



McAuliffe Manual School News | August 11, 2016

Principal's Message

We have had a great start to the school year! We have enjoyed getting to know students and building our school community. Each advisor is working hard to support all students' transition to middle school successfully. The days are long and so we've been talking with students about taking care of themselves and building positive habits to help get into the school year -- getting enough sleep, drinking a lot of water, and eating healthy. We want to thank all of our parents and families for supporting students this week in getting the school year started. It has been wonderful to see students begin to embody our [mission](#) this week and see the school come to life.

This week students have spent lots of time in advisory, attended their first set of Blue and White day classes, and have organized their notebooks and supplies. Family communication is really important to us and we wanted to take the time to share with you in this newsletter some of the



Home of the Thunder!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues 8/23

Back-to-School
Night, 5:30-8:00pm

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for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)!

advisory goals from this first week of school, upcoming events, and our personalized learning plan for the school. We're hoping that weekly newsletters provide you with more than just the information that you need, but also provide conversation starters to ask your student about how things are going for them here at McAuliffe Manual.



We look forward to building upon the successes of this first week of school. We are very proud of the way students have shown up for the first days of middle school! Look for weekly updates about our progress in launching small group instruction in upcoming school newsletters.

Principal Jessica Long

TOP NEWS

Back-to-School Night - August 23rd

Please join us for Back-to-School night on Tuesday, August 23rd. The event will begin at 5:30pm and end at 8:00pm. Please be on time. Due to limited space in our classrooms, students do not need to attend this event. Back-to-School Night is a chance for you to meet your student's advisor, find out what students are learning, learn more about the school, and sign-up for parent committees.

Athletics Sign-Ups

Sign-up for the Early Fall season will take place during lunch over the next week of school. Students need to complete a sign-up form to indicate their interest in participating in a sport.

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Coaches will reach out to interested students about try-outs and practices. If we don't have enough students to field a team with just 6th grade students at McAuliffe Manual, students will be able to try out for a team at McAuliffe's Smiley Campus. The Early Fall season is tentatively scheduled to begin August 22nd and runs until about October 7th. All students will need to be academically eligible to play sports and have a physical on file with the main office by August 22nd. Please remember playing sports is one of the ways that students can become part of the McAuliffe Manual community. If a student is not chosen for a team, there will be many other opportunities for them to get involved in our school community. Participation fees vary by sport and by team – we will be sending home information about athletic fees for each sport once sign-ups are complete. Please reach out to our Assistant Principal, Natalie Lewis, with any questions regarding athletics.

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Blue / White Day Calendar

View our Blue / White Day calendar [here](#). Students attend their Math and Language Arts classes every day, and they alternate all other classes according to their Blue/White Day class schedule.

Family Communication

The best way to stay involved and know about the happenings of our school is to make sure that you are subscribed to our newsletter, which is sent out every Thursday morning. If you haven't been receiving our newsletters over the summer, please call the main office at (720)423-6550 to add an email address to your student's file. The other option is to subscribe to the email from our website's main page. Scroll to the bottom to add your email address. You can also download our

school mobile app for iPhone or Android using the links on our website.

What is Advisory?

Advisory is a sacred space for each group to come together to form small communities within the school. Advisories are teams that care for and support each member. We advocate for the support we need and we look outside of ourselves to see what others might need from us. Welcome letters were sent home with students from your student's advisor this week with their contact information. Students have spent time in advisory this week with a few goals:

- I can develop strategies to keep my locker and materials organized.
- I can develop community within my advisory.
- I can practice the habit of inquiry.

Personalized Learning

A major component of our innovation plan is to ensure that learning is personalized. We believe that every child is unique. We want to tailor learning experiences to meet the backgrounds, interests, assets, and needs of every learner. In order to do that we need to really get to know each student in the same ways that you know your student. This is more than just test scores to us – we want to know what instruments and sports they play, how they like to study, what gets them excited, and how they think about the future. We do want to get to know where a student's academic strengths are and where they might need support so we can best plan curriculum and instruction to meet their unique needs. In addition to the parent insight forms from orientation, the first three weeks of school are really focused on helping gather

some of this information through:

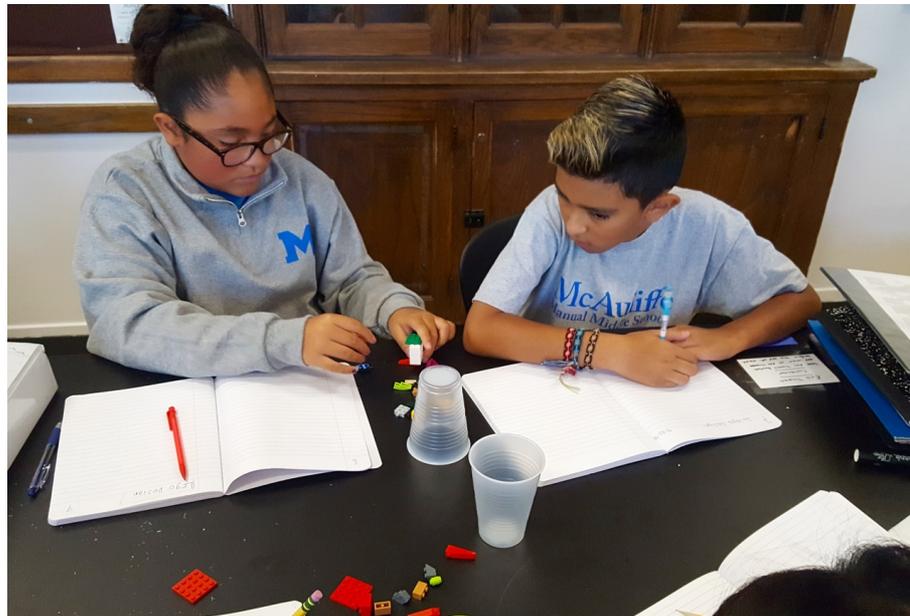
- **Learner Profiles:** This week students completed a survey that asks them questions about things that are most like them and least like them. These questions are designed to better understand a student's learning style, strengths in multiple intelligences, and brain dominance. These questions are adapted from the [Learning Genome Project](#). Advisors will review the results personally with students over the next couple of weeks and a learner profile will be sent home with students with the results by the end of the month.
- **Pre-Assessments:** Students will take STAR reading and STAR math this upcoming week. These assessments give us an indication of where students' reading and math skills are at coming out of elementary school. It's also really helpful to see these results in comparison to last Spring's standardized test scores because it gives more information. To learn more about STAR assessments visit their [website](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) or pickup the parent guides in our main office. We will continue to take these assessments a couple of times throughout the school year to measure student growth.
- **Small Group Instruction:** Once we have all of this information, we'll begin to create small groups in math and language arts. 50 minutes of instruction will be whole-group and 30 minutes each day will be in small groups. This allows students to meet the same, rigorous standards in a variety of ways – including extensions and supports. Our goal is to launch small groups in the beginning of September. You will receive information with

your student's learning profile and STAR assessment results prior to the launch of small groups. Do not hesitate to reach out to your student's advisor with any questions or Lexie Nimick, our small-group instruction coordinator.

WEEK IN REVIEW

Fun Engineering Activity

Students begin planning their LEGO design for their first challenge in Robotics this week.



REMINDERS

Transportation

The transportation department has finalized bus routes and times. If your family is eligible for transportation services next school year, you will receive a letter in the mail by the end of July with your bus stop and times. If you have any questions you can contact the transportation department directly at (720) 423-4699 or (720) 423-4600. If you

signed up to be a part of our school carpool directly at registration, you will be receiving website access to the directory from Way to Go. It's not too late to sign-up for the directory – just visit

<https://mywaytogo.org/s/schoolpool-mcauliffhcg16>.

We will be using the north entrance at Smiley on 26th Avenue. If you are dropping your student off, please do so on 26th. Families should avoid using Holly Street during drop-off or pick-up as it is extremely congested. Please drive safely and be aware of students who are walking or riding their bike to school.

After School Accountability Systems

- Refocus and Work Zone are after school systems that support students in meeting the high expectations and academic demands at McAuliffe Manual Middle School.
- Refocus and Work Zone will start on the 1st week of school from 4:05-5:00pm
- Students are assigned Work Zone when they have missing or incomplete class assignments
- Students are assigned a Refocus when they lose more than \$8 on their paycheck in a day. Students gain and lose paycheck dollars by demonstrating the IB attributes, following school norms like dress code, and how their behavior and contributions impact the classroom and learning environment.
- Parents will receive a phone call by 2 pm if their student will be required to stay after school for Work Zone or Refocus. A late bus will be available for students to take home at 5:15 if they are eligible for transportation services.

DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY NEWS

DPS Lunch Program Information

Want to know more about weekly school menus, nutritional information, and pricing? Click [here](#).

HELPFUL LINKS

Principal Long: jessica_long@dpsk12.org

Main: 720-423-6550

Attendance line: 720-423-6551

Website: <http://mcauliffemanual.dpsk12.org/>

[McAuliffe Manual 2016-2017 Calendar](#)

App: Available for free download on [Apple iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices

Uniform orders: ThunderUniforms.com

School supplies list [here](#)

During the 2016-2017 school year, McAuliffe Manual is located on the Smiley Campus at 2540 Holly St., Denver, CO 80207.

