

LRHS Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are an integral part of all athletic/cheerleading events. They serve to validate the positive values learned through athletics and to support the personal efforts and successes of individual players. Regardless of how successful or positive a program is it cannot succeed without the support of parents.

Parent Communication

We have an open door policy with our cheerleaders. If a cheerleader has a question or concern, it is their responsibility to arrange a time to meet with their coach. This encourages the development of mature, responsible young adults.

In the event a parent conference is necessary, the following steps should be followed:

- Step 1: The cheerleader should approach the coach for a discussion.
- Step 2: The parent, cheerleader, and coach should meet to discuss the problem.
- Step 3: The parent, cheerleader, coach, and an administrator should meet to work out the problem. This should be the final step.

Coaches will not discuss a situation with a parent before a game/event, during the game/event, or immediately after a game/event. Coaches will not discuss another cheerleader/student with a parent. We will only discuss your student.

Parent Roles and Expectations

Parent support is vital for cheerleaders to be successful in this program. The students must have the love and support of their parents to be able to make all practices and performances, and to pay the costs. What, exactly, is the role of the parents? What are the parents expected to do?

Hopefully we can answer that question from our perspective, and be able to clear up any confusion that may arise.

1. Help pay the fees. It is expensive to be a cheerleader, and costs are kept as low as possible.
2. Make sure that the cheerleaders have transportation to and from every practice and event. If you have not already done so, arrange with one or two other parents to carpool.
3. Assist your child in fundraising. We will have different fundraisers throughout the year, and any help that you can give to your child is less money that will have to be spent in the end.
4. Cheerleading can be very stressful for everyone involved. Sometimes your child might just need someone to talk to. Listen and be there for your child. But remember, there's always another perspective to any situation.
5. Encourage self-responsibility. Remind your child to meet deadlines, take everything they may need for a practice or performance, etc. If they do not meet their responsibilities, remind them that they must accept the consequences.
6. Support the program's expectations. We hold our cheerleaders to a very high standard, not just in terms of talent, but also in terms of conduct. Because they represent the school and are leaders, they must be willing and able to abide by all rules and expectations. While we understand that everyone is human and makes mistakes, we teach our students that they must be willing to accept the consequences for their actions.
7. Volunteer and be an active participant in our events. There are many opportunities for parents to be a part of Lake Ridge Cheer. We will communicate our needs to your Team Mom and she will be setting up team meetings in order to disseminate this information, organize committees, and ask for help. Please make every effort to be at these meetings and to be involved in our program. We appreciate your service and your support.

We understand that you only want the best for your child. As coaches, we understand that what is best for the team may not always be what the cheerleaders want or think is best. Our goal in this role is to do what is best for our program. While this may not always be the "popular" choice, we will always make decisions based on improving the program.

Thanks for your understanding and continued support.