

Rockdale Bulldogs



ROCKDALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CHEER PROGRAM

Varsity/JV Football and Varsity/JV Basketball
Cheerleading Tryouts Information Packet

Parent Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

RCHS - Cleveland Stroud Gymnasium

6:00 p.m.

Tryouts Dates:

March 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2023

RCHS Gymnasium

3:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION FOR YOUR
RECORDS AND READ IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH
PARENT!!**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Coach Donna Payne
dpayne@rockdale.k12.ga.us
770-483-8754 ext. 28209

Coach Vanessa Burch
vburch@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Coach Kendrallynn Edwards
kedwards1@rockdale.k12.ga.us
770-483-8754 ext. 28202

Coach Tashica Ford
tford1@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Dear Cheerleading Candidates and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in trying out for a position on a 2024 - 2025 RCHS Cheerleading Squad. We appreciate your enthusiasm, patience and interest in our program. This can be a truly rewarding experience, but it also requires hard work, a passion for the sport, a tremendous time commitment, as well as a financial commitment and flexibility.

Additionally, a squad member must be a model student, whether virtual or hybrid, and be able to work well with others and the coaches, as cheerleading is a team sport! Please be aware of this as you prepare to take on the challenges and responsibilities of becoming a potential member of the RCHS Cheerleading Program.

Included in this packet, you will find information that will help guide you in making an informed decision to tryout as well as information about the tryout process and costs. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Cheer Coaches.

Daily Tryout Clinic Attire & Necessities:

Black shorts * Solid White t-shirt * Sneakers

ALL Hair MUST be pulled up in a ponytail

Absolutely NO jewelry and neutral nail color

NO visible tattoos, NO piercings, NO earrings (belly, nose, ears, etc)

Please bring your own water bottle and towel

**(if not in compliance, you may NOT be admitted
and/or point deductions may apply)**

ROCKDALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Cheerleading Tryout Guidelines

2024 - 2025

The dates and times for the RCHS Cheer Clinic & Final Tryout Day are as follows:

		<u>Session time</u>
Monday	3-25-24	3:15* - 6:15
Tuesday	3-26-24	3:15* - 6:15
Wednesday	3-27-24	3:15* - 6:15
Wednesday (Final Tryout Day)	3-28-24	3:30* - until each tryout group is finished

* Report to Gym lobby area, Dressed out, **Check In with coaches PRIOR to entering gym**

**Middle School students should arrive by 4:15 p.m.

In order to tryout, you **MUST BE** cleared of any RCHS **OUTSTANDING** balances. You must also be **CLEARED** in PRIVIT! Additionally, ALL paperwork (which must be completed **ELECTRONICALLY**), must be turned in no later than Friday, March 22nd. Your **\$10 tryout fee** must be turned by the first day of tryouts. **This includes those who were members of the 2023 - 2024 RCHS Cheer Program (ALL BALANCES MUST be CLEARED) as well (NO EXCEPTIONS). Do NOT** bring a hard copy of your completed packet with you to the tryout clinic, it must be submitted electronically.

NO completed packet, NO completed PRIVIT, NO tryout fee... NO participation!

Completed packets should include **ALL** of the following:

- Tryout Application Packet, completed and submitted electronically
- Parent Permission/Release Form (included in packet, signed electronically)
- Parent/Candidate Agreement (included in packet, signed electronically)
- **\$10.00 Tryout Fee** (first day of tryouts)
- Latest progress report (infinite campus) for high school students **and** middle school students (**cumulative GPA must be 2.0 or higher**) for **ALL** candidates. Students must pass five(5) classes on permanent report card.
- **PRIVIT Clearance!!!** Current Physical Examination completed on the OFFICIAL GHSA Sports Physical Form *see RCHS website, under EXTRACURRICULAR, ATHLETICS, then PRIVIT directions. You will also find the official GHSA PHYSICAL FORM on this site (Physical Examination and Clearance Form **MUST** be completed and uploaded online as well as a CURRENT Insurance Card. Additional required information **must** also be completed and signed electronically BEFORE receiving clearance in PRIVIT)* Be sure you are on **Rockdale County High School's PRIVIT site** and be sure to **select CHEERLEADING 2023-24** as your sport or we will not be able to see your documents.
- **Four(4) teacher recommendation forms** (three (3) **MUST** be from Core teachers) Please note: *recommendation forms should be forwarded to the teacher by the candidate. Teachers will then forward completed forms to the Coaches electronically. Recommendations are confidential and **are included in candidate tryout totals** NOTE: Coaches CANNOT complete student recommendations.*
- Remember.... You should NOT have ANY **OUTSTANDING RCHS balances!!!** This includes cheer balances from the previous year.

Teacher recommendations **are required** and must be submitted electronically through JotForm by the recommending teacher, NOT the student, by **Friday, March 22nd**.

<https://form.jotform.com/dspayne1219/rchs-2024-25-cheer-recommendation-f>

All RCHS candidates are expected to report to the gymnasium at the designated time and be **dressed and ready** by 3:30 p.m. daily. (Middle school should arrive by 4:15 p.m.)

All candidates should have a ride home at the end **NO LATER** than 6:30 p.m. every day (except for tryout day) as candidates may leave once their tryout session is complete. Pick up on tryout clinic days will be in the gym parking lot. NO EXCEPTIONS. Not adhering to this guideline will result in immediate dismissal from the tryout process.

BEFORE TRYOUTS

1. Get or have a current physical uploaded/cleared in RANK ONE.
2. Complete all application materials and be sure **ALL RCHS Outstanding balances are CLEARED.**
3. Email teacher recommendation forms to 4 teachers. THREE(3) must be your current Core teachers: Math, Science, English, or Social studies and ONE(1) may be your elective teacher, **NOT** any of the Cheer Coaches. Make sure teachers are aware that they must submit the completed form electronically by Friday, March 22nd.
4. Submit all application packet forms electronically
5. Bring \$10 tryout fee (cash) on the first day of tryouts. (please bring correct amount)
6. Check your cumulative GPA. It must be at least or 2.0 AND you MUST have passed FIVE(5) classes. **THIS WILL BE CHECKED!!!**

DURING TRYOUTS

1. All candidates must report to the gym at their designated session on time each day of tryouts. Material will be taught during the tryout clinic ONLY.
2. Attend **ALL** sessions. (If candidate is in season, at the time of tryouts, with another sport, see Coach Edwards or Coach Payne **before** the date of tryouts).
3. Each candidate is responsible for learning all material; therefore, absences and tardies may affect your performance and ability to make the squad.
4. **NO VISITORS OR SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE PRACTICE SESSIONS OR TRYOUTS. ALL CHEERLEADING TRYOUT SESSIONS AND TRYOUTS ARE CLOSED. (THIS INCLUDES PARENTS)**

Tryout Attire:

Black shorts * Solid White t-shirt * Sneakers

Hair **MUST** be pulled up in a ponytail

Absolutely **NO** jewelry, *this includes apple watches* and **NO** colored nail polish
(*clear or neutral nail color only*)

NO visible tattoos, **NO** piercings, **NO** earrings (belly, nose, ears, etc)

Please bring your own water bottle and towel

AFTER TRYOUTS

1. Cheerleaders will be notified Friday, March 29th by 3:00 p.m.
2. All Parents of candidates who are selected for a squad are required to attend a **MANDATORY** meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the RCHS Gymnasium. A **deposit of \$300** will be due at this time. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Cheer fees and payment schedule will be distributed & discussed at that time in detail. **NOTE:** ONLY Cash or Money Orders will be accepted.....We cannot accept checks. You may also use the online payment system (*there is a fee*).
3. All those selected, must adhere to the payment deadline schedule or the cheerleader will NOT have the appropriate team items for performance events. Items cannot be ordered without prior payment.
4. All those selected **must** attend summer camp **To Be Announced** at the parent meeting (this is contingent upon "dead" week in RCPS). All squads will also condition/practice in the RCHS GYM during the summer, dates have not been determined as of yet. Please make sure you consider other obligations that may interfere with mandatory cheerleading events **BEFORE** making a decision to tryout. Those who make a squad are **EXPECTED TO ATTEND!!!**

2024-2025 Cheer Squad Selection:

There will be 4 cheer squads for the 2024-2025 school year (Varsity Football, Varsity, Basketball, JV Football & JV Basketball). Candidates will be able to state which squad(s) they would like to try out for on their applications (incoming 9th graders, JV squads ONLY). Placement will be **based on scores**. The higher the score, the greater chance to make your first choice.

Once a squad is filled (16 per squad, unless there is a TIE), your second choice will be considered, if applicable, and so on. Once again, understand that you will be placed on a squad **based on your scores**. If you do not make your first choice and your score allows you to make your second or even third choice, there will be no switching!!!

Please THINK, before you make your selection(s). If you are **NOT** willing to participate on another team, **do not select it**. It is NOT fair to another candidate that may have made a specific team, if you are not content with your selection and decide to quit 😞 *and unfortunately, there will be NO modifications should this occur.*

Varsity Football Cheer – official season runs from August thru early November

- Varsity is open to rising sophomores(10th) to seniors(12th)
- Cheerleaders will be expected to cheer for both home and away games, including playoff games.
- **Up to** 18 cheerleaders **may** be chosen for VFB.
- Skills include jumps(including multiple jump sequences), chant/cheer motions and performance, dance and presence (voice projection/facial animation)

Varsity Basketball Cheer – official season runs from November thru February

- Varsity is open to rising sophomores (10th) to seniors (12th)
- Cheerleaders will be expected to cheer for both home and away games, including playoff games.
- **Up to** 18 cheerleaders **may** be chosen for VBB.
- Skills include jumps(including multiple jump sequences), chant/cheer motions and performance, dance and presence (voice projection/facial animation)

JV Football Cheer – official season runs from August thru October

- JVFB is open to rising freshmen to juniors; **DO NOT** choose JV if you are unwilling to cheer on a JV team. **Seniors....please DO NOT SELECT a JV CHEER TEAM**
- Cheerleaders will be expected to cheer for both home and away games, **including playoff games**.
- Up to 16 cheerleaders may be chosen for JVFB.
- Skills include jumps(including multiple jump sequences), chant/cheer motions and performance, dance and presence (voice projection/facial animation)
- JV Cheerleaders will also be required to assist in senior night preparation
- JV Cheerleaders will also cheer at the season opening Scrimmage & Varsity Senior Night

JV Basketball Cheer – official season runs from November thru January

- JVBB is open to rising freshmen to juniors; **DO NOT** choose JV if you are unwilling to cheer on a JV team. **Seniors....please DO NOT SELECT a JV CHEER TEAM**
- Cheerleaders will be expected to cheer for both home and away games, **including playoff games**.
- Up to 16 cheerleaders may be chosen for JVBB.
- Skills include jumps(including multiple jump sequences), chant/cheer motions and performance, dance and presence (voice projection/facial animation)
- JV Cheerleaders will also be required to assist in senior night preparations
- JV Cheerleaders will also cheer at the season opening Scrimmage

IMPORTANT!! IMPORTANT!! IMPORTANT!! IMPORTANT!!

In order to make the cost of cheerleading for parents manageable, will have a 5 or 7 payment installment plan (note: 6 or 8 payments for Seniors). **Payments will begin April 11th** and **MUST** be adhered to. Initial payment of \$300 is expected at that time, Please plan accordingly. Cost breakdown will be distributed on this date (average cost \$1,250 - \$1,850 depending on squad, senior fees will be additional \$300 VFB & \$350 VBB). **Cheer Fittings will be in April (TBA)**. We will offer ONE fundraiser that will allow candidates to raise funds towards their individual account (participation is up to the cheerleader/parent). Cheerleaders and parents need to be aware of the enormous commitment it will take on everyone's part to continue to build a successful program. Fundraising will continue through the year to handle unforeseen costs and all cheerleaders and parents are expected to participate (volunteer). **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON** or the cheerleader will not receive items on time and will NOT be able to perform during events. **This is EXTREMELY important!!!**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

*Items are ordered immediately and cannot be cancelled. It is also imperative that cheerleaders attend the official cheer fitting to ensure **customized** uniforms fit properly.*

- **Complete** the Cheer Application:
<https://form.jotform.com/dspayne1219/2024-2025-rchs-cheer-tryout-applica>
- **Complete** a RCHS **RANK ONE** account (*current physical & insurance*), select *Cheerleading 2023-24* (*this will be updated at a later date*). Account **MUST** be cleared by the Athletic Director to be eligible to tryout.
- **Sign up** for REMIND for RCHS cheer tryout updates, info and announcements. Squads will also be posted in REMIND
Text: **@rctryout24** to **81010** to JOIN
or log into the remind app in your classlink and join @rctryout24
- **Four(4) teacher recommendations** **MUST** be completed *It is the candidate's responsibility to copy and paste the following link in an email to the teachers you would like to have complete (you may need to ask or remind them, as a courtesy, if they will complete the form 😊)*:
<https://form.jotform.com/dspayne1219/rchs-2024-25-cheer-recommendation-f>