



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your athlete has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Douglas County High School cheerleading squad for the 2026-2027 season. If selected, there are certain personal and financial obligations that a cheerleader and his/her parents must understand in order to participate and remain a member in good standing on the team for the year. Tryouts for the County Cheer teams will be in the DCHS Commons & Cheer Room in the South Building on Thursday, April 16th & Friday, April 17th. These are CLOSED tryouts; parents, friends, or family are not allowed to attend as spectators. We will be holding clinics and open gyms the week(s) leading up to tryouts to ensure candidates are prepared. In the meantime, fully review the information in this packet with your son/daughter, as there are several items that cheer candidates must complete prior to tryouts.

Note: If your athlete makes the team there will be a **Mandatory** Parent & Athlete Meeting on April 20th at 6:30pm in the South Building Cafeteria (Commons).

Thank you for your interest in the DCHS cheerleading program. We look forward to meeting you!

Cheers,

Lauren and Scott Borgmier
douglascountycheer@gmail.com

Preparing for Tryouts:

We will be hosting free open gyms on Thursdays in the DCHS South Building Commons at 5:30pm each week in the lead up to tryouts. Utilize these optional times to work on personal skills, the fight song, or any other part of the tryout.

Additionally we have some more formal times set for Tryout Preparation with our clinics & tryout open gym.

Full Schedule of Tryout Happenings:

3/24 (Tuesday) – Middle School Clinic 4:30-6:30pm – DCHS South Commons (South Building)

4/10 (Friday) – Tryout Registration Deadline! – [FORM](#)

4/13 (Monday) – Tryout Clinic – 4:30-6:30pm – DCHS South Commons (South Building)

4/13 – Pre-Tryout Information Meeting (parents & athletes welcome) – 6:30pm – DCHS South Commons (South Building) – right after the clinic!

4/14 (Tuesday) – Tryout Clinic – 4:30-6:30pm – DCHS South Commons (South Building)

4/15 (Wednesday) – Open Gym and Mock Tryouts – 5:30-7pm – DCHS South Commons (South Building)

4/16 (Thursday) – Tryout Interviews – starting at 4:30pm – DCHS Cheer Room (South Building) – individual time scheduling TBD after registration deadline

4/17 (Friday) – Tryouts – 4:30-7:30pm – DCHS South Building Cafeteria (South Commons)
Results posted by 9:30pm

4/20 (Monday) – Mandatory Parent & Athlete Team Meeting – 6:30pm – DCHS South Commons

Positions must be accepted by 4/21/26.

All athletes looking to tryout are required to have a physical on file with DCSD/DCHS and must pay a **tryout fee of \$50** (cash or check).

Tryout Prerequisites:

Make sure the following items are turned in by Monday, 4/13/26.

- Tryout registration form (online)
- \$50 Tryout Fee (cash or check please if not paid online)
- Copy of your **current** physical turned in before tryouts (*parents, keep a copy of this to upload to the athletic department in July/August*)
- Printout of your current grades

Upon making the squad there will be a mandatory parent athlete meeting on **Monday, April 20th at 6:30pm** in the South Commons, **no exceptions**. There, a ‘finalized’ practice schedule will be given out for May, June and July and some of the rest of the season. Cheerleaders that earn a position on the 2026-2027 cheer squads, are expected to accept their position within 24 hours of the parent athlete meeting.

What to Wear to Tryouts:

Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday - Clinics & Open Gym:

Athletic wear: Shorts/tank top with shorts. Socks and cheer shoes or tennis/athletic shoes.

Thursday, April 17th – **Tryout Interview:**

Business casual or semi-formal (Sunday School clothes style) will be requested for the interview portion. County Cheerleaders are visible in many capacities as members of their community,

understanding the person doing the skills is just as important to us. Interviews will be about 5-15 mins each.

Before or following the interview, all potential County Cheerleaders will have their headshot taken for the tryout video reveal.

Friday, April 18th - **Tryout Day:**

Athletes must wear White, Black, Purple, or Grey Shorts with a Purple, White, Grey, or Black T-Shirt or Tank Top (Plain or general DC/Huskies shirt - we just ask that they not be County Cheer related). We encourage our athletes to have a clean, collegiate look to them. Socks with cheer or athletic/tennis shoes.

Tryout Process:

Candidates will be judged on the various aspects of their cheerleading ability. Tryouts will be **closed** to all spectators. Candidates will be assigned a number for the duration of their tryout. Scores will be given by judges, computed for the candidates based upon the following areas: School Spirit, Confidence, Voice, Motions, Tumbling Difficulty and Technique, Enthusiasm/Energy, Dance Rhythm, Stunting Technique, and Attitude.

Squad Compositions and Requirements:

Members of both teams are expected to attend all practices, games, and competitions with a good attitude that reflects the positive qualities of a Douglas County community member. Team members are expected to carry their school spirit with them in the classroom, at games, at practices, at competitions, and when representing Douglas County High School otherwise.

The role of a cheerleader is a complicated one in today's high school sports environment, but together we will all strive to hit the 5 key roles: Crowd Leaders, Spirit Raisers, Ambassadors, Athletes, and Entertainers.

Varsity Team

Months of participation are May 2026 – February 2027 (~3 weeks off mid-summer). The team will cheer at varsity football, girls volleyball, varsity basketball (boys and girls), and possibly other school events and games. In addition to games, members of the team will also participate in various competitions (State, Regionals, etc.) during the season, culminating with the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida in February.

AN EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON STRONG GAME DAY SKILLS,
ELITE STUNTING, AND ELITE TUMBLING.

Some members of the Varsity Team will not be selected to compete depending on the squad make up and the division the team will compete in during competitions. Team members who do not make the mat for competition are expected to be crossover athletes (meaning they will compete with JV) so that

they can support the program throughout the season and continue to grow their skills. These team members will also be Varsity Mat Alternates, ready to step in at a moment's notice when needed.

Note: no one has a permanent spot on any competition mat; alternates can take the places of members on the competitive team at any time. Competition spots will be determined throughout the season based on the needs of the team by the coaches.

Looking ahead to next semester: to grow in our skills, speed, and strength, it will be strongly recommended that athletes be *enrolled in a Power Weights class during the Fall and Spring semesters*. This class will help improve the abilities we cannot touch on at practices regularly: speed, power, core strength, etc.

Freshmen athletes will need to speak to their counselor/advisor about permissions via coaches to get into this class.

Varsity Team Team Requirements: 23-28 athletes will be selected. Candidates looking to be on this team should aim to have the following skills:

- a series of 3 jumps
- standing back handspring tuck
- a standing tuck (demonstrated 3x)
- a variation of a jump to a tuck
- round off back handspring tuck
- a different tumbling series (examples: whip through, punch front, full, etc)
- top, base or back a transitional/building stunt (example: switch up)
- top, base or back a spinning stunt (full up extension/lib)
- single base extended skill (base/back or top)

**Demonstrating every skill listed above will NOT be required; this is just a suggested list of the skills we will be looking for.

Junior Varsity Team

Months of participation May 2026 – February 2027. The team will perform at JV girls volleyball, JV football, and JV basketball (boys and girls) games in addition to events and participating in various competitions, culminating with various Regionals, the League competition and JV State Invitational. And possibly even the UCA National Championship in Florida!

Taking a JV Team to the National High School Cheerleading Championship is intensive and can be complicated based on participation/team chemistry/etc not to mention expensive for families. We took the JV squad the previous four years to nationals and it was a fantastic experience and memory for the entire program. We as a coaching staff are looking to do the same for the 2026 National Championship, but we want to remind everyone of the dedication it takes to journey from April to February and also the costs that come along with such travel.

Junior Varsity Team Requirements: 16 to 28 athletes will be selected. This team will be looking for candidates that can execute a series of 3 jumps (one being a toe touch), possibly a standing

back handspring or a roundoff back handspring. For stunts, athletes should strive to fly, base, or back an extension/lib, and working on some advanced type skills. More importantly, a good attitude around learning and growing one's skills and self will be key!

**Demonstrating every skill listed above will NOT be required; this is just a suggested list of the skills we will be looking for.

JV is not a punishment at County Cheer, and never will be. Placement for either team is earned and the coaches will seek to place athletes where they can have the most impact on their personal growth and how they can positively impact the team they are on.

Estimated Costs for the Season Ahead:

Due to some smart planning and decision making, we try to keep costs relatively low for new and returning athletes. The dues paid include all apparel, uniform usage, competition and choreography fees (minus nationals), UCA summer camp, weekly tumbling classes with CCD, various gifts for the team members along the season, and some general equipment to keep the team on point.

Estimated Season Dues per Athlete type-

Returner - \$2000-\$2400

New - \$2600

Please know that dues can also be paid in 7 payments (May to December) or 3 payments (June, Aug, Oct) to ease the trouble of these costs. We know that not everyone can afford cheerleading's expense so if special circumstances are needed, please inquire with the coaching staff, we have a few levers to pull to assist further.

We do some team fundraising throughout the year to help continue to keep item costs low(ish) and to contribute towards the growth of the program.

Individual fundraising is targeted towards the Nationals Trips and helping those who need a leg up (last year multiple families paid zero for the trip due to their fundraising focus). Nationals costs were ~\$1900 per athlete for the 2026 event. This trip can drop in cost as we do more team fundraising during the season, but that is up in the air until we have those fund numbers coming in (November). The nationals trip costs and planning will occur in Oct/Nov and we will hold a Zoom parent meeting to go over it all when we have it aligned.

Obligations & Schedule:

Each team typically practices throughout May and June and then attends UCA Camp in June. Practices begin around the end of July for Varsity and begin in August for JV, with each team running 4 practices per week through to February. We work with a local company (CCD) for tumbling and routine assistance that will come to our practices several times a month.

Plan your family vacations for End of June - Early July, Christmas break, and Spring Break! :-)

^This still remains true for the most part. Athletes will have two-a-day practices during fall break, and will potentially have a practice on/around the Wednesday of Thanksgiving.

Dual Sport Athletes - *including Club/All Star Athletes:*

To avoid compromising the student-athletes' attendance, overall wellness, and academic potential, DCHS athletes are not allowed to practice or compete with an outside organization while high school cheer is in season (May to Post-NHSCC in February).

If there are schedule conflicts with the end of the all star season and the start of the school season, that is okay!

[Ex: Summit is usually the week of our first practices]

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Excited for Tryouts??

As mentioned throughout this tryout document, there are a multitude of games and events and competitions that a County Cheerleader will get to enjoy.

It is quite the season and we are excited to start another one with you!

Please let us know if you have any questions: douglascountycheer@gmail.com