

# DHS Sparkle Cheers for the Barbs!

*The Sparkle cheer team shines bright at DHS.*

*Bethany Billips*

The DHS Sparkle cheer team is wrapping up the basketball season and is still as spirited as ever!

Sparkle is a cheer team made up of varsity cheerleaders and students with disabilities. They're coached by Christy Dorsey. She is also the varsity coach. Sparkle cheers on the sidelines of football and basketball games. They cheer many of the same cheers as the JV and varsity cheer squads.

Sophomore Jessica Billy said that her favorite part of cheering for Sparkle is, "the Alligator cheer and the uniform!" Billy had cheered on Sparkle for two years.

This past season the Sparkle squad got to perform at the First National Bank Challenge! This was very exciting for them. They loved performing in front of the DeKalb and Sycamore communities.

Unlike the JV and varsity squads, Sparkle does not do any competitions. They do, however, sometimes perform at school assemblies and football half-time shows!

Varsity cheerleaders help out and cheer along side the Sparkle cheerleaders. Sophomore Ryann Swanson is one of those cheerleaders. Her favorite part about helping out with Sparkle is "that the sparkle cheerleaders [actually] enjoy cheering because they think it's fun. Their practices are usually two to three times a week and we play games, like duck-duck-goose, do sideline cheers, jumps, and stunts."

Freshman Tirzah Harms also helps out with Sparkle. She wrote, "My favorite part about helping with it [Sparkle] is getting to know all the girls. [And] my



*Sparkle and JV cheerleaders stunting at the First National Bank Challenge. Photo taken by Cris Rojo.*



*JV cheer squad posing with some Sparkle cheerleaders. Picture provided by Becca Butler.*

favorite cheer to do with them is the Alligator cheer. We usually have practice every Monday and Thursday. We start off practices by talking about our day then we stretch. After that we practice sideline cheers, jumps, and new stunts."

Senior Becca Butler has cheered for four years and loves Sparkle. "My favorite part is flying!" When asked what her favorite cheer was, Butler stated that "there's too many to count."

Next time you go to a school assembly, a basketball game, or football game, keep your eye out for our DHS Sparkle cheerleaders!