

STEPPING IT UP

Just like every school has a principal, every classroom a teacher, and every football team a quarterback, the cheer and dance teams would, naturally, have captains. Usually, this important position has been filled by seniors in past years, but this is the first time that no seniors tried out to be on the team. To make sure that the role was still filled, **Allison Moss** (11), a junior, stepped up to be the captain.

"When I was given cheer captain at the end of last year, I was excited and ready to help the new members. I did the best I could, and even though others might disagree, I would always listen and help when people came to me," said **Moss** when asked how she felt about receiving captain.

Cheerleading and dance are

POMS UP. Dancing in the style of pom, **Marie Ruge** (9) and **Allison Michalski** (10) raise their poms. "I enjoy how clean and perfected it can look. It is a style I believe all of us enjoy and can easily learn and perfect," said **Alyana Newell** (9).

BUTTERFLY. After school got out, **Erica Moffett** (10) meets up with the other girls at the elementary school to have practice. Before beginning the routines, **Moffett** sits on the gym floor to stretch out her legs.

LOUD AND PROUD. Standing on the sidelines of the student section, cheerleaders **Allison Michalski** (10), **Abby Parlin** (10), **Jazmin Matias** (11), **Alyana Newell** (9), **Marie Ruge** (9), and **Erica Moffett** (10) cheer on the boys.

PERFORMANCE TIME. Carrying out the move to a diagonal left broken arrow, **Delaney Shears** (9), **Jazmin Matias** (11), and **Allison Michalski** (10) cheer in front of their fellow peers and community at the Homecoming Parade.

physically and mentally challenging sports that require coordination, cooperation, and unity from all the members on the team. It isn't just about standing on the sidelines at every game in support of our school's athletes, it's also about performing unique stunts, dancing at halftime, and keeping the school spirit high throughout the year.

"We definitely had some rough patches at the beginning. Issues including drama, miscommunication, and other things occurred in the group," said **Alyana Newell** (9).

After this, a few members decided to respectfully resign from their positions and from the teams. In order to fill these positions, **Abigail Parlin** (10) switched her job as dance captain to cheer captain, while **Allison Michalski**

(10) came forward as the new dance captain.

Another new element that was introduced this year was doing dances with moves from styles such as Hip-Hop and Pom.

"It took quite a bit of adjustment when they left. We needed to get used to having less people cheering during stunts, less people to spot and things like that. Altogether, we are comfortable with stunting; it's never an issue. I believe we're far more excited, we looking forward to cheering. None of us really feel restrained to what we can try or to mix things up," said **Newell** further on the subject of new captains.

In the end, the members that were left were able to pull it together and continue on.



TOP FIVE Favorite Stunts Performed

- 1 Twist-Up
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Basket Tosses
- 4 Thigh Stand
- 5 Shoulder Sits

Remember When...

When [we were on the sidelines at a basketball game] Abby hit the ball away from the basketball player and then she got all embarrassed."

Erica Moffett (10)



WAVE 'EM HIGH. While the football boys prepare to line up for a play in the background, cheerleaders **Samantha Moss** (11), **Allison Moss** (11), **Madie Rutje** (9), **Alyana Newell** (9), and **Allison Michalski** (10) shake their pomps. **SMILES ALL AROUND.** Dancing to the song "Chasing the Sun" by the Wanted, **Allison Moss** (11), **Alexis Jepson** (11), **Allison Michalski** (10), and **Jazmin Matias** (11) smile ear to ear underneath the football lights. **PRETTY IN PINK.** Cheering during a football game, cheer captain **Abigail Paulin** (10) waves her pomps in front of the crowd. The cheerleaders were dressed in pink and wore glitter on their faces for Pink Out Night. **JAIL HOUSE ROCK.** For a special night with a unique dance, **Jazmin Matias** (11) hit the floor during halftime with her boyfriend **Wyatt Allan** (12). The dance team partner-danced to the classic Elvis song.

