

Last update: 1/27/23

Dates will be updated when available

What to expect during Chargers Cheer Season

1. Practice – Walled Lake Central High School
 - a. Flag - Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30
 - i. Will change to T-Th starting in October
 - ii. Last two weeks before Cheerfest are MANDATORY M-Th 6-8pm
 - b. Freshman thru Varsity – Tuesday thru Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm
 - i. Last two weeks before Cheerfest are MANDATORY M-Th 6-8pm
 - c. FIRST WEEK ONLY All levels will practice Tuesday and Thursday from 6-730 ONLY
 - d. Practice is rain or shine
 - i. If we are able to go indoors for practice we will
 - ii. If there is lightning or threatening weather, Holly/Christina will make a decision to call off practice
 1. We will not make that call prior to 5pm, please pay close attention to email or Facebook as it will be announced there.
 - e. Cheerleaders should wear athletic clothes and tennis shoes; Hair should be pulled back out of their face
 - i. No crop tops or short shorts
 - ii. If your cheerleader shows up to practice without proper footwear, they will not be able to participate (will count as an unexcused absence)

- iii. Throw a jacket/sweatshirt in their bags for when it starts to get chilly
- f. Bring a water bottle (or two ☺)
- i. Light snacks are allowed
- g. Please use the bathroom BEFORE coming to practice
- h. We will meet at the practice fields near the tennis courts
- i. Starting around October 1, we will move practice permanently indoors
 - i. Will most likely not be at Central, we get what is available (historically Sarah Banks or Geisler Middle School)
 - ii. Practice times will change to accommodate families with football players – practice will start 15 mins later and go 15 mins later

2. Game Days

- a. Typical start times
 - i. Flag – 9am
 - ii. Fresh – 11am
 - iii. JV – 1pm
 - iv. Varsity – 3pm
 - v. Changes to this schedule will be communicated in advance
 - vi. Cheerleaders should report to the games 30 minutes prior to start time for warmups
- b. Cheerleaders should be in full uniform when they arrive (Shell, Skirt, briefs, white shoes, white no show socks, and navy bow).
 - i. As it gets colder, we will wear our bodysuits. Navy blue leggings are also allowed

1. When/if it gets really cold, gloves, jackets, hats, earwarmers are all acceptable
- c. Bring a water or clear sports drink (nothing that can stain uniforms) and a light snack

3. Absences

- a. No call no show is considered an unexcused absence
 - i. 1 of these could result in sitting out at a game
 - ii. 3 of these could result in being removed from Cheerfest
- b. We understand that life happens, just let your coach, Christina, or Holly know
- c. Excessive absences (excused or not) could result in missed games and removal from Cheerfest
- d. Absences the last two weeks of practice will result in removal from Cheerfest – no exceptions

4. Communication

- a. Most communications will be posted on the Chargers Cheer Facebook page; please make sure you have joined
 - i. Can become cumbersome but Christina/Holly will pin all relevant information to the top
- b. Coaches may have other preferences and those will be communicated to you
- c. Good rule of thumb – messages for all cheer will be on Facebook, messages for team will be on coaches preferences, messages for league will be email

5. Picture day is XXXXX. More info to come.

- a. There will be a makeup date TBD
- b. Cheerleaders should wear their full uniform (Shell, Skirt, briefs, white shoes, white no show socks, and show bow)

- i. We will not wear bodysuits on picture day

6. Homecoming

a. Start times

- i. Flag – XX
- ii. Fresh – XX
- iii. JV – XX
- iv. Varsity – XX

b. There is a “pep rally” the day before at Walled Lake Central from 11am – 2 pm

- i. Just a fun get together
- ii. Each squad level will name their Homecoming Queen/King
 - 1. Must be present at pep rally; random drawing
 - 2. They will receive a crown to wear at their game the following day

c. Ding Dong Ditch the night before homecoming

- i. Cheerleaders meet up at XXXXX
- ii. Volunteer drivers needed; info coming later
 - 1. Not all volunteers will be able to participate; if you are uncomfortable with your cheerleader in a car without you, please do not participate
- iii. We sneak to the football players houses and leave a treat on their door
 - 1. They get us back the night before Cheerfest 😊
- iv. Cheerleaders have a BLAST!

d. “Special Person” cheer

- i. During the first half of the homecoming game, the cheerleaders invite a special person to cheer with them (Dad, Mom, Grandparent, etc)
 - ii. There will be a one-hour practice for the special people to learn cheers the Thursday before
- e. Posters
 - i. Each parent makes a sign on poster board for their cheerleader. Usually includes their name and a picture. Examples will be posted on Facebook later. We zip tie them to the fences to display.

7. October Pink Out

- a. Cheerleaders are allowed to add pink to their uniforms during October (leggings, socks, undershirt, etc).
- b. Each cheerleader will receive a pink bow.
- c. The Chargers sell pink socks as part of a fundraiser for Breast Cancer research. Historically, they have been \$5/pair. If you're interested, don't wait until the last minute to purchase as we always sell out. More info to come.

8. Battle at the Big House

- a. Each year, we play a game at Michigan stadium against our city rival, the Walled Lake Braves
- b. Drop off times and locations will be communicated as the event comes closer.
- c. Tickets will need to be purchased for admittance. Christina will have those as soon as they are available.
- d. The rules for bringing items into the stadium are the same as posted for Michigan games, please refer to the U of M website for information.
- e. Spiritwear for sale

f. Concessions will be open!

9. Uniforms

- a. You are responsible for the care of your uniform
- b. We will be more strict this year on returning deposits due to damage. The Chargers purchased all new uniforms last year.
- c. Please do not sew uniforms yourselves. If you have hems coming undone or holes needing repair, please bring to your coach on a Tuesday practice. They will be passed off to Christina, fixed and returned to you at Thursday practice.
- d. Uniform accessories can be ordered through Omni Cheer. Holly will do a mass order (avoid shipping cost) or you can purchase on your own
 - i. Briefs, Bodysuit, and poms are required

10. Cheerfest xxxxx - OPTIONAL

- a. Cheerfest is an indoor competitive cheer event where the squads will perform a pom and original cheer routine (flag only does a pom routine)
- b. We compete against all of the other cheer squads in our league
- c. Spectators must purchase tickets in advance.
- d. Chargers are co-hosting (WL Braves, Northville Stallions and Colts, Novi Bobcats) Cheerfest this year
- e. There will be a professional photographer and photos will be available for purchase.
- f. There are other vendors as well (flowers, treats, spiritwear, bows, etc)
- g. Flag/Freshman compete in the morning session. JV/Varsity compete in the afternoon session
- h. Cheerfest is NOT REQUIRED.

- i. If you choose to not participate, you will not attend practice in October (or before) but will still participate at all games
- ii. Please let Holly or your coach know by XXXX

11. Volunteering

- a. It takes a village! This organization is run 100% on volunteers
- b. 4 shifts per family required
- c. \$200 deposit will not be returned if all 4 shifts haven't been met
- d. If you have circumstances that need attention, please reach out to Stephanie Bryan (Volunteer Coordinator/JV Coach)

12. Playoffs/Superbowl

- a. Please watch announcements later in the season to see if your child's team has made it to those games.

13. End of year Banquet – Date TBD

- a. Celebration of everyone's hardwork
- b. Players/Coaches/Children 5 and under are no cost; everyone else is \$25
- c. Historically this event has been held at Suburban Showcase
- d. Buffet dinner is provided
- e. Cheerleaders will receive their yearbooks and awards at this time.
 - i. Picture requests for yearbook will be coming
- f. If you are interested in a board position, this is the time you would be able to sign up for that

14. Toward the end of the season, Christina will collect monetary donations to purchase gifts for the coaches and cheer directors. They are all volunteers, giving their time to your children 4 days per week (sometimes more) and this is where we can show our gratitude for it.

Thank you all, and we can't wait for this season to begin!

Cheer Director, Holly Kammer 248-231-2164

Parent Director, Christina Kane 330-322-3037