Cheer Academic Policy

2016-17

(Addendum to the District Policy)

The goal of our cheer program is to encourage each team member to reach their full potential, and this includes emphasizing the importance of being responsible in the classroom. Academics should be the number one priority of any athlete, and our intention is not to punish but to give cheerleaders who are struggling academically some necessary tools/opportunities to help them be more successful in the classroom while balancing the rigor of being involved in a sport/activity.

The expectation of the SMS Cheer Coaches is that every team member should maintain at least a C average. It requires discipline and organization to balance participation in a sport such as cheer with classroom responsibilities. Those responsibilities include completing assignments on time, making up work in a timely manner when absent, and seeking help from teachers when necessary. The hope is that this new policy will help team members learn how to maintain the necessary balance needed to achieve academic success.

D’s and F’s are not acceptable and will result in the following consequences beginning January 9th, 2016:

Cheerleaders with D’s: they must see their teacher(s), find out what they need to do to raise their grade, and show the cheer coach their plan to improve their grade to at least a C. They will need to attend at least one after school Academics First tutoring session a week or stay after and get help from that teacher and report to the coach each Friday what they have done to attempt to raise their grade. The cheer coach will be in contact with the teacher(s) during this time to ensure that these steps are being taken.

Failure to attend the tutoring sessions and develop a plan to improve their grade will result in benching. If, after 2 weeks, it is determined that the cheerleader is not following the team protocol to improve her grade the cheerleader may be benched at the coaches’ discretion.

Cheerleaders with F’s: Follow the school policy of attending one hour of Academics First tutoring per week per F. Failure to attend the tutoring will result in being benched per the school policy. If after 2 weeks their grade(s) is not up to passing they may be benched at the coaches’ discretion until the grade is up to at least a D.  The cheerleader must provide their plan for raising their grade to the cheer coach. Again, the coach will remain in contact with the teacher(s) to check the progress of the cheerleader and to ensure that the team academic protocol is being followed.

**Please sign below and return to one of the coaches by Friday, January 6th.**

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I have read the Cheer Academic Policy and understand that failure to comply will have the consequence of being benched from games and competitions until compliance has occurred and/or grades have improved to a C average.

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(Cheerleader signature) Date

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(Parent Signature) Date