

McAuliffe International School Weekly News

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McAuliffe School News | September 14, 2023

Dear McAuliffe Community,

"Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter."

This quote by Brian Solis resonates particularly strongly with me this year as we embark upon a new year at McAuliffe in the midst of changes we did not expect. We have always worked toward helping our students, staff and community have a strong sense of belonging at McAuliffe and we are more aware than ever about how much a sense of belonging matters.

"You Belong Here" is the motto we work hard to live by every day at McAuliffe. Belonging to a community allows oneself to become who they are meant to be. We are embracing this focus in 7th grade this year through celebrations, student-driven activities and events, decorating of our learning spaces, classroom engagement, and in our daily work with students. All people deserve to have a sense of belonging in their school community and we know that students thrive when they feel this sense of belonging.

Our students are our most important assets and we will continue to foster belonging with each student, every day. We invite you and thank you for joining us on this endeavor. #McAuliffe Strong!

You belong and you matter!

~ Ms. Frenzel, 7th Grade Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

For a full list of upcoming events visit our [website](#).

Thursday 9/14

England Trip Informational Meeting, 5:30pm

Iceland Trip Informational Meeting, 6:00pm

Friday 9/15

Coffee & Community, 9:30am

Tuesday 9/26 & Wednesday 9/27

6th Grade Team Building

Coffee & Community - September 15th

Please join us tomorrow for our First Coffee & Community of the school year at 9:30am in the library. Hosted by our Dean of Operations, Sherry Beardshear and Community Liaison, Michelle Moore, this is a chance to learn about upcoming school events, how to get involved, hear from different staff members and students, and socialize with other parents. This week, attendees will be introduced to our Admin and Culture teams. Hope to see you tomorrow at the first Coffee & Community of the school year!



No Student Pick-up or Drop off in Staff Parking Lot

Please do not use the staff parking lot on 26th to pick up, or drop off your student. The only vehicles allowed to pickup/drop off in the parking lot are the DPS transportation vehicles (Hop, Skip, Drive vehicles).



Collaborative School Committee (CSC)

Are you interested in serving on the Collaborative School Committee (CSC) for the 2023-2024 school year? The CSC provides guidance on the UIP, school programming, school budget, calendar, culture and behavior systems, community engagement and marketing. CSC meetings are held a minimum of four times per year on Tuesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 am.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send an email to interim principal, Amy Bringedahl at abringe@dpsk12.net by 4:00pm Tuesday, September 19th. There are two positions open for parents and 1 position for a community member. Positions will be determined by lottery with notification sent to families in the Thursday newsletter.

After-School Clubs - Sign-ups are Open!

McAuliffe is pleased to be offering a number of after-school clubs from 4:10-5:15pm Monday through Thursday. Some McAuliffe clubs will be school-sponsored and some are led by McAuliffe staff. Classes with insufficient registrations may be canceled, and there is a maximum number of students each class can accommodate. Please note that scholarship spots for community partnered classes are extremely limited. To sign-up for an after-school Club, visit our [website](#). Questions? Reach out to Sherry Beardshear at Sherry_Beardshear@dpsk12.net.

Health School Meals for All

All students in Denver Public Schools have access to FREE healthy, nutritious school meals beginning in the 2023-24 school year thanks to the Health School Meals for All program.

We ask all families to please complete the [You Benefit Form](#). By providing this information, you will help our district access all available funds to cover the cost of meals. Plus, families who fill out the form may qualify to receive discounted school fees, class materials, bus passes, utilities support and more!

Yearbooks are on Sale!

The 2023-24 McAuliffe yearbook is for sale on myschoolbucks.com. There will not be any sales at school. The yearbook costs \$43 and will be distributed at the end of the school year. Please don't miss the chance to buy your child a great book of McAuliffe memories! If you have any questions, please contact Molly Walsh at molly_walsh@dpsk12.net.

Intramural and Club Sports

McAuliffe will be offering a variety of intramural and club sports throughout the year. This fall we will be offering Ultimate, Tennis, Climbing, and Boys Golf. Information about these offerings are posted on our [website](#). Questions can be directed to allison_rase@dpsk12.net.

Classroom Supply Drive

Our teachers need classroom supplies, and the McAuliffe at Smiley Foundation, with your help, wants to fund their classroom needs! Students need pencils, graph paper, highlighters and snacks. Please help us give our teachers the tools they need to help our students succeed. You can donate at our [Classroom Supplies GoFundMe](#) page or using our Venmo account (@McAuliffeFoundation). Make sure to let us know your donation is for classroom supplies in the subject section. Thank you!

GT Update

The Gifted and Talented Social and Emotional Series is back again this year. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information, dates, times and how to sign up.

There is still time if your student has not yet completed the goal writing for their advanced learning plan. The information and instructions are on Schoology in the GT folder on your students homeroom page. If you have questions or your student needs help please contact Becky_middleton@dpsk12.net.

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Conference

The Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) conference is not just for educators, it is for parents and guardians as well. This year the conference theme is *Imagine, Believe, Grow*. If you are interested in attending, please click [here](#) for more information about the conference and its offerings.

Destination Imagination - Team Managers Needed!

Destination Imagination (DI) is a creative problem-solving team activity that runs from Fall through Spring. DI exposes students to STEAM subjects, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, project management, and hands-on skills. Check out this [link](#) for more information and a preview of this year's challenges. If your student is interested in participating, OR if you are willing to volunteer as a DI Team Manager, please contact Ms. Middleton at Becky_Middleton@dpsk12.net.

Optional Summer Travel Opportunities

McAuliffe is excited to again offer optional travel during the summer of 2024! *Both the England and Iceland trips will hold parent informational meetings tomorrow night in the auditorium at 5:30 pm and 6:00pm respectively.* Please note that if trips do not meet their minimum required travelers by October 1st, trips could be cancelled. If you are interested in one of the trips below please sign up and put your deposit down asap to hold your spot.

- **8th Grade Civil Rights Trip** – May 22nd – May 26th – Students will fly into Atlanta and travel by bus through Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham- stopping along the way at many of the places that played a huge role in the civil rights movement. This trip is led by Mrs. Grove and the 8th Grade Culture Team, please email Katherine_Grove@dpsk12.net with questions. Informational flyer attached [here](#). [Trip Website](#) to sign up.
- **Iceland Trip** – June 4 - 13 - Students will spend 10 days traveling throughout Iceland including Reykjavik, Pingvellir National Park, and Icelandic LAVA show and so much more! For more information, click [here](#). Trip leader is Ms. Green, please email Danielle_Green@dpsk12.net with questions. [Trip Website](#) to sign up. Parent informational meeting at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 14th in the auditorium.
- **England Trip** – June 9th - June 16th - Students fly into London for an 8-day adventure including a “Making of Harry Potter” tour, visits to Westminster Abbey, Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, King Cross Station and more! The informational flyer is attached [here](#). Ms. Smogor is the trip leader, please email Sarah_Smogor@dpsk12.net with questions. [Trip Website](#) to sign up. Parent informational meeting at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 14th in the auditorium.
- **New York Trip** – May 29th - June 1st - Students will spend 4 days in New York City seeing 3 Broadway Shows (including post-show "stage door"), Radio City Music Hall, Central Park, New York City Water Cruise, Top of the Rock Observatory, and more!. The informational flyer is attached [here](#). Trip leader is Mrs. Ganz, please email Mindy_Ganz@dpsk12.net with questions. [Trip Website](#) to sign up.

French / English Tutoring

Interested in French or English tutoring for your student? Emily Hadfield, our English Language Development teacher, is looking for several middle school students to tutor. She has a degree in English Language Development and French Language and Literature and has 5 years experience teaching English Language Arts and ELD. Please email her at emily_hadfield@dpsk12.net for more information if you're interested!

Need a Math Tutor?

With over 15 years of experience, former McAuliffe Math teacher, Ryan Stone is there for you! Contact Ryan at stone.ryan.james@gmail.com.

How Do I Help the McAuliffe Community?

There are so many ways to support our community. Please contact Michelle Moore, our Community Liaison at michelle_moore@dpsk12.net, for more information. We are so incredibly grateful for your time, resources and talents!

WEEK IN REVIEW

Jason Reynolds

Last week we were fortunate to have acclaimed author [Jason Reynolds](#) visit McAuliffe International. Mr. Reynolds spoke about growing up outside of Washington DC, and how he was inspired to become an author. Students were able to ask him questions and also received a signed copy of one of his books!



Work Hard Be Kind Awards are Back!

This year, like last year, each month 7th graders will be nominated by their teachers, deans, and mentors for living the motto “Work Hard, Be Kind”. Five students from each house will be recognized at a morning meeting and receive a certificate with the reason for their nomination. Please help me congratulate the August recipients of the Work Hard Be Kind certificates:



House Challenger from left to right: Mary Martinez, Levi Gonzalez (really he is from house Fusion), Elinam Abum, Sarah Nelson, and Issak Huerta-Caballero.



House Fusion from left to right: Elise Cook, Helen Spreen, Eva Sanders, Daniel Lucio, and Charlie Zatz.

Prep Round-Up

- **Cross Country Crushes it at Slavens Invitational!**

A huge congrats to the McAuliffe Cross Country team! Over 160 runners braved the 90+ degrees and 4 water crossings to complete the 1.9 mile race last Friday. The Girls A team took 2nd place overall (out of 26 teams), and boys A placed 3rd among DPS teams. Great job to all runners!



- **Boys Soccer Starts Strong!**

The boys soccer team kicked off their first game of the season with a 5 to 0 win over



Placebridge Academy. Also, congratulations to 8th grader, Grady Redpath for being nominated by Placebridge with the sportsmanship towel of the game!

COMING EVENTS

Dine in with Dos Amigas!

Enjoy delicious and authentic frozen Mexican meals, delivered to your door!

Order between September 20th through 26th for delivery on September 27th. Use code MCAULIFFE and 20% of profits to back to McAuliffe! For more information click [here](#). Order at [DosAmigas.com](https://dosamigas.com).

NDIZ CORNER

Dear McAuliffe Families,

It has been an unexpected beginning to our school year, but I am pleased to say that our students are off to a great start thanks to the support of our families and the dedication and professionalism of our teachers and staff. Our leaders at McAuliffe International School – current and former – have built an incredible, high-achieving culture and that has helped ensure that we remain focused on what matters most – our students.

While you probably chose for your student to attend McAuliffe because of its track record of success, you may not be aware that McAuliffe is also an innovation school and part of the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ). Click [here](#) to learn more about Innovation Zones and the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone. We will also be holding a virtual family assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 19th, at 5:30pm to give families a chance to learn more about innovation and innovation Zones. Click on this [Zoom Link](#) to participate in the meeting.

You likely have seen media reports that DPS is conducting an investigation of McAuliffe International. Student safety and well-being is our number one priority and we hope we have information soon on findings so we can respond to any student needs. As we have shared previously, DPS placed Mr. Klaver on paid leave during this investigation, which is a standard HR practice. We hope that Mr. Klaver can return to school soon but we have not been given a timeline for the investigation. We will share additional details with you as soon as we are able.

In the interim, we are thankful Amy Bringedahl has joined us from Northfield High School to support us through the transition process.

Thank you for supporting the McAuliffe International staff this last month!

~ Colleen O'Brien, Executive Director of the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone

(NDIZ) Colleen@NDIZ.org

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION

Save the Date! High School Showcase - October 11th



Virtual High School Bulletin Board

8th Grade Families! High School Choice is right around the corner. While you should be sure to Save the Date for our Annual High School Showcase Night, you should also bookmark the [Virtual High School Bulletin Board](#). As Ms. Grove receives information about shadowing, prospective student events, etc. from each school, she will update the virtual bulletin board. Check back frequently!

COUNSELOR CORNER

6th Grade Counselors - Lauren Brown (lauren_brown@dpsk12.net) & Susie Swingler (susan_swingler@dpsk12.net)

7th Grade Counselor - Kelly Knapp (kelly_knapp@dpsk12.net)

8th Grade Counselor - Katherine Grove (katherine_grove@dpsk12.net)

Substance Abuse Resources For Parents

The DPS Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Program was created to support schools with prevention and early intervention supports for youth substance use. Click [here](#) to learn more about the programs utilized by the Substance Use Prevention Program at DPS.
