

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

May 2017

McCullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 17 Issue 10

Summer School Information Online

Summer school information is now online and available at the District website and our campus webpage.

C.I.S.D. Advancement Policy Requirements for Students

Students in junior high are required to pass three out of the four core classes to advance to the next grade. Language arts and math classes must be passed along with either science and/or social studies. If you have specific questions about your child's situation for advancement please contact your counselor.

Yearbook Information

Yearbooks will very tentatively be distributed through regular advisory classes on May 18th. Only students who purchased a yearbook in advance will receive a yearbook at that time. For those who did not order a yearbook in advance, extras will tentatively be on sale before school on Friday, May 19th. If purchasing a yearbook on that Friday students should bring \$ 40.00 cash or a check made out to McCullough Junior High School. When your child receives their yearbook, please encourage them to keep a close watch on it, as lost yearbooks may not be replaced. Additionally, encouraging your child to use good judgment when signing others' yearbooks is appreciated. Writing too big, in in appropriate places, or writing unfriendly messages is never a good option and could result in consequences.

Final Exams Begin May 26

Students will take final exams the last week of each semester. It is *very* important for students to be present for these major tests, if healthy. Our goal is to give our students experiences in preparation for high-stakes exams so that they have the tools to be successful on these tests they take in high school, for college placement to a university, and beyond. So that your child can do his/her best, please plan any vacations or healthcare appointments around exam dates. Final exams count ten percent of the semester grade for junior high courses and 15 percent for high school classes. Final exams begin 5/26/17. If a student misses an exam he/she should make it up in the front office June 5th through June 8th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and noon. The complete bell schedule for final exams is at our website.

Pick Up of Clinic Items by 6/1

Please remember to pick up any medications your student has in the clinic by no later than Thursday, June 1st at 2:00 p.m. After that time all medication left in the clinic will be disposed of. If you have special circumstances, please contact the clinic and speak to Nurse Stewart.

Verification of Enrollment for Drivers Education - Important for All Current Eighth Graders

Many of our current eighth grade students will take drivers education this summer either at a local facility or online. One of the first requirements to take drivers education in Texas is for each potential driver to have a form from his or her school that verifies the potential driver has been in attendance 90 percent of the time. Without this form Texas teens cannot take drivers education or get their license. If you plan for your child to potentially take a drivers education course this summer please email Erin McDowell at emcdowell@conroeisd.net by May 22nd. These important forms will be distributed the last week of school directly to the kids. Note that our campus only gives out this form to help our students. We are not associated with any drivers education program and are not able to supply information on course availability.

Early Release on June 1st - 1:30 p.m.

Our campus will have early release on June 1st at 1:30 p.m. Please plan for the possibility of a longer pick up line on this day. The front horseshoe will be closed for pick up on this day, from noon until approximately 1:45 p.m., to accommodate increased foot traffic in front of the school.

Remaining Tentative Special Testing Dates

| | |
|----------|--|
| 5/1-5/26 | Benchmark: Geometry |
| 5/3 | STAAR: Algebra 1 EOC |
| 5/8 | STAAR: Math 7 and Math 8 Retest |
| 5/9 | STAAR: Reading 7 and Reading 8 Retest |
| 5/10 | STAAR: Science 8 |
| 5/11 | STAAR: Social Studies 8 |
| 5/8-5/19 | Benchmark: Social Studies 7 |
| 5/8-5/26 | Benchmark: Science 7 |
| 6/20 | STAAR: Math 8 summer final administration |
| 6/21 | STAAR: Reading 8 summer final administration |

Summer Office Hours

Our campus front desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the summer. We will be closed the week of July 3 through July 7.

Textbook Pick Up

Many of our textbooks now are consumables that do not require the traditional early May end of year textbook pick up. Some, including math and social studies, are the hardbound variety that do require actual picking up and scanning. We will attempt to allow students to keep hardcopy books as long as possible. Note most of our textbooks are available online free to kids 24 hours a day.

Football Equipment Issue Day

Saturday, August 12

Equipment Issue Day will be Saturday, August 12th. Eighth grade equipment issue will be from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Seventh grade football equipment issue will be from 1:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Since equipment is fitted specifically for them, athletes must be present in order to receive equipment. Any student not present on Equipment Issue Day will receive equipment the first week of school. You need to bring the following items with you: white calf-length socks, a completed physical form, a *photocopy* of student birth certificate, and cleats (preferably black cleats). The Quarterback Club will have optional items on sale. A \$20.00 charge for athletic practice shirt and shorts will be collected if clothes were not purchased online. Students and parents have the option to purchase Highlander sweats which can be worn during athletics on cold days. A representative from Chick-Fil-A will be at equipment issue day if parents wish to purchase game -day meals. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Skinner at cskinner@conroeisd.net.

Copy Volunteers Needed for 2017-2018

If you would like to volunteer in the copy room next year please email Ms. Layton at yllaton@mac.com.

Assistant Principals

Steve Skidmore (7th A-K)
Shannon York (7th L-Z)
Mike Null (8th A-K)
Lindsay Nichols (8th L-Z)

Counselors

Lindsay Hollomon (7th A-K)
Jana Shriver (7th L-Z)
Marti Meerscheidt (8th A-K)
Alex Schulz (8th L-Z)

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events

- **5/26** Final exams begin
- **5/29** Holiday
- **6/1** Early release for students at 1:30 p.m.
- **8/2** 8th grade orientation
- **8/3** 7th grade orientation
- **8/12** Football equipment issue day
- **8/16** First day of school
- **8/22** Seventh grade open house
- **8/24** Eighth grade open house
- **9/4** Holiday
- **10/6** Early release day
- **10/9** Holiday
- **11/20** Thanksgiving holidays begin
- **12/20** Early release day
- **12/21** Winter break begins
- **1/9/18** Students return for second semester - red day
- **1/11/18** Incoming eighth grade parent/guardian presentation - noon
- **1/16/18** Incoming seventh grade parent/guardian information morning- 9:30 a.m.
- **1/17/18** Incoming seventh grade parent/guardian information night - 6:00 p.m.
- **1/30/18** Elective information night for incoming 7th

All dates are tentative

McCullough Phone Numbers

Transportation: (832) 592-8800
Main Line: (832) 592-5100
Metro Line: (832) 482-6215
Main Line: (936) 709-7215
Fax: (832) 592-5116
Attendance: (832) 592-5111
Kidchat Tipline (888) KIDCHAT

Front Desk Hours

8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Each Scheduled School Day

Summer Desk Hours

9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
Closed the Week of July 4th

Backpacks the Last Two Days of School - May 31st and June 1st
Please note for student safety, backpacks are prohibited on the last two days of school, May 31st and June 1st. Students may enter with a small purse, phone, pen, review packet, and calculator if needed. Any backpack may be taken up at the entry doors. This information will be articulated over the P.A. often in advance so that all students are aware of the annual safety procedures.

Tentative Open House Dates

Open house dates for 2017-2018 are:

7th Grade - August 22nd

8th Grade - August 24th

These events will both begin at 6:30 p.m. Please park in either the east or west lot. Note this evening parents/guardians will attend two days worth of classes. We will go to 1-4 red followed by 1-4 green. On this evening we will not attend your child's advisory class. The event will conclude around 8:30 p.m. Parents/guardians will have time off during your child's normal "split" class time. The P.T.O. may have school clothing for sale.

McCullough Online Presence at Twitter and Facebook

Parents, guardians, and students can follow McCullough online at Twitter for complete and timely updates on school happenings and student success. Through this portal, our campus will work to keep you updated on all events occurring at McCullough, TWHS, and with our alumni. The addresses are

Twitter - @mcculloughcisd

Facebook - @mcculloughjhcisd

Bicycle Safety

If your child is riding a bike, our bicycle rack is on the west side by the football field. This area is under video surveillance and is close to the west doors in case of rain. Please remind your child to please make certain he/she does not ride through the parking lot. The setup is such that the rider can ride through the grass and bypass normal parking lot traffic. If you operate a vehicle in our parking lot please be cognizant of all bicycle, car, and foot traffic. The first week of school we met with all students to discuss bike safety and expectations within that meeting.

Riding Home on an Alternate Bus in an Emergency

Students may be allowed to ride home on an alternate bus in the event of an *emergency*. However, there are a number of action items students/parents/guardians need to know in advance to ensure a student can and does secure the appropriate transportation home at the end of the day. These include:

- some buses are operating daily at maximum capacity and *cannot* take extra riders
- to ride home on an alternate bus with a friend, a note from a parent or guardian is required including the full name of your child, alternate bus your child needs to ride, parent/guardian phone number, and parent/guardian signature
- a contact number where you can be reached to potentially verify
- the request form with the parent signature and contact number must be submitted to the grade level office by noon for verification

Tentative Girls Basketball Offseason Class

Tryout Information

The girl's basketball off season class will have try outs during the class period on August 18-22 for eighth graders and August 21-23 for seventh graders. Off season try outs will be held during the school day and not before or after school for the off season class. Any girl trying out for the off season basketball class will need to turn in a physical dated after April 15th, 2017 to Coach McGuire. Note this refers to tryouts for the offseason program and is not to be confused with tryouts for the team. Please email Coach McGuire at kmcguire@conroeisd.net with any questions.

Tentative Boys Basketball Offseason Class Tryout Information

Incoming seventh grade boys offseason basketball tryouts will take place during the Red 1 athletic period, starting the first week of the new school year. Tryouts for the basketball team will take place on November 1-3. If you have any questions, please email coach Redmon at nredmon@conroeisd.net

Athletic Information Online

Athletic information presented by Coach Skinner at Elective Information Night is available online at our website in the 2017-2018 folder. This PDF document will answer almost any question you have regarding girls or boys athletics. Also at our website you will find extensive information on each sport including directions to all away contest sites. If you need more information on athletic-related questions please contact Coach Lance Skinner at cskinner@conroeisd.net.

Free Parent Access Center -

Parents and guardians have free access to Parent Access Center via www.conroeisd.net. This portal gives complete access to student grades, attendance, tardies, discipline, STAAR scores, and other information. This tool also can give parents and guardians the opportunity to set thresholds where you will be emailed scores of each assignment. Students also have the same access via **Student Access Center**.

Afternoon Front Office Pick Up

If you plan to enter the front office for any business after 3:00, you must park in either the west football field side main lot or the west side of the front horseshoe if space is available. There will be no "unattended parking" on the east or first half of the horseshoe after 3:00 p.m. due to the after school pick up line. Signs will be posted designating the east horseshoe area as a no parking zone after 3:00 p.m. Doing so will keep your vehicle from being blocked in by the car rider pick up line. The line which builds for afternoon pick up will need to form along the right curb so that emergency traffic can enter if needed.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Please note our campus now has four automated external defibrillators for use if ever needed. These reside by the clinic, in the fieldhouse, by the gym, and on the upstairs mezzanine.

Drop Off Room Volunteers for 2017-2018

If you are interested in volunteering to assist in the drop off room next year please email Joie Rocas at jroc1174@aol.com.

State Student Success Initiative (SSI) Information

A Gentle Reminder that Eighth Grade Students Must Pass the State Reading and Math STAAR Exams in Order to Advance to Ninth Grade

As a reminder, Texas students currently in eighth grade are required by the state Student Success Initiative (SSI) law to pass the eighth grade STAAR math and reading exams to advance to ninth grade. Eighth grade students will have three opportunities to take these exams, with two tests for each subject, coming in the school year and one each in the summer if necessary. Summer STAAR testing will occur in late June if necessary and students who do not pass the exams on the second administration are required by the state to attend summer STAAR Academy. Our goal is to support each child to help him/her do their best and pass the first time. If you have a child in eighth grade, please note this state law before making any firm decisions regarding out of town summer vacations.

Ongoing Bullying Prevention

The first week of school, administrators met with students through language arts classes to discuss school procedures, expectations, and where to go for help with any need. A wide range of topics were covered including the student handbook. One aspect of this was bullying prevention. If your child is bullied or perceives he/she is bullied at school, please have your student contact his/her administrator in the grade level offices. Email addresses for our assistant principal staff are available on our website. We want to help. Letting the appropriate assistant principal know, so that he/she can investigate, is key.

Building Entry and Morning Drop Off Time 8:00 a.m.

The McCullough building will open for students at 8:00 a.m. Unless a student is in a specific school activity that begins prior to 8:00 a.m., please do not drop your son/daughter off prior to this time.

Tentative Student Pep Rally Dates and Details

McCullough is tentatively set for student pep rallies on 9/19, 10/10, and 11/7. Note these are pep rallies for students and each gathering will begin at 8:00 a.m. sharp and conclude around 8:32 a.m. There is a designated area for parents/guardians to sit for the pep rally provided all children have a seat. Expect heavy traffic on the west side leading up to the pep rally start time. Entry is exclusively through the main brown west patio doors on the football field side of the building. Thanks in advance to all of the students and sponsors for their hard work in making this rally happen!

Tentative Student Orientation Dates

McCullough Junior High has a special student orientation each fall to help young people and their parents/guardians be prepared and feel good about the upcoming year. Student orientation allows children to pick up locker combinations, practice operating their locker, obtain valuable handouts, see their tentative schedules, walk their classes, and visit with their friends. Additionally, parents/guardians can sign up for P.T.O., purchase school clothing/gear, and pick up required Vocabulary Workshop books, if interested. Attendance is not mandatory but is a huge plus. Textbooks will be issued the first week of school. The child, or the child's official parent/guardian, must be present to pick up materials. Should a student not be in town on his/her assigned date and pick up time, he/she can obtain a copy of his/her tentative schedule and pre-assigned locker at our front desk from 8/10 until 8/15 during our summer office hours. These students who miss orientation will be issued pre-assigned lockers the first week of school. Students' schedules will only be available during their time slot so that the line will move quickly for all.

8/2/17

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. | 8th grade | Last Name A-C |
| 9:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. | 8th grade | Last Name D-G |
| 10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. | 8th grade | Last Name H-L |
| 11:30 a.m.— 12:30 p.m. | 8th grade | Last Name M-R |
| 12:30 p.m.— 1:30 p.m. | 8th grade | Last Name S-Z |

Students' schedules will only be available during their time slot so that the line will move quickly for all.

8/3/17

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. | 7th grade | Last Name A-C |
| 9:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. | 7th grade | Last Name D-G |
| 10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. | 7th grade | Last Name H-L |
| 11:30 a.m. — 12:30p.m. | 7th grade | Last Name M-R |
| 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m. | 7th grade | Last Name S-Z |

Our administrative and teaching staff will be working inservice during this week. Any student missing his/her orientation date will receive books and locker the first week.

8/15/17

Student Orientation for all students registering in August new to C.I.S.D. will occur on August 15th. The specific new to C.I.S.D. student pick up times will be:

7th graders- 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

8th graders- 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Tentative Volleyball Team Tryout Information

Volleyball is a competitive U.I.L. sport which meets as an athletics class during the school day. We play the teams that are in our junior high competitive district which are available to play including campuses from Conroe and Spring I.S.D. Tournaments may involve schools from other districts. This group will be in regular off-season athletics class at the conclusion of volleyball season. Tentative tryout dates for volleyball are August 22-24. If needed, August 25th will be utilized. Depending on the tryout process there may be a preliminary cut on August 24th. Times for the tryouts will be from 7:00 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. for seventh graders and 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for eighth graders. If you are dropping off a seventh grader, expect heavy traffic at the drop off line the first week and parents/guardians are encouraged to plan accordingly. On August 22nd, 7th graders should show up at 6:45 a.m. to turn in paperwork. If you have an eighth grade child trying out, please be on time to pick up your daughter at 5:30 p.m. Attendance at all tryout times is mandatory in order to make the team. Potential players need to bring gym shorts, a completed physical form (make yourself a backup copy), and photocopy of a birth certificate. McCullough will have four volleyball teams (two -7th and two - 8th grade teams) if numbers allow. As volleyball is a tryout sport, any students making the team will have schedules changed early in the year to be placed into the athletic class period. The first volleyball game is September 7th. If you have any questions about volleyball please contact Coach Brinkman at vbrinkman@conroeisd.net.

McCullough Named Texas Honor Roll School

Recently McCullough Junior High was named a Texas Honor Roll School by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education. Based on data McCullough was named a clear leader in getting students to grade level and beyond within Texas.

Early Checkout Specifics

If you are checking your child out early during the school day, it will be far quicker if the student brings a note to the front desk before school with your clear directions on what time he/she should be waiting for you in the front office. Please note this is even more important if the child is in athletics or physical education as it can take much longer to locate them and have them in the front office if they are picked up without an advance note. A form is available on our website for use to help make the process faster. This document is located in our parent services area titled "early release request form." Additional forms are available as needed at the front desk. *Please note a parent or guardian must come into the building to check a student out.* For student safety please note in advance a photo I.D. is required to check out your child.

Electronics and Phones - Expectations, Rules, and

Considerations for Parents/Guardians to Know

Students are allowed to bring electronics to school as long as they are off between 8:50 a.m. and 3:55 p.m. Your assistance in helping them understand that vibrates is not off is appreciated. For student safety and privacy, electronics are never allowed to be out or on while in the locker room or bathroom. These items, including phones, are immensely popular among young people. However, due to the fact that these are high theft items on all campuses, it is highly recommended parents/guardians consider whether their child is mature enough to keep up with these very expensive devices. The amount of smartphones left by users on tables, benches, and in the hallways is *staggering*. These items are brought at the student's own risk. Note in advance that if a student's use of electronics, including phones, violates policy, the device will be taken up and consequences for the inappropriate use will be assigned. The phone may need to be picked up by a parent or guardian depending on the infraction and overall number of violations and may not be returned to the student on the same day. Please do not ask your child to have his/her phone on so that you can text or call them, potentially disrupting instruction of children. If you need to get information to your child, please call 832-592-5100 as we deliver messages directly to students throughout the school day.

Free Homework Help Available for Students Before, During, and After School

McCullough offers many different varieties of tutoring and homework assistance for students. Taking advantage of these programs provides invaluable and free help for students. Please note programs include:

- Free teacher tutoring at 8:05 a.m. daily (note one day per week teachers have morning duty)
- SPARKS peer tutoring during Advisory with Ms. Donna Meyer— dmeyer@conroeisd.net
- PAWS homework help Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. in the downstairs library