

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

September 2019

Mccullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 20 Issue 1

Required Immunizations for Incoming Texas Seventh Graders of 2019-2020 Before the First Day of School

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

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.

Detailed Bus Information for 2019-2020

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

McCullough Named Texas Honor Roll School

McCullough was recently named a Texas Honor Roll campus recognizing schools that demonstrate high levels of student achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps.

Considerations if Your Child is Bringing AIRPODS to school

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.

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.

Back to Band Open House

All band members need to attend our McCullough Band Open House in the Band Hall on Tuesday, August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come get your band binder, your band locker, meet the band directors, and see your band friends before school starts! This is important as you will receive all your beginning of the school year paperwork for band and be able to enroll in private lessons.

Importance of Attendance on the First Day - August 14th

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

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.

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.

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.

Assistant Principals:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Steve Skidmore | (8th A-K) |
| Delvin Sims | (8th L-Z) |
| Craig Harbin | (7th A-K) |
| Crystal Kocian | (7th L-Z) |

Counselors:

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

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events:

- 8/6 Back to Band Open House
 - 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
 - 1/9 Incoming Eighth Grade Information Meeting
 - 1/14 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Meeting Morning
 - 1/15 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Meeting Night
 - 1/30 Elective Information Night
 - 1/31 Science Fair
 - 2/6 Cheerleader Information Meeting
 - 3/6 Early release
 - 3/5 Cheerleader tryouts
 - 3/24 Highland Girl Information Meeting
 - 5/28 Early release
- All dates are tentative

McCullough Phone Numbers

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

Summer Office Hours 9-3 Monday through Thursday

Semester and Final Exams for 2019-2020

Tentative dates for final exams for 2019-2020 are as follows:

- 12/13/19-12/19/19 Fall Semester Exams
- 5/22/20-5/28/20 Spring Final Exams

Please make attendance on these dates a top priority if your child is healthy. Final exams count for ten percent of the grade for junior high courses and fifteen percent for high school. Missed exams can be made up in January for any mid-term test missed and the week of June 1st through the June 4th.

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.

First Day Car Riders - What Parents/Guardians and Students Need to Know in Advance of The First Day

Our campus is lucky and has two separate independent places for both student pick up and drop off. This allows the boarding and pick up process to go more quickly for everyone. The flip side of this is that it is important both students and parents (or anyone) picking up a child on the first day of school be on the same page about whether pick up at 3:55 p.m. will be at the main pick up location on the northwest side by the football field or on the south side by the alternative pick up. To make the life of your child and car driver better, please make sure to cover this in advance of your child coming to school on August 15th.

Girls Cross Country Time Trial Information

Tryouts for girls cross country will occur the first week of school. Seventh grade girls will tryout during the CC period, 4G, on Monday, August 19th. Eighth grade girls will tryout 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. (9:00 per mile pace). Any student who does not complete the full time trial due to walking, quits the time trial, or doesn't participate in the required time trial due to absence, injury, or not having a properly completed and signed physical, will forfeit their participation on the team. Students who fail to meet the class requirements will be moved into regular P.E. Athletes must have a physical on file PRIOR to the tryout. If you have any questions about girls cross country, please refer to the cross country website or contact Coach Collins at kcollins@conroeisd.net.

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 offseason class.

Science Fair 2020

Science fair 2020 will tentatively occur on Friday, January 31st. Students will go either in the morning or afternoon/early evening depending upon their area. Pick up will normally be around 6:30 in the evening on the west side.

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.

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.

Parking Lot Speed Limit

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

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 Girls Basketball Off-season Tryout Information

The girls basketball offseason 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.

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 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.

Conroe I.S.D. Named a Best Community for Music Education by NAMM Foundation

This nation-wide recognition program is selected by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. To earn this designation, our campus a 38 page-survey with information about our school district, community, and instructional practices.

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 far away 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**

Early Release Dates to Note

Our campus will have early release at 12:50 p.m. on the following dates:

- 10/11
- 12/19
- 3/6

McCullough will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. on the last day of school which is May 28th.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Calculators

The Math Department would like to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year at McCullough Junior High. In order to help our students have a positive and successful math experience, we recommend that all students own a graphing calculator. A graphing calculator will be used in the 7th grade Pre-Algebra honors, 8th grade Pre-Algebra level, Algebra and Geometry classes at McCullough and should be more than adequate for high school and college level work moving forward. We realize there is a cost involved, but we are hoping you see it as a long-term investment in your child's school career. There are several options for graphing calculators, but a TI-84 Plus calculator will be used during instruction within the classroom. Each classroom will have a limited number of calculators for student-use that may not be checked for use at home. Calculators can be purchased at many local stores like Office Max, Staples, Target, Walmart or online at Amazon.com. Used ones at a reduced price can often be found online. Please feel free to contact Kelley Vader, Tanya Gorka, or Angela Danney if you have 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. 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.

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.

Lockout and Lockdown Drills August 21st, 2019

On Thursday, August 22nd we are tentatively scheduled to have two drills that occur during Advisory and possibly the initial portion of fourth block. These are drills we conduct most years; therefore, our staff is well-versed in the procedures, sensitivities, and particulars surrounding these endeavors.

The first drill will be a lockout drill. This is a drill where we bring any potential students or staff that are outside for physical education or athletics into the building and secure the outside doors. Since all of our outside doors are locked every day, this is not a disruptive endeavor. Schools, including ours, use a lockout drill when there is potentially someone outside in the community you would want to keep out.

Our second drill will be a lockdown drill. This scenario is where schools practice keeping someone out of interior rooms who is inside of a campus building. As all of our classroom doors are locked and secured at the tardy bell, this particular drill is not terribly disruptive either. But, both drills are taken with seriousness and professionalism.

We are going to prepare the students well ahead of time with what we are doing, why we hold these drills, and will include all the specifics to answer their questions about any situation they could potentially encounter. As always, when we hold this drill, it will be done in a kid-friendly kind of way.

Additionally, we will give the students a brief history lesson on the construction of our campus. This building, along with most other buildings designed in the 1973-1974 oil embargo era, has limited windows. This was due to the energy crisis, which many of us lived through, where buildings were designed to be energy-efficient. As a byproduct of that, our building is one of the safest, *if not the safest*, in Montgomery County. This is one of the reasons we are a primary Red Cross Shelter to assist our community in time of need.

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.

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer in the McCullough drop off room at the front office next year please email Laurie Jeter at lauriejeter@sbcglobal.net.

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.

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.

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.

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 Drill Team Tryouts Tentative Dates

The McCullough Highland Girls Drill Team tryout informational meeting for 2020-2021 will be held on Tuesday, March 24th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium. Tryout packet forms will be due Friday, April 3rd by 5:00 p.m. The tryout clinic will be April 6th through April 9th and April 13th through April 17th, in the large gym from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tryouts will occur on Saturday, April 18th at 8:00 a.m. Please contact Ms. Gilmore at slgilmore@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

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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!

P.T.O. Campus Enhancement Purchases

The goal of the McCullough PTO is to enrich the learning environment for both the students and the teachers at McCullough Junior HS. The items listed below are some examples of the campus enhancements the PTO has recently purchased from funds brought in this 2018-2019 school year to help the students and faculty in achieving this goal:

Two Chrome Carts – Motorized Projector Screen for LGI – WalkieTalkies with accessories for Administrators – Teacher Training for Reading and Writing Strategies – Math Manipulatives – Audiobooks – Dry Erase Boards with accessories – Storage – Desk Organizers – Pencil Sharpeners – Sharpies – Clipboards – Presentation White Boards – Horseshoe Table and Raz Kids Membership for Special Education – CPR Manikins for Health – Soccer Goals and Tennis Racquets for P.E. – Blankets and Heating Pads for the Clinic – Shelves – Book Repair needs for the Library

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.

**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.

McCullough Junior High School Grade Policy

Three Categories of Grades

Major – Teams classify assessments that are considered major grades. Examples could be Tests, Projects, Concerts, Essays, Timed Writing, Performances, Presentations, Labs, or other long-term assignments that are considered a significant value of the total grade for the course.

Quiz – Teams classify assessments that are considered formative check points. Examples could be labs, sketchbooks, presentations, rough drafts, or quizzes.

Daily – Teams classify assignments that are considered daily work. Examples could be homework, classwork, or anything else that does not fit into Major or Quiz categories.

| | Percent Value | Minimum Number of Assignments |
|-------|---------------|---|
| Major | 60% | At least 3 Major grades each 9 week MP, 2 in 1 st 6 weeks of MP1 |
| Quiz | 20% | At least 5 Quiz grades each 9 week MP, 3 in 1 st 6 weeks of MP1 |
| Daily | 20% | At least 5 Daily Grades per MP, 3 in 1 st 6 weeks of MP1 |

Retest Policy

- Due to the nature of some assignments and lab practicals, teachers can limit what items can be offered for retakes.
- It is expected that test retakes will occur before the school day begins.
- The re-assessment may be administered at any time during the nine weeks. If an assessment should fall on the last day of the marking period, the student will have a maximum of five school days to re-take this assessment in order to satisfy UIL eligibility.
- If a student is caught cheating on a test, they will receive a 0 and a re-assessment for that test is not permitted.
- There are no retakes on semester exams.
- Tutorials may be required when the individual test grade falls below a 75 and the student wishes to retest.
- The maximum grade a student can earn on a retest is a 75.
- A minimum of one re-assessment per nine weeks will be offered. It is up to departmental team discretion to offer more than one re-assessment during a nine-week marking period.

Late Policy

Major – Major long-term assignments/projects will be accepted late for a 10% penalty per school day for a maximum of five school days following the day the assignment/project was due. After five school days a late project will not be accepted. Examples of this include but are not limited to the Science Fair and Veterans' Day projects.

Quiz – Homework assigned that will be taken as a quiz grade will be accepted late for a 10% penalty per school day for a maximum of five school days following the day the assignment/project was due. After five school days a quiz will not be accepted. If a student is ill and out on the day the assignment/project is due, he/she will receive one day for each day they were out and the 10% potential penalty will initiate each day after those absence days have expired. For clarity, school days are defined as every day school occurs regardless or not of whether the class meets on a given day.

Daily – Daily work that is assigned as homework will not be accepted late for full credit. Daily work that is assigned as homework will be accepted late for a maximum grade of 50% by the next time the class meets. After this daily work will not be accepted for a grade.