

**McMath Middle School**  
**2021- 2022**



## **Welcome to McMath Middle School**

Welcome to all new and returning students. We are looking forward to a great year here at McMath Middle School. As a part of this school family you are expected to follow the rules that are contained in this handbook, in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct, the Denton ISD student and parent handbook, in the communications sent home by the principal, and in each classroom. The following rules will make this school a safe place for you to learn and to become good citizens of the school and the community. We expect our students to act like mature middle school students. Doing this will allow you to learn and to have fun while here at McMath. If there is anything that we can do to help you have a better year, just ask one of the staff members. We are all members of the McMath Middle School family, and we all help and respect each other.

### **Denton ISD's Mission Statement**

Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community

### **McMath Mission Statement**

Our community creates an inclusive culture that builds relationships and develops solution-driven individuals within a comprehensive educational experience.

### **McMath Vision Statement**

All students will be lifelong learners, confident risk-takers, and problem solvers who appreciate the diverse cultures of others, so that they can positively impact their local and global communities.

### **McMath's Values**

- Build Relationships
- Learning for ALL using “Best Practices”
- Working Together
- Keep ALL TIGERS Accountable with High Expectations
- Be Intentional with What We Do & with a Purpose
- Sustainability
- Transparency
- We Are One—Inclusive Culture

**Mascot**

Tiger

**School Colors**

Navy and Gold

**Motto**

We are known by the tracks that we leave.

**Alma Mater**

Far above the fields and forest, glorious to view, stands our noble Alma Mater, standing firm and true. Lift our voices ever more with loyalty to you. We pledge to thee, our Alma Mater, McMath the gold and blue.

**Fight Song**

Fight, Tigers, Fight!

Fight for the school we love so dearly.

We'll hit 'em high. We'll hit 'em low.

We'll push the ball across the goal.

Tigers Fight, Fight!

We'll praise your name, boost you to fame.

Fight for the navy and the gold.

We will hit 'em, we will wreck 'em.

Hit 'em, wreck 'em Tiger team.

And the victory bells will ring out.

*(Our fight song was written for Texas Tech University by Carroll McMath, we thank them for allowing us to adapt it for Carroll McMath Middle School)*

Students and parents are expected to be aware of the policies and procedures in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct, the McMath webpage, the Student Agenda, and any communication sent from the principal. In addition, please know that a lack of knowledge of the information listed will not be an acceptable defense in the event of a violation.

### **Absences**

The student may either bring a note from the parent or guardian explaining the absence or the parent or guardian may email the reason for the absence to [mmsnotes@dentonisd.org](mailto:mmsnotes@dentonisd.org). The note must be brought to the attendance counter as soon as the student returns to school. All absences are recorded as unverified (unexcused) unless a note is received from the student's guardian. All notes will be properly coded and verified before the absence can be excused. An absence can only be entered as verified (excused) within **72 hours** of the student's return to school.

### **Accidents**

Students are required to report all accidents to the teacher immediately. If an accident occurs outside of the classroom, it should be reported to the nearest available staff member.

### **After School**

Students must leave campus by **3:45 pm** unless they are under the direct supervision of a school staff member. The student must stay with the staff member until they are picked up. Students are not supervised after 3:45pm unless they have prior arrangements with a staff member (tutoring, practices, etc.) Transfers will be revoked for failure to pick up students by **3:45 pm**. Students must arrange to be picked up within 5 minutes of the end of any activity. The times will be announced in advance. *All students attending sports activities must be picked up by 8:00 pm unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

### **Athletic/PE Dress Code**

All students must dress out in the appropriate clothing everyday. Even with an excuse from physical activity, the student must dress out. The

PE dress code is for the safety of the students. Please refer to information from the PE department regarding appropriate clothing. No jewelry may be worn during class. The student must secure their possessions in the gym locker. The school is not responsible for lost items.

### **Before School**

Students may not arrive on campus before 7:45 am. There is no student supervision before that time. Students **must** have a pass from the teacher to come in early for tutoring, etc. Transfers will be revoked for failure to follow arrival time rules.

### **Bicycles**

Bicycle safety is to be practiced at all times when riding a bike to school. Bikes must be securely locked at the bike stands. Owners assume all responsibility for the security of their bicycle. Motorized vehicles, skates, scooters, shoes with wheels, and skateboards are not allowed on the campus at any time.

### **Bullying**

Bullying is **not allowed** on any school district property or events. According to Texas law, bullying is verbal or written expression or physical conduct that harms a student or a student's property, occurs in district-related areas, and is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the student. No student may bully any other student in any way, including by computer or text messaging. Ethnic and sexual orientation slurs are not allowed. There will be serious consequences for bullying. Report any problem to the counselors, teachers, or the front office immediately. Parents need to monitor their children's computer and phone use.

### **Buses**

Bus service is provided to students living a specified distance from the campus. If you have any questions about buses, call the district transportation office at 369-0300. Students are expected to behave properly on the bus at all

times. All school rules are enforced at all bus stops and in the bus loading area at school.

### **Cafeteria**

The expectations for cafeteria behavior are posted in the cafeteria. Students will follow all instructions given by staff members in the cafeteria. Those who do not follow the rules may lose the privilege of eating with their friends in the cafeteria. No food may be taken out of the cafeteria. Students must have their ID card to access their lunch money account.

### **Cell Phones**

Student cell phones must be off during the school day. It should not be seen nor heard. McMath Middle school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. If a student has their cell phone out of their backpack during the school day, the cell phone will be confiscated. Parents must pick up the phone in the office and pay a \$15 fee (See page 66 of the Denton ISD Parent Handbook for details) <https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/99506>. For safety reasons, if you need to contact your student during the school day, please call the front office at 940.369.3300. Please be sure that your kiddos always have an updated phone number with them, memorized, and written in their possession.

### **Closed Campus**

Like all the middle schools in Denton, McMath is a closed campus. This means that the students may not leave the school grounds from the time they arrive on campus to the time they are dismissed or signed out by a parent. Leaving the school grounds will be considered truancy and will be addressed by administration according to the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct.

### **Conduct**

McMath students are expected to behave themselves in a safe, appropriate, and responsible manner at all times, in all places, and in all situations. Please follow the 'Golden Rule'.

### **Counselors**

The counselors on staff at MMS are here to assist students with educational planning and related needs. Students may request an appointment by filling out a request form and putting it in the boxes by the counseling office before school and during passing periods. Students will be responsible for getting to class on time after turning in a request. The counselors will send passes to the students when it is time for the visit. In an emergency the student may ask their teacher for an emergency pass to the counselor's office.

### **Deliveries at School**

The school will not accept any item to be delivered to students. This includes flowers, balloons, cookies, lunch orders, etc. These items need to be delivered to your home.

### **Denton Regional Day School for the Deaf**

We are very fortunate to be the middle school site for the deaf education program. The deaf and hearing-impaired students and the staff working with this program add a wonderful dimension to this school. Please be aware of some of the needs of this group. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to learn sign language. Remember you can always communicate in an "emergency" by writing or acting out the message.

### **Dress Code**

School is the "job place" of the students and appropriate dress is part of preparation for life. Please refer to the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct, the McMath webpage, and any communication sent from the principal regarding student dress code expectations. The administrative staff will have the final say as to the appropriateness of any dress code item. In addition, as issues arise, it may be necessary to modify the dress code expectations throughout the year. Changes will be posted on the webpage.

### **Elevator Use**

The elevator is not for general student use. If you have a special circumstance that makes it necessary for you to use the elevator for health reasons, you may obtain an elevator pass from the school nurse or an assistant principal. Anyone caught using the elevator or playing with the controls will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Eligibility**

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must maintain passing grade in all subjects. If a student receives less than a 70 in any class, they are ineligible for the three weeks following the failure. Citizenship and behavior may also be factors in determining ability to participate in events.

### **Gum**

Gum is allowed in classrooms with teacher's approval.

### **Hall Passes**

Students must have a pass signed by a staff member anywhere in the building (outside of the normal passing periods). Hall wanderers without passes will be returned to class and may receive

consequences consistent with the student code of conduct.

### **ID Cards**

**IDs will be worn at all times** above the waist and must be visible at all school activities. Students must not deface the ID. IDs may not be cut or have extra holes punched. Students may not possess an ID other than their own. There will be severe consequences for improper use of the cards. Students who repeatedly do not wear the ID will be placed in In-School Suspension (ISS). The student must replace lost or damaged IDs immediately.

### **In School Suspension (ISS)**

Students assigned to ISS will **not** be allowed to attend **any** school-related activity during the days they are assigned to ISS (example; In ISS on a Tuesday, no after school activity on Tuesday.) These students are not allowed to be anywhere on campus at anytime unless under the direct supervision of a staff member.

### **Leaving During the Day**

Students cannot leave campus once they have arrived unless a parent/guardian signs them out through the attendance office. A Driver's License or Identification must be shown before a student can leave. **Students will not be released to anyone not listed in our eSchool system or on the health card.**

### **Library**

The library is available throughout the day and before and after school. Passes may be obtained from the library staff. Students are encouraged to use the library. Rules for library use are posted in the library.

### **Lockers**

Student lockers will not be used this school year. Some exceptions may apply. If they are used by students, school personnel may inspect lockers at any time. Campus administrators may also routinely conduct locker searches for book checks, safety concerns, etc. Students must not share the combinations with other students. Lockers should always be left in the locked position. Lockers are to be kept clean. No stickers of any kind are to be placed on the lockers. Please clean food out of locker weekly. Remember, lockers are school property that we are allowing students to use.

### **Lost and Found**

Students should not bring valuable items to school. Lost items turned into the office will be placed in the lost and found bin in the hall across from the door to the assistant principals' offices. Items not claimed within two weeks of the end

of each semester will be donated to charity. Put your name in all coats and other items to help us in returning items to you.

### **Make-up Work**

Students who are absent have a period equivalent to the number of days missed plus one to complete all make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the assignments from the teacher immediately upon their return to school. The office will not collect assignments for students who are absent. An absence does not excuse a student from being responsible for previously assigned work or tests on the day of return to school.

### **Medication**

Refer to the medication policy in the student code of conduct. These policies are strictly enforced on campus.

### **National Junior Honor Society**

The McMath Middle School National Junior Honor Society chapter recognizes and encourages academic achievement and other characteristics that are essential to citizens in a democracy. The entire McMath faculty will have input in the selection of members. Membership is an honor for students selected by a faculty council based on outstanding leadership, scholarship, character, service, and citizenship. Students must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 90, must be in attendance at McMath for at least a full semester, must be in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and must submit requested information for the faculty council to review. Students must attend the Induction Ceremony to become a NJHS member. Members are expected to continue the high standard of academic achievement and to demonstrate the positive traits required for membership. Contact Mrs. Arndt if have questions regarding NJHS.

### **Nurse's Office**

Students who become ill or injured during the school day must report to the nurse's office. All students must have a pass to come to the nurse's office. All calls made to parents regarding illness/injury must be made from that office. Students may not use their cell phones to call or text message parents to come pick them up. The school nurse will contact the parent when a child needs to leave due to illness or injury. Make sure that the nurse has current home, work, and emergency contact phone numbers. If no parent/guardian can be contacted in an emergency situation, the student will be transported by ambulance at the parent's expense.

### **Parent Communication**

The primary means of communication is via email. Students' progress can be monitored using Home Access Center (HAC). Please contact the registrar to update email address or if you need help setting up a HAC account. Information is available on school webpages and Facebook.

### **Passwords**

For a child's own security, students are not allowed to share their computer passwords with other students. Students may only use computers to which they are logged in.

### **Office Phone Use**

Students have access to the phone in the office only when they have a phone pass completed by a staff member. Please make all transportation and social arrangements prior to coming to school. There are no pay phones available. Students may not use classroom phones without the teacher being present.

### **Prohibited Items**

The following list includes, but not limited to, items that are not allowed at school or at school sponsored activities: weapons of any kind, tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes), lighters/matches, fireworks, stink/smoke bombs, electronic games, or other non-approved electronic devices, trading cards, balloons, toys, including fidget spinners or anything else that could cause a disruption of the learning process. Administrators will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

### **Promotion/Retention**

In order to be promoted to the next grade, a student must pass (70 or above) three of the four core courses (the average of reading and English, math, science, social studies). The student must also have an overall average (all classes) of 70 or higher. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade must pass the STAAR Reading and Math tests in order to advance to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **School Cancellations**

In the event that school must be closed due to weather or other emergency conditions, the district will use the automated call-out system, Instagram, twitter, Facebook, and the district's web page to notify students. McMath will announce on the McMath Facebook page as well. Please keep phone numbers and email addresses updated with registrar.

### **Tardy Policy**

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy to class results in a warning from the teacher. The 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy results in a

warning AND parent communication. The 4<sup>th</sup> tardy (and every one after that) will result in parent contact by the teacher and an after school detention. The tardy count will reset each semester. Periodically "Tardy Sweeps" will be conducted. After school detention will be given for those caught in a tardy sweep.

### **Textbooks**

McMath will **not** be checking out textbooks to students for home use. Classroom sets are available to students when they are in that specific classroom. To request a particular textbook, parents need to contact the front office. Parents may check out a student book for which they are responsible. Parents will be expected to pay for any books that are lost or damaged while checked out to the parent. McMath will need 48 hours notice to have a student book set ready for parent pick-up. Check the teachers' webpages for resources.

### **Tutoring**

Please check the teachers' webpages for tutorial times and days. Students need to get a pass prior to the tutorial time from the teacher. Parents may write a pass for morning tutorials.

### **Social Media**

Be aware that using social media in a way that impacts the school environment in a negative manner will be addressed by administration according to the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct. Be kind! Parents monitor your child's internet use carefully.

### **Vending Machines**

The product companies own the vending machines located on campus. The school cannot make refunds. Students should also be aware that stealing from the machines or tampering with any of the products is a serious criminal act and will be dealt with severely both by the school and law enforcement. Vending machines may not be used during school hours (purchase items before or after school only)

### **Visitors**

Adult visitors are welcome at McMath. All visitors must sign in upon arrival, must wear a visitor's badge for the duration of the visit, and sign out when leaving. Parents may not be able to attend classes unless they have made arrangements with the teacher and administration at least 24 hours in advance and are limited to class period. Students are not allowed to have non-adult guests or friends attend classes or lunch with them. These rules are vital to the safety of the students and we appreciate your cooperation.