



Dear McAuliffe Student and Family,

Welcome to McAuliffe International School! We hope that your spring is going well and that you are enjoying your last few months of elementary school. We are excited to welcome you to middle school!

Gus Johnson (timothy_johnson3@dpsk12.org) is the Class of 2025 Head of House and Katherine Howes (katherine_howes@dpsk12.org) is the Class of 2025 School Counselor. We are your administrative and mental health team and we will work with you for the three years that you are attending McAuliffe. It is our job to get you all the most current and important information regarding school as well as to support your child as they grow into a young adult.

In this packet, you will find helpful information that will answer some questions, help you understand what to expect this fall, as well as some tasks that need to be completed immediately. Please take a chance to read through the entire packet to ensure that we are together in supporting all new 6th graders come August.

What needs to be done NOW:

Complete the Course Selections Form included in this envelope. Please deliver this form to us by **May 4th** via e-mail (laura_thompson@dpsk12.org), fax 720-424-1565, or in person in the Business Office. *It is very important that you return this information to us in a timely fashion as we will be using your selections to help create your student's class schedule.* We will do our best to provide you with each of the elective courses that you select.

We have also included our Cell Phone Policy, Technology Agreements, and Code of Conduct forms. **Please review these forms with your child, and sign and return these with your student's course selections form to the Business Office.**

2018 Registration / Annual Family Update

Please save the date for registering for the 2018-2019 school year:

Monday, June 4th, 8:30am-11:30am or 1pm-3pm

Tuesday, June 5th, 8:30am- 11:30am or 1pm-3pm

During registration, you will complete the Annual Family Update and pay school fees of \$175.00. We will have samples of the uniforms available for viewing during registration. The McAuliffe at Smiley Foundation will also have McAuliffe hats, magnets, socks and beanies available for purchase. If you are not able to attend registration, you will be able to complete the Annual Family Update and pay fees through Parent Portal during the month of July. **Registration and fees need to be completed by August 3rd.** If your student qualifies for Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL), and you would like to apply for a scholarship for school fees or uniforms, please pick up an application in the Business Office.

What to complete this summer:

- If you haven't already, complete the Annual Family Update and pay school fees of \$175
- Order school uniforms
- Purchase school supplies

Ordering School Uniforms

School uniforms are available to order through SAI Sports (www.saiteamsports.com). This link is also on the main page of our website. Parents should order uniforms as soon as possible to ensure delivery in time for school to start in early August. We will have uniform samples available for sizing and style preferences during registration but do not sell uniforms in the school.

School Supplies

The school supply list is included in this packet and is also posted on our website. You can order your school supplies through EPI (<http://www.educationalproducts.com>) by June 15th or purchase all items individually. Bring all your school supplies on locker set-up day, or bring them on the first day of school.

Answers to your burning questions-

6th Grade -The First Days (August 6th and 7th):

The first two days of school (August 6th and 7th) are for 6th graders only. During 6th grade orientation, students will run through both of their Red and White day schedules, will spend time learning about school expectations, practice opening their lockers, and touring the building. These 2 days are crucial to creating a positive student culture so please do your best to ensure that your student is in attendance. School starts at 8:00am and our new 6th graders will say goodbye to parents outside the front of the building (on Holly Street) and be directed into the auditorium for a welcome by the administrative team.

Please know that your child will likely be exhausted and emotional during the first few weeks of 6th grade. This is normal. They are going through a major transition and it is often overwhelming and stressful for many 6th graders. Help us support your child by having a firm bed time, limiting screen time, and encouraging your child to drink water throughout the school day. August and September are hot months in this old building!

With some children, this anxiety and stress will taper out within a day or two, and with others it may take a few weeks or even a couple of months. Each child is different and each child takes their own time to adjust to life's biggest transitions. At this age, many children start to experience stress for the first time, but might not yet know ways to cope with it. Please have open conversations with your child about life's stressors and how to best take care of themselves during those more stressful times. Self care is a key to success!

SHINE Crew:

SHINE Crew is a group of 70-80 8th grade students who have shown amazing leadership and kindness over their past two years at McAuliffe. These students have applied to and been accepted to this elite mentorship program and have taken many hours out of their precious summer to prepare for leading our 6th graders. They will be around to help all day during the first two days of school, and will be a consistent presence in the 6th grade helping with anything from friendship issues to binder organization.

Lockers:

Students will be assigned a locker that they share with another, randomly chosen, 6th grade student. This is often their first middle school challenge- learning how to live with a new friend and share a tight space. If they are still struggling to make their locker assignment work after the second week of school, please encourage your student to advocate for themselves by speaking with their head of house or counselor. **Students are now allowed to switch lockers without permission.**

Please also bear with us as many of our very old lockers are a challenge to work with at the beginning of the year. If students are having a problem opening their locker, they should write their name, locker number and issue in the "Wonkey Locker" booklets located in both offices.

Schedules and Schedule Changes:

Schedules will be available on Parent and Student Portal in late July. Students may view their tentative schedule at this time, but please be aware that it may change before the first day of school. Schedules will be finalized at 4:00pm on Friday, August 3rd. Printed copies will be available at locker setup day, and will also be distributed to students on their first day, August 6th. School counselors will *not* be available during summer months, but will be available through email starting July 30th.

If there is an error in a student's schedule (ex. 2 of the same class, wrong level world language, student received none of their top three art choices, etc.), please email your grade level counselor, Katherine Howes, as soon as you notice this mistake. (All students should be scheduled in Language Arts, Math, Geography, Science, Automation and Robotics, World Language, PE and an elective). Students may request a change during the first month of school by emailing their counselor or by filling out a Counselor Assistance Request form (this will be explained to students during the first week of school). Students should be aware that not all schedule changes are feasible and that requesting a schedule change does not guarantee that one will happen.

All schedule requests and changes must be completed by Friday, August 31st *This is a firm date. No requests for schedule changes will be accepted after that time outside of extraordinary circumstances.*

Please know, we will not be accepting any requests for house changes (with the rare exception of extraordinary circumstances). All students are randomly assigned to a house and will remain with that house during their time at McAuliffe.

504 Meetings and Plans:

If your child has a section 504 plan, please know that you will hear from Mr. Johnson within the first four weeks of school to schedule your annual meeting. If you do not hear from him by September 10th, please email or call to ensure that we have the proper documentation and to schedule your meeting.

Grades:

McAuliffe utilizes an IB (1-8) grading scale. Please keep an eye on the newsletter as there will be a 6th grade informational night during the 1st trimester with an explanation of the grading system, Parent Portal, and Schoology. If you have a question about a student's grade, please feel free to email their teacher directly. Teacher contact information can be found on the website, the McAuliffe app or you may call the main office and ask to be put through to that teacher's voicemail.

Clubs, sports, service trips:

Please utilize the McAuliffe App, website, newsletter and Schoology to keep up on what clubs, sports and activities are offered at any given time. Also, please ensure that your email address is up to date in IC so that you receive the weekly McAuliffe newsletter, which often contains pertinent information about upcoming events. We are committed to making sure each child finds a niche here at school. Help us in encouraging your student to try new things!

Contact us:

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Howes are best reached by email. If you prefer a phone call or meeting, especially in the first two months of the school year, please schedule that ahead of time through email so that we don't miss you.

Thank you for selecting McAuliffe International School. We can't wait to get to know you. We look forward to meeting you at the locker set-up day on Saturday, August 4th.

Sincerely,
Gus Johnson and Katherine Howes