

# BRONTE ISD CHEERLEADER / MASCOT CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - NAME

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Bronte Junior High and High School Cheerleaders/Mascot.

## ARTICLES II - PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this organization shall be to demonstrate leadership, high morals, and promote school spirit, good sportsmanship, and school loyalty in every way possible within the campus and community.

## ARTICLE III - TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY

Cheerleader/Mascot eligibility requirements and elections are governed by district policy. A copy of this policy will be given to each candidate and their parent/guardian. The policy should be read and signed by each candidate and their parent/guardian before entering the tryout process. Each student wishing to try-out for cheerleader/mascot will receive the following information in the application packet:

1. Bronte ISD Cheerleader/Mascot Constitution
2. Permission/Consent Form
3. Tryout Clinic Schedule

### **Candidates for Cheerleader/Mascot:**

- A. Must have been enrolled as a student at Bronte ISD as of February 1. Tryouts will usually be held during the fifth 6 weeks.
- B. Must have any Bronte ISD balances paid before you can tryout. (See article V, Expenses)
- C. Must not have excessive tardies (5 or more) resulting in an office referral and/or detention.
- D. (Attendance rate higher than 90%).
- E. Must be scholastically eligible determined by U.I.L. guidelines and District Policy.
- A student must have an average of **70** or better in **ALL** subjects preceding tryouts. Any failure in a class, for the remaining six weeks will result in immediate removal from the squad.

- Elected cheerleaders and mascot must maintain a 70 or better average in all subjects to stay eligible during the following year. The cheerleaders and mascot are under the same eligibility rules as athletes. If they do not pass ALL subjects during a six weeks' period, they will be ineligible to represent Bronte ISD as a cheerleader or a mascot for a three- week period. Eligibility is re- established by passing all subjects in the subsequent six weeks period.

F. Must not have been placed in "out-of-school-suspension" or DAEP at Bronte ISD more than 1 time. Must not have had 2 or more office referrals with or without ISS (in-school-suspension). All cheerleader/mascot candidates must uphold the conduct standards specified in \*article VI of this constitution and the Bronte ISD Code of Conduct Book. Behavior that is not compliant with article VI or the school code of conduct may result in the student's inability to try-out for cheerleader/mascot; and the tryout eligibility will be at the discretion of the principal and sponsors. (Article VI-Conduct)

Each candidate must return to the sponsor(s) a consent form signed by their parent or guardian stating an understanding of an agreement to the Bronte ISD Constitution and giving permission for the student to participate in cheerleading/mascot tryouts by the deadline stated on the "Tryout Clinic Schedule"

Candidate:

**G.** Must attend **mandatory** tryout clinic.

**H.** Will be given athletic shirts and shorts to wear during tryouts. Candidates will wear their own athletic shoes for tryouts. No cheerleading shoes will be worn at this time.

**I.** A candidate must be present the entire school day on the day of tryouts.

## ARTICLE IV - ELECTION PROCESS

The number of cheerleaders for each squad shall be:

Junior High- 8 (2- 7th Grade, 2-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, and 4 positions-Open for 7<sup>th</sup> &/or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. If there are no candidates trying out in a grade level, the candidates may come from the other grade level.) High School - 8 (There is not a set number of members from high school grades.)

\*\*There will be one alternate for each squad chosen at the time of try-outs.\*\*

If there are more than 8 try out, it will be at the discretion of the cheer sponsor and principal to decide to have try outs.

A. **Judges** -The judges' criteria will count **60%** of the election process. Every candidate will be required to perform a cheer, and/or chant and a dance routine before a panel of three judges outside the district. The judges will rank the candidates on a performance-based rating scale.

Varsity and Junior High candidates will perform:

1. An entrance when the candidate is introduced (may tumble at this time).
2. 3 jumps
3. Group cheer and/or chant taught at the clinic
4. Group dance routine taught at clinic

B. **Student Vote** - Student vote will count **40%** of the election process. Candidates will tryout before an assembly of students according to the following schedule:

1. An entrance when the candidate is introduced (may tumble at this time).
2. 3 jumps
3. Group cheer and/or chant taught at the clinic
4. Group dance routine taught at clinic

**1. Junior High** - Junior High Candidates will try out in front of and be elected by the in- coming seventh and eighth grade classes. Each candidate will perform:

- An entrance when introduced (may tumble at this time).
- 3 jumps
- One group cheer and/or chant taught at the tryout clinic.
- One group dance routine taught at the tryout clinic.

**2. Varsity** - Varsity Candidates will be voted on by the in-coming Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Classes. Each varsity candidate will perform:

- An entrance when introduced (may tumble at this time).
- 3 jumps
- One group cheer and/or chant taught at the tryout clinic.
- One group dance routine taught at the tryout clinic.

a. Voting will take place immediately after tryouts.

**3.** Tabulations of all scoring will be under the supervision of a scoring team.  
(Including at least one Bronte ISD Administrator)

**4.** In the event of a tie, the following order of scores will be used to determine the squad member:  
1) Judges 2) student body.

**5.** No campaigning (signs, flyers, handouts, etc.) is allowed.

**6.** Alternate Cheerleaders:

a. One alternate will be selected for each squad. The tryout scores will determine them. Seventh place candidates for each squad will be the alternates. The alternate's name will not be known unless there is a need to replace a cheerleader/mascot position.

b. The alternate may replace any elected cheerleader/mascot that is unable to fulfill their term as a cheerleader/mascot. However, no cheerleader/mascot vacancy will be filled after **August 1** of each year.

## Mascots

1. Eligibility - see Tryout Eligibility
2. **Tryouts**
  - a. Candidates must tryout individually in the mascot costume.
  - b. Tryouts will be held the day of/ or 1 week after the cheerleader tryouts.
  - c. The election process will consist of the following items:
    1. **Student body vote will constitute 100% of the election process.**
  - d. Each candidate will perform one approved skit with props.
  - e. Skit for tryout - Each candidate will perform an approved skit with the following provisions:
    1. Background music is optional. If used, music must be approved by the sponsor(s).
    2. Three (3) minute maximum time limit.
    3. Use of props is allowed but requires prior approval and is limited in cost to \$15.00 per candidate and must be paid for before tryouts.
    4. No campaigning (signs, flyers, handouts, etc.) is allowed.
    5. Sponsor(s) have final discretion of appropriateness of tryout attire, paraphernalia, and skit.
    6. Music and skit must be approved by the sponsor/sponsors at least 3 days prior to tryouts.

## **ARTICLE V - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Summer**

1. Squad members are required to attend a **mandatory summer camp**. (These dates are stated in the cheer schedule). No more than 2 practices in summer practice sessions may be missed.
2. All squad members must be available for practice sessions, mini camps, and for participation in fund-raisers. The majority of sport signs will be completed in the summer practice sessions.

### **B. Expenses**

1. All persons involved (including sponsors, students, and parents) are expected to make an effort to keep the cost of being a cheerleader as reasonable as possible, in order to encourage participation.

2. Elected High School Cheerleaders will be issued (if available) a uniform shell, skirt, megaphone and pom poms.  
Junior High Cheerleaders will be issued (if available) a uniform shell, skirt, megaphone, and pom poms. \*Uniforms will be checked out the first of August and checked back in after basketball season for HS and after football season for JH.\* **There will be a fine of up to \$250.00 if the suit, megaphone, and poms are not turned in.**
3. The **high school cheerleaders** and **mascot** must furnish their own accessories. (i.e. bows, shoes, socks, leggings/sweats, briefs, camp outfits, jackets, under attire, possibly uniforms, etc.) The number of accessories will be determined at the spring meeting of the parent(s), cheerleaders, and cheerleader sponsors.
4. The elected MASCOT will purchase the jersey(s) that Leroy wears.
5. The **junior high cheerleaders** must furnish their own accessories (i.e. bows, shoes, socks, leggings, briefs, jackets, under attire, camp outfits, possibly uniforms, etc.) The number of accessories will be determined at the spring meeting of the parent(s), cheerleaders, and cheerleader sponsors.
6. If a cheerleader's bill is **not paid in full** by the first football game, the cheerleader **may not cheer** until the bill is paid in full, OR other arrangements have been made by parent and cheer sponsor.
7. All other expenses (camp fees, decorating items, etc.) will come from fund raising events. Participation in fund raising will be required by each cheerleader to cover additional expenses.
  - a. All fundraising activities must conform to U.I.L. rules and to Bronte ISD procedures.
  - b. Money made from any promotional items sold by the cheerleaders and mascot will be used for supplies, meals, other traveling expenses, etc.  
Money cannot be used for cheerleader personal accessories.
8. If a cheerleader is dismissed from a squad, all expenses must be paid in full by the end of the school year and are non-refundable.

### C. Uniforms & Appearance

1. **High School Cheerleaders** - Megaphones and pom poms are the property of Bronte ISD. If skirts and shells are issued, these are also the property of Bronte ISD and MUST be returned  
  
**Mascot-Mascot head & costume, ice packs and vest are the property of Bronte ISD.**
2. **Junior High Cheerleaders** -Megaphones and pom poms are the property of Bronte ISD. If skirts and shells are issued; these are also the property of Bronte ISD and MUST be returned
3. No alterations will be made unless approved by sponsor(s).
4. If issued by the school, the cheerleader uniforms must be cleaned and returned to the school

at the end of the school year. (DO NOT DRY CLEAN) The mascot uniform will be cleaned by the sponsor(s) or parent with the sponsor(s) approval.

5. Cheerleaders will **ALWAYS** dress in the same manner. (This includes socks, shoes, uniforms, under attire, and bows for traveling and home) This uniformity is the responsibility of the cheerleader and sponsors. **(Failure to be in complete uniform will result in demerits.)**
6. **\*\*No Jewelry, Too Dangerous in Stunting\*\***
7. Hair should be kept neat, clean, and styled appropriately. **All hair up and out of the eyes for Pep Rallies. All hair accessories should be appropriate and be the colors of the school uniform.** The sponsor(s) will determine approval and appropriateness. **(Failure to be in compliance will result in demerits.)**
8. Uniforms are to be worn **for ALL school sanctioned activities and community events involving Bronte athletic teams.**

#### D. Practice

1. Cheerleaders will attend practices in the summer. Efforts will be made to avoid conflicts with jobs, but members must agree before tryouts to be easily available for practices during the summer months.
2. A member who must miss a practice or cheerleader event must contact the sponsor(s) for approval in ADVANCE. They will then be responsible of any information or activity missed (This would be considered an excused absence).
3. Appropriate workout clothing and cheer shoes must be worn for all practices. Questionable attire should be approved by the sponsor(s). This includes shorts/sweats, t-shirt, and cheer shoes. **Demerits will be issued after the first warning.**
4. In-School practices are mandatory and unexcused absences will be handled as if they were a game. (see games)
5. There will be no "extras" at practices because the school cannot be held responsible for accidents. **NO baby-sitting** will be allowed at meetings, practices or other cheerleader events.
6. Additional "*school practices*" without a sponsor or school representative present, are not allowed.
7. If a cheerleader does NOT attend a practice before an event, the cheerleader will NOT participate in the event.

## E. Games

1. Each cheerleader must be at games unless excused in advance by the sponsor(s). Inclement weather is not the basis for an excused absence unless the entire squad is excused.
2. If a cheerleader is ill, the parents must call and advise the sponsor(s) before the school activity.

High school cheerleaders will arrive, **dressed and ready at least forty-five minutes prior** to games for warm-up, equipment loading and squad meetings. (This includes: uniform, shoes, hair, and make-up, etc. Hair and make-up can be re-touched only at half -time of the game.)

Junior high cheerleaders will arrive, **dressed and ready at least thirty minutes prior** to games for warm-up, equipment loading and squad meetings. (This includes: uniform, shoes, hair, and make-up, etc. Hair and make-up can be re-touched only at half-time of the game.) **Demerits will be assessed if not ready in complete uniform; including hair and make-up.**

3. Cheerleaders will remain with the squad throughout the game. If a cheerleader/mascot is suspended, he/she will attend the game in uniform and sit with the sponsor(s).
4. Cheerleaders will not sit during football games.
5. Tardiness to games shows a lack of responsibility and imposes a burden on others. A demerit will be assessed.
6. Cheerleaders, who are participating in the athletic program, should be aware that when they participate in cheerleading and athletics, conflicts are inevitable. **All U.I.L. extra-curricular events will take precedence over cheerleading.**
7. No cheerleader will eat, drink, apply make-up, fix hair, chew gum, or be on cell phones while on the field or court.
8. When the school song or National Anthem is being played, cheerleaders and mascot are to be together as a squad and at parade rest.

### **Additional Rules and Responsibilities for the Mascot**

- a. The uniform is to be worn at all times when performing at football games and pep rallies **(This includes the head).**
- b. The suit may be removed during half time, only if you are not in front of the crowd. (This preserves the character the children perceive).
- c. The mascot will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times!!
- d. The mascot will welcome other mascots and treat them with respect.
- e. All skits and props must be approved through the sponsor(s) **prior** to their use.

### **9. Basketball Games:**

- a. In uniform, all alike.
- b. Sit together as a cheer squad.

- c. Every timeout, cheering in front of the stands.
- d. No cell phone usage during the game
- e. Half time of the boys' game, cheers and or dance will be performed.
- f. Cheerleaders that are on Varsity Basketball team, need to be in the stands with your squad by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Boys game.
- g. You will cheer at **ALL Girls and Boys Varsity District Home Games!** (It is your responsibility to get the crowd involved)

#### **10. Playoffs:**

- a. The mascot will wear the mascot uniform during the game unless sponsor says differently.

\*\*These are in addition to the requirements of the cheerleader, which the mascot will also be held accountable for. Failure to follow any of the above rules and regulations will result in demerits being issued.

#### **F. Travel**

1. The cheerleaders and mascot will cheer/perform at **all** football games, varsity home/ district volleyball, basketball games and playoff volleyball/basketball games. (Mascot **MUST** wear approved spirit shirt at home district volleyball/basketball games and may suit out just for half-time performances) They will attend and support spring/other sports as determined by the sponsor(s) or principal. The exceptions to this rule will be when different sporting events take place at the same time (i.e. varsity girls and boys teams play in different towns), events occurring during important exams (i.e. finals, SAT or ACT exams), or other events deemed necessary by the sponsor(s) or principal.

#### **2. Out-of-Town Games**

- a. A school vehicle or bus will be the mode of transportation for varsity or junior high squads traveling out of town. All cheerleaders/mascot will travel together to the game with the sponsor(s). Cheerleaders/mascot will be allowed to leave only with their parents and a written note must be given to the sponsor by the parent.
  - b. Junior high cheerleaders will cheer at out-of-town games unless circumstances determine otherwise (i.e. if return time home is not reasonable). This will be left to the discretion of the sponsor and principal.
3. A signed parent medical/permission form for each cheerleader/mascot should be on file with Bronte ISD.

#### **ARTICLES VI - CONDUCT**

- A. Cheerleaders must accept the responsibility of the honor of having been chosen official representatives of the school and conduct themselves accordingly. They must be respectful and cooperative toward the sponsors, squad members, school officials, other cheerleaders, the student body, and the community. **Rudeness, insubordination and negative attitudes will result in demerits and disciplinary action.**



- B. Cheerleaders represent Bronte ISD at all times (on and off campus; school year/and or summer). They are expected to uphold values, behaviors, and standards as represented in the Bronte ISD *Student Code of Conduct* Handbook and Cheerleader Constitution. Serious violations of these standards will result in demerits and disciplinary action and may also cause a member to be dismissed from the squad. This is a serious responsibility.
- C. No smoking, vaping, drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages, use or possession of drugs, minor in possession, direct association with above (i.e. in car with someone else drinking, nightclubs under age, etc.) or any other behavior which would reflect poorly on the rest of the squad or student body will be allowed. Behavior out of uniform is just as crucial as behavior in uniform. **Any proof (ie. picture, snap chat, text, social media, etc...) will result in dismissal from the squad. The proof must be communicated to the cheer sponsor within a week (7 days) from the day of the incident.**
- D. The cheerleader must not have **5 or more tardies per 6 week period** -this **will result in demerits.**
- E. The cheerleader must not have **5 or more absences** per six weeks- this will result in demerits.
- F. They must be enthusiastic, exhibiting school spirit. They should display leadership qualities and promote the cheerleader squads instead of themselves.
- G. Cheerleaders will not display undesirable public affection in uniform, this will result in a demerit.
- H. Remember a cheerleader/mascot is always in front of a crowd for everyone to see; therefore, you must be open to criticism.
- I. Cheerleaders are expected to be supporters of both varsity and junior high squads.
- J. Cheerleaders must be back from half time before any sport activity resumes. Tardiness will result in a demerit being issued.
- K. No extra **students or children** are allowed to be on the field or court with the cheerleaders (during the games).

**Once a cheerleader/mascot has been dismissed or resigns, they may not try out again without approval by the principal and sponsor.**

- L. Demerits will be issued by the sponsor(s). The sponsor(s) reserve the right to add to the following list as needed. Cheerleaders will receive, in writing, any additions or changes to the list prior to their implementation. Demerits are not given for excused absences.
1. Excused Absences - Acceptable reasons for excused absences include illness (a phone call to the sponsor from the parent BEFORE the event), family emergency (documented), participation in another school sport (pre-arranged), and absences for family vacation during school holidays, and deaths in the family.
  2. Demerits include:

- a. academic ineligibility. (Will also result in benching for three weeks-UIL Rule.)
- b. One (1) demerit for every unexcused tardy to practice, game, or other Scheduled cheerleading activity.
- c. Not in dress code during practice/game
- d. Any office referral (with consequences received from the principal; i.e. corporal punishment, detention, ISS).
- e. Any violation of expected behavior contained in this document. (The number of demerits and/or benching(s) will reflect the seriousness of the action as determined by the sponsors and/or principal.) See the Bronte Student Code of Conduct and above rules in Article VI.
- f. **Three (3)** accumulated demerits within the year will result in dismissal from the squad.

**\*\*Additional demerits will be given for inappropriate behaviors determined by the sponsor(s) and/or principal.\*\***

**\*\*Squad members may be dismissed from the squad at the discretion of the sponsor(s) and principal only after the squad member has had the opportunity to meet with the sponsor(s), and principal to respond to any allegations which are deemed inappropriate for students who have been selected as leaders of their school.\*\***

**ARTICLE VII-BY-LAWS**

- A. All payments must be made on time. If a cheerleader's bill is not paid before the first football game, that cheerleader MAY NOT cheer until the bill is paid in full. (See details in Article V- Duties and Responsibilities, Expenses.)
- B. Additional by-laws may be added or existing ones may be revised or deleted at the discretion of the-sponsor(s), principal, and/or superintendent. This will take effect after cheerleaders and their parents have been notified.
- C. Any questions relating to cheerleader responsibilities, schedules, or disciplinary matters should be addressed to the sponsor(s). If a conflict cannot be resolved, the principal may intervene.

**ARTICLE VIII - CONSTITUTION**

- A. This constitution has been established and approved by the school principal and superintendent. The purpose is to inform the cheerleaders and their families what is expected of them. All cheerleaders must abide by this Constitution.
- B. There are extenuating circumstances to almost every policy. Recognizing that someone must be in a position to rule whenever there is such an exception, the principal shall be empowered to be the final authority on exceptions to any regulation thereby established.
- C. Changes or amendments to this constitution must be approved by the principal and/or superintendent; and advised upon by the superintendent and/or school board if necessary.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(principal)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(cheer sponsor)