

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

April 2019

Mccullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 19 Issue 9

Mixed Choir Kudos - Best Choir in Texas

Congratulations to the McCullough Mixed Choir, Ms. Horton, and Ms. Robilotto for recently being honored as the top junior high choir in Texas when they performed at the recent TMEA convention in San Antonio.

2019-2020 Course Request Deadline April 5, 2019

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

Summer 2019 Reading Information Available at Website

Summer reading information for 2019 is at our website in the 2019-2020 folder.

Spring Semester Final Exams

Final exams begin May 24th and conclude on May 30th. May 30th is an early release day at 1:30 p.m. Any final exam missed should be made up in the McCullough front office the week of June 3rd through June 6th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If your child is healthy, please have him/her present for these important tests.

P.T.O. Meeting April 18th

Our P.T.O. will hold its final gathering on April 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the Nancy Bock Auditorium. Dr. Curtis Null, Superintendent of Schools for Conroe I.S.D., will be the featured speaker. At this gathering he will discuss the upcoming bond election, growth trends within C.I.S.D., and other school-related items important to all. All are welcome.

Science Bowl Champions

Congratulations to McCullough Team 2 as they recently won the Montgomery County championship for the Education for Tomorrow Alliance Science Bowl.

Club Golf Tryouts

Golf tryouts will be held after spring break. A sign up sheet will be available in the commons during all lunches. In order to tryout, you must have a completed physical dated after April 15, 2019 and you must turn in a course fee to Coach Lilley. More detailed information will be given out after the winter break. If you have any questions, please contact golf coach Coach Jeff Lilley at jlilley@conroeisd.net.

Drivers Education VOE Forms- Important for All

Current Eighth Graders

Many of our current eighth grade students will take drivers education this summer either at a local facility or online. One of the first requirements to take drivers education in Texas is for each potential driver to have a Verification of Enrollment (VOE) form from his or her school that verifies the potential driver has been in attendance 90 percent of the time. Without this form, Texas teens cannot take drivers education or get their license. If you plan for your child to potentially take a drivers education course this summer, please have your eighth grade child sign up in the eighth grade AP office (A102) by May 20th. VOE forms will be available the last week of school in the front drop off room to all who requested the document. **We do not have information on drivers' education courses or availability.**

Important Final

Report Card Information - Date of Mailing Around 6/8

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

Last Day Early Release

Our campus will have early release on Thursday, May 30th. Release will be at 1:30 p.m. The front horseshoe will be closed for final dismissal between noon and 2:00 p.m.

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.

Moving to a New School District in 2019-2020?

What Do I Need to Do Now?

If your child is moving to a new school district for the 2019-2020 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.

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 and MCV

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 Angela Danney if you have questions.

End of Year Textbook Pick Up

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

Summer Front Desk Hours

Our front desk will be open 9-3 Monday through Thursday in the summer.

Summer School

Junior High summer school information will be online soon at the CISD website.

Assistant Principals:

Steve Skidmore (7th A-K)
Beatriz English (7th L-Z)
Craig Harbin (8th A-K)
Michael Null (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:

- 4/5 Course request deadline for 2019-2020
- 4/9 STAAR testing
- 4/10 STAAR testing
- 4/18 P.T.O. meeting
- 4/19 Holiday
- 4/22 Holiday
- 5/1 Color Guard Information Meeting
- 5/7 STAAR EOC testing
- 5/15 STAAR testing
- 5/16 STAAR testing
- 5/24 Final exams begin
- 5/27 Holiday
- 5/29 No backpacks
- 5/30 No backpacks
- 5/30 Early release at 1:30 p.m.
- 5/30 Front horseshoe closed 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- 8/8 Highlander 101 football parent/guardian meeting
- 8/10 Football equipment issue day
- 8/14 Immunization deadline for all incoming seventh graders to start school
- 8/14 First day of school
- 8/15 Seventh Open House
- 8/19 Eighth Open House
- 8/22 Picture Day
- 8/23 Picture Day
- 9/2 Holiday
- 10/11 Early release
- 10/14 Holiday
- 12/19 Early release
- 1/14 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Meeting Morning
- 1/15 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Meeting Night
- 1/30 Elective Information Night
- 2/6 Cheerleader Information Meeting
- 3/5 Cheerleader tryouts

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

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 8/12 through 8/13 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.

8/6/19

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name A-Ch
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name CI-GO
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name GP-LA
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name LB-OR
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name OS-SH
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	8th grade	Last Name SI-Z

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

8/7/19

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name A-Ch
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name CI-GO
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name GP-LA
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name LB-OR
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name OS-SH
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	7th grade	Last Name SI-Z

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

8/13/19

Student Orientation for all students registering in August new to C.I.S.D. will occur on August 13th. 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.

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 19th. Eighth grade girls will try out after school on Monday, August 19th from 4:10 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. The tryout consists of running two miles, without walking, on the cross country course in 18:00 or faster. Any student who does not participate in the required time trial due to absence, injury, not having a physical on file, or quits the time trial, will forfeit their participation on the team. Students who fail to meet the class requirements will be moved into regular physical education. Athletes must have a physical on file PRI-OR to the tryout.

Tentative Boys Basketball Off-Season Tryout Information

Offseason basketball tryouts for incoming seventh graders will take place during the Red 1 basketball period on August 16th, 20th, and 22nd. Following the completion of tryouts, any boys who do not qualify will be moved to physical education. A current physical, dated after April 15, 2018, 2019, is required to participate in tryouts. This tryout is not for the basketball team. This is only for the off-season class.

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.

Athletic Physical Information for 2019-2020

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 doctors' 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 try out 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.

Volleyball Tryout Tentative 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.

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 16 through August 20 for eighth graders and August 19 through August 21 for seventh graders. Off-season tryouts 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 2019-2020 girls basketball team tryouts will be held October 30 through November 1 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. for both seventh and eighth grade girls. Any girl trying out **MUST** have a copy of a properly completed physical dated April 15, 2019 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 girls head Coach Kristi Dawson at kmcguire@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

Boys Cross Country Time Trial Information

Seventh graders have to be able to run under 17 minutes for two miles without walking on the day of their time trial, August 16th, at 7:00 a.m. Eighth graders have to be able to run under 16 minutes for two miles without walking on the day of their time trial, August 15th, 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.

Tentative Boys Basketball Team Tryout Information

The 2019-2020 boys basketball team tryouts will be held October 30 through November 1 after school from 4:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 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.

Football Information.... Common Summertime Questions and Topics

Clothing: Effective April 1, 2019 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 2019-2020 school year."

Highlander 101: The parent/guardian football informational meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 8th 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 10th

- 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 15th (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 9th. 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.

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 @mcculloughcisd. 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. .

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 life-long 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 MINORS

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**

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

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

Tentative Open House Dates

Open house dates for 2019-2020 are:

7th Grade - August 15th
8th Grade - August 19th

These events will both begin at 6:00 p.m. Please park in either the east or west lot. On this evening parents/guardians will attend two days worth of classes. We will go to 1-4 red followed by 1-4 green. On this evening we will not attend your child's advisory class. The event will conclude around 8:00 p.m. Parents/guardians will have time off during your child's normal "split" class time. The P.T.O. may have school clothing for sale.

Football Equipment Issue Day - August 10th

The annual football equipment issue day is very tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 10th. Athletes need to be present in order to receive equipment fitted specifically for them. The Quarterback Club will have items for sale. Specific times will be announced soon. The athlete needs to attend as equipment is specifically fitted for them.

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 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 to 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

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 during school hours 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.

Incoming Seventh Grade Course

Selection Information Meetings for 2020-2021

On January 14th and 15th, McCullough Junior High will be hosting informational meetings for parents/guardians of incoming seventh grade students of 2020-2021. Our meeting on January 14th will occur in the Nancy Bock Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. The meeting on January 15th 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.

Ongoing Bullying Prevention

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

Helping Your Child Make Good Decisions and Avoid **MAJOR** Legal and School Consequences... The Danger of Making Threats as a Joke

In 2019, 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.

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.***

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 a *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

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.

Highlander 101 Meeting– Football 2019-2020 Information for Parents/Guardians

The annual informational meeting for all parents/guardians of athletes playing football will tentatively occur on August 8 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.

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 students 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.

Front Horseshoe Closed May 30th

The front horseshoe will be closed the last day of school on May 30th to aid in dismissal from around noon until 2:00 p.m. All car pick up is on the west side.

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.

Airpods

Airpods, and similar devices, are popular accessories for teens all over the country. They are small, discreet, and very easily lost or stolen. Trying to track down Airpods is something we do every day. Although we try very hard, we cannot magically make them reappear. If you are providing these very expensive and small devices for your child, you are encouraged to make sure you feel comfortable with your child's ability to keep up with them realizing these are the most difficult item to recover of all if lost or stolen.

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.

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>.

Incoming Seventh Grade Elective Information Night for 2020-2021

Our annual elective information night for incoming seventh grade students and their parents/guardians is tentatively scheduled to occur on the evening of January 30th 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.

2020-2021 Cheerleader Tryouts Tentative Dates

The McCullough Cheer tryout informational meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium. Tryout packets will be due Friday, February 14th by 5:00 p.m.. The tryout clinic will be March 2nd-4th, in the large gym, at 4:30 p.m. Tryouts will be on Thursday, March 5th at 4:00 p.m. Please contact cheer coaches Ashley Harbin at aharbin@conroeisd.net or Lauren Earnst at learnst@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

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. Please note, this is even more important if the child is in athletics or physical education as it can take much longer to locate them and have them in the front office if they are picked up without an advance note. A form is available on our website for use to help make the process faster. This document is located in our parent services area titled "early release request form." Additional forms are available as needed at the front desk. *Please note a parent or guardian must come into the building to check a student out.* For student safety, please note in advance a photo I.D. is required to check out your child.

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 29th and May 30th. 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.

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 and 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.

Bike Racks and Safety

A new bike rack has been added close to the flagpole to give students two independent places to secure bicycles. Both locations are under video surveillance. The new location is located on the south side close to the flagpole. Students who need to cross Panther Creek should utilize the flagpole location as the crossing guards assist students across Panther Creek at the intersection. The original location by the football field should be used by any student crossing the bridge at the southwest end of the football field to access the South Woodstock Circle Drive area and beyond. *Please encourage your child to always lock their bicycle and avoid the parking lots.* There is no reason a child should ever enter a parking lot with their bike.

Fall Picture Days - August 22nd and 23rd

Fall pictures will occur on August 22nd and 23rd through social studies classes.

Eat Breakfast at School!

Breakfast is served at school! School breakfast will give your child a healthy start to the day. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can learn more in class. Breakfast has vitamins and nutrients for a strong and healthy body.

Breakfast at school is free, so help your child start the day right with school breakfast!

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 are 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. Be aware these devices on campus have the same school-based consequences as regular cigarettes. Also please be aware at least two deaths have occurred due to exploding vape pens with one of them occurring in Texas.

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 on 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.

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 attended the Off Campus PE Informational meeting on Wednesday, January 9th (*The Jett Center, 601 Lewis Street, Conroe*).
- 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.**
- 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* attended 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. and walk home unsupervised. Transportation must be provided.
- 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.conroeisd.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.conroeisd.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

Step 10: Choose Category 1 (15+ hours of training per week), or Category 2 (5-14 hours of training per week)

Step 11: Click SUBMIT