 due on Thursday, April 24 at the mandatory parent meeting with the $250 balance due at fittings on Thursday, May 1 at 3:00 PM

- Must participate in all cheerleading functions, practices, fundraisers, and school/community events throughout the year (These events will be announced prior to or at the start of the school year)

- Must attend the Bossier Parish Middle School Cheer camp at Cope Middle School on July 15, 16, 17 from 8 AM-4 PM

- Must pay a non-refundable tryout fee of $20 (for judges, scorers, choreography) when tryout packet is turned in- packets will not be accepted without this fee

- To ensure that you and your student are completely aware of our expectations for the 2014-2015 school year, please read each attachment carefully, paying close attention to the disciplinary procedures and the duties of a BMS Cheerleader. Sign and return each form requiring a signature.
The disciplinary procedures for this organization are a demerit-based system. A Cheerleader will be dismissed upon receiving 20 demerits or for conduct unbecoming of a member in or out of uniform. The sponsors are responsible for giving demerits and for keeping a copy of the demerits given. The principal will review all recommended dismissals. Cheerleader members and parents will be notified when 10 demerits are reached.

The image of the school, sponsors, and other cheer members is to be considered at all times.

The following are behaviors/situations that are cause for immediate dismissal:

• A member caught using, possessing, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol (IN OR OUT OF UNIFORM)
• Posting or uploaded negative/inappropriate images or messages on any social networking site or any part of the internet
• Bullying
• Suspension
• Fighting

Any reports of such behavior will be evaluated. The sponsors and/or principal will review any decision to discipline based on such reports before any action is taken.

Demerits are points assigned for poor conduct or performance. Sponsors are the only ones to assign demerits. The following items will receive demerits:

**UNIFORM:**

1- CHEWING GUM IN UNIFORM AT SCHOOL
1- CHEWING GUM IN UNIFORM AT PEP RALLY OR GAME
5- APPEARANCE IN AN INCOMPLETE UNIFORM, THIS INCLUDES POMS, BODYLINER, SOCKS, & BOWS (MEMBER WILL NOT PERFORM)
1- UNTIDY UNIFORM AT PEP RALLY OR GAME (HAIRSTYLE, MAKEUP, ETC.)
1- WEARING JEWELRY OR UNAUTHORIZED ACCESSORIES (INCLUDING HAIR BANDS AND JACKETS) WITH UNIFORM, WEARING NAIL POLISH IN UNIFORM
5- NO UNIFORM WORN ON A SPIRIT DAY TO SCHOOL

**PRACTICES:**

1- NOT IN COMPLETE PRACTICE UNIFORM (INCLUDING SHOES) OR THE WRONG PRACTICE UNIFORM
1- TARDY FOR PRACTICE OR GAME
1- CHEWING GUM OR EATING AT PRACTICE
5- PICKED UP MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE FROM A PRACTICE OR FUNCTION.
5- LEAVING BEFORE DISMISSAL
5- UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE (SPONSORS MUST EXCUSE PRIOR TO PRACTICE)

PERFORMANCE:
5- EATING OR DRINKING DURING A GAME (OTHER THAN AT BREAKTIME)
5- USE OF ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE WITHOUT SPONSOR’S PERMISSION
5- UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM GAME (SPONSORS MUST EXCUSE PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE)
10- ATTENDING A FUNCTION NOT IN UNIFORM OR NOT PARTICIPATING
5- LEAVING A FUNCTION BEFORE DISMISSAL
1- NOT KNOWING DANCE OR NOT PERFORMING TO BEST ABILITY
5- TALKING OR LAUGHING WHILE PERFORMING

BEHAVIOR:
10- BEING DISRESPECTFUL TOWARD SPONSORS, PARENTS, OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL
10- UNSPORTSMAN-LIKE CONDUCT TOWARD PEERS, ATHLETIC TEAMS, OR COACHES
10- PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION IN OR OUT OF UNIFORM
5 - NOT MEETING FULL REQUIREMENTS OF A FUNDRAISER/SPRIT ACTIVITY
5 - PLACED IN AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION
10- PLACED IN GASP/REFERRAL

Note: Team members could be given more than one penalty for certain actions and behaviors.

GRADES:
Any member falling below a 2.5 GPA will be on academic probation until the next progress report. If the GPA has not improved by the end of the nine weeks (report card time) the member will be on academic suspension until the next progress report. The member will be unable to perform but will be expected to attend all functions.
By signing below, I am stating that I am aware of all procedures, consequences and expectations of being a member of the Benton Middle School Cheer Squad, and I have gone over the BMS Cheer Constitution with my child.

MEMBER SIGNATURE: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________

PARENT SIGNATURE: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________
BMS Cheerleading Tryout Information Sheet

Due Wednesday, April 9, 2013 to library

Name: ______________________________________________________

Grade: _____________________________________________________

Birthday: ___________________________________________________ 

Street Address: ______________________________________________

Telephone #: ________________________________________________

BMS Spirit organization/sports you were a member of during the 2013-2014 school year:____________________________________________

Fee: $20 cash to be place in an envelope with name on the outside
Cheerleading Tryout Parental Permission Form

The following student, __________________________, has permission to try out for BMS cheerleader. We have read the requirements and understand our obligation to encourage our child to accept the previously mentioned responsibilities associated with this commitment.

We understand the financial obligations of this program. We also understand that the school and sponsors assume no responsibility for any accident or injury that might occur at or away from school during an event or practice and that our child must be covered by our own insurance.

Parent Signature:_____________________________ Date:__________________
Phone:_________________________ Emergency Phone:___________________

Candidates Agreement

I have read the BMS Cheerleading requirements and understand the responsibilities and privileges of being a member of the Benton Middle School cheer squad. If selected, I will abide by the rules governing the cheerleader. I will cooperate fully with the sponsors and all persons and organizations concerned to promote spirit and good sportsman-like conduct.

At all times, whether at or away from school, I will conduct myself in a manner that best represents the students and faculty of Benton Middle School.

I understand that failure to follow these regulations will result in suspension or dismissal from the squad.
Candidate Signature:_____________________________ Date:________________