**Southern Wayne Varsity Cheerleading**

***Overview of 2020-2021 Cheerleading Season***

1. Tryouts for the 2020-2021 Cheer Squad will be virtual. If you do not have internet access, other arrangements will be made. Dates will be announced soon.
2. To tryout, you must have a current physical. A copy of that physical should be sent to the coach.
3. Tryout material will be posted on the school website one week prior to tryouts.
4. Candidates must be passing all classes and eligible to cheer to tryout.
5. Must not have more than 6 absences in each class.
6. No disciplinary referrals.
7. Teacher recommendations will be done on each candidate. These will weigh heavy on the final decisions.
8. No jewelry or piercings allowed.
9. Hair must remain in natural colors (no red, pink, blue, silver, green, etc.) throughout the season.
10. No nail polish or acrylic nails allowed. Fingernails must be fingertip length at all times.
11. Cheerleaders will choose if they will be cheering for football season, basketball season, or both.
12. Football is designated as competition season. If a cheerleader wants to compete, they must cheer during football season.
13. There will only be one tryout for both football and basketball.
14. Southern Wayne Cheer Coaches are looking for ***at least*** 20 high quality cheerleaders who have stunting ability, tumbling ability, a great personality, energetic, and able to **LEAD** a crowd. Tumbling is ***not*** a requirement to be selected for this squad.
15. Cost – Cheerleaders will be purchasing uniforms this year (School uniforms will still be used when/if needed). Cheerleaders will also purchase game day wear and warm weather attire.

Game day/Uniforms will have to be paid in full by TBA. Warm weather attire will need to be paid in full by TBA. There is no exceptions to payment due dates. School will not be responsible for making payments. All payments will be made online or by mail. All payments must be paid prior to ordering the merchandise. Failure to pay will result in your merchandise not being ordered and you not be able to cheer. Costs can range from $250 - $500 (prices are approximate).

1. There will not be a fundraiser provided for you through the school to pay for your uniform. You are welcomed to gets sponsors or your church/community to support you.
2. Team fundraising will be used for camps, competitions, and other various expenses for the team as a whole.
3. If you play another sport and still would like to cheer, that is a private conversation that you need to have with all coaches involved and parents (at the same time). It is very unlikely for you to participate in 2 team sports, but an individual sport and cheer could be possible if the coaches come to an agreement.
4. There will be 3-4 competitions during Football season. If the conference competition is scheduled during basketball season, the competition team will perform at that competition.

***Parental support***

* Parental support is a must to ensure success this year
* We will ask 2 parents (per game) to provide snacks/food and drinks during football and basketball season. Our team will eat together during halftime of football and between the girls and boys games during basketball. There will be a sign up sheet at the first parent meeting.
* On competition days, we will need our parents, family, and friends to be dressed in red with poms in hand. Noisemakers, if the competition is outside, would be great. Yes, coaches will provide the poms. Parent t-shirts are available for $10. Sizes are limited.

***Summer camp and practices***

* Summer camp dates will be announced shortly. Some summer practices will be done virtually.

***Captain Selection***

* Two captains will be chosen this year.
* Captain candidates will be returning cheerleaders only and for upcoming juniors and seniors.
* Captain candidates must cheer for football/competition and basketball seasons
* Captains will be expected to carry the team as if they were an additional assistant coach. All cheerleaders should respect them and feel comfortable with their captain. Captains are to be respectful to the cheerleaders as well. Regardless of any cheerleader’s position, it is the responsibility of each cheerleader to report all absences/tardiness/conflicts to the coaches.
* Captains selected will go through leadership training.
* Coaches will select captains.

***Football Season at a glance***

* Varsity football games will be on Friday and JV will be on Thursday. There will be cheerleaders at JV home games and all Varsity games.
* This year we will give middle school cheerleaders and little league cheerleaders an opportunity to cheer for the JV games.
* In the case where the Southern Wayne cheerleaders will have to cheer for JV, freshmen and sophomores will cheer for home JV and junior and seniors will cheer for the away Varsity game.
* All cheerleaders will cheer at home Varsity games.
* All cheerleaders will have the opportunity to take one “cut” during football season. This cut can be used for a night that you have other plans and do not want to be penalized for missing a game. Only 2 cheerleaders can take a cut for the same game. You must give the coach 2 weeks’ notice for it to be approved. Seniors will be given one additional “senior cut” during football season. Cuts can only be used for games.
* In the event that there is a junior or senior that would like to switch with a freshman or sophomore cheerleader for a game (during a home JV/away Varsity weeks), you must let the coach know the Monday prior to the game or you will be penalized with demerits.
* Freshmen and sophomores will not be allowed to travel to away football games unless they have switched with a teammate. If middle school and little league cheerleaders are unavailable to cheer at the JV games, it will be up to coach to decide which freshmen and sophomore will travel to the away game.
* Competition schedule –
	+ Fair – 10/7/2020
	+ County – 10/24/2020
	+ State – Dec 2020 (Raleigh Convention Center)
	+ Conference – TBA (DH Conley)
* If you are involved in any other demanding activities (ex: dance, ROTC, SaintsSound), it is very important that you are able to be fully dedicated to both. For example, if you are a dancer, your dance practices should not conflict with cheer practices. The same thing goes for competitions. We do understand that there are special events and it is the cheerleader’s responsibility to notify the coach of the conflict in a timely matter (as soon as you know, the coach should know) and it will be handled by the coach as they see fit. Be honest and up front with information.
* If we receive a nationals bid at states, we will have a team meeting with coaches, cheerleaders, and parents to make the decision of whether we should participate or not. Decision will be determined by funds available, dates, and the strength and the maturity of the team.

***Basketball Season at a glance***

* Basketball games are generally Tuesdays and Fridays. During preseason, games can fall on any day of the week. The last game of the regular season will be on a Thursday to use Friday to prepare for conference tournament placements.
* Cheerleaders that only wish to cheer during basketball season will start cheering in November.
* Cheerleaders will cheer for home JV and Varsity games and in county away Varsity games.
* Freshmen and sophomores will cheer for JV girls and JV boys, juniors and seniors will cheer for Varsity girls and boys. Juniors and seniors will cheer for away in county games. Coaches will decide which freshmen and sophomores will be allowed to cheer at away basketball games.
* Cheerleaders will only travel to in county games and parents are responsible for transportation.
* Cheerleaders will cheer during the conference tournament and state playoffs. We will only cheer out of county if the game is the final round of the playoffs/tournament. Parents will not have to provide transportation in that case.
* During tournament play and state playoffs, the cheerleaders will be split in two groups for those games. They will both consist of all grades. One group will cheer for the Varsity girls and the other group for the Varsity boys.
* All cheerleaders will have the opportunity to take one “cut” during basketball season. This cut can be used for a night that you have other plans and do not want to be penalized. Only 2 cheerleaders can take a cut for the same game. You must give the coach a 2 week notice for it to be approved. Seniors will be given one additional “senior cut” during basketball season.