

# ***Merrillville High School Cheerleading***



## **Motto**

*No Regrets!*

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Merrillville High School cheerleading is to promote school spirit and to serve as ambassadors between our school and community. We strive to represent the Merrillville Pirates with pride and outstanding character. It is our goal to be role models and lead by example in and out of the classroom. We understand that we are students before we are athletes and that this relationship is reciprocal. As a team, we will persevere to improve academically, physically, and mentally everyday with the intention of being revered and reaching our ultimate goal of the being the best cheer team of all.

## Philosophy

The philosophy of the Merrillville High School Cheerleading coaching staff centers on the ideals of fostering a winning attitude, helping athletes develop physically and mentally, and instilling a true enjoyment and passion for Merrillville cheerleading. We believe that our natural diversity and talents are our best assets. We practice a cooperative style of coaching which allows for all team members to have ownership and share in the successes of our mission.

A winning attitude for a Merrillville High School cheerleader is essential to the success of our program. We expect that our athletes will lead by example in and off of the school campus. We put sportsmanship and respect for others at the center of our behavior plan. We lead our athletes by providing a strong moral team environment. In order to stay focused on our mission, we believe in being goal oriented. We set team and personal goals which guide us to continual improvement. Through hard work, loyalty, and commitment, we believe we can be successful in every endeavor.

We run a structured program that focuses on developing each athlete physically and mentally. We use practice time to work on improving strength, endurance, and cheerleading skills. We follow guidelines set by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) to reduce and minimize risks. We attend the National Cheerleader's Association (NCA) cheer camps yearly and use the "perfection before progression" ideal when stunting. Through our high expectations, we require cheerleaders to put academics first. We take advantage of teachable moments in practice and game situations, to apply what cheerleaders learn in the classroom to the sport of cheerleading. In order to build character and self worth, we strive to maintain a positive atmosphere at all times.

Our motto is "No Regrets!" This motto is to remind our cheerleaders to enjoy and cherish the moments they have in cheerleading and in life. We encourage our athletes to put 110% into their experiences with the goal of being able to reflect on their efforts and not wish they would have tried harder or given more. We want our athletes to enjoy their time in cheerleading and graduate from MHS with a strong

sense of loyalty, pride, and passion for Pirate cheerleading. It is our hope that the time spent as a Merrillville High School cheerleader will teach them lessons that will last a lifetime and that they will be a better person for having cheered under our supervision.