

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

May 2018

McCullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 18 Issue 10

Early Release on 5/31/18 - 1:30 p.m.

Please note our campus will have early release at **1:30 p.m.** on the last day of school, May 31st. The complete final exam schedule is available at our website.

Spring Semester Final Exams - 5/25/18 through 5/31/18

Final exams begin Friday, May 25th and conclude on Thursday, May 31st. May 31st is an early release day at 1:30 p.m. Any final exam missed should be made up in the McCullough front office the week of June 4th through June 7th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If your child is healthy, please have him/her present for these important tests.

Student Safety and Backpacks the Last Two Days of School - May 30th and May 31st

Keep in mind for student safety, backpacks and bags of any type are prohibited on the last two days of school, May 30th and May 31st. Students may enter with a small purse, phone, pen, review packet, and calculator if needed. Any backpack will be taken up at the entry doors and purses/bags may be checked. This information will be articulated over the P.A. often in advance so that all students are aware of the annual safety procedures.

Front Horseshoe Closed 5/31

Noon Until 2:00 p.m.

The front horseshoe will be closed on the last day of school on May 31st from around noon until 2:00 p.m. for last day dismissal. All car pick up is on the west side on 5/31.

School Supply Order Deadline

The P.T.O. provides parents and guardians each year an opportunity to order school supplies for their child. This is the official McCullough school supply requirements and purchasing using this method is entirely optional. To purchase supplies:

- go to epipacks.com
- Enter code MCC064
- Scroll to the bottom and click on "junior high"
- Add to cart and check out from there
- Supplies will be delivered to students at orientation

Summer School Information Online

Summer school information is now online and available at the district website.

End of Year 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 hard-copy books as long as possible. Note most of our textbooks are available online.

Drivers Education VOE Forms- 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 Verification of Enrollment (VOE) 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 have your eighth grade child sign up in the eighth grade AP office (A102) by May 21st. VOE forms will be available the last week of school in the front drop off room to all who requested the document. **We do not have information on drivers' education courses or availability.**

Yearbook Information - Distribution Tentatively Set for 5/18

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 18th. 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 appropriate places, or writing unfriendly messages is never a good option and could result in consequences.*

Pick Up of Clinic Items by 5/31

Please remember to pick up any medications your child has in the clinic by no later than May 31st 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.

Moving to a New School District in 2018-2019

Helping Your Family Have a Smooth Transition

If your child is moving to a new school district for the 2018-2019 school year, please notify our registrar's office to complete the appropriate withdrawal paperwork before the end of school. When a student withdraws from a campus, the individual's records are not sent to the new campus until the child enrolls and the receiving school requests the records. For more information please email Karla Rizzuti at krizzuti@conroeisd.net.

Requests for Transcripts or Teacher Recommendations

During the Summer

We often receive requests during the summer for transcripts and are happy to help. Normally this is for a child who may be going to a private school abroad. As a junior high we do not have transcripts. When a school asks for a transcript in our case that is the report card you are mailed in June. Also many times we receive a request for a teacher recommendation during the summer. The vast majority of our staff have a last day of June 1st. *If you need or think you may need any type of recommendation, please make sure you request the document early prior to the last week of school so that we can ensure you get what you need.*

Important Final Report Card Information -

Date of Mailing Around 6/8

Final report cards will be taken to the post office around June 8th. *The time for report cards to reach your mailbox historically varies wildly depending on where you live.* Parents/guardians can view your child's final report card and grade information online at Parent Access around June 10th. Please retain this important document for future use.

Summer Reading Information Available at Website

Please see the 2018-2019 folder on the front page of our website for complete information on incoming student summer reading. Students are to read and annotate one book from the 2016 Lone Star Reading List. The link on our website includes complete details, including all available titles.

Assistant Principals:

Craig Harbin (8th A-K)
Lindsay Nichols (8th L-Z)
Steve Skidmore (7th A-K)
Beatriz English (7th L-Z)

Counselors:

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

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events:

- 5/28 Holiday
 - 5/31 Early release day
 - 5/31 Front horseshoe closed noon until 2:00 p.m.
 - 7/31 Incoming eighth grade student orientation
 - 8/2 Incoming seventh grade student orientation
 - 8/11 Football equipment issue day
 - 8/16 Seventh Grade Open House
 - 8/20 Eighth Grade Open House
 - 9/3 Holiday
 - 10/8 Holiday
 - 11/19 Thanksgiving holidays begin
 - 1/10 Incoming eighth grade parent/guardian information meeting
 - 1/15 Incoming seventh grade parent/guardian information morning (9:30 a.m.)
 - 1/16 Incoming Seventh Grade Parent/Guardian Information Night (6:00 p.m.)
 - 1/29 Elective Information Night
 - 2/7 Cheerleader Tryout Information Meeting
 - 3/21 Highland Girl Tryout Information Meeting
- All dates are tentative*
- ### McCullough Phone Numbers
- Transportation: (832) 592-8800
Main Line: (832) 592-5100
Main Line: (936) 709-7215
Fax: (832) 592-5116
Attendance: (832) 592-5111
Kidchat Tipline: (888) KIDCHAT

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each school day

Summer Office Hours 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
Closed the Week of 7/3 through 7/7

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.

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 your desire for a change in your child's transportation.
- a request form with the parent signature and contact information must be submitted to the grade level office by noon for verification.

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. It is also highly recommended every bike be locked up at all times.

Early Checkout Specifics to Help

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. Keep in mind, 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.

Athletic Information and Key Dates for 2018-2019

Please see the 2018-2019 folder located on our website for:

- Details of each sport
- Tryout dates if applicable
- Notes to help families understand the process

2019-2020 Drill Team Tryouts Tentative Dates

The McCullough Highland Girls Drill Team tryout informational meeting for 2019-2020 will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium. Tryout packet forms will be due Friday, April 5th by 5:00 p.m. The tryout clinic will be April 15th through April 18th and April 23rd through April 26th, in the large gym from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tryouts will occur on Saturday, April 27th at 8:00 a.m. Please contact Ms. Gilmore at slgilmore@conroeisd.net or Ms. Nichols at lnichols@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

Crossing Guards

We have crossing guards that can help students cross at the southwest crosswalk connecting the main parking lot and Creekwood Park. Also, we now have crossing guards at the Panther Creek and Glen Loch intersection.

Easy Ways to Earn Money for McCullough Students Through Our P.T.O.

Below are a few of the very easy ways parents/guardians can help earn money for our students and the McCullough P.T.O. These ways include:

- Amazon Smile— Start shopping each time by going to <https://smile.amazon.com>. Link your account to "McCullough Junior High School PTO" and 0.5% of your purchase will go to our campus.
- Kroger— Visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and link your card EACH YEAR to McC Jr. High #81354
- Randalls— Visit <http://www.randall.com/ShopStores/GoodNeighbor.page> and link your Randall's card to McC Jr. High # 1476.
- Exxon— Exxon will donate \$500.00 to the school designated for every 20 volunteer hours worked by employees or their spouses.
- Box Tops for Education— Box Tops for Education can be turned in to the front office
- Join the McCJH P.T.O.— It is not too late to join our P.T.O. A basic membership is only \$20.00. The link to sign up is <https://mcculloughpto.weebly.com/joinvolunteer.html>.

Parking Lot Speed Limit

The posted speed limit in our lots is 5 mph. For the safety of all, please abide by the posting.

State Student Success Initiative (SSI) Information

As a gentle 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.

KIDCHAT Anonymous Tipline 1-888-KIDCHAT

Our campus and district have an anonymous tipline that can be accessed 24 hours a day by contacting 1-888-KIDCHAT. Information can be communicated at this site regarding activity that is illegal or inappropriate occurring both in the community or on a school campus. Students play a key role in helping keep the school and community safe. Reports are followed up upon by school administrators and/or police. In some cases, informants may qualify for a monetary reward for information leading to felony arrests.

Ongoing Bullying Prevention

During 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 are covered including the student handbook. One aspect of this is 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.

2019-2020 Cheerleader Tryouts Tentative Dates

The McCullough Cheer tryout informational meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium. Tryout packets will be due Friday, February 15th by 5:00 p.m.. The tryout clinic will be March 4th-6th, in the large gym, at 4:30 p.m. Tryouts will be on Thursday, March 7th at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Shelly Newitt at snewitt@conroeisd.net or Ashley Harbin at aharbin@conroeisd.net if you have any questions

Tentative Color Guard Tryout Information for 2019-2020

The McCullough Junior High Color Guard audition clinic will be held at McCullough in the gymnasium May 1st through May 2nd from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. All pick up of students should occur at 6:00 p.m. on the northwest side entrance by the football field. The audition will occur on May 3rd at 4:30 p.m. and will extend until it is over. Students may be picked up as soon as their group is done. Please contact director Angela Danney at adanney@conroeisd.net if you have any questions. More information is available on the McCullough Color Guard website.

Vaping Awareness for Parents/Guardians

Nationally there has been a significant increase in “vaping” among teenagers. This terminology may also be known as e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are hand-held devices that heat liquid fused with nicotine or other liquids. Students across the country can, and are, vaping many different substances. Many of the devices used by teenagers to “vape” are not easily recognizable and appear as a normal writing pen or elongated USB thumb drive. In order to deceive parents/guardians, these devices which appear to be a regular USB thumb drive even light up when plugged into a USB receptacle. This also charges the battery used to heat the liquids. Among the most popular is a device known as a “JUUL” which harbors the liquid substance at the end. Teenagers find these devices attractive to use because the vapor emitted is hard to detect and generally they do not feel as if they are as harmful as traditional cigarettes. A recent study that came out in February of 2018 has found that the vapor of these devices contains lead and other metals dangerous to all, not just the user. Be aware these devices on campus have the same school-based consequences as regular cigarettes.

Parking Lot Safety and Reminders

The safety of our students, staff, and you is our top priority. As we discussed in our incoming parent/guardian meetings, we are lucky to have two independent pick-up and drop-off locations. That is great for everyone. Our west (football field side) lot is the main place for parents/guardians to pick up your child. As a major point of emphasis, keep in mind the following reminders:

- Phone use while driving in a school parking lot and any street is prohibited by law.
- The posted speed limit in our lots is 5 mph.
- Please ensure any family member, sibling, grandparent, or driver of any association understands the parking lot safety plan and respects it for the safety of all.
- For the safety of your child, please do not have him/her dropped off in the main parking lot in the morning and then asked by you to cross traffic. All morning drop off is along the curb exiting the right side of the vehicle only.
- In the afternoon, parking lot pick up on the west side is only in the coned-off area located by the painted crosswalk. If you are picking up your child in the west lot, please come all the way to pick them up at the designated area.

In the end, the safety of all students begins with everyone exercising patience and good judgment.

Test Retake Policy - An Opportunity To Improve Learning and Grades

Students have the opportunity in many cases to retake exams in order to improve their understanding of specific topics and improve their overall grades. Tests can be retaken in social studies, science, math, and electives. The maximum grade that can be made on a retest is a 75. Retaking an exam can have *dramatic, positive impact* on the grade achieved by a student at any level. Exams count for 60 percent of the overall marking period grade. Please note:

- teachers may choose to require tutorials or review prior to the retake
- due to the nature of some assignments and lab practicals, teachers can limit which tests can be offered for retakes
- tests cannot be retaken if the student was cheating on the first administration
- teachers may offer a new test or assignment on the retest
- there are no retakes on semester or final exams
- it is up to the teacher as to when retakes will be offered
- retakes normally occur before the school day at 8:00 a.m.
- students may retake one exam per semester for a PreAP class or one each nine weeks for a regular class

Electronics and Phones - Expectations, Pros, Cons, 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. Use of phones during each child's 30 minute lunch is permitted. Your assistance in helping your child understand that vibrate is not equivalent to off is appreciated. For student safety and privacy, electronics are never allowed to be out or on while in the locker room or bathroom. School and felony legal consequences will potentially occur for phone/camera use in areas of which there is a legal expectation of privacy. 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 that 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.

Semester and Final Exams for Next Year - 2018-2019

Tentative dates for final exams for 2018-2019 are as follows:

- 12/13/18-12/19/18 Fall Semester Exams
- 5/24/19-5/30/19 Spring Final Exams

Please make attendance on these dates a top priority if your child is healthy. Final exams count for ten percent of the grade for junior high courses and fifteen percent for high school. Missed exams can be made up in January for any mid-term test missed and the week of June 3rd through the June 6th.

Automated External Defibrillators

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.

Free Parent and Student 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 can also give parents/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**.

Free Homework Help Available for Students
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 or two days per week teachers have morning duty).
- SPARKS peer tutoring during Advisory with Ms. Donna Meyer and Mr. Jarrett Sutter.
- PAWS homework help Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. in the downstairs library.

Highlander 101 Meeting– Football 2018-2019 Information for Parents/Guardians

The annual informational meeting for all parents/guardians of athletes playing football will occur on August 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nancy Bock Auditorium. Please park on the west side and enter through the main brown patio doors. Although athletes can attend, this meeting is designed to provide information for parents and guardians they need to know going into the season. Specific details of how football works will be given and frequently asked questions will be addressed. Additionally, representatives of the QB Club will present ways parents and guardians can become involved. Highlander gear will be available for purchase during the event.

New Pilot Program for Students and Parents/Guardians - Access to Grades and Class Averages Via Email and/or/Text Messaging

McCullough is piloting a program for C.I.S.D. which will allow our students as well as parents/guardians to receive automated emails or texts which will give the pupil or parents instant notification of scores recorded for any assignment as well as an estimated average for the class. Sign up is at Parent Access Center or Student Access Center.

Tentative Student Orientation Dates and Key Information

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. and purchase school clothing/gear. 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 8/6 until 8/14 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. For purchase of materials note some areas will be able to accept credit cards and others cash/check. Having both payment options available will make for a smoother experience.

7/31/18

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.

8/2/18

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

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

8/14/18

Student Orientation for all students registering in August new to C.I.S.D. will occur on August 14th. 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.

Required Immunizations for Incoming Seventh Graders

If you are a parent or guardian of an incoming seventh grader of 2018-2019, please be aware Texas state law requires all students to have paperwork indicating receipt of the following immunizations before they can begin the first day of school:

TDAP

MCV

Tentative Student Pep Rally Dates and Details

McCullough is tentatively set for student pep rallies on 9/18, 10/16, and 10/30. 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 Open House Dates

Open house dates for 2018-2019 are:

7th Grade - August 16th

8th Grade - August 20th

These events will both begin at 6:00 p.m. Please park in either the east or west lot. On 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 8:00 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.

Football Equipment Issue Day - August 11th

The annual football equipment issue day is scheduled for Saturday, August 11th. Athletes need to be present in order to receive equipment fitted specifically for them. The Quarterback Club will have items for sale. Please bring a copy of your child's physical dated April 15, 2018 or later. Also, please bring money to potentially purchase meals for your child and parent gear as desired. Specific times are:

- 8th grade - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- 7th grade- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cars and Buses The First Week Of School

Please note that the first week of school, and especially the first couple of days, buses may potentially be running later than usual due to heavy car line traffic and kindergarten parent pick up at drop off bus stops. Expect the car rider lines to be much longer the first two days. As we are the third bus run following the elementary and high schools, any opening week slow downs will affect us more than others.

Detailed Bus Information

Bus numbers, routes, and approximate time for pick up and drop off will be available at www.conroeisd.net in early August. Please follow the directions included at the website *precisely* to ensure information is located for your child. Students who rode the bus 18-19 should be pre-enrolled. If your child is new to McCullough or did not ride the bus in 18-19 you will need to enroll him/her online so that the bus will pick him/her up. Note this process normally takes three days.

Social Media Information All Parents/Guardians Need to Be Aware of To Help Ensure Children are Happy, Healthy, and Safe

The information below is **very important** if you are the parent or guardian of a child who has access to the internet via phone, your home, or at a friend's house. Our goal is to help ensure all of our children are happy, healthy, and safe. The information below is being shared because social media pitfalls committed off campus are negatively overtaking the lives of our students, and much of what we do administratively each day on campus. We want to inform, help, and assist in preventing family stress as much as possible.

Overall, the vast majority of our students do a *great job* of using social media each and every day at home or at school. It is a great way for students to stay connected and most handle it maturely and appropriately. Some students have a more difficult time using this mode of communication in a correct and well, legal, way.

No school has control over student social media accounts or the internet. We have no ability to delete the social media accounts of individual students including their Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, Twitter, or any other platform. We can enact school consequences if an inappropriate posting occurs on campus. Depending on the situation, criminal charges may be **and routinely are filed by the county** and if you believe threatening online postings have occurred the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction.

This sounds simple, but the single best way for your child not to receive negative posts or be involved with potential online bullying is for them to not have a social media account. We realize that is not popular or probable. Furthermore, if as a parent/guardian, you want to ensure your child is not involved in online bullying on either end, it is important to have access to their *real* social media accounts and the private area of each. These accounts often look very different once you enter the *private* realm reserved only for those *invited* to the account. Often times the public area is purposefully misleading or mundane.

Please also realize that even if your child does not have a phone, in the real world students share phones. Everyone has access. The truth is there is almost no stopping access, even if you are trying to do so.

Our assistant principals are happy to help if we can should an outside of school bullying situation exist. This is something we do routinely to help children. Please note in advance we have no jurisdiction to impose consequences for actions occurring outside of school.

Young people live much of their lives through these virtual worlds. It cannot be overstated how important phones and social networks are to teenagers in the U.S., nor can it be overemphasized how many problems they create for schools, including McCullough Junior High. This also includes problems created indirectly for parents and guardians.

It would be naïve to fail to mention the cheating aspects of the social media accounts. Our campus works hard to maintain test security to ensure exams are fair for all. Numerous accounts exist online created by students to share information. We work diligently to minimize or eliminate this the best we can with the social media providers. There are limits to what we can legally do.

Compared to almost every other campus in the country, we have almost non-existent fights in school. It would be incorrect to say it never happens but some years we have next to none. Our staff and administration go to *exhaustive* lengths to intervene, counsel, and do everything possible to *prevent* these. Our students do a wonderful job of providing tips to assist. **When we do have conflicts in almost every instance the catalyst for it involved social media.** If you have concerns about a potential situation we constantly encourage our students to call the C.I.S.D. anonymous tipline at 1-888-KIDCHAT. Our goal is to prevent problems. Each year our administration meets with the kids in person the first week of school. During that meeting it is emphasized students can come at any time to any staff member with a concern.

On a somewhat related subject, note almost daily there are faux accounts that are created to mimic legitimate school, individual, or district websites. We have not been immune to this. Additionally, many students create faux accounts to confuse or mislead parents and guardians. It happens constantly. Our campus maintains a social media presence on Twitter @mcculloughcisid. This is the only official and real social media account we have as a campus. From this account we will relay timely campus information, post pictures of students who have experienced success, relay information for TWHS feeder, and retweet alumni stories. I encourage you to follow this account for detailed information on our campus far beyond what you will receive via email or newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is a great day and age to be a young person. Our goal is to help you make it the best life possible for your child. We care.

Information Designed to Protect and Inform Use of Photo and Video in Areas of Which There is an Expectation of Privacy What Every Parent/Guardian and Student Needs to Know

Our campus cares deeply about all of our students and works very hard to educate and protect them. Across the country the ubiquitous presence of smartphone technology in the hands of young people presents the opportunity for our students, your children, to suffer serious and potentially lifelong consequences as an offender and/or a victim. Issues associated with students taking/sending improper pictures or recordings continue to dominate both local, state, and national news. Our goal is to keep all students safe and free from harm caused by inappropriate phone/camera use. To protect your child, our campus strongly recommends that you, as a parent or guardian, share with your child the below information about several Texas laws that apply to this issue. Signs are posted throughout our building reiterating these laws. This includes but is not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms. We will meet with students the first week of the new school year to cover a number of major issues, including these laws. Students who break the law are subject to prosecution and arrest by county authorities. Depending on the situation and place of occurrence, students are also subject to school consequences for inappropriate recordings or transmission of images.

INVASIVE VISUAL RECORDING

Photographing or videotaping another person in an area where the person being recorded expects privacy (like a bathroom or locker room) or, when a person electronically **sends a photo or video that shows someone in an area that is expected to be private IS a crime.** Nudity does not have to be depicted in the photo or video for this to be a crime. *Texas Penal Code §21.15*

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN VISUAL MATERIAL DEPICTING MINOR

Electronically sending pictures or video that shows minors in sexual conduct, including nudity, or being in possession of these material can be a criminal offense. *Texas Penal Code §43.621*

10/10/17	PSAT 8/9 Benchmark: 7 th Reading
10/30/17-11/10/17	Benchmark: 8 th Reading Benchmark: 8 th Social Studies
10/30/17-11/17/17	Benchmark: 7 th Writing
11/6/17-11/17/17	Benchmark: 7 th /8 th Math
11/27/17-12/8/17	Benchmark: 8 th Writing
11/27/17-12/20/17	Benchmark: Algebra 1 and Geometry
12/4/17-12/15/17	Benchmark: 7 th Social Studies
12/11/17-12/15/17	Benchmark: 7 th Science
1/16/18-1/19/18 (optional)	Benchmark: 8 th Science
1/22/18-1/26/18	Benchmark: 7 th Reading Part I
2/5/18-2/23/18	Benchmark: 7 th Writing and 8 Reading
2/5/18-2/16/18	Benchmark: 7 th /8 th Math
2/26/18-4/6/18	TELPAS
2/26/18-3/8/18	Benchmark: 8 th Social Studies
4/4/18-4/6/18	Benchmark: 7 th Reading Part II
4/9/18-4/13/18	Benchmark: 8 th Science
4/10/18	STAAR: 7 th Writing
4/10/18	STAAR: 8 th Math
4/11/18	STAAR: 8 th Reading
5/9/18	Algebra 1 EOC
5/14/18	STAAR: 7 th grade Math/ 8 th Math Retest
5/15/18	STAAR: 7 th grade Reading/8 th Reading Retest
5/16/18	STAAR: 8 th Grade Science
5/17/18	STAAR: 8 th Grade Social Studies
5/18/18	STAAR – all makeups need to be completed by the end of this day
5/5/18-5/25/18	Benchmark: 7 th Science
5/7/18-5/18/18	Benchmark: 7 th Social Studies

- ***Eighth grade students in Texas are required to pass STAAR Reading and STAAR Math in order to advance to ninth grade.***
- *Eighth grade students who do not pass the STAAR Reading or STAAR Math exam on the first attempt will undergo state-required remediation during the school day for approximately the two weeks before the second administration of the STAAR test(s).*
- Eighth grade non-passers after two attempts are required by the state to attend summer school remediation throughout June to prepare for their third attempt to pass. ***Before planning summer vacations, please take this into account.***
- Students will be in their testing room until 1:45 p.m. on STAAR days.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom from 1:10 p.m. until 1:40 p.m. * Each student should bring, if possible, a sack lunch and water bottle.