

Horseshoe Review

Parent Newsletter



From the Principal's Desk: Tania Rushing, Principal

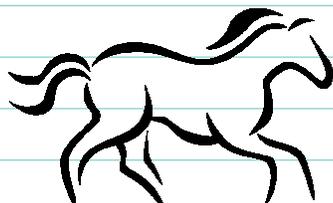
It's that time of year when the students and teachers are feeling the crunch of the STAAR testing season just around the corner. The icy weather put a crimp in some of our plans for the past couple of weeks, but we must remind the students that we will not get a real vacation until spring break, so until then...it is nose to the grindstone!

Important reminders: Recently the Wichita Falls Independent School District sent out letters regarding the Secondary Choice Plan. Very soon, all parents of sixth and eighth grade students will receive Secondary Choice information and the Choice of School Form in the mail. The information can be found on the district website at www.wfisd.net. Parents must have their correct mailing information on file with their child's school to receive the Choice Form. Because the Choice period has been shortened to 20 days with no 10-day late period, it is critical that parents return their students' forms to receive the student's first choice of junior high or high school. Please call the school office with any updated or changed addresses or phone numbers.

Secondly, we still have many students not being picked up after school in a reasonable amount of time. This creates extra duties for teachers after duty hours, additional unstructured time for students that could be better spent in tutorials or supervised at home and a concern for student welfare when students are left repeatedly at school for up to, and over, an hour each day. Students often claim that parents must pick up younger siblings first, however, we ask that junior high students be picked up first since they are released from school thirty minutes before the elementary schools.

Lastly, your students are taking another round of benchmark (practice) tests to determine what weaknesses we need to address before the STAAR test and which areas are strengths that do not need re-teaching. Please remind your students to do their very best on these tests. The students are responsible for the information that has been taught thus far in class and their grades should appropriately reflect their level of mastery of the skills in each subject. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's benchmark scores, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher and discuss the results. Teachers are a wonderful resource for assisting parents in the best methods to help their children be successful in school and on the state mandated tests.

Thank you for all that you do.



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Dates to Note:

- * Feb 22—Region VASE orchestra concert
- * Mar ch 3-14— 7th gr Math benchmark window
- * March 17-21 Spring Break
- * April 1-2— STAAR testing
- * April 11— End of Six Week 5
- * April 22-23— STAAR testing

School Notes

Please make certain that your student's lunch account is up to date and that all charges are taken care of in a timely manner. If you have questions about your account, please call cafeteria 235-1118 ext. 42009.

Spring is recycling time at McNiel. We collect **Box Tops for Education, used/empty computer printer cartridges, and old cell phones/digital cameras.** All of these items are sent in to get extra funds for the school. Help us help the environment and the school by sending your box tops, cartridges, and old electronics.

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:

Contact Mrs. Wolf for more information on the event below:

- Book mark contest sponsored by the Wichita Falls Public Library. Forms are at the library counter and are due back by March 27th.



Accolades:

Congratulations to all the solo and ensemble groups who participated in the UIL Band, Orchestra, and Choir!

Thank you Luke Schroeder, Chloe Pak, Aiden Potter, and Aaron Wheat for representing McNeil and filling the air with such well prepared music at the Optimist Club Valentine dinner.



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. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Cross, across@wfid.net.

Check out the McNiel Yearbook Facebook Fanpage!

JOIN A CLUB!

- Circle of Friends
- Chess Club
- Book Club

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@wfid.net.

STAAR – April 1,2 and April 22,23

The upcoming tests are on everyone’s minds as we make final preparations to show the world how great our McNiel Mustangs are in the classroom! Please help your child do his very best during STAAR with the following suggestions:

Get a **GOOD NIGHT’S SLEEP** every night before the test. Teenagers need a tremendous amount of sleep and rest to be at peak performance levels.

Eat a **GOOD BREAKFAST** every morning before the test. Brains work better when they’ve been nourished.

Support your child with **ENCOURAGEMENT** to do the best possible job on the test by reading carefully and taking the time to check answers for accuracy, not just completion.

Attendance is crucial. Have your child to school **BEFORE 7:45** so that testing can begin on time. The test is timed this year.

Please encourage your child to turn off there technological device and to turn it in to the test administrator so that their test does not have a chance of being invalidated. (Or leave it at home the days we test.)

If you have questions or concerns about testing, contact Mrs. Wheat (235-1118) or jwheat@wfid.net



MJH GIVING

McNiel’s Student Council was able to support a great cause and helped raise their goal of \$400 for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society! Great job and thank for giving back to the community!

Due to a recent fire, one of our Mustangs and their family was with out clothing. The Mustang Staff was able to help this family with over \$500. Great job!

KINDNESS MATTERS!



ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Attendance and being on time counts! Please encourage your child to be in class on time to every period every day. Students who are excessively tardy to school or classes can be taken to court by the district. You can review the attendance policy on the WFISD website if you have any questions regarding the rules for attendance or contact Diann Taylor, attendance officer at 235-1032.

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)	

7th grade parents

2014-15 Scheduling

Your student will begin the process of choosing their courses for their 8th grade school year the week of Feb. 25-28th. Even with all the unknowns right now, your child will still be able to pick their core classes and a variety of electives. We are still planning for an eight period day, so that would mean 4 electives each semester. As an 8th grader, your child's has a broader variety of elective choices if they have met their 2 semester requirement of Physical Education and their 1 semester requirement of fine arts.

This will be an online process, and once this process is completed a printout will be sent home for review. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's choices, please email or call the counselor's office, jwheat@wfid.net or 235-1118.

***7th graders will be taking an Algebra readiness test in early May to determine placement in the high school Pre AP Algebra class.