

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

December 2018

McCullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 19 Issue 5

Incoming Eighth Grade Parent/Guardian Information Meeting

Our annual incoming eighth grade parent/guardian information meeting is set for January 10th at noon. The meeting will occur in the Nancy Bock Auditorium and should run approximately 30 minutes. Please feel free to bring your lunch with you. At this meeting we will cover specific curriculum and organizational specifics impacting eighth grade students. Please park on the west (football field) side and enter through the main brown patio doors. All information presented at this gathering will be emailed to parents/guardians for review.

Semester and Final Exams for 2018-2019

Tentative dates for final exams are below:

- 12/13/18-12/19/18 Fall Finals
- 5/24/19-5/30/19 Spring Finals
- 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 first semester test missed, and the week of June 3rd through the June 6th for the second semester.

Early Release on 12/19 - 12:50 p.m.

McCullough Junior High will have early release on Wednesday, December 19th. Dismissal will be at 12:50 p.m. Expect potential heavy traffic in the pick up lines, and note buses will depart around 1:03 p.m. The complete modified schedule for this day is on our website in the bell schedules and calendars folder.

Science Fair - February 1

Junior high science fair will occur on Friday, February 1st. Specific information on the day will be distributed by your child's science teacher, as some students participate in the morning and others in the afternoon/evening. Note students participating in science fair must be academically eligible according to U.I.L. guidelines to participate in the exhibition.

Incoming Seventh Grade Elective Information Night

Our annual elective information night for incoming seventh grade students and their parents/guardians is tentatively scheduled to occur on the evening of January 29th from 6:00 p.m. until 7:05 p.m. This evening is designed so that students new to McCullough have an opportunity to visit, informally, with various elective teachers to gain information on their programs. This night is a casual come and go setup somewhat like a trade show, allowing students to visit areas of interest. A presentation for seventh grade girls interested in athletics will occur in the Nancy Bock Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. At 6:35 p.m., a presentation designed primarily for incoming seventh grade boys will also occur in the auditorium. Fine arts directors may be set up on this evening in their areas.

Track and Field

Tentative Information

Track practice will begin on January 14th. Athletes in basketball season will pick up track practice after their last game. All participants must have a current physical on file with the school in order to participate. The physical form must be dated April 15, 2018 or later. Seventh and eighth grade boys will practice in the mornings from 7:00-8:15. Seventh and eighth grade girls will practice in the afternoons from 4:15-5:15. Students do not have to be in an athletic class in order to participate. Note everyone who comes out for track practices and participates is on the team. Individuals within the team tryout each week for specific events at the upcoming track meet.

January 17th P.T.O. Meeting

9:30 a.m. in the Bock Auditorium

Please join Denise Cipolla, CISD Coordinator of Guidance and Counseling, and Kelly Locke, CISD Mental Health Specialist, as they discuss "Fear of Missing Out" or FOMO. This event will occur on January 17th, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Nancy Bock Auditorium on our campus. Please enter through the main brown west patio doors for this special event. Our children have everything in their face with social media that they can get anxious about feeling that they're missing out on something. Mrs. Cipolla and Mrs. Locke will help parents/guardians with strategies to guide their children with this nation-wide issue. In addition, they will touch on letting kids fly and make their own decisions which will help prepare them to become successful adults in today's society. All are invited. Please enter for this special event through the main brown patio doors on the west (football field side) of the building.

Incoming Seventh Grade Course Selection Information Meetings

On January 15th and 16th, McCullough Junior High will be hosting informational meetings for parents/guardians of incoming seventh grade students of 2019-2020. Our meeting on January 15th will occur in the Nancy Bock Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. The meeting on January 16th will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Nancy Bock Auditorium. Please park in the west parking for these events. The meetings will be identical, and are offered at two different times for your convenience. We will cover critically important information on our campus, core and elective course offerings for seventh grade, math placement, off campus private physical education, and additional information which will help your child be successful as he/she enters secondary education. If you have a child entering seventh grade next year, it is *highly recommended* to have at least one parent/guardian attend one of these important meetings. The McCullough P.T.O. may have school items available for purchase if you are interested. This event will run for *around* 90 minutes and is for parents/guardians only. Notes from these meetings will be published on our website, and parents/guardians will receive a direct link to this information following the discussions. All dates are tentative.

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. Attending this initial meeting is mandatory for the student trying out for cheerleading and at least one parent or guardian (preferably both if applicable). Tryout packets will *only* be distributed at this gathering to attendees at the meeting who are present and have received the required information. Tryout packets will be due Friday, February 15th by 5:00 p.m. to the McCullough front office. The tryout clinic will be March 4th-6th, in the large gym, from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. each day. 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.

Required Immunizations for Incoming Seventh Graders of 2019-2020

If you are a parent or guardian of an incoming seventh grader of 2019-2020, 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

More information will be coming from your intermediate campus clinic.

Assistant Principals:

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

Counselors:

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

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events:

- 12/13 First semester exams begin
- 12/19 Early campus release at 12:50 p.m.
- 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.)
- 1/17 P.T.O. Meeting
- 1/29 Elective Information Night
- 2/1 Yearbook deadline
- 2/7 Cheerleader Tryout Information Meeting
- 2/15 Cheer packets due for 2019-2020
- 3/4 Cheer clinic begins
- 3/7 Incoming Parent/Guardian Help Session
- 3/7 Cheer tryouts
- 3/8 Early release
- 3/26 Highland Girl Tryout Information Meeting
- 4/5 Course request deadline for 2019-2020
- 4/8 P.T.O. General Meeting
- 4/9 STAAR testing
- 4/10 STAAR testing
- 4/19 Holiday
- 4/22 Holiday
- 5/1 Color Guard information meeting for parents/guardians and students
- 5/7 STAAR EOC testing
- 5/15 STAAR testing
- 5/16 STAAR testing
- 5/24 Final exams begin
- 5/27 Holiday
- 5/30 Early release at 1:30 p.m.

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 8-5 Each School Day

Yearbook Ordering Information

It's time to purchase your yearbook for the 2018-2019 school year. Visit www.balfour.com and search for "McCullough Junior High" on the home page to begin your order. Yearbooks are \$40, payable online. Ordering a yearbook in advance is the only way to guarantee your copy in the spring. **The deadline for all yearbook orders is February 1, 2019.** Don't wait until it's too late! Visit balfour.com today.

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.

Anonymous Alerts: Anonymous App for Safety Concerns

Our campus will be utilizing the Anonymous Alerts app designed to allow students, or anyone inform our campus administration of any safety concern during the 2018-2019 school year. This app will allow any completely anonymous upstander and an administrator to engage in completely anonymous two-way confidential ongoing communication regarding an issue. The app can be downloaded either at the Google Play store for Android, or Apple store for iOS. Note the important following information to use when utilizing the app:

- Login/Password- conroeisd

Please be aware 1-888-KIDCHAT will still be available.

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.

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 and 4:00. Use of phones during each child's 30 minute lunch is permitted for personal use and accessing Canvas to obtain assignments. 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.

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. Attending this initial meeting is mandatory for the student trying out for drill team and at least one parent or guardian (preferably both if applicable). Tryout packets will *only* be distributed at this gathering to attendees at the meeting who are present and have received the required information. 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 sgilmore@conroeisd.net or Ms. Nichols at lnichols@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 7th through May 8th from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. All pick up of students should occur at 6:00 p.m. on the west side entrance by the football field following each audition clinic day. The actual audition will occur on May 9th at 4:30 p.m. and will extend until it is over. Students may be picked up as soon as their group is done. There will be an informational meeting for parents, guardians, and students on Wednesday, May 1st from 5:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the Commons LGI (located just east of the cafeteria). Audition packets will be due to the McCullough front office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3rd. Please contact director Angela Danney at adanney@conroeisd.net if you have any questions. More information will be 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.

Bicycle Safety and Awareness

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.

Helping Your Child Make Good Decisions and Avoid MAJOR Legal and School Consequences... 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 communicated 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 this year, campus administration met with students in person through language arts classes on September 17th and September 20th to explain in detail the dangers of making threats in any form, as well as the consequences for doing so. Consequences for making inappropriate threats include expulsion from school as well as accompanying legal consequences. Most of the time young kids are trying to be funny. Please visit with your child in advance of school starting to ensure he/she realizes **no one will think it is funny and no one will think it is a joke.** Information can be given anonymously for investigation at 1-888-KIDCHAT or through the Anonymous Alerts app.

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.

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

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.

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.

Upcoming P.T.O. Meetings

The McCullough Junior High P.T.O. is tentatively hosting upcoming P.T.O. meetings on 1/17, and 4/18. These begin at 9:30 a.m. on the scheduled days in the Nancy Bock Auditorium located on the west side of campus. Please look for more information as we approach these gatherings.

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.

Club Sports**Tennis, Golf, Soccer**

Information on club sports including tennis, golf, and soccer will be coming as information becomes available.

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>.

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
- PAWS homework help Monday through Thursday from 4:10 p.m. until 4:50 p.m. in the downstairs library.

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.

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**A Gentle Reminder that Eighth Grade Students in Texas 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.

Bus Email Notifications

Our administrators use an app known as BusHub to keep you updated on potential bus delays. This information is sent specifically to email addresses listed by parents when registering your child. We will send these updates to help you as the situations allows. So that you always receive updated information, please keep the school updated on any email changes.

Student Safety and Backpacks the Last Two Days of School**May 29th and May 30th**

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.

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 @mcculloughcisid. 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. 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.

2019-2020 Course Request Deadline**April 5, 2019**

The course request deadline for 2019-2020 will occur on Friday, April 5, 2018. This will be the deadline for all elective, core, fine art, and organizational choices for the 2019-2020 school year.

Parent/Guardian One on One Course Request Help for 2019-2020 Help Session

Our campus will offer one on one course request help for parents and guardians on March 7th. This event will occur in the small gymnasium on the west end from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and parents/guardians who are seeking extra assistance should enter through the main brown patio doors.

**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.

**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 2100 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. Eikelberg 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 the child.

Last Day Early Release

Our campus will have early release on Thursday, May 30th. Release will be at 1:30 p.m. Please expect the possibility of higher traffic on this date. The front horseshoe will be closed for final dismissal between noon and 2:00 p.m.

Tentative Testing Window or Date	Assessment
10/29/18 - 11/9/18	Benchmark: 7th Writing
10/30/18 - 11/9/18	Benchmark: 8th Social Studies
11/5/18-11/16/18	Benchmark: 7th and 8th Math
11/5/18-11/16/18	Benchmark: 8th Reading
12/3/18 - 12/14/18	Benchmark: 7th Social Studies
1/14/19 - 1/18/19	Benchmark: 7th and 8th Science
1/28/19 - 2/8/19	Benchmark: 7th Writing
2/4/19 - 2/15/19	Benchmark: 8th Math
2/18/19 - 3/1/19	Benchmark: 8th Reading
2/19/2019	NAEP
2/25/19 - 4/5/19	TELPAS
2/25/19 - 3/1/19	Benchmark: 7th Reading
2/25/19 - 3/8/19	Benchmark: 8th Social Studies
4/1/19 - 4/5/19	Benchmark: 8th Science
4/1/19 - 4/12/19	Benchmark: 7th Math
4/9/2019	STAAR: 7 Writing
4/9/2019	STAAR: 8 Math
4/10/2019	STAAR: 8 Reading (7th Pre-algebra take 8th Math STAAR)
5/6/19 - 5/17/19	Benchmark: 7th Social Studies
5/6/19 - 5/24/19	Benchmark: 7th Science
5/7/2019	STAAR: Algebra EOC
5/13/2019	STAAR: 7th Math/8th Math Retest
5/14/2019	STAAR: 7th Reading/8th Reading Retest
5/15/2019	STAAR: 8th Science
5/16/2019	STAAR: 8th Social Studies
5/17/2019	STAAR: All makeups need to be completed by the end of this day

- ***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.

**Off-Campus Physical Education Information for Students, Parents, and Guardians
2019-2020 School Year**

Information for students, parents, and guardians interested in Off-Campus Physical Education for 2019-2020 is below. Please note the important bulleted details all students/parents/guardians considering Off Campus Physical Education need to know in advance of choosing this option:

- The *Texas Education Agency* allows Off Campus Physical Education for *participation in individual Olympic sports only. Team sports are not eligible for this program.*
- Students are only allowed to participate at CISD approved facilities. A facility cannot become an “approved” facility unless the organization representative has attended the Off Campus PE Informational meeting on Wednesday, January 9th (*The Jett Center, 601 Lewis Street, Conroe*). *The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please note, all organizations must renew their application each year. Conroe ISD requires an Off Campus PE vendor fee of \$100. The vendor deadline for submitting their application is Thursday, March 7th at 4:00 p.m.*
- Off Campus Physical Education is a year-long commitment. *One-semester versions* or monthly versions of this program are not available. Students participating in Off Campus Physical Education are committed to **both** the fall **and** spring semesters **consecutively**. A student’s *class schedule* is developed accordingly as students who are in off campus physical education do NOT have classes fourth block red or green for either semester.
- The *Texas Education Agency* does not allow students in this year-long program to participate in school *UIL* athletic programs (which have their own athletic class *during* the school day). Participants may and are encouraged to try-out for school club programs, such as track, golf, tennis, and soccer that meet before or after the school day. Off-campus physical education students who choose to participate in club sports after school would need to depart campus with their special dismissal time and then return to participate in the special activity after school.
- For students enrolled in the year-long Off Campus Physical Education program, a facility/vendor change will only be considered at mid-term. Choose your facility and instructor *wisely* from the onset. ***Make certain you are comfortable remaining with the instructor and facility throughout the entire school year.*** Students are NOT allowed to change vendors at any time without prior approval from the District’s Coordinator of Physical Education.
- Any student choosing *Category 1 (15+ hours of training per week)*- Off Campus Physical Education must be picked up daily on both red and green days at 3:00 p.m. at the northwest corner, main student entrance. **Make sure you have year-long afternoon pick up arrangements (parent or guardian) in place prior to choosing Off Campus Physical Education.**
- Students are not allowed to leave campus and walk home unsupervised.
- Grades and attendance for a student in Off Campus Physical Education are submitted every three weeks by the approved facility. If the vendor does not submit the student’s grade on the designated day and time, students in Off Campus Physical Education will receive an F for the current grading period. Off Campus Physical Education grades are reflected on the report card and do count toward UIL eligibility. Students in Off Campus P.E. are required to “make-up” missed training time due to illness or alternate school activities.
- The *Texas Education Agency* allows Category 1 (15+ hours per week) participants to leave campus one hour prior to the end of the school day. From 2:33 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., students will be supervised by a McCullough instructor in a silent study hall.
- Choosing Off Campus Physical Education (Category 1) requires a commitment to leave early on **both** red and green days. Please make sure you can pick up your child every day before committing to the program.
- Students in **Category 2**-Off Campus Physical Education **do not leave school early** and do not have a physical education class on campus. However, students do receive two extra academic classes. As a result, a student choosing and qualifying for Category 2-Off Campus Physical Education **must** be enrolled in band, choir, or orchestra.
- Students who fail to meet state guidelines for completion of hours or are not picked up at the proper time daily will be removed from Off Campus Physical Education and immediately placed in a regular campus physical education class.
- Vendors/facilities will have the opportunity to apply to Conroe ISD. between January 9th and March 7th, 2019. If you are interested in this program, you are encouraged to make **sure** your *facility* has a representative attend the Wednesday, January 9th “Vendor Meeting” at 10:00 a.m. in the Jett Center cafeteria (*601 West Lewis Street, Conroe, 77304*).
- Off Campus Physical Education students are not allowed to leave campus at 3:00 p.m. release unsupervised to walk home alone.
- *Students are NOT permitted to change training facilities after the school year has started without approval from the Coordinator of Physical Education and the student’s campus counselor.*
- Off Campus Physical Education on-line student registration tentatively begins March 18th and closes on April 5th at midnight for McCullough JH students. **The opportunity to choose Off Campus Physical Education closes on Friday, April 5th.** Those who *sign up* for Off Campus Physical Education and have met the April 5th deadline have until May 1st to complete the District online district registration. Please note: requesting Off Campus Physical Education on the Course Selection form **DOES NOT** register your child for participation in Off Campus PE. You **MUST** register ON-LINE at www.conroecisd.net prior to May 1st.
- Registration is done electronically via the CISD web site BEGINNING on March 18th, 2019 and CLOSING on May 1, 2019 following these steps:
Step 1: Go to the Conroe ISD web site: www.conroecisd.net
Step 2: Click MORE, top right corner
Step 3: Choose Departments
Step 4: Scroll to ATHLETICS, the second entry
Step 5: Open the tab for Off Campus PE
Step 6: Read and click AGREE to the protocols for participation in the program
Step 7: Enter your student’s student ID number
Step 8: Enter your student’s date of birth
Step 9: Choose your vendor from the Drop Down box