

2023-2024
TCHS Cheer Handbook



M. C. Giusti

mgiusti@tcisd.org

409-770-4140

Macy Cooper

mrsurovik@tcisd.org

979-417-6924

TEXAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM HANDBOOK

Organization

This handbook has been written and adopted for the Texas City High School Cheer Team. The team and its handbook are governed by Texas City High School and Texas City ISD. The purpose of the Texas City High School Cheer Teams is to:

- Promote school spirit, pride, and loyalty
- Support all academic and athletic endeavors
- Develop responsibility, leadership, and character
- Teach teamwork and sportsmanship
- Perform at school and community activities

Members of the TCHS Cheer Team are expected to represent their school and community in a positive and professional manner. Our goal is to provide these students with opportunities and experiences that will enhance their abilities to become well-rounded leaders and young adults.

A cheer coach will be hired by Texas City ISD upon recommendation of the TCHS Principal/Athletic Director. The cheer coach will be responsible for:

- Developing good sportsmanship, morals, and work ethic
- Promoting excellence in academics, athletics, and citizenship
- Organizing the team's daily routine, performances, and activities
- Oversee attendance, practices, performances, and discipline procedures
- Maintaining cheer finances
- Relaying information to parents/guardians regarding the cheer program
- Ensuring safety procedures are followed

Expectations of TCHS Cheer Team Members

- UIL and State Law mandates regarding eligibility must be maintained; grades will be monitored every 3 weeks. UIL eligibility grading periods are the 1st 6-weeks, and each 9-week grading period. To participate at the beginning of the year, the student must have met the 5-10-15 UIL credit requirement. Cheer team members who are unable to meet this expectation will be suspended and may be removed if they remain ineligible for 3 three-week checks.
- Texas City High School Cheerleaders are representatives of their school and community. Do not post pictures, use language, or behave in a manner unbecoming of a student-athlete or that reflects negatively on you, your team, school, or community. Violations of this expectation will be addressed through the Cheer Athletic Discipline Management Program.
- Enroll in cheer class is mandatory for both semesters. Prior approval of the coach, athletic director/campus coordinator, and campus principal must be obtained before the student athlete is not enrolled in both semesters of the Cheer class.
- Cheer team members are expected to dress out daily, actively participate in class activities, and follow the expectations outlined in the handbook. Failure to do so will affect your grade.

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Expectations continued...

- Be on time, maintain a positive attitude, and demonstrate team work at all practices, performances, and community events.
- Maintain appearance expectations: Cheerleaders must wear assigned uniform and bow, appropriate make-up, hair in a high pony tail, no jewelry, no visible tattoos and no facial piercings. Cheer Team members will not be allowed to perform at the event if they do not meet these expectations.
- No cell phones or gum allowed during any cheer events. No visitors during practices. Failure to meet this expectation will result in physical conditioning.
- No horse playing at any cheer practice, game, or performance. No stunting or tumbling unless the cheer coach is present. This is a safety issue. Failure to meet this expectation will result in physical conditioning.
- All cheerleaders must maintain good physical condition to allow them to perform to the best of their ability and avoid injuries.
- Must attend cheer camp, **June 5-7, 2023**, at Sam Houston State University with T.C.I.S.D. approval for travel. Failure to meet this expectation may lead to removal from the team.
- Attend scheduled Tuesday and Thursday practices which begin March 21, 2023 and continue throughout the summer. A summer practice schedule will be made known to all cheerleaders in May. Excessive absences may lead to removal from the team.
- Complete duties such as painting signs and organizing materials for games/pep rallies/events. Failure to do so will affect your grade.
- Participate in mandatory fundraisers. Team members may be suspended from a performance if this expectation is not met.
- Follow all directions given to you by the coach and captain/co-captain. Pay attention to the game and stay in formation at all performances; huddling or grouping is not acceptable cheer behavior. Failure to do so will result in physical conditioning.
- If a cheer team member is involved in another school club, organization, or sport, they are expected to share their time equally. Communication with the student, both sponsors/coaches, and the parent will be maintained throughout the year.
- All cheer members are required to ride on the bus to out of town games/events with the team. They can ride home with a parent if the travel release form has been turned in to the principal 48 hours in advance and approved prior to the trip and they have made arrangements for their job to be completed by someone else on the team.
- Varsity members are required to perform at all home and away varsity football games, pep rallies, designated varsity basketball games, UIL Spirit competition, open house, and any other assigned events/sports.
- JV members are required to cheer at sub-varsity home football games, 3rd quarter Varsity home games, designated basketball games, and any other assigned events. They are also required to sell programs at the home varsity football games and play-off games through the 1st quarter.

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Financial Responsibility

- TCHS provides complete uniforms for each team member with the exception of shoes, socks, undergarments, bows, camp/practice shirts and shorts. Uniforms may not be altered in any way without the permission of the coach. Skirt length must be approved by the coach. All uniforms **MUST** be returned at the end of the year or season. Failure to do so will result in financial obligation for replacement cost. If the coach requests uniforms returned at the end of a season, they must be returned by the deadline stated.
- Team members are required to attend cheer camp at Sam Houston State University June 5-7, 2023. The cost is \$380 per team member.
- Team members are required to purchase camp/practice clothes which will include camp/practice clothes, undergarments, shoes, bows, and a warm-up.
- Parents/guardians are financially responsible to purchase the items not provided by the school. The **estimated** cost is \$1000.00 for a first-year cheerleader.
- **Payments may be made in installments: April 1, April 15, and May 1, of the current school year. If the balance is not paid in full by these dates, the cheerleader may be suspended from participating in games until payment is paid in full.** Fundraising opportunities will be available to help defray the cost but may not cover all expenses. Payments need to be made out to TCHS Cheer Team or can be paid by credit card through REV Track. All payments need to state the student's first and last name, student ID number, and state cheer payment.

Financial Obligations Cost Estimates

Camp	\$380
Clothes	\$300
Warm-up	\$189
Megaphone (Varsity Only)	\$60
Backpack	\$90
UIL Activity Fee	\$25

Team Fundraising

- The TCHS Cheer Team will have mandatory fundraisers each year (Football Program, Cheer Clinic, Graduation Concession). These fundraisers are what support the cheer program, so it is imperative that all team members and parents participate. Failure to do so may result in a suspension from the following performance.
- Additional fundraisers will be sponsored by the TCHS Cheer Booster Club such as the stadium concessions, World's Finest Chocolate, and merchandise sales. These fundraisers are designed to help raise money to assist you with your child's expenses.
- No fundraiser shall be conducted without the approval of the coach.

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Medication

- Cheer Team Members MUST have a signed release form from their doctor in order for any medication to be administered to them
- Cheer Team Members must provide their own medication in the original bottle and labeled with their name
- Medication will only be distributed by the trainer, the school nurse, or other medical professional to the cheerleader upon request and in accordance with the prescribed dosage

Awards

- All varsity team members will be eligible to receive a TCHS letter jacket after completing one year in good standing at the varsity level and attending all of the required events, competitions and games. If ineligibility prohibits the student from fulfilling these requirements, then they are disqualified from consideration. If a student quits the team and does not complete the season, they will forfeit all rights to a letter jacket. And if the student does not attend the required events without prior approval, doctors note and/or communication from another coach/sponsor for another event, the student will be ineligible for a letter jacket.
- The cheer team will also be recognized at the annual spring banquet. Current cheer team members in good standing and their families are invited to attend. Graduating seniors are allowed to invite 7 guests and all other team members are allowed to invite 5 guests
- Team members are eligible to purchase cords for a graduation, if they have completed 2 years on the TCHS Cheer Team and are in good standing with the team and school.

UIL Spirit Competition

- The TCHS Cheer Team will compete in up to 2 competitions per year if funds are available
- Varsity cheerleaders automatically earn a position on the competition team and are required to compete.
- The remaining competition positions will be filled by a tryout if necessary.
- The competition cheer team must abide by all the rules listed in the Cheer Handbook.

Overnight Travel

- Team members are required to stay with the team at all times until the competition is complete. This includes meals, travel, and hotel stay.
- Team members are required to travel with the team to all overnight events.
- Team members will be assigned rooms and curfews. Rooms will be secured no later than 11pm or time designated by the coach. These expectations must be followed or disciplinary actions will occur. Violation of the curfew may be grounds for removal.
- All luggage and bags are subject to search prior to the event by TCISD dogs and during the trip if there is anything suspicious.

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Tryouts

DATES: Try-outs: Friday, March 3, 2023, at 3:30 pm in the TCHS Field House

Mandatory Parent Meeting: February 13th, 2023

Mandatory Camp June 5th-7th, 2023 Sam Houston State University

- A **Try-Out Clinic** will take place **Monday, February 27 through Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 3:00-5:00** in the TCHS Field House Mat Room to ensure that candidates are conditioned and prepared for try-outs.
- The current seniors under the direction of the cheer coach will be the clinicians at the try-out clinic.
- Candidates will be judged using the attached score sheet.
- Candidates will perform an entrance, tumbling, 3 consecutive jumps, an individual cheer, a group chant, and a group dance. Male candidates will perform a stunt in place of the dance.
- Qualified judges will be hired to judge try-outs. There will be at least 3 judges, all of whom will be highly qualified to fairly judge the TCHS Cheer Team Try-outs. Judges have the right to request call-backs in order to re-evaluate a candidate. All decisions of the judges are final and may not be challenged. The cheer coach is NOT one of the judges.
- A natural break in the scores will determine the number of members per squad. Freshmen are not allowed to try-out for the Varsity Team. Seniors are not allowed to try-out for the JV Team.
- A minimum score of 20 is required to make the cheer team.
- TCHS Mascot- There will be 1 mascot selected through the TCHS try-out process.
- Candidates must wear black shorts, a white top, proper undergarments, tennis shoes, and white socks. Hair must be pulled back in a ponytail. Bows are allowed but must be school colors. NO jewelry allowed.
- Try-outs will be closed. No one is allowed in the try-out room other than the judges, the cheer coach, and an administrator. No one will be allowed entrance into the field house on the day of tryouts.
- Each candidate will draw their try-out number the week of the clinic. Numbers will be provided for the candidates and must be worn on the front of their shirt during the try-out process.
- All try-out score sheets will be tabulated by an administrator of the school and kept in tier possession until the process is completely over. Results will be posted on the front doors of TCHS Field House at approximately 8:00pm Friday, March 3, 2023. Candidate numbers will be posted; not candidate names.
- Should there be a question regarding your child's score, a meeting may be scheduled with the principal, coach, and parent. You will only be allowed to view the score sheet for your child.

TCHS Cheer Flag Runners

- TCHS Flag Runners- 8 students will be selected through an interview process to run the flags at games, school activities, and community events. These positions are open to juniors and seniors

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only. If these positions are not filled, the coach has the right to open the application process to sophomores and freshmen.

Eligibility for Try-outs

- A signed acknowledgement stating that they have read and will abide by the handbook prior to their child trying out is required. The parent signature also acknowledges their financial responsibility associated with the TCHS Cheer Team.
- Each team member must be a student of Texas City High School for the current school year.
- All candidates must have a current physical on file with the trainer and must submit the try-out application to the coach prior to tryouts.
- Candidates with excessive/repeated discipline including suspension, SAC, DAEP, JJAEP or currently assigned DAEP/JJAEP will not be eligible to try-out.
- If the candidate was a member of the team during the 2022-2023 school year, all financial obligations MUST be taken care of or they will not be eligible to try-out.
- If a cheerleader was removed from the team during 2022-2023 school year, they may or may not be allowed to try-out the 2023-2024 school year. Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis by the cheer coach, campus administrator, and athletic administrator. The decision will be made based upon the student's discipline history and the severity of the offense.

Selection of Captain

A 3-person panel comprised of TCISD administration and/or the head cheer coach will serve as the selection committee to determine the cheer captain(s).

Varsity Captain

Senior and junior cheerleaders with at least one year of experience on the TCHS Varsity Cheer Team will be eligible to apply for Varsity Captain. The candidate with the highest combined score from their tryout, notebook, and interview will be selected Varsity Captain. The number of captain(s) may vary yearly at the cheer coach's discretion.

Junior Varsity Captain

Sophomore and junior cheerleaders with at least one year of experience on the TCHS Cheer Team will be eligible to apply for JV Captain. The candidate with the highest combined score from their tryout, notebook, and interview will be selected JV Captain. The number of captain(s) may vary yearly at the cheer coach's discretion.

- Captain Score Sheet Attached
- Interview and notebook evaluation will be conducted by the coach, an administrator, and a counselor/staff member.

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Captain Responsibilities

- Oversee and abide by all the rules set forth in the handbook
- Consult with coach and relay information to the team including events, times, clothing, etc.
- Lead practices and performances
- Serve as a representative of the team at school and community events

Cheer Class Grading Policy

Cheer Team members will earn grades based on their participation and compliance with the TCHS Cheer expectations outlined in the handbook. Their numerical grade will be calculated by deducting points for failing to meet the expectations outlined in this handbook.

Recover 1 Grade Point Per Task

Cheer Team members can earn 1 academic grade point back for the following tasks if it is desired by the student for academic success:

- Receiving A's in core academic classes on your report card
- Outstanding performance
- Positive feedback from teacher
- Performing a job at a game when it is your off week
- Extra work after school
- Assisting fellow team members who are struggling with material without being asked
- Parent or cheer team member attends a booster club meeting
- Participating in a fundraising event more than required/working an additional shift (1 per hour)
- Participating in a community service project such as The Food Bank, Special Olympics or Relay for Life (1 per hour)

Cheer Athletic Discipline Management Program

Student discipline is an integral part of the TCISD Cheer Program. The discipline management program is designed to set high standards and expectations for all extracurricular activities. Participation in the Texas City Cheer program is a privilege, and student-athletes are expected to behave in a manner that will reflect positively on themselves, their team, school, and community. As representatives of TCISD, it is the responsibility of the student-athletes to make positive decisions at school and in the community. Behaviors that violate these expectations and reflect poorly on the student-athlete, athletic program, and school will be met with proportional consequences.

Behaviors that violate the cheer handbook will be evaluated on an individual basis by the coach, principal, and athletic director. Consequences for disciplinary action are based on the student's discipline history and the severity of the offense.

Examples of Offenses and Consequences are listed below:

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Level 1 Offenses:

- Missing/skipping a practice game, or performance without prior approval
- Disrespectful/disruptive behavior
- Failure to follow coach's directive
- Failure to meet UIL eligibility rules
- Tardiness
- Failure to follow TCISD Cheer Team expectations: Phone, Hair, Gum, Jewelry, Horseplay
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Character unbecoming of an athlete

Consequences for Level 1 Offense:

- Verbal reprimand/warning
- Written reprimand
- Physical conditioning
- Practice/Game equipment set-up/break down
- School concession/community service at a minimum of 2 hours
- Probation

Level 2 Offenses:

- Repeated Level 1 offenses
- Credible evidence of alcohol or tobacco use off-campus
- Harassment, hazing, bullying, vandalism, or fighting
- Violation of athletic probation
- Use/possession of alcohol or tobacco off campus
- Assignment to in-school suspension or SAC
- Failure to meet UIL eligibility rules
- Missing/skipping a practice, game, and/or performance without prior approval
- Character unbecoming of an athlete

Consequences for Level 2 Offense:

- Written reprimand
- Physical conditioning
- Practice/Game equipment set-up/break down
- School Concession/community service at a minimum of 5 hours
- Suspension up to 3 performances

Level 3 Offenses:

- Inappropriate/illegal behavior in a school uniform
- Use/possession of alcohol or tobacco on campus
- Credible evidence of use of illegal drugs at any time
- Fighting /assault, or theft
- Serious misbehavior as defined by Texas Education Code and TCISD Board Policy (Legal)
- Repeated assignment to SAC/suspension
- Placement in DEAP/JJAEP
- Expulsion
- Excessive absences from practice, games, and/or performances

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- Repeated failure to meet UIL eligibility rule
- Repeated Level 2 offenses
- Violation of athletic suspension
- Character unbecoming an athlete

Consequences for Level 3 Offense:

- School Concession/community service at a minimum of 10 hours
- Suspension from a minimum of 3 performances
- Removal from the cheer program for up to 1 calendar year

Probation: A period of time not to exceed one year in which the student-athlete will follow all expectations. Any violation of expectations or offenses will automatically be treated as a level 2 offense.

Suspension: A period of time in which the student-athlete is suspended from participating in cheer performances. Suspension periods may range from 1 to 5 performances. Team members are expected to continue to support his/her teammates by attending all practices, games, and performances. They are required to dress out at all performances unless their suspension is due to ineligibility. Assigned events that the student-athlete does not attend will not count as performances served toward their suspension unless the coach, principal or athletic director approves in advance.

Removal: A period of time in which the student-athlete is removed from the cheer team. The student will not practice, perform, or attend games/competitions. The period of removal may range from the remainder of the season to the removal from all athletic participation for one calendar year. If a cheer team member is removed from the team, they are required to return all school issued uniforms and clear all financial obligations within 2 weeks of their dismissal. The cheerleader loses all privileges associated with the organization for the remainder of the school year which includes banquet, letterman jacket, honor cord, and scholarship.

If the cheerleader was removed from the team during the 2022-2023 school year and is approved to try-out for the 2023-2024 team, additional guidelines must be met.

- The student's removal consequence must have included sitting out/not performing in a minimum of 5 performances including but not limited to games, competitions, and public performances. Team members are expected to continue to support his/her teammates by attending all practices, games, and competitions, but not be dressed in any portion of the team uniform. Performances that the student-athlete does not attend will not count as performances served toward their removal consequence, unless the principal and athletic director approve this in advance. Upon completion of this guideline, the cheer team member will be fully reinstated to the team.
- The student loses the right to hold a leadership/captain/co-captain position on the team and may be placed on the team under a probationary contract.

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Chain of Command

- If there is a concern or disagreement, the cheerleader may set up a meeting with the cheer coach to discuss these concerns
- If you still have concerns, a conference may be set up with the parent, cheer team member, and coach.
- If there is no resolution, then an appeal may be taken to the campus administrator or athletic administrator.

NOTE: All probations, suspensions, and removals will stay in effect during the appeals process

Contacts:

Head Cheer Coach

M. C. Giusti
mgiusti@tcisd.org
Work (409) 916-0960
Cell (409)770-4140

Assistant Cheer Coach

Macy Cooper
mrsurovik@tcisd.org
Work (409) 916-0800
Cell (979)417-6924

Campus Coordinator

Shone Evans
asevans@tcisd.org
Office 409-916-2501

Athletic Secretary

Andrea King
aking@tcisd.org
Office 409-916-0091

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TCHS Cheerleader Tryout Score Sheet-Female

Candidate # _____

Judge # _____

Tumbling (Execution, Difficulty of Skill, Technique) **5 POINTS** _____

Jumps (Flexibility, Height, Form, Variety) **5 POINTS** _____

Cheer (Voice, Technique, Memory, Motion Placement) **5 POINTS** _____

Chant (Motivation, Voice, Technique, Memory, Crowd Interaction) **5 POINTS** _____

Dance (Timing, Coordination, Memory, Precision) **5 POINTS** _____

Overall Performance (Confidence, Spirit, Ability, Facial Expression) **5 POINTS** _____

Total Score (**30 POSSIBLE**) _____

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TCHS Cheerleader Tryout Score Sheet-Male

Candidate # _____

Judge # _____

Tumbling (Execution, Difficulty of Skill, Technique) **5 POINTS** _____

Jumps (Flexibility, Height, Form, Variety) **5 POINTS** _____

Cheer (Voice, Technique, Memory, Motion Placement) **5 POINTS** _____

Chant (Motivation, Voice, Technique, Memory, Crowd Interaction) **5 POINTS** _____

Stunt (Difficulty, Extension, Technique) **5 POINTS** _____

Overall Performance (Confidence, Spirit, Ability, Facial Expression) **5 POINTS** _____

Total Score (**30 POSSIBLE**) _____

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TCHS Cheer Captain Tryout Score Sheet

The Notebook Evaluation and Interview Process will be conducted and judged by the TCHS Cheer Coach, Administrator, and Staff Member. The Try-Out Score will be the average of the 3 judge's evaluation of the candidate's performance during their try-out.

Candidate # _____

Judge #, Coach, Administrator _____

Try-Out Score **(30%)**

Notebook **(30%)**

Interview **(40%)**

Total Score

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TCHS Mascot Tryout Score Sheet

Candidate # _____

Judge # _____

Entrance (Spirit, Enthusiasm, Creativity) **5 POINTS** _____

Skit (Technique, Clear Demonstration of Topic) **5 POINTS** _____

Dance (Rhythm, Timing, Variety) **5 POINTS** _____

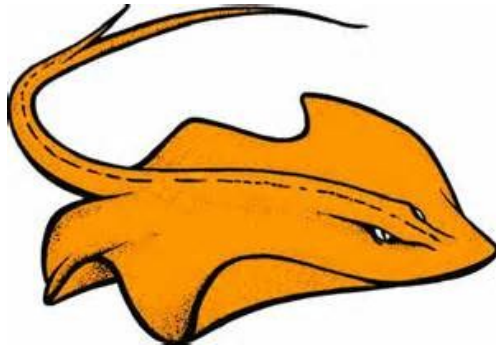
Crowd Interaction (Motions, Gestures) **5 POINTS** _____

Overall Performance (Confidence, Animation, Interaction) **5 POINTS** _____

Total Score (**25 POSSIBLE**) _____

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Texas City ISD Cheer Discipline Management Program



Name	Date	Grade
Discipline Offense	Action Taken	Category

Description of Action Taken:

SAMPLE

Student Signature: _____

DO NOT SIGN

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date

Coach Signature: _____

Date

Administrator Signature: _____

(if applicable)

Date

Athletic Director Signature: _____

(if applicable)

Date

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TCHS Cheer Team Application

Deadline for application: Monday, February 27, 2023

Name: _____

Current Grade: _____ ID # _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Cell: _____ Student Cell: _____

Parent Work: _____ Emergency: _____

Please check the position you are trying-out for:

_____ Cheerleader (JV OR Varsity)

_____ Mascot

_____ Cheerleader (Varsity ONLY)

_____ Flag Runner

_____ Cheerleader (JV ONLY)

_____ Captain

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TCHS Cheer Team Member/Parent Contract

I have read and understand the 2023-2024 TCHS Cheer Team Constitution. I understand all that is expected of me and the consequences associated with any violations of the Cheer Handbook. I agree to follow all expectations and understand that violations of these expectations will result in consequences including, but not limited to loss of points on my grade, physical conditioning, probation, community service, suspension from the team, and possible removal from the team. I understand that I have a financial responsibility to purchase items listed and understand that additional expenses may surface throughout the year. I understand that my child’s cheer balance must be paid in full by May 1, 2023 or they may be suspended from the team. I understand that the Cheer Coach has full discretion in determining which team members may participate in games, activities, and community events. I understand that the coach will be consistent and fair, always having the team’s best interest at heart. I realize that the TCHS Cheer Team will require my time and dedication and I agree to commit myself to the team. My signature below indicates that I will comply with all said expectations of the TCHS Cheer Team Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

TCHS Cheer Team Member Signature

Date

Date

Parent Phone Number

Student Phone Number

Parent Email

Student Email