

Last update: 04/21/23

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 6:15 to 7:45
 - i. Will change to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday starting in October.
 - ii. Last two weeks before Cheerfest are MANDATORY M-Th 6:15-8:15 pm
 - b. Freshman thru Varsity – Tuesday thru Thursday from 6:15-8:15 pm
 - i. Last two weeks before Cheerfest are MANDATORY M-Th 6:15-8:15 pm
 - c. FIRST WEEK ONLY All levels will practice Tuesday and Thursday from 6:15-7:45
 - 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, Christina/Stevie 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. Snacks are NOT 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, you will be notified of location roughly 2 weeks prior.
 - ii. Practice times will change to accommodate families with football players – practice will start 15 mins later and go 15 mins later this year.

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, as well as yellow Chargers Fleece.

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

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 Stevie know.
- c. Excessive absences (excused or not) could result in missed games and will result in 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. Christina or Stevie will pin most recent relevant information to the top.
- b. 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 for the game will be updated with the Calendar on [Teamsideline.com/commercechargers](https://teamsideline.com/commercechargers)
 - 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. Mother/son football game and an event for cheer as well. Look for further details to come.
 - i. 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-will be announced later.
 - ii. Volunteer drivers needed; info coming later.
 1. Not all volunteer drivers are selected; 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 for one game in 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. They will be purchased through the Chargers store and Stevie will have those as soon as they are available, usually around 1 week-10 days prior to that game.
- 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 much stricter this year on returning deposits due to damage. The Chargers purchased all new uniforms last year and most were returned unclean with permanent staining, a few looked 5 years old already. This is unacceptable, uniforms must be returned clean and in top condition.
- 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 Chargers' team store.
 - i. Briefs, Bodysuit, and poms are required. Please email/call/text with questions.

10. Cheerfest 10/28/23 at Northville High School - 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 but will still participate at all games.
 - ii. Please sign and return your Cheerfest contract to Christina by 9/15/23.

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 – November 12th, 2023

- a. Cheerleaders will receive their yearbooks and awards at this time.
- b. Players/Coaches/Children 5 and under are no cost; everyone else is \$30. This is a break-even event for Chargers, it is not a fundraiser, is truly meant to celebrate your children!
- c. Historically this event has been held at Suburban Showcase, you will be notified if this changes.
- d. Buffet dinner is provided.

- i. Picture requests from the Media Director will be coming for yearbook, please do not wait to upload images into the team drives or they will not be utilized.
- e. If you are interested in a board position, you may sign up at the banquet.

14. Toward the end of the season, Stevie will be given your monetary donations to purchase gifts for the coaches and cheer director. You can make these donations online at the team store, she will be given daily data for donations received. 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!

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