

# BHS Cheer Tryout Packet 2009-2010



Dear Cheerleading Candidates & Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in trying out for the 2009-2010 Branham High School Cheer Squad. We at Branham believe that cheerleading is a rewarding and exciting sport that teaches teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, leadership, school spirit, and hard work. Being chosen to represent Branham High School as a cheerleader is both an honor and a privilege. As a Branham cheerleader you will be in the forefront as a representative of our school and will be expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct and with honor at all times, both on campus and off. Keeping this in mind both you and your parent/guardian should read the following information to ensure you fully understand both the responsibility and commitment expected of you as a Branham High School cheerleader.

While deciding whether or not to be a part of our year long competitive cheerleading program, please remember and consider the time and commitment this sport will require from both the student and parents. Your commitment will require active participation in after school practice (3x weekly minimum), pep rallies, summer camp, fundraisers, team bonding, weekly games (football and basketball) and competitions. Due to the fact that cheerleading is a team sport, one person's inability to follow through on their commitment affects the entire squad. In addition to the time commitment you will need to take into consideration your academic requirements and the considerable financial impact. Here at Branham you are a student first and an athlete second.

Please consider ALL of these factors before deciding to tryout. Our cheerleaders have earned the right and expect to be considered athletes. In order to be treated like an athlete, one must work and act as an athlete. This means being committed to your team and to yourself.

We look forward to an exciting try-out clinic and wish each and everyone of you the best of luck!

BHS Cheer Coach & Advisor,  
Nikia Crawley

[BranhamCheerCoach@yahoo.com](mailto:BranhamCheerCoach@yahoo.com)

# Cheer Tryout Schedule

The following dates are mandatory for those who wish to tryout for the Branham High School Cheer program. You will be taught the material you will be judged on during these dates. It is in your best interest to attend all of the dates in order to learn all the materials. If you cannot attend all of the clinic dates you need to inform the coach as soon as possible and make accommodations to learn the material you will miss.

For each day you attend the clinic you will receive an additional 5 points towards your final tryout score.

- Monday, April 6: Tryout Clinic @ 3:30-5:30 pm in BHS Small Gym
  - Turn in required information/permission form!
- Tuesday, April 7: Tryout Clinic @ 3:30-5:30 pm in BHS Small Gym
- Wednesday, April 8: Tryout Clinic @3:30-5:30 pm in BHS Small Gym
- Thursday, April 9: Tryout Clinic @ 3:30-5:30 pm in BHS Small Gym
- Friday, April 10: Tryout Evaluations @ 3:30-??? in BHS Small Gym
  - Don't forget letters of recommendation and proof of grades!

## **What will I be learning during the week of Tryouts?**

1 Performance Cheer, 1 Sideline Dance, Stunting, Tumbling and Jumps

## **New Requirement**

This year, it will be required for each candidate to attempt a spotted back hand spring at tryouts. NO EXCEPTIONS (If you do not know how to perform a back hand spring we will teach you the basic skills and conditioning methods to attempt one.)

## **What to Wear to the Clinics & Evaluations:**

You will be required to wear athletic clothing and shoes to all clinics and tryouts. Do not wear halter-tops, spaghetti strap tops, jeans, skirts, or dress shoes, **NO JEWELRY!!!**

## **How will I know I made the team?**

After everyone has completed the tryout evaluations, the judges will calculate and total the scores and put the teams together. Everyone will then be invited back into the small gym and each student will be handed an envelope with the determination letter. Absolutely **NO ONE** will be permitted to open their envelope until they are off the Branham campus.

***Failure to comply with this rule will result in removal from the team!!!***

If you have been selected for the team you will receive information with this letter regarding the first parent meetings (mandatory you must have a parent/guardian present at the first meeting), practice schedule, date and time for uniform fittings, reminder of dates/amounts due and dates for cheer camp.

# ***Branham High School Bruins Cheerleading***

## **Branham High School Cheerleaders:**

The purpose of the BHS Cheer program is to promote school pride, unity and to lead the student body in demonstrating spirit and support for our teams, coaches, and all athletes.

Cheerleaders are the most visible representative of our high school. Branham High School Cheerleaders are expected to demonstrate excellent sportsmanship at all times.

## **Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines**

- No profanity in or out of uniform (on or off campus).
- No chewing gum while in uniform or during practice/games.
- No cell phones, friends, or boyfriends allowed at practice.
- No displays of public affection in or out of uniform.
- No negative and /or bad attitudes.
- No drama will not be tolerated, we are athletes at all times.
- You will treat captains, coaches and team members with respect at all times
- Tardiness is not acceptable, 5 minutes early is on time! Tardy's will result in additional condition for your entire team!
- You must maintain a 2.0 GPA throughout school year. Grade cards are due every two weeks, no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in benching through next grade period, including competitions.
- Failure to make grades for nationals will result in disqualification for the next seasons team.

## **Practices**

- Everyone must attend all practices. One person's absence disrupts the entire routine.
- Practices are set at the discretion of the coach, based on schedule and availability of facilities at the school.
- Absence from school means you cannot attend practice/game for that day.
- Cheerleaders are expected to notify a coach, in advance, if they are to going to be tardy or miss a practice.
- You may miss 2 practices per season. 3 missed practices will result in benching at next game. 4 missed practices will result in removal from the team.
  - Season One – Football
  - Season Two – Competition
  - Season Three – Basketball
- Missing practice for clubs and other extra-curricular activities is not considered excused. Students with academic obligations will not be penalized.
- Having a job is not an excuse to miss practice. If you have a job, you need to make sure it fits with your cheerleading commitment.

## ***Branham High School Bruins Cheerleading***

### **Competitions (We are a Nationally Ranked Team!!! GO BRUINS!)**

- Competition are the #1 priority at practice
- Every member on the team must compete, no exceptions!
- Cheerleaders must travel to and from competitions with parent drivers – No exceptions!
- Cheerleaders are required to accomplish a back hand spring during the year
- Cheerleaders are expected to treat other squads and coaches with respect and first class sportsmanship!
- Branham is known and prides ourselves for our sportsmanship!
- Cheerleaders are responsible for learning all choreography
- Cheerleaders are responsible for developing back hand spring outside of practice if more assistance is needed.

### **Games**

- Cheerleaders must be dressed in full uniform and arrive for all games at least 1 hour prior to game time.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for bringing appropriate equipment to all games and/or competitions.
- Cheerleading is your only concern during the game.
- Talking, unrelated to cheer, with squad members or crowd is not permitted.
- You are required to sit with team during entire game.
- Game participation will be limited when practices are missed.
- No public displays of affection at games!!

### **Fundraising/Team Bonding**

- There will be monthly fundraisers (minimum) to help offset the cost of cheer and to fund our competitions/team bonding.
- All members are required to participate and contribute to all fundraisers.
- All members are required to attend team bonding.
- Team members will have input on our fundraising opportunities.
- Team bonding will be on a monthly basis. Philosophy: Build relationships off the mat to be perform as a team on the mat.
- Parent involvement and contributions are required...time or money

### **Transportation**

- Cheerleaders are expected to travel to and from away games/events with parent drivers. No cheerleader will be allowed to drive to or from a game, or ride with other students. It is your responsibility to find a ride and be there on time!

## Financial Requirements

Branham Cheer Squad is 100% funded through fundraisers and parent contributions.

There are initial cost associated with making the cheer team that are your responsibility. The calculations below are a generalization of the cost and by no means are all inclusive.

Through out the year we will have monthly fundraisers to help offset the cost of the program. All students will be required to participate in all fundraising events. Our philosophy we are a team...together we are responsible for raising the funds to support our team.

Below is a list of the initial estimated costs:

<i>Summer Camp:</i>	\$400 per student due June 1st at Practice
<i>Camp Clothes:</i>	\$50 per student due in July (3 shirts, 3 shorts)
<i>Uniforms:</i>	\$700 per student due Wednesday, April 29th at Uniform Fittings (Liner, Shell, Skirt, Spankies, Poms, Warm ups, Shoes, Bow, Bag, Sports Bra,)
	New uniforms will be used for the next two years.
<i>Choreography/Music:</i>	\$75.00 per student due May 4th at 1st practice
<i>Annual Competition:</i>	\$600-\$700 per student (Including Nationals)

**Total Costs:                      “\$1,925.00” per student**

# Sample Score Sheet

**This is an example of what your judges will be scoring you on. Please be Prepared!!!**

**On Tryout day, you must turn in your letters of recommendation and proof of qualifying grades.**

## **Physical Appearance (10 points)**

- Clean, hair pulled back, confidence, poise and moderate make-up.
- Entrance/Rally

## **Cheer (5 points each)**

- Execution
- Sharpness
- Voice (loud and clear)
- Spirit
- Facials

## **Dance (5 points each)**

- Execution
- Timing (on the beat)
- Confidence
- Facials
- Enthusiasm
- Creativity/Difficulty (for additional 8-counts)

## **Additional (5 points each)**

- Gymnastics
- Jumps
- Attended all Tryout Practices
- Grade cards (min 2.0 GPA)
- Letter of Recommendation (minimum two)

# **Branham Cheer Squad Tryouts**

## **Letter of Recommendation Due 4/10/09 at Tryouts**

Cheer Candidate:

Your name:

Email:

Phone Number:

How long have you known the applicant?

What is your relation to the applicant?

What are their strengths?

What are their areas for development?

Please share your personal evaluation of this applicant:

Signed:

**Please place recommendation in a sealed envelope with the students first and last name on the front of the envelope.**

**This form will remain confidential.**

***Branham High School 2009-2010 Cheerleading Tryouts***  
**Information & Permission Form**  
**Due 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tryout clinic (4/6/09)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dance or cheer experience? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, describe:

I, the above named student, have read and understand the information and commitment addressed in the Branham High School Cheerleading Tryout Packet.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent/guardian, of the above named student have read and understand the information/commitment detailed in the 2009-2010 Branham High School Bruins Cheerleading Tryout Packet. I do hereby give permission for my student to participate in tryouts. I fully understand that the school and coaches will take every reasonable precaution to prevent accidents/injuries, but understand it is my financial/legal responsibility should an injury occur.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_