

McCall Middle School March 2018 Newsletter



I hope that this message finds you and your family well at this time of year. As we have begun the second half of the school year, this is a wonderful opportunity to let your child know how proud you are of their growth and accomplishments thus far and to encourage your child to continue to meet the challenges yet to be faced. We have already accomplished so very much this school year thanks to the commitment, time, and efforts of our staff, students, parents/guardians, and this wonderful community. I'm excited to see our children continue to succeed in a challenging yet caring school environment.

Grades 5-8 Transition and Recommendation Calendars

At the end of this newsletter you will find the Grade 8, Grades 6 & 7, and Grade 5 Transition & Recommendation Calendars for the Spring of 2018 along with the Creative Arts Workshop Application information for current grade 6 & 7 students. I am including this application because students applying to this program are asked to compile a portfolio of work that I want to ensure that they have enough time to complete if they are interested in applying. In grades 7 & 8, students may elect to enroll in one of the following full year courses: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, & Creative Arts Workshop.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) 2018 - McCall Testing Dates

MCAS – English/Language Arts (ELA)

- Grade 6 ELA (Session 1 - April 24th & Session 2 - April 25th)
- Grade 7 ELA (Session 1 - April 26th & Session 2 - April 27th)
- Grade 8 ELA (Session 1 - April 11th & Session 2 - April 12th)

MCAS – Mathematics

- Grade 6 Math (Session 1 - May 16th & Session 2 - May 17th)
- Grade 7 Math (Session 1 - May 8th & Session 2 - May 9th)
- Grade 8 Math (Session 1 - May 14th & Session 2 - May 15th)

MCAS – Science & Technology/Engineering (STE)

- Grade 8 Science & Technology/Engineering (Session 1 & 2) – Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Annual "Spread the Word to End the Word" Day

Help the McCall community Spread the Word(s) to End the Word(s) on March 7, 2018. This is a national campaign from the Special Olympics that we are expanding to include all forms of careless or hateful language. We hope everyone will join us in making a personal pledge to end the use of the words "retarded" and "gay" as careless insults by not only refraining from using these words in a hurtful way ourselves, but also by calling it out when we hear it from others. Students, staff, and parents can visit www.r-word.org to take their own pledges. Together we can further understand the power of our words, and continue to create a community of mindful respect and inclusion for everyone. Please contact Gina Moran at gmoran@winchesterps.org with any questions. Thank you!

Important information continues below and on the subsequent pages of this newsletter for all, especially current grade 8 families.

Grade 8 Washington DC & Boston-Based Trips Scheduled for March 19-23, 2018

The annual Grade 8 trip to Washington D.C. and the alternative Boston-Based field trip program is planned for the week of March 19, 2018. Students attending the DC trip have already received important information and document to review, complete, and return. Students attending the Boston-Based trips were sent information to review, complete, and return last week. Ms. Cremens will be the administrator attending the Grade 8 Trip to Washington DC this year and Ms. Lavoie has been coordinating and planning the Boston-Based Trips.

There is a meeting for the parents/guardians of students attending the Washington D.C. trip from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 in the McCall auditorium. Directly following this meeting there will be a brief program on Social Host Liability presented by the [Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community](#) and the Winchester Police Department. Sergeant Perenick will provide an overview of the law and the risks associated with underage drinking. We encourage all parents/guardians to stay to hear this important information.

When is the last day of school and when is McCall's Grade 8 Graduation?

Since we have had to cancel school twice due to the weather, students' last day of school is now scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Assuming that we have no more snow days this school year, McCall's Grade 8 Graduation will be scheduled for Friday, June 15, 2018 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by the Grade 8 Graduation Dance. The annual grade 8 trip to Canobie Lake Park is currently scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2018.

What happens if we have 1 or 2 or 3 more snow days?

- With 1 more snow day, McCall's Grade 8 Graduation will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th; the grade 8 Canobie Lake Park trip would remain Monday, June 18th; and the last day of school for all students will be Wednesday, June 20th.
- With 2 more snow days, McCall's Grade 8 Graduation will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th; the grade 8 Canobie Lake Park trip would be Tuesday, June 19th; and the last day of school for all students will be Thursday, June 21st.
- With 3 more snow days, McCall's Grade 8 Graduation will be scheduled for Thursday, June 21st; the grade 8 Canobie Lake Park trip would be Wednesday, June 20th; and the last day of school for all students will be Friday, June 22nd.

March Notes from the Physical Education Department

We hope all families are having a productive and healthy school year thus far and would also like to share several important pieces of information with you all.

Our annual McCall Family Fitness and Volleyball Night for ALL sixth and seventh grade students and/or family members is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th from 6-7:30 pm. A Google registration form will be available soon for all McCall families. Come play and work out with your family, or simply register your child to be dropped off. Please consider being prompt with pick-up, thanks!

As usual, please encourage your children to wear appropriate PE clothing, especially NO BOOTS. A change of footwear to leave in their locker is recommended. Also, the lost and found clothing will be donated right after the February vacation, so please encourage them to check if they lost any items.

8th Grade Volleyball Tournament

The month of March is the Physical Education Department's volleyball unit. In this unit we work on skills such as the "ready position", the set, forearm pass, the dig, and overhand/underhand serve. After the fundamentals are learned, students begin to learn the rules of a volleyball game and how to utilize the best formation for their team in order to cover the most space.

We provide students an opportunity to display their skills in a grade wide tournament. The tournament games will be played **Monday, March 12th through Friday, March 16th** right after school in the gym. The Grade 8 Champion Homeroom will play the McCall Staff Team on Wednesday, March 26, 2018.

Thanks for your continued support and your time! If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to email us - Mike Kasprzak, Lauren Bandoian, & Karen LeClair.

Dance/Activity Night Schedule – Save the Dates



Dance/Activity Night Schedule – Save the Dates

The McCall Student Council will help sponsor school dance/activity nights once again this year and admission will be \$10 per student. Doors open for all dance/activity nights at 7:30 p.m.

The remaining dance schedule for the 2017-2018 school year is as follows:

Friday, April 27, 2018 - Grades 6 & 7 Dance/Activity Night

Doors open for all dance/activity nights at 7:30 p.m. and pick up time is promptly at 9:30 p.m.

Friday, May 11, 2018 – Grades 6-8 Dance/Activity Night

Doors open for all dance/activity nights at 7:30 p.m. and pick up time is promptly at 9:30 p.m.

Communication Tips for McCall Students & Families

Clear and effective communication between home and school is a fundamental component of student success. At McCall Middle School, we strive to keep the lines of communication open. In that spirit, we have compiled a list of communication suggestions.

Students Contacting Teachers

- Self-advocacy is a skill we work to teach. We want students to be comfortable speaking directly with teachers to ask questions, clarify understanding, or address concerns. By encouraging this kind of engagement, you are not only helping us help your child to be their own best advocate but also communicating to your child your belief that your child can manage that responsibility.

Parents/Guardians Contacting Teachers

- If, however, your child has a concern and your child finds it too challenging to reach out to the teacher or if your child tried and the concern remains unaddressed, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher directly.
- If you have a concern about something -- a particular grade that has been posted in Aspen, for example, please ask your child before contacting the teacher. While this practice will almost always save teachers the time of investigating and responding, it can, more importantly, be an opportunity for families to have productive conversations about their child's academic activities and performance. If, however, your question cannot be answered by your child, please do connect with your child's teacher. Teachers appreciate this.
- Email is the best way to initiate communication with your child's teachers. Teachers will make every effort to respond to emails/messages within at least **2 school days** of receiving the communication.

Parents/Guardians Contacting Guidance Counselors

- Please reach out to your child's guidance counselor and teachers to let them know if there are things going on at home or with your child's health that might negatively affect your child. This will help teachers provide the best support they can for your child.

Parents/Guardians Contacting an Administrator

- Please get in touch with your child's teacher before reaching out to an administrator with a question or concern. The teacher usually has a much greater understanding of the concern and is in the best position to provide specific information and take immediate action.
- If you have reached out to your child's teacher and are not satisfied with the resolution, please reach out to one of the following administrators:
 - Grade 6 (All Teams) - Jeannine Lavoie, Assistant Principal
 - Grade 7 (Olympians & Globetrotters) - Jeannine Lavoie, Assistant Principal
 - Grade 7 (Marathoners & Voyagers) - Pam Cremens, Interim Assistant Principal
 - Grade 8 (All Teams) - Pam Cremens, Interim Assistant Principal
 - Special Education - Fran Woof, Interim Special Education Supervisor
- After speaking with one of the administrators listed above, if you are still not satisfied with the outcome, please reach out to Jorge Goncalves, Principal.

When are grades posted?

- **Semester or ½ Year Courses**
 - Teachers are required to post student grades at the end of each quarter.
- **Trimester or Full Year Courses**
 - Teachers are required to post student grades at the midpoint of each Trimester as well as at the end of the Trimester.

Student Absence Notification Program: Absences due to personal illness, death in the family, observance of religious holidays, emergency medical or dental treatment or other serious emergencies are considered excused absences. Absences for recreational and vacation purposes will be recorded as unexcused absences and the parent/guardian must notify the principal in writing at least one week in advance of the absence to jgoncalves@winchesterps.org

If you know that your child will be absent for 3 or more consecutive days, please email me at jgoncalves@winchesterps.org and I will notify our school's registrar and all of your child's teachers regarding make-up work.

Notes from the Nurses - Mary LaMuraglia, R.N., B.S.N., & M. Ed & Marie Saba, R.N. & M.S.W.



Please remind your children to wash their hands frequently. It is the best way to prevent the spread of the common cold and flu-like illnesses. Cold and flu season begins in the fall and continues through the winter. If a student is ill with fever of 100 or higher, or has difficulty with nasal secretions and/or cough, please keep them home to rest and recover. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of acetaminophen or ibuprofen to return to school. The most important thing you can do to keep colds/flu from spreading in the community is to keep your child at home while they are sick.

Students who feel ill or who have sustained an injury during the school day should go to the nurse's office. A student may be accompanied by another student. If necessary, first aid will be administered and parents/guardians will be contacted.

Note: Only the school nurse may dismiss a student for illness or injury.

Students who receive medications during the school day must first consult with the school nurse. Medications are to be kept in the original container in the nurse's office, and a signed permission slip must be on file. Self-administration of prescribed emergency medications such as an inhaler or Epi-pen is permissible on a case-by-case basis, upon review by the school nurse. The nurse's office can be reached at 781-721-7026 Ext. 1119.

If your child has any allergy or asthma symptoms, please make sure they are properly medicated before coming to school so they will be more comfortable. Please send your student's inhalers into the Health Office if they may need them during the school day. If your child has a Life Threatening Allergy and has been prescribed an Epi-pen, please bring it into the Health Office along with the paperwork detailing directions for use so we may provide a safe environment for your child. Please let me know of any other health concerns as well.

Stay Connected

Please be sure to visit our website at for more information regarding upcoming school events and to find school information such as summer reading information, supply lists, and much more.

http://cms5.revize.com/revize/winchesterschools/schools/mccall_middle_school/index.php

It continues to be my pleasure to work with so many outstanding students, teachers, parents, and community members here at McCall Middle School. Your participation in school events helps to reinforce the school-home partnership that will greatly benefit your child during the middle school years. I invite you to continue to stay active in the educational process by checking our website, reading communications sent home or emailed, and participating in school events.

In closing, I am honored to be serving as McCall's principal and I sincerely look forward to helping provide an engaging and productive school experience for each and every student at McCall. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 781-721-7026 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jorge Goncalves
Principal

McCall Middle School
Transition & Recommendation Calendar for 2018-2019 School Year
Current Grade 8 Students & Parents/Guardians

Monday, February 26, 2018

- Grade 8 Parent/Guardian Meeting Winchester High School Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

- Grade 8 Assembly with WHS Principal, Mr. Mahoney (Period 4)

Monday, February 26, 2018-Friday, March 9, 2018

- Grade 8 Teachers make Grade 8 to 9 Recommendations in Aspen

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

- Washington DC Information Meeting for Parents/Guardians @ 6:30 p.m.
- Social Host Liability Presentation Immediately Following (Hosted by WPD & WCSC)

Friday, March 9, 2018

- Deadline for Grade 8 Teachers to make Grade 8 to 9 Recommendations in Aspen

Monday, March 19, 2018 through Friday, March 23, 2018

- Annual Grade 8 Trip to Washington DC or Week of Boston-Based Trips

Monday, March 12, 2018-Friday, March 23, 2018

- Grade 8 to 9 Course Selection Window in Aspen open for Grade 8 Students and Parents/Guardians – **Students and Parents will receive detailed information about how to access this information and other resources before this date.**

Wednesday, March 21, 2018-Friday, March 30, 2018

- Window for entering Trimester 2 Grades & Comments

Friday, March 23, 2018

- Last Day of Trimester 2
- Deadline for Grade 8 Students & Parents/Guardians to review Grade 8 to 9 Recommendations in Aspen
- Deadline to appeal recommendations to WHS Directors

Monday, March 26, 2018

- First Day of Trimester 3

Friday, April 15, 2018

- Last Day of Quarter 3

Monday, April 23, 2018

- First Day of Quarter 4

June 11, 2018

- Future Freshmen 2018 Night @ WHS from 5:00-6:45 p.m.

June 13, 2018

- Grade 8 Students are informed of the courses they will be scheduled for in Grade 9

McCall Middle School
Transition & Recommendation Calendar 2018-2019 School Year
Current Grade 6 & 7 Students & Parents/Guardians

Monday, March 19, 2018-Friday, March 30, 2018

- Grades 6 & 7 Teachers make Grade 6 to 7 & Grade 7 to 8 Recommendations in Aspen

Friday, March 23, 2018

- Last Day of Trimester 2

Monday, March 26, 2018

- First Day of Trimester 3

Friday, March 30, 2018

- Deadline for Grades 6 & 7 Teachers make Grade 6 to 7 & Grade 7 to 8 Recommendations in Aspen

Monday, April 2, 2018-Friday, April 13, 2018

- Grade 6 to 7 & Grade 7 to 8 Course Selection Window in Aspen open for Grades 6 & 7 Students and Parents/Guardians – **Students and Parents will receive detailed information about how to access this information and other resources before this date.**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

- Deadline to submit portfolio of art work as part of the application for Creative Arts Workshop (This course is for interested Grades 7 & 8 students.) - **Application information may be found at the end of this newsletter.**

Friday, April 13, 2018

- Last Day of Quarter 3

Monday, April 23, 2018

- First Day of Quarter 4

Friday, April 13, 2018

- Deadline for Grades 6 & 7 Students and Parents/Guardians to review Grade 6 to 7 & Grade 7 to 8 Recommendations in Aspen
- Deadline to appeal teacher's recommendation to Principal Goncalves. This form can be delivered to the main office or sent via email to jgoncalves@winchesterps.org

Week of August 20, 2018

- Welcome Letter from McCall with Team Assignment

McCall Middle School
Transition Calendar 2018-2019 School Year
Current Grade 5 Students & Parents/Guardians

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

- Grade 5 Special Education Parent/Guardian Meeting @ McCall @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

- Grade 5 Parent/Guardian Meeting @ McCall @ 6:00-6:45 p.m.
- Grade 5 ELL Parent/Guardian Meeting @ McCall Library 6:45-7:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 12, 2018

- Geography Night @ McCall from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Grade 5 Students & Parents/Guardians Welcome!)

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

- Grade 5 Parent/Guardian Q & A @ Next Door Theatre @ 7:00 p.m.

McCall Staff visits Grade 5 Students on the following dates:

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

- Grade 5 Visit @ Ambrose

Thursday, April 5, 2018

- Grade 5 Visit @ Muraco

Monday, April 9, 2018

- Grade 5 Visit @ Lincoln

Monday, April 23, 2018

- Grade 5 Visit @ V.O.

Monday, April 30, 2018

- Grade 5 Visit @ Lynch

Monday, June 4, 2018

- Moving-Up Day for Grade 5

Week of August 20, 2018

- Welcome Letter from McCall with Team Assignment

CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP APPLICATION INFORMATION
Information for Current 6th and 7th Grade Students

The **Creative Arts Workshop** is a time honored elective course designed to meet the educational needs of motivated and committed students of art at McCall Middle School. Admission to the CAW (7th or 8th grade) program **prohibits** admission to McCall's full year band, chorus, or orchestra classes in 7th or 8th grade. CAW meets for the entire year (as opposed to a half year art experience, as in the general art program)... so CAW students will receive twice as much time in art during school time in this exciting, faster paced course of study!

Traditionally, acceptance into the CAW course has enabled students to have opportunities to gain insight and a greater love of art making through interesting and thought-provoking studio experiences, the expertise of visiting artists, and participation in exciting field trips!

Students currently in grades 6 and 7 are invited to apply for a place in next year's accelerated art course, the Creative Arts Workshop. Students seeking to apply for admission to the CAW program (both 7th and 8th grade courses) should be prepared to submit a portfolio of art work to the art department staff (handed to one of the art teachers) on or before WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 2018! Remember that date- the scheduling of students has to take place almost immediately thereafter! The portfolio should consist of approximately 5 to 8 works of art (2-D and/or 3-D) **packaged with the student's name, current grade, homeroom teacher's name, and homeroom number clearly marked on the package or folder of work.**

Works should be packaged in a sturdy cardboard container, and further wrapped up for protection (in the case of some 3-D pieces). Individual works should also include the student's name and grade level. Observational type drawings are HIGHLY recommended for inclusion in the portfolio (such as a self-portrait or a drawing of a still life arrangement). Any/all works done from craft-type kits, patterns, or copied from others' work are STRONGLY discouraged... as creativity and examples of divergent thinking are sought, in addition to manual skills.

Ms. Fairley and Mr. Van Dam will review all of the works submitted, reflect on each applicant's studio performance in the current school year, and determine next year's groups (one section each of 7th and 8th grade CAW). Because of time constraints, portfolios submitted after the April 5th deadline WILL NOT be considered for application into this program. The decisions of the art department staff are final.

PLEASE NOTE:

MANDATORY MEETING of ALL 6th and 7th graders interested in applying to next year's CAW program:

Wednesday, March 21st, 2:20 p.m. in the cafeteria! This meeting will provide students an opportunity to ask questions and gain a greater insight into the requirements of the portfolio submission process. Also, an observational "start-up" drawing assignment will take place at the meeting. Meeting will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

So... if you love art and would like to be a part of this incredible opportunity to make art in an exciting, nurturing, and challenging environment... well, GET BUSY putting your portfolio together!

If you should have any specific questions related to the process of applying... don't delay- please see Ms. Fairley or Mr. Van Dam.

GOOD LUCK!!!!

Please bring this notice home and share it with your parents!!!!