

Parent Packet – Rocket Cheer 2022

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Q – When are practices?

A – ALL grades will have practice on Thursdays from 6:30-8:15pm. 7th & 8th graders will also have an additional practice on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:15pm. However, during the three weeks before school starts, ALL grades will practice on stated days from 6:30-8:15pm. Dates are TBA for summer.

Q – Where are practices?

A –All practices starting in September will be at Riley Street Middle School. Please use the SIDE entrance closer to the gym.

Q – What do they wear to practices?

A – Participants should wear athletic clothing and TENNIS SHOES, preferably white. For safety reasons, they will not be allowed to participate in all activities if they are wearing flip-flops, crocs, or sandals. Jeans or jean shorts are discouraged as they restrict movement. Please also have their hair up and off their shoulders and **remove all jewelry** prior to the start of practice.

Q – Can I stay and watch at practice?

A – Yes! I think it's great for parents to observe their children at practice. However, I ask that you simply observe and refrain from distracting the participants while they practice.

Q – Why is my child playing games at practice?

A – Games are a great way to get to know everyone's names and become comfortable with their teammates. They are also a great end-of-practice reward for good behavior and can help release extra energy that is distracting them from a productive practice.

GAME INFORMATION

Q – When are games?

A – This depends on grade level. 1st & 2nd grade games will be on Saturday mornings, 3rd & 4th grade games will be on Monday nights, and 5th & 6th grade games will be Tuesday nights. Exact game times depend on how many football players register and will be announced in August. Games (including warm-up time) usually run approximately 2 hours. The 7th grade games are Wednesdays at 4:00pm, but the cheerleaders need to be on the field at 3:30pm to warm up. The 8th grade games are Wednesdays at 5:30pm, but the cheerleaders need to be on the field at 5pm to warm up.

Q – Where are the games?

A – All 1st & 2nd grade games are held at the Baldwin Stadium where the high school games are played. All 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade games are held at the new field on Allen Street by the high school (near Gemmens and the bus garage).

Q – What do they wear to games?

A – They should wear their uniform to games, which consists of their shell, skirt, and lollie. Tennis shoes (preferably white, but can be any color) are required. Please also have their hair up and off their shoulders and **remove all jewelry prior** to the start of warm-ups.

Q – What if it's cold on game days?

A – If the weather is chilly, don't be afraid to bundle them up! Tanks, t-shirts, or long sleeve tees may be worn under their shells and sweatshirts, jackets, sweatpants, mittens, scarves, etc. may be worn over top. While I prefer navy or Hudsonville apparel, my first priority is that they stay warm!

Q – Where do I sit at the games?

A – You will be sitting on the bleachers at the games. **No parents are allowed on the tracks.** Both teams will be cheering on the home side of the track, one team on each end. At the beginning of the season, we will decide which team will be cheering on which end

and it will remain this way for the duration of the season. If you are unsure which end your child will be cheering at, please ask one of your child's coaches at the game.

PROGRAM FEES

Q – When are payments due?

A – There is a \$20 deposit that is required to be paid by the registration deadline (August 1st at 11:59 pm). If you do not pay this, your daughter will not be considered registered for the program. The remaining balance should be paid as soon as possible, but NO LATER THAN the end of the first practice.

Q – Is there a refund policy?

A – Yes! The refund policy is as follows:

- If you cancel your registration before the registration deadline, you will get 100% refund including the cost of a uniform.

- After the registration deadline, but before the first practice you can be refunded for \$65 of your registration fee (\$20 deposit becomes non-refundable). Additionally, you must still pay for the cost of the uniform since it was already ordered, but it is yours to keep.

- After the first practice, no refund will be issued for registration fee or uniform, but the uniform is still yours to keep

- Should the season be canceled due to COVID or any other reason outside of the control of the league, some form of refund will occur. The details/amount will depend on how far into the season this occurs and this will be communicated ASAP.

Q – Can I make payments instead of paying all at once?

A – If it is absolutely not possible for you to make full payment by the first practice, please contact me and we can see how to proceed.

UNIFORMS & CHEER GEAR

Q – When do uniforms come in?

A – 1st-6th grade uniforms should be ready for pick up by August 31st. Look for an announcement stating they are ready to be picked up at practice. 7th & 8th grade uniforms will be handed out to them at the first week of practice (as this is when we will fit them).

Q – Can my daughter wear her uniform to school?

A – For 1st-6th graders - I discourage them from wearing their uniforms to school because of stains and spills. However, as long as the uniforms are approved by the school and its dress code, I cannot prevent them from wearing them to school. For 7th and 8th graders, due to the fact that they are renting school property, we do not allow them to wear their uniforms to school in order to limit damage to the uniforms.

Q- My uniform from last year no longer fits, can I sell it?

A – The 2019/2021 season 1st-6th grade skirts and tops are available for \$15 credit for each piece (\$30 for the set). Please note that we only accept uniforms that are gently used and are not damaged. We reserve the right to refused a uniform for resale. Additionally, we do not accept lollies for sale.

Q – What is “cheer gear” and when is it due?

A – Cheer gear is the fundraiser we do to raise money for additional expenses that the program incurs. We will be selling t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, sweatpants, and cheer shorts. An order form will be available online in the near future. Cheer gear will be due on August 25th. Please make sure that you order everything that you want the first time because we will NOT have a 2nd order this year.

Q – What if my cheer gear order is not what I wanted? (Color, size, name on the back, etc.)

A – If you RECEIVED the wrong item (ie: ordered a small but received a large), please come and talk to Britni so I can correct my error. If you ORDERED the wrong item (ie: ordered a small and got a size small but they don't fit), unfortunately there is not anything that I can do.

OTHER FAQ

Q – My child has a friend that would like to sign up for cheer, when is the latest time they can register?

A – The registration deadline for ALL grades is August 1st at 11:59 pm. Please make sure they register before this day online. NO ONE will be accepted after this date!

Q – Do we get anything for referring a friend?

A- YES! I have a Rocket Referral program. If you refer one friend, you receive a FREE cheer gear t-shirt. If you refer two friends, you receive a FREE cheer gear t-shirt and \$10 off registration. If you refer three friends, you receive a FREE cheer gear t-shirt and \$20 off registration. Unfortunately, there are a couple of restrictions... the person you refer CANNOT be an immediate family member (so siblings don't count...sorry!) and that person has to have not done Rockets in the past. Finally, the person you refer has to mark on their registration form that YOU were the one who referred them! (There will be a spot on the online form for them to mark it.) It is your responsibility to ensure that they mark it. If it is not marked on their form, I cannot give you the referral benefits.

Q – When does my child need to be at games and practices?

A – Game warm-ups begin ½ hour before the games begin. I ask that they are ON TIME to all practices and games. However, *please do not be more than 10 minutes early because I need to ensure that there are coaches present to supervise your child!*

Q – Why is my child not stunting?

A – Because stunting requires a certain number of people per group, uneven team numbers can often mean that somebody has to sit out. This does not mean that your child will never get to stunt. Coaches are instructed to involve everyone in stunting and will rotate people in and out of stunt groups so everyone gets a chance to participate.

Q – My child wants to fly. Is this possible?

A – One thing that is highly stressed in cheerleading is versatility. Not everyone is able to be a flyer- who'd be left to hold them up? ;)

Encourage your child to be open to trying all positions of stunting as they are equally vital to successful stunting.

Q – My child is a gymnast. Can they do their skills at games?

A – I leave it up to the coaches to decide how gymnastics will be incorporated into their time on the track. For safety reasons, all skills your child wants to perform MUST be approved by their coach, and they MUST be able to do it on their own (without a "spot").

Q – What if my child loses something at a game or practice?

A – I have a "lost and found" tub that will be available at practices only. I will put any items I find at practices or games in the lost and found tub, so please check there for any missing items.

Q – I made something for my child and wondered if other parents might like one also. Can I sell my cheer-related items at practice?

A – If you would like to sell your cheer-related item to other children in the program, please let me know and I can let you show your item to everyone at the end of practice meeting. I cannot give out email addresses or other personal information of people in the program, and I leave you responsible for arranging all orders and collecting all money.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH MY QUESTION?

Q – Who do I contact if I have a concern with one of the coaches?

A – If you have any concerns, please come and talk to Coach Britni, Coach Kristin, or Coach Maddie. I ask that you do not contact the coach directly, but let me address any concerns you may have about them.

Q – Who do I contact if there is bad weather?

A – Please see the “Weather Policy” portion on the website. It explains the practice and game cancellation policies and what will happen if there is a cancellation.