

Horseshoe Review

Parent Newsletter



Happy 2014!

From the Principal's Desk: Tania Rushing, Principal

January 2014

When is enough, enough?

Dear Parents,

Early this week, while having one of my *many* discussions with a group of students, I asked the age old question, "How many times does your mother have to tell you to do something?" The answer I got from the first student nearly made me lose my teeth! His answer, "Lots." I don't know about anyone else, but in my day when my mother (or father) asked, "How many times do I have to tell you to do something?" The answer from me or my siblings had better be, "Once."

Perhaps this is our problem. Perhaps we are not expecting our children to follow directions and commands the first time given. Perhaps, at home, many are not "expected" to do as they are told. How can that be? How can our children become responsible adults, employees and parents, if they cannot or will not comply with requests from people in authority; parents, teachers, principals, bosses?

If we do not like a rule, can we decide it is ours to break or can we just follow the ones that suit us? Does anyone out there like the 60 mile an hour speed limit when we are in a hurry? It is not our rule to break and if we do, we pay the consequences. People make decisions and choices every day. And when they do, they live with the consequences of the decisions they make, whether good or bad.

Three letters have been sent home since October regarding dress code. The letters have been posted on the McNiel website. All parents and students signed the McNiel handbook and the District handbook at the beginning of the year, in which the dress code is spelled out in writing. We have made dress code announcements at least twice a week and made special presentations in classrooms and during student activities. I have had numerous one-on-one conversations with students who just didn't get it the other twenty times, only to be sadly disappointed by repeat behavior.

At this point, we are done with second chances. Students and parents have been told, the punishment for dress code violation is to correct the violation or attend In School Suspension. A few of the violations we see on a daily basis are hair that is colored unnaturally (purple, orange, blond patches, etc.), etchings or carvings in hair, such as swirls, hash marks, lines from one side of the head to the other, etc. These are NOT allowed. If your student comes to school with this as a new "do." They will be asked to fix it or be assigned to ISS until it is fixed. Sorry, parents, for a boy, this may mean shaving his head and neither of you will be happy.

Other dress code violations that occur daily are holes in jeans. Leggings or "Jeggings" without a top that comes three inches above the knee. These RULES ARE NOT NEW. If you have questions about dress or hair, please call the school. If you are not receiving any of the communication that is sent home, discuss this issue with your student. Rather than become angry with school personnel, place the anger where it is due.

"How many times do you have to tell your child to do something?" The answer is, and should be, "Once."

Thank you for all you do and for your support.

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Dates to Note:

- * Jan 9-30 GT nomination window
- * Jan 14-17 7th gr Rdg Benchmark
- * Jan 20—No school
- * Jan 21-24 7th/8th Wrtg/Rdg Benchmark
- * Jan 25— District Band Auditions for 8th graders only
- * Jan 28— 4th SW Progress reports sent home
- * Feb 1— District Band Clinic at WFHS
- * Feb 1— Orchestra UIL
- * Feb 8— UIL solo/ensemble @ WFHS
- * Feb 10-21— 8th gr Math benchmark window
- * Feb 14— Valentine Dance
- * Feb 22—Region VASE orchestra concert
- * Mar ch 3-14— 7th gr Math benchmark window
- * March 17-21 Spring Break

Inclement Weather

*Because we missed school on Dec. 5th and 6th due to bad weather, our scheduled inclement weather days for April 28th and May 23rd will now be a full school day. Please note that **school will be in session on April 28 and May 23. Please make plans accordingly.** If bad weather occurs, please turn to local television and radio stations or the district website for closure/delay information. Your correct primary phone number information must be up to date with the school district in order for you to receive the Parent Link automated phone messages as well. Providing the district with accurate information will help with proper notification in case of school emergencies.*



LIBRARY NEWS:

THANK YOU for all your bookfair support!
 Please check with your child for book fines or library book due dates!
 Keep an eye out for more bookfairs!



Accolades:

Boys Cross Country finished 1st in all their meets and are the 2013 City Champs.
 7th Boys A football team finished undefeated and are the City Champs.
 7th Boys B football team finished undefeated and unscored on. Only 1 other team has ever done this and it was in 1974.
 7th C Boys basketball finished undefeated and are City Champs. Their closest game was a 16 point victory margin.

Title 1 Information for MJH

- ⇒ Title 1 provides funding to qualifying schools to improve educational opportunities for underachieving students so that they might be more successful in regular programs and attain grade level proficiency.
- ⇒ As part of Title 1, we have to have a written policy regarding parent involvement. We need your input as to how and what you would like presented here at McNeil to best serve you and your family.
- ⇒ Current meetings held at McNeil: Coffee's with the Principal, Meet the Teacher night, Parent Conferences (first report card), and Counselor meetings (at least 2 per year; varying topics)

***Ways for parents to be involved...

- *Site Based Decision Making Team has 2 parent members
- *PTA, Athletic Booster Club, Music Booster Club
- *Many athletic & cheer events, music concerts, NJHS events, banquets, and honor award ceremonies

**Ways we address student progress...

- *Student Support Team (SST) meets to discuss struggling students and their needs
- *Response to Intervention (RtI) is used to help monitor progress and implement accommodations in the classroom to assist the student.

**How do we stay in contact with you?

- *Progress reports go home approximately every three weeks and a report card goes home at the end of a six weeks grading period
- *We encourage you to use the website www.wfisd.net/mcniel
- *We encourage you to use the Family Access option on the district website to monitor your child's grades
- *The school report card is issued in January. It can be viewed at www.tea.state.tx.us

Yearbooks

If you ordered an 8th gr. baby ad, a letter will be sent home with instructions on how to submit your ad at the end of January. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Cross, across@wfsd.net.

Check out the McNiel Yearbook Facebook Fanpage!

JOIN A CLUB!

- Circle of Friends
- Chess Club
- Book Club



Mustang Hoops Schedule

Boys

- Jan 13 Mustangs vs. Barwise @ Barwise 7th /8th A/B
- Jan 23 Mustangs vs. Graham @ McNiel 7th/8th A/B
- Jan 27 Mustangs vs. Zundy @ Zundy 7th//8th A/B
- Feb 3 Mustangs vs. Kirby @ Kirby 7th/8th A/B

Girls

- Jan 13 Mustangs vs. Barwise @ McNiel 7th/8th B/A
- Jan 23 Mustangs vs. Graham @ Graham 7th/8th B/A
- Jan 27 Mustangs vs. Zundy @ McNiel 7th/8th B/A
- Feb 3 Mustangs vs. Kirby @ McNiel 7th/8th B/A

Important reminder~

If your child is running a fever do not give them fever reducing medication and send them to school. Students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. As flu season is approaching, please use good judgment and keep your child home if they are ill to prevent the spread of illness.

Also, do not send any medication to school with your child. All medication must be brought to the nurse by an adult with the necessary medication form filled out and signed.

For more questions or to contact Nurse Myracle, call 235-1118 ext. 42008 or email at pmyracle@wfsd.net.



SPRING TENNIS Schedule

- Jan 21 McNiel vs. Burk @ Burk HS
Boys/Girls 8th gr
- Jan 27 McNiel vs Zundy @ McNiel
Girls 8th gr
- Jan 28 McNiel vs. Zundy @ McNiel
Boys 8th gr
- Feb 3 McNiel vs. Kirby @ Kirby
Girls 8th gr
- Feb 6 McNiel vs. Kirby @ Kirby
Boys 8th gr

MJH GIVING

This holiday season, the McNiel staff was able to assist 14 McNiel families with gifts, food, house hold supplies, and more.

Along with the staff, the students contributed to the Susan G. Komen foundation, the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, and the athletic girls adopted angels from the Angel tree at the WF Teacher's credit union.

WAY TO GO MCNIEL!

KINDNESS MATTERS!



Contact counselor Jackie Wheat for more information or suggestions about parenting classes you would like to see offered at McNiel. 235-1118 ext. 42013.



Discipline Policy

This is a basic outline of the process teachers and principals will take in order to maintain classroom discipline.

Offenses are categorized into different levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. For more information about the specific offenses that fall into the different levels, please reference the complete discipline policy on the McNiel website or contact Summer Rollins, Assistant Principal at srollins@wfid.net

Teachers will follow the outlined steps below for level 1 offenses.

Step 1: Verbal or Written Warning

Step 2: Conference with student

Step 3: Assign detention and contact parent

Step 4: Assign detention and contact parent

Step 5: Office referral with documentation of parent contact

****Student should have 24 hour notice of detention assignments.

Notification

The principal or appropriate administrator shall notify a student's parent by phone, email, or in writing of any violation that may result in a detention outside of regular school hours, out-of-school suspension, placement in a DAEP, or expulsion. Notification will be made within three school days after the administrator becomes aware of the violation.

Students are given documentation of the offense with the appropriately determined consequences as outlined in this policy. It is the student's responsibility to give the documentation paperwork to their parent or guardian.

Discipline Procedures

The level of offense and number of repeated infractions will determine the consequence assigned. Listed here is a basic guide that will be used to determine the consequence.

Level 1 (teacher level)	1 day detention	
Level 2 (admin office)	2 days detention	(cafeteria 3:05-3:45)
Level 3 (admin office)	1 day ISS	
Level 4 (admin office)	3 days ISS	
Level 5 (admin office)	DAEP (Denver)	



We know things change....

Because we know contact information changes we need your help! Please complete the information below and have your student return it to the office by Friday, January 17th and they will receive a free HOMEWORK pass to be used in any class this semester. ***If your address has changed, along with this form, please send a copy of a utility bill or lease agreement with your name clearly stated on the bill. Contact the office if you have any questions.

Please print.

Student Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ **Cell phone** _____ **Wk phone** _____

Email _____

Or

Please circle.

NO CHANGES