Elm Grove Middle School
Cheerleader Constitution
2015-2016

Purpose:
The purpose of middle school cheerleading is to promote school spirit and a positive school environment by participating at athletic events and extra-curricular activities as deemed appropriate by the administration and sponsors. As recognized school leaders and ambassadors for school, community, and parish, cheerleaders are expected to be positive role models at school and in the community at all times.

Membership:

Eligibility:

- Cheerleader candidates must have her parent’s permission to try-out for cheerleader; a signed permission slip must be submitted to the sponsor prior to the date of try-outs.
- Cheerleader candidates must have at least a 2.5 grade point average to try-out. **Report cards will be checked.** A 2.5 GPA will be maintained throughout the year. No Ds or Fs will be allowed once you make the squad.
- Membership is open to all girls entering the seventh or eighth grade who have previously served on pep squad during sixth grade and one of the following organizations during seventh grade: pep squad, cheerleading, dance line, band, choir, violin, basketball, softball, student council, or robotics. Transfers and extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Any girl with a mandatory suspension for the current year will not be allowed to try-out.
- A girl must attend the mandatory instructional clinic.
- All girls must represent the ideals and morals of Elm Grove Middle School and Bossier Parish School Board.
- All girls must pay a $20 tryout fee to cover the cost of judges.

Membership Requirements:

- Candidates must commit to serve as an Elm Grove Cheerleader for an entire year (academic and calendar).
- Candidates must be able to attend each day of the Bossier Parish School Board cheerleader camp to be held July 15-17, 2015.
- Girls must be athletic and skilled in precision movement.
- Each member must be capable of purchasing practice and performance uniforms. Also all props, travel expenses, and camp fees are expected to be paid by each member. All deadlines for such fees must be met, as designated by the sponsor.
- All expenses must be paid before the cheerleader is allowed to attend camp.
- Grade point average must be maintained. Girls will be placed on probation for one 9-weeks session. If grades are not brought up, membership will be terminated. Also, a cheerleader with a grade of “F” or “D” in any course will be placed on probation until progress reports are issued for the following 9-weeks. If the grade is not brought up, membership will be terminated.
Girls must be prepared to practice after school and designated mornings during the summer. Girls will be attending all football games, home basketball games, and other designated events. (Attendance is mandatory)

Cheerleaders may participate in concurrent SCHOOL athletic activities. Conflicts in scheduling of practices and performances will be handled by the coaches and sponsors, not the students or parents.

Cost:
- The cost of cheerleading is established by Bossier Parish School Board. The cost is $450.00 with $350.00 to pay for the cheerleader’s uniform and supplies, and $100.00 to pay for the cost of summer camp.
- Necessary and mandatory fundraisers will be held throughout the year to cover costs of any supplies or additions to uniforms. All members must participate to the extent established by the sponsors with the approval of the administration.

Tryout Process:
- The tryout process is organized and facilitated by the cheerleader sponsor(s).
- The girls will try-out before a panel of three or four judges and the sponsor(s). The judges will give the sponsor(s) a recommended list of girls according to their physical ability.
- The judges have the authority to call back any girls in any order to perform the tryout routines again.
- The sponsors and other designated faculty members will be present in the tryout room for the sole purpose of giving instructions, transporting score sheets to the tally station, etc. Sponsors do not tabulate results of the judging.
- An administrator will be present at all times during the tryout.
- The girls trying out will have adult supervision at all times.
- Candidates are in the tryout area for the length of their performance only.
- The tryouts are a closed tryout. No spectators, including parents, will be permitted in the tryout area.

Selection Process:
- The number of girls making the squad will be determined each year by a noticeable break in the total scores.
- Each judge scores the candidate’s performance using a numeric scale. The judge’s scores are tabulated to yield one total score for each candidate.
- The candidate’s judges’ score is then added to the previous sponsor score, teacher recommendations, and GPA to determine an overall score.
- This score is ranked in numerical order by the candidate’s number.
- The scores given by the judges are always final. The scores and rankings will be stored in a secure location for one calendar year. No other candidate’s scores or rankings will be discussed with any parent for any reason.
- If a parent has a question about his/her own daughter’s performance, the sponsor(s) will be glad to offer areas of improvement.
- No alternates will be named.
Leadership:
Officers of the organization **MAY** consist of one captain and one co-captain.

Eligibility:
- Must have a 3.0 grade point average.
- The sponsor(s) will appoint based on a points system.
- Must have a good discipline record in school and be approved by the sponsor and principal.
- Must possess cheer abilities and show leadership.
- Captain and co-captain **MAY NOT** participate in other school sports that will force absences from practices and/or performances.

Duties of the Captain:
- Teach and perfect all routines.
- Preside at all the games.
- Appoint committees, and supervise their work.
- Perform all duties assigned to her as top ranking officer.
- Conduct all practices throughout the year.
- Communicate with the squad any information the sponsor deems necessary.

Duties of the Co-Captain:
- Act on behalf of the Captain in her absence.
- Assist the Captain in any designated capacity.
- Aid in teaching and perfecting all routines.
- Help maintain order.
- Perform all duties assigned to her as an officer, as designated by the sponsor.

Discipline and Consequences

Demerits:
Any member receiving 20 demerits will forfeit her membership from the squad for the remainder of the year. The following list of violations will result in the designated demerits. Any officer may report violations, but the sponsor(s) makes the final decision regarding the giving of demerits.

- Gum chewing (practice or performance) **1 demerit**
- Tardiness to practice or to a performance (excused only as designated by the sponsor) **1 demerit for each 5 minutes late**.
- Being picked up late (5 or more minutes late) **1 demerit per 5 minutes**
- Unexcused absences: Practice **3 demerits** - game **6 demerits**
  Excused absences will be those accepted by the BPSB: illness of self, death in the family, and religious holidays. All absences must be substantiated with a parental phone call preferably. Prior notice of absence is mandatory except in case of emergency. The sponsor may accept absences due to extenuating circumstances after conference with the member and parent. **Any doctor appointments or dental exams must be scheduled on days when there is not a cheer event.**
  ***If a member is unable to practice for reason of injury or extended illness, attendance at practice and games in full uniform is still mandatory. The member will be required to sit in an area designated by the sponsor(s).***
- Inappropriate, dirty, or incomplete uniform (practice, game-day, and games) **1 demerit per item**
- Public display of affection while in uniform (sitting on lap, hanging on each other, kissing, hugging, holding hands, laying, or leaning on each other) **5 demerits**
- Failure to comply with standard behavior while cheering: **1 demerits**
  - Sitting, cheering, and standing as directed
  - Refraining from talking to non-members
  - No eating, drinking—except at designated breaks
  - Observing designated break times
  - Not cheering on the sidelines
  - Talking and/or turning around to other cheerleaders
  - Using cell phone (practice or performance)
- Disrespect – to any authority figure (including captain, co-captain, and any adult): **5 demerits**
- Use of profanity: **5 demerits**
- No part of the uniform should be worn anywhere other than cheerleader activities: **2 demerits**
- Behavior/Conduct unbecoming to the honor of being a Elm Grove Cheerleader: **DISMISSAL**
- Suspension from school **may** lead to automatic **DISMISSAL**.
- No jewelry or other accessories (including hair accessories) while in uniform or at practice – **1 demerit**
- When in uniform or at practice, hair will be in ponytail unless otherwise specified – **1 demerit**
- No part of the uniform should be worn by anyone other than the current cheerleader: **2 demerits**
- Misuse of electronic websites and devices: Demerits determined on case-by-case basis, but could result in removal from squad.
- If a stunt is dropped during a performance, **1 demerit** will be given to each member of the stunt group.
- Must meet deadlines (turning in paperwork, fundraising, etc.): **1 demerit** per day late
- A cheerleader will receive **2 demerits** per day of detention, and **3 demerits** per day of GASP. If GASP is assigned a 2nd time, cheerleader will be removed from the squad.
- When report cards are issued, each cheerleader has 3 school days to provide a copy to the sponsor. Each day this is late is **1 demerit**.
- The sponsor reserves the right to issue demerits for any other act deemed inappropriate or harmful.

**Performance Requirements:**
- A member who is absent from practice prior to a game will not perform at that game.
- It is mandatory that a member communicate absences and tardies with the sponsor(s) **before** they happen. Otherwise, demerits will be charged.
- Members must be at school at least 4 hours (1/2 day) to participate unless prior arrangements are made.
A member who has demonstrated that she does not know the material will not perform at the next game, but will dress in full uniform (as designated by the sponsor).

When a member has accumulated 10 demerits, a contract will be signed by the parent, cheerleader, and sponsor. Upon accumulation of 15 demerits, the parent, cheerleader, and sponsor may hold a conference with an administrator. Upon accumulation of 20 demerits, a dismissal meeting will be held with the parent, cheerleader, sponsor, and administrator.

Members must be in full uniform as designated by the sponsor or they will not perform.

Any girl receiving a discipline referral from the school may be suspended from a game, subject to review from the sponsor and principal.

A member who is suspended from a game must attend in full uniform, or she will be suspended from the next game and receive her 6 demerits for failure to attend a performance.

Each member will be required to perform even if the performance is postponed to another date, no matter the reason for the postponement. In extenuating circumstances, a conference between the parent, sponsor, and cheerleader must occur prior to the newly scheduled date.

Failure to meet academic eligibility requirements (2.5 GPA) will result in probation for 1 9-week period. Members must attend all practices and performances during this time period. At the end of the probationary period, membership will be terminated if grade requirements are not met. A cheerleader with a grade of “F” or “D” in any course will be placed on probation until progress reports are issued for the following 9-weeks. If the grade is not brought up, membership will be terminated.

Dismissal:

Any member who is in violation of the following will forfeit her cheerleader membership.

- Accumulation of 20 demerits.
- If a member on probation does not regain a 2.5 average by the next 9-weeks session.
- Mandatory suspension as imposed by BPSB Discipline Policy for the following offenses:
  - Possessing weapons
  - Striking any school personnel
  - Initiating or instigating a fight
  - Possessing or using alcohol
  - Willfully defacing, stealing, or destroying school property
  - Willfully initiating any false alarm
- Refusal to comply with a reasonable request of the sponsor.
- The sponsor reserves the right to issue a dismissal for any act deemed necessary of removal.
- Any dismissal will be done by the sponsor with the approval of the principal.
The sponsor reserves the right to make amendments to the constitution as is necessary.

These by-laws were revised on March 23, 2015. All changes were approved by the principal and current sponsor.

Signatures Required:

Member___________________________________________

Parent_____________________________________________