

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

Summer 2018

McCullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 18 Issue 11

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 and MCV4

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.

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.

Volunteers Needed for the Drop Off Room

If you would like to volunteer in the drop off room for the 2018-19 school year please contact jroc1174@aol.com

School Bell Schedule for 2018-2019

The McCullough bell schedule for 2018-2019 will be 8:50 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This summer the exact schedule will be posted on our website. The release time for students involved in off-campus physical education is 3:00 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 in 17-18 should be pre-enrolled. If your child is new to McCullough or did not ride the bus in 17-18 you will need to enroll him/her online so that the bus will pick him/her up. Note this process normally takes three days.

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.

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.

Moving to a New School District in 2018-2019

Helping Your Family Have a Smooth Transition if Moving to a New School District.... What Do I Need to Do?

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.

Semester and Final Exams for 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.

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.*

Athletic Physical Information

If your child is participating in athletics on campus next year, a properly completed doctor-signed physical is required before an athlete can begin participation in the organization. It is important to use the correct CISD physical form. The appropriate physical form can be located at <http://mccullough.conroeisd.net/departments/directory/athletics/>. Also, please note doctor's offices normally only have a limited number of slots in their day to accommodate athletic physicals. Making an appointment early is recommended and helps avoid drama. When your child receives his/her athletic physical, please consider making a copy of the properly completed form for your records. Many camps and outside-of-school organizations require them. Your child should turn the athletic physical form in directly to his/her coach when they receive equipment or tryout in the fall. To assure this valuable document is not lost, please have your child only turn the form in directly to his/her coach.

Importance of Attendance on the First Day - August 15th

For the state of Texas PEIMS accounting, it is important for students to be on campus the first day of school. If students are not present the first day of school, they are classified as inactive for the state reporting system and a parent/guardian must schedule an appointment to re-enroll.

Assistant Principals:

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

Counselors:

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

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events:

- 7/31 Incoming eighth grade student orientation
- 8/2 Incoming seventh grade student orientation
- 8/6 Band to Band Open House
- 8/9 Highlander 101 for incoming football player parents and guardians
- 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

Summer Office Hours 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday

Closed the Week of 7/3 through 7/7

Tentative Girls Basketball Off-season Tryout Information

The girls basketball off-season class will have tryouts during the class period over the days of August 17 through August 21 for eighth graders and August 20 through August 22 for seventh graders. Off-season try-outs will be held exclusively during the school day. Note these tryouts are for the basketball off-season class, and should not be confused with tryouts for the girls basketball teams.

Tentative Girls Basketball Team Tryout Information

The 2018-2019 girls basketball team tryouts will be held October 31 through November 2 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. for both seventh and eighth girls. Any girl trying out **MUST** have a copy of a properly completed physical dated April 15, 2018 or later and a copy of her birth certificate. These should be turned in directly to Coach McGuire. Prospects are required to attend all three days of tryouts in order to make the basketball team. Note basketball teams play other available schools to compete against in our junior high district composed of teams from Conroe I.S.D. and Spring I.S.D. Please email Coach McGuire at kmcguire@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

Tentative Volleyball Team Tryout Information

Volleyball is a competitive U.I.L. sport which meets during the school day. This group will be in the regular athletics off-season class at the conclusion of volleyball season. Tryouts for volleyball will occur on August 20th, 21st, 22nd, and if needed August 23rd. If needed, there will be a first cut on August 22nd. Times will be from 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. for seventh graders and 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for eighth graders. On August 20th, 7th graders should show up at 6:45 a.m. to turn in paperwork. Attendance at all tryout times is mandatory in order to make the team. You need to bring gym shorts, a completed physical form, 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. Note volleyball teams play other available schools to compete against in our junior high district composed of teams from Conroe I.S.D. and Spring I.S.D.

Football Information.... Common Summertime Questions

Clothing: Effective April 1, 2018 you can order football clothes online. The practice shorts and practice shirt are required for all players.

- <http://www.northhoustonathletics.com/mccullough>

Communication: If you have not done so already, please sign up to receive all upcoming emails. You may do so by going to the McCullough website, link to athletics, link to football, and click on "7th grade email distribution list 2018-2019 school year."

Highlander 101: The parent/guardian football informational meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium at McCullough. You will not want to miss this informative presentation. This gathering is specifically designed for parents and guardians.

Equipment Issue Day: Tentatively scheduled for August 11th

- 8th graders 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- 7th graders 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- We prefer that the players wear equipment provided by the school
- Items to bring include:
 - Copy of Physical (can be original but keep copy for your records)
 - Optional: Money to purchase spirit wear
 - Money to purchase game day meals
 - Money to join booster club

More details are to come as we get closer to this date

Practice: First day of practice is August 16th (second day of school)

- Locker room opens at 6:30 a.m.
- Practice starts at 7:00 a.m.
- Students should be dropped off on west side of campus (stadium side). Please drop off player in the designated drop-off lane outlined with cones. **Please do not drop your child off in the middle of parking lot.**

Game Schedules: Game schedules will be passed out to players once teams are determined. Schedules will also be posted on the athletic website. Seventh grade games are usually on Monday and eighth grade games are usually on Tuesday. The first game is tentatively set for September 10th. Note football teams play other available schools to compete against in our junior high district composed of teams from Conroe I.S.D. and Spring I.S.D.

Club Sports**Tennis, Golf, Soccer**

Information on club sports including tennis, golf, and soccer will be coming as information becomes available. These are not sports that are part of the University Interscholastic League in Texas. We do offer them as part of our program and compete against other C.I.S.D. junior high schools. These sports meet outside of the school day.

Back to Band Open House

The McCullough band will host a back to band open house on Monday, August 6th, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for all band members. It is very important for band members to attend if they are in town. Students can purchase band supplies, meet the directors, get your band bind, obtain your band locker, and make new friends.

Tentative Boys Basketball Off-Season Tryout Information

Off-season basketball tryouts for incoming seventh graders will take place during the Red 1 basketball period on August 17th, 21st, and 23rd. Following the completion of tryouts, any boys who do not qualify will be moved to PE. A current physical, dated after April 15, 2018, is required to participate in tryouts. This tryout is not for the basketball team. This is only for the off-season class.

Tentative Boys Basketball Team Tryout Information

The 2018-2019 boys basketball team tryouts will be held October 31 through November 2 after school from 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m., with an additional day on Nov 5th for seventh grade only. All participants must provide a current physical prior to tryouts. Note basketball teams play other available schools to compete against in our junior high district composed of teams from Conroe I.S.D. and Spring I.S.D. Any questions on tryouts can be sent to coach Redmon at nredmon@conroeisd.net. Note basketball teams play other available schools to compete against in our junior high district composed of teams from Conroe I.S.D. and Spring I.S.D.

Boys Cross Country Time Trial Information

Seventh graders have to be able to run under 16 minutes for two miles without walking on the day of their time trial, August 17th, at 7:00 a.m. Eighth graders have to be able to run under 15 minutes for two miles without walking on the day of their time trial, August 16th, at 7:00 a.m. Any student who does not participate in the required time trial due to absence, injury, or not having a physical will forfeit their participation on the team. Students who fail to meet the class requirements will be moved into regular P.E.

Girls Cross Country Time Trial Information

Tryouts for girls cross country will occur the first week of school. Seventh grade girls will try out during the CC period, 4G, on Monday, August 20th. Eighth grade girls will try out after school on Monday, August 20th from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The tryout consists of running two miles, without walking, on the track in 18:00 or faster. Any student who does not participate in the required time trial due to absence, injury, or not having a physical will forfeit their participation on the team. Students who fail to meet the class requirements will be moved into regular P.E. Athletes must have a physical on file PRIOR to the tryout.

Track and Field Tentative Information

Track and field practice starts in January and the season runs through mid-spring. Everyone who comes to practice is on the track team. Participants try out weekly or semi-weekly for the available spots in each specific category for the upcoming track meets. Most meets are limited to three to four slots per competing event.

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 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. *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. Additionally, to avoid frustration or delay, note the only people who can check out a child are the legal guardian or person(s) listed as an emergency contact.

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@conoeisd.net if you have any questions.

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.

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/volunteer.html>.

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.

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.

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.

Ongoing Bullying Prevention

During the first week of school administrators will meet 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.

Orchestra Students During Student Orientations

Orchestra students should stop by the orchestra room during their specific student orientation time slot. Ms. Dutchover will have helpful information for you at that time.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Knowing Where Your Child is After School Helping Eliminate Stress of Locating Your Son or Daughter

When you are a parent/guardian seeing your child come home from school is an exciting time. Our goal is to ensure your child comes home each and every day at the time you expect and through the method you anticipate. We care and want to ensure everyone is reunited appropriately. However, at dismissal in secondary schools across the country students choose their own path coordinated with parents/guardians to arrive home whether it be by bus, bike, car, or walking. Every day we have over 2200 children arrive home just as the plan was meant to be. On an occasional basis we have a situation where a child chose an alternative plan on his/her own after school without alerting a parent or guardian. Please echo our suggestions we make to students to help ensure your child notifies a parent or guardian if the child unilaterally decides to change his/her plans. We have a phone available for free use by students in the front office all day every day until 6:00 p.m. Our office stays open late over an hour after school is out until 5:00 p.m. with Ms. Villarreal as our receptionist to assist. There are many dangers associated with students having cell phones and by no means are they required. However, late in the afternoon or early in the evening cell phones are a *great tool* to find your child when otherwise it may be next to impossible for anyone, including a parent, police, or us. Also, some devices have the ability to be located by a parent or guardian to narrow down the location of the phone and presumably the child.

Congratulations to Mixed Choir

Mixed choir was recently selected to perform for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) next February. The performance will occur in San Antonio. Congratulations to all.



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.

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.

First U.I.L. Eligibility Deadline for Participation - September 21, 2018

Please note that September 21st is the first University Interscholastic League (UIL) eligibility deadline. Students must pass all classes on this date and additionally at each nine weeks mark to be eligible to participate in contests, performances, Science Fair, games, etc. This includes passing all classes that are for high school credit as well as those that are Pre-AP. The complete listing of U.I.L. eligibility dates is available at our website. Note students who are not passing a course on September 21st actually lose their eligibility to participate in contests on September 28th at 3:55 p.m. At our website parents/guardians and students can access, print, and/or bookmark the file titled "UIL Eligibility Dates 18-19" for a complete overview of all eligibility changes as well as progress report dates. Note students who are ineligible are prohibited from riding the bus with the team, being on the field/stage/bench during an event, or participating in any way during contests according to U.I.L. rules.

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.

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.

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 these rallies happen for the entertainment of all.

Subject: Important U.I.L. Competition Information for Parents/Guardians/Students to Know Prior to the Seasons Beginning

- * Periodically contests may be canceled or delayed due to lightning. When lightning occurs within a ten mile radius, we are required to wait 30 minutes before resuming the outside event. If we delay a game due to lightning please evacuate the stands and return to your vehicle or the safety of our building. We want to play, but the safety of our students and fans always comes first.
- * Any contest short of varsity is not made up, replayed, or rescheduled.
- * We have no control over the delay or cancellation of a contest at an opposing school where we are not the home team.
- * If a game is canceled early due to conditions that clearly dictate it is unplayable we will attempt to email you. This is a rarity for outside events. We always make an effort to play the contest. A call on playing, delaying, or canceling the game may not be made until game time or even after the scheduled start depending on developing conditions. The best way to know the ever changing status of an event is to follow our campus Twitter feed @mcculloughcis. Additionally many activities have their own Twitter feed they update with information.
- * If you have family or friends flying in from afar to see a child play, your assistance in ensuring they understand this in advance is much appreciated.
- * Entry fees at Conroe I.S.D. junior high events remain only two dollars for adults and one dollar for students. Please note when we are the visiting team at other school districts, entry fees may be much more. Tournament fees are considerably higher.
- * If you are a fine art or athletic parent/guardian attending a game involving our home stadium sunglasses are highly recommended.
- * U.I.L. academic eligibility is real. Please note students in Texas have to pass all of their courses at the end of the first six weeks and every subsequent nine weeks to remain eligible for games, contests, concerts, plays, and other competitions. The complete calendar of U.I.L. eligibility dates can be accessed on the front page of our website. .
- * Note the first grading period for the U.I.L. concludes on September 21st. By law the first marking period is only six weeks. This means grades that determine eligibility are compiled statewide from a smaller total number due to the limited number of days involved. Translated, this means each grade has more impact than over the normal nine weeks period for a grade. Students need to understand that overall averages can change wildly, either way, pending exams that are taken leading up to the September 29th date a Texas student could lose eligibility.

**Bus Accidents and Breakdowns
What to Know in Advance**

Our buses do a great job each day of driving our students safely to and from home to school. To put it in perspective, in a given week CISD buses drive further than the distance from Earth to the Moon! With these miles comes the inevitability of minor bus wrecks or breakdowns. It is a rarity, but it does happen. Most students have phones now to keep you updated. Please note in advance we will attempt to send you email updates if we can and if we have updated information. The preferred method of getting the child home after an incident is by the bus or a replacement bus. Please be aware if you do appear on the scene we cannot release students to parents or guardians until we get the go ahead from the police who are working the accident. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation in advance.

Plagiarism Checking, Prevention and Information

Please note teachers do check papers for authenticity and plagiarism via online verification resources.

Registration for Students Completely New to C.I.S.D.

Online registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open. If you are a parent or guardian of a new student to CISD you will need to provide the required information in our new Family Portal conveniently located on both the CISD and McCullough websites. After the information is entered online, an appointment with the registrar is needed to complete the registration process. Please consult the McCullough website 2018-2019 folder for complete new registration details and information on school programs.

Visit The McCullough Webstore at www.mccwebstore.com

Go to McCullough's online webstore direct link to purchase select athletic clothing, science fair supplies, pay for class activity fees, and purchase choir, band, and orchestra uniforms. Login instructions are on the website. Note class fees will be loaded to your child's account around August 26th. Please visit www.mccwebstore.com.

Duke Tip Grand Recognition

The following students won the Duke Tip Grand Recognition Award for outstanding performance on the SAT or ACT exams:

- Emily Valerio
- Andrew Goin
- Brooke McMullan
- Siddhanth Pachipala
- Sohi Patel
- Zoey Yu
- Kevin Pan
- Faith Liu
- Diana Haas
- Justin Fong
- Lauren Everett

Infosnap

Change to Those First Day Forms Coming Home!

The Conroe Independent School District will return with the online student registration/data validation system for the upcoming school year, powered by InfoSnap. The system is a secure and green process, which allows the district to verify all student demographic, emergency and medical information for your child prior to the start of the new school year. Parents and guardians new to C.I.S.D. will need to enter information that we do not currently have in digital form, such as your student's Health Information form. This online process replaces all the hard copy student registration forms that your child brings home on the first day of school. When it is time to fill out the online form our update forms submitted last year, you will receive an email from the Conroe Independent School District with instructions on how to access the system for your student. This email will arrive around July 9th. The email will contain a link and a secure "snapcode" that links directly to your child's information. You will create an account if new to the district, or log back into an existing account if you are a returning parent or guardian. To make the process easier for families with multiple children, you will have the option to copy all generic family information to all other students in your family. We would appreciate all families to take action and complete these forms as soon as possible after receiving the letter/email. Your child's registration will not be complete until the forms have been submitted. If you do not have access to the Internet, computers are available on our campus to complete the forms.

Student Emotional Health

Helping our Children Be Their Best

Our counselors, administration, and staff care deeply about the emotional health of our students. Teenagers undergo a lot of stress due to expectations both real and perceived. We work hard to counsel and encourage students who need emotional guidance. If you have a child you are concerned about, please contact our counseling staff to update them as needed. When we have concerns we will work hard to let you know also. If your child has a concern about another individual, please encourage them to let one of our counselors know so that we can be aware and assist.



Social Media Information All Parents/Guardians Need to Be Aware of To 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 and you are intentionally attempting to keep him/her off social media, in the real world students share phones to access accounts. 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.

Helping Your Child Make Good Decisions...

The Danger of Making Threats as a Joke
In 2018 all threats should be, and are, taken seriously. We follow up on every inappropriate communication whether it be verbal, online, written, or delivered by any other means. A great thing about our students is that they trust us, let us know, care, and have a relationship with our staff that allows them to confidently communicate concerns. Our staff values that trust and takes it very seriously. At the outset of the year our staff meets with and explains in detail the dangers of making threats in any form, as well as the consequences for doing so. Most of the time young kids are trying to be funny. Please visit with your child to ensure he/she realizes in advance **no one will think it is funny** and no one will think it is a joke. The consequences, legally and from the school, are very high for making any type of threat.

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*