**Mascot Guidelines**

**Mascot:** Tryouts will be held immediately before cheer tryouts. Mascot tryout skits must be 2 minutes long. ALL music and props must be provided by the candidate trying out. Mascot candidates will wear the blue jay costume for tryouts.

1. Eligibility

A mascot must be a 6th, 7th or 8th grader. An athlete in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade is not eligible to participate in athletics for the next grading period (nine weeks) if he/she fails two (2) core subjects or one (1) core subject and two (2) minor subjects. The core subjects are language, reading, math, science, and social studies. Any 6th or 7th grader who is retained must reestablish his/her academic eligibility. Eligibility for the following school year will be based on the final cumulative GPA. Students shall not have a letter grade of an F in two major subjects, or in one major and two minor subjects for the final grades.

1. Attendance

The mascot is required to attend all pep rallies and home football games. Away football games and home basketball games are optional. The mascot will not attend practices, unless a need arises. The mascot will also not attend camp.

1. Transportation

Transportation is provided by the parents to and from events. Rides must be prompt!! Transportation is also required to all home games for football and optional home games for basketball.

1. Character

Team members should **be leaders within the school and set a good example at all times**. Members should maintain good personal appearance, be courteous and friendly to other team members as well as the student body. Members caught smoking, drinking, and/or using drugs are grounds for dismissal. Also public display of affection (PDA) is not allowed. Members must be respectful to the sponsor, other team members, and the visitors of other teams, as they are a representation of their school. All cheers, chants, and dance moves shall be of a positive and sportsmanlike manner. Members will make every attempt to ignore or dissuade negative responses at events and not become involved in such actions themselves.

1. Conduct/Consequences

Mascots must remember they represent their school in and out of school. Misbehavior in public will have consequences as in school misbehavior.

Demerits will be given for unacceptable behavior. Demerits may be obtained for the following reasons:

* Unexcused absences from practice or event
* Uniform violations for events, practices, or performances
* Disrespect to sponsor or other members including texting or other social media
* Habitual late transportation to or from practices or events
* Missing deadlines
* Other serious offenses- office referral

Inappropriate conduct at school requiring a referral will result in the following consequences. While serving the consequence, the member must attend events in uniform but will not participate or perform at the event.

 1st offense: suspension from the next event

 2nd offense: suspension from the remainder of the sporting season

 3rd offense: dismissal as the mascot

If a school referral results in and out of school suspension or PASS, the member will be dismissed from the squad.