

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

March 2020

McCullough.conroeisd.net

Twitter feed @McCulloughCISD

Volume 20 Issue 7

2020-2021 Course Request Deadline

April 3, 2020

The course request deadline for 2020-2021 will occur on Friday, April 3, 2020. This will be the deadline for all elective, core, fine art, and organizational choices for the 2020-2021 school year.

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.

Parent/Guardian One on One Course Request Help for 2020-2021 Help Session

Our campus will offer one on one course request help for parents and guardians on March 5th. This event will occur in the small gymnasium on the west end from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and parents/guardians who are seeking extra assistance should enter through the main brown patio doors.

2020-2021 Color Guard Audition Tentative Information

The McCullough Color Guard audition informational meeting for 2020-2021 will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium. Audition packet forms will be due Friday, April 24th by 5:00 p.m. The audition clinic will be held Tuesday April 28 through Thursday April 30th in the large gym from 4:45 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Auditions will occur on Friday, May 1st at 4:30 p.m. Please contact Coach Danney at adanney@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

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 4:45 - 6:45 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.

Early Release Dates to Note

Our campus will have early release on the following dates:

- 3/6 at 12:50 p.m.
- 5/28 at 1:30 p.m.

Fall Picture Days - August 27th and 28th

Fall pictures will occur on August 27th and 28th through social studies classes.

Golf Tryouts Tentative Information

Golf tryouts will be held after Spring Break. Starting February 10th students will be able to sign up for golf in Coach Kemble's room, C211. Interested parties will need a physical dated after April 15th, 2019 and will also need to turn in \$ 25.00 for greens fees. If you have already participated in a sport this year we have the student's physical already on file. You can follow @mccjhgolf on Twitter for updates. More information will be coming from your intermediate campus clinic.

Free Test Taking Strategy Assistance for Students

To empower our students and help them succeed on the STAAR Writing and Reading Tests, McCullough will offer both 7th and 8th grade students free before school test strategy sessions in the Bock Auditorium beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the dates listed below. These sessions will benefit students on all tests in every subject, as well as on their future PSAT/SAT/ACT tests.

- Wednesday 4/1 = 7th grade writing (using an SAT example essay and guiding students through great expository writing)
- Thursday 4/2 = 8th grade reading (test strategies)
- Friday 4/3 = 7th grade writing repeat session (for those unable to attend 4/1 or wanting to get a 2nd review)
- Monday 4/6 = 8th grade reading repeat session (for those unable to attend 4/2 or wanting to get a 2nd review)
- Tuesday 5/5 = 7th and 8th (retesters) reading (test strategies)
- Wednesday 5/6 = 7th and 8th (retesters) repeat session (for those unable to attend 5/5 or wanting to get a 2nd review)

Final Exams for 2019-2020

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

- 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.

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.

Required Immunizations for Incoming Seventh Graders of 2020-2021

If you are a parent or guardian of an incoming seventh grader of 2020-2021, 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
MCV

Assistant Principals:

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

Counselors:

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

Department Chairs:

Lynne Archer Special Ed
Charles Roberts Special Ed
Tyler Baird LA
Megan Kelley LA
Angela Danney Math
Tanya Gorka Math
Michelle Beineman Science
April Phillips SS

Student Success:

Erin Parks

Principal:

Chris McCord

Upcoming Events:

- 3/5 Cheerleader tryouts
- 3/5 Incoming parent/guardian of 2020-2021 course request help session from 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- 3/6 Early release
- 3/9 Spring break begins
- 3/24 Highland Girls Information Meeting
- 4/3 Course request deadline for 2020-2021
- 4/6 Highland Girls tryout clinic begins
- 4/10 Holiday
- 4/16 P.T.O. meeting
- 4/18 Highland Girls Tryouts
- 4/22 Color Guard Information Meeting
- 4/28 Color Guard Audition Clinic begins
- 5/1 Color Guard Auditions
- 5/25 Holiday
- 5/28 Early release
- 8/5 Eighth Grade Student Orientation
- 8/6 Seventh Grade Student Orientation
- 8/8 Football Equipment Issue Day
- 8/13 Seventh Grade Open House
- 8/17 Eighth Grade Open House
- 1/7/2021 Incoming Eighth Grade Information Meeting
- 1/12/2021 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Meeting
- 1/13/2021 Incoming Seventh Grade Information Night
- 1/28/2021 Incoming Seventh Grade Elective Information Night

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

Campus Policy on Delivery of Food to Students at Lunch

Our campus understands that periodically you may choose to deliver a lunch to your child. Through the assistance of the McCullough P.T.O., we deliver these items to students that are dropped off at the front office directly from the official child's parent or guardian. Food dropped off by a parent/guardian is made available to your child during their lunch period. If you are dropping off food for your child and it is of the fast-food variety, *please do not leave a fountain drink obtained from a restaurant*. These tend to spill and spoil the food of others and/or your child. A beverage in a sealed container, such as a water bottle, is acceptable and will be delivered. We do not accept or deliver food received from any food delivery app or service including but not limited to Grubhub, Doordash, UberEats, Postmates, or other related fast-food delivery services.

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!

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.

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.

Parking Lot Speed Limit

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

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.

Front Horseshoe Closed May 28th

The front horseshoe will be closed the last day of school on May 28th to aid in dismissal from around noon until 2:00 p.m. All car pick up is on the west side.

Soccer Tryouts Tentative Information

Soccer tryouts are tentatively scheduled for March 20, 23 and 24. The boys will try out before school from 7:00-8:15. The girls will try out after school from 4:00-5:15. All participants must have an updated physical on file with the school dated after April 15, 2019. All participants must attend all three days of tryouts. If you have any questions please contact Coach Baird (boys) at tdbaird@conroeisd.net or Coach Meyer (girls) at kmeyer@conroeisd.net.

Tennis Tryouts Tentative Information

Tennis tryouts will be held in March. In order to tryout a student must have a signed physical on file at school. Please contact Coach Michalski at jmichalski@conroeisd.net if you have any questions. The tryout dates are as follows:
March 20, 23, and 24.

- Boys- 7:00am - 8:15am
- Girls- 4:15pm - 5:30pm

Tentative Girls Basketball Team Tryout Information

The 2020-2021 girls basketball team tryouts will be held October 28th through October 30th 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, 2020 or later. These should be turned in directly to Coach Dawson. 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 kdawson@conroeisd.net if you have any questions.

Tentative Boys Basketball Team Tryout Information

The 2020-2021 boys basketball team tryouts will be held October 28th, 29th and 30th 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.

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 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 arrest and prosecution 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*

Plagiarism Checking, Prevention, and Information

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

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.

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.

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. With the incredible amount of miles buses drive 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.

Annual Student Safety and Backpacks the Last Two Days of School May 27th and May 28th

Keep in mind for student safety, backpacks and bags of any type are prohibited on the last two days of school, May 27th and May 28th. 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.

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. Schmidt 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.

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.

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

In 2020, 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 August 16th and August 19th 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.

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 McCullough students
- Kroger– Visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and link your card EACH YEAR to McC Jr. High #81354
- 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 \$25.00. The link to sign up is <https://mcculloughpto.weebly.com/joinvolunteer.html>.

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 were 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.

Free Homework Help Available

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.

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 each 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.

Yearbooks

It's time to order your McCullough yearbook for the 2019-2020 school year. To start your order, go to Balfour.com and search for "McCullough Junior High" on the home page. Early bird pricing for Yearbooks is \$40, payable online until Jan. 1. After that, the price increases to \$45 until the deadline, March 6. Purchasing a yearbook ahead of time on Balfour.com is the ONLY way to guarantee a copy of a yearbook. Per school policy, yearbooks are personalized (at no additional cost to you) with your student's full legal name, including middle initial. This ensures that the books are delivered to the correct students. When ordering, please enter in this format. Contact Lori Reichardt at lreichardt@conroeisd.net for questions regarding personalization. Yearbooks will be delivered in late May at a date to be announced. Visit Balfour.com now to place your order.

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 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

Girls Cross Country Time Trial Tentative 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 17th. Eighth grade girls will try out after school on Monday, August 17th 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 PRIOR to the tryout.

Boys Cross Country Time Trial Tentative 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 14th, 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 13th, 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.

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 18th, 19th, 20th, and if needed August 21st. 7th grade will have a first cut on August 20th, if needed. 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 18th, 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 and a completed physical form, dated after April 15, 2020. If numbers allow, McCullough will have four volleyball teams: two 7th and two 8th grade teams. As volleyball is a tryout sport, any students who do NOT make the team will have their schedules changed early in the year to be placed into a PE class period. 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.)

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 8/10 through 8/11 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.

8/5/2020

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.

8/6/2020

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.

8/11/2020

Student Orientation for all students registering in August new to C.I.S.D. will occur on August 11th. 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.

Athletic Physical Information for 2020-2021

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/department/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.

Tentative Open House Dates

Open house dates for 2020-2021 are:

7th Grade - August 13th

8th Grade - August 17th

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.

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

* Periodically contests may be canceled or delayed due to lightning. When lightning occurs within a ten mile radius, we are required to wait 30 minutes before resuming the outside event. If we delay a game due to lightning please evacuate the stands and return to your vehicle or the safety of our building. We want to play, but the safety of our students and fans always comes first.

* Any contest short of varsity is not made up, replayed, or rescheduled.

* We have no control over the delay or cancellation of a contest at an opposing school where we are not the home team.

* If a game is canceled early due to conditions that clearly dictate it is unplayable we will attempt to email you. This is a rarity for outside events.

We always make an effort to play the contest. A call on playing, delaying, or canceling the game may not be made until game time or even after the scheduled start depending on developing conditions. The best way to know the ever-changing status of an event is to follow our campus Twitter feed @mcculloughcis. Additionally many activities have their own Twitter feed they update with information.

* If you have family or friends flying in from 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.

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 14th through August 18th for eighth graders and August 17th through August 19th 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 Boys Basketball Off-Season Tryout Information

Off-season basketball tryouts for incoming seventh graders will take place during the Red 1 basketball period on August 14th, 18th, and 20th. Following the completion of tryouts, any boys who do not qualify will be moved to physical education. A current physical, dated after April 15, 2020, is required to participate in tryouts. This tryout is not for the basketball team. This is only for the off-season class.

Off-Campus Physical Education Guidelines and Requirements for Participation 2020-2021

- 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 22nd at 10:00am (*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.** Be sure you’ve discussed the instructional and competitive expectations of the facility prior to enrolling in Off Campus PE. Students are NOT allowed to change vendors at any time without prior approval from the District’s Coordinator of Physical Education.
- Any student choosing *Category 1 (15+ hours of training per week)*- Off-Campus Physical Education must be picked up daily on both red and green days at 3:00 p.m. at the northwest corner, main student entrance. **Make sure you have year-long afternoon pick up arrangements (parent or guardian) in place prior to choosing Off-Campus Physical Education.**
- Students are not allowed to leave campus and walk home unsupervised.
- Grades and attendance for a student in Off-Campus Physical Education are submitted every three weeks by the approved facility. If the vendor does not submit the student’s grade on the designated day and time, students in Off-Campus Physical Education will receive an F or zero 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. Students are not required to make-up training time during Conroe ISD scheduled holidays or inclement weather days.
- 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 have an opportunity to apply to Conroe ISD between January 22nd and March 5th, 2020. If you are interested in Off Campus Physical Education, you are encouraged to make **sure** your *facility* has a representative attend the Wednesday, January 22nd “Vendor Meeting” at 10:00 a.m. in the Jett Center cafeteria (*601 West Lewis Street, Conroe, 77304*).

Students are NOT permitted to change training facilities after the school year has started without approval from the Coordinator of Physical Education and the student’s campus counselor.

- Off Campus Physical Education online student registration tentatively begins March 16th and closes on April 3rd at midnight for McCullough JH students. **The opportunity to choose Off-Campus Physical Education closes on Friday, April 3rd.** Those who *sign up* for Off-Campus Physical Education and have met the April 3rd 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 student for participation in Off-Campus PE. You **MUST** register ON-LINE at www.conroeisd.net between March 16th and May 1st.
- Registration is done electronically via the CISD web site BEGINNING on March 16th, 2020 and CLOSING on May 1, 2020.

FOLLOW 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

Tentative Testing Window or Date	Assessment
10/17/19	Benchmark: 7th Writing and 7th Reading
10/28/19 - 11/8/19	Benchmark: 8th Social Studies
11/4/19-11/15/19	Benchmark: 7th and 8th Math
11/11/19-11/22/19	Benchmark: 8th Reading
12/2/19 - 12/13/19	Benchmark: 7th Social Studies
12/9/19 - 12/13/19	Benchmark: 7th Science
1/8/20 - 1/14/20	Benchmark: 8th Science
1/27/20 - 2/17/20	Benchmark: 7th Writing
1/27/20 - 2/17/20	Benchmark: 8th Reading
2/3/20 - 2/14/20	Benchmark: 8th Math
2/24/20- 4/3/20	TELPAS
2/24/20 - 3/6/20	Benchmark: 7th Reading
2/24/20 - 3/6/20	Benchmark: 8th Social Studies
3/30/20 - 4/3/20	Benchmark: 8th Science
3/30/20 - 4/9/20	Benchmark: 7th Math
4/7/2020	STAAR: 7 Writing
4/7/2020	STAAR: 8 Math
4/8/2020	STAAR: 8 Reading (7th Pre-algebra take 8th Math STAAR)
5/4/20 - 5/15/20	Benchmark: 7th Social Studies
5/4/20 - 5/22/20	Benchmark: 7th Science
5/5/2020	STAAR: Algebra EOC
5/7/2020	STAAR: 8th Science
5/8/2020	STAAR: 8th Social Studies
5/12/2020	STAAR: 7th Math/8th Math Retest
5/13/2020	STAAR: 7th Reading/8th Reading Retest
5/14/2020	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.

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.

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.

Moving to a New School District in 2020-2021?**What Do I Need to Do Now?**

If your child is moving to a new school *district* for the 2020-2021 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@conroreisd.net.

Infosnap

Look for an email from C.I.S.D. in late July or early August with details on Infosnap and how to complete online forms for your child prior to the start of school.

KIDCHAT Anonymous Tipline

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.

Football Information.... Common Summertime Questions and Topics

Clothing: Effective April 1, 2020 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 2020-2021 school year."

Highlander 101: The parent/guardian football informational meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 6th 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 8th

- 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 13th (**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 8th. 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.