



McAuliffe Manual School News | August 18, 2016

Principal's Message

This week we have launched the Thunder Challenge with students. Students are working on building the academic, study, and character habits to be successful in middle school. Ask students to show you their Thunder Challenge – we're expecting to have 100% of students complete it by Friday. Students who need support completing the challenge with some extra time will have that opportunity in Work Zone after school next week. Students complete the challenge by demonstrating IB attributes, preparation, and organization to their advisor and teachers. Teachers and advisors sign off on each part of the challenge for students as they complete it. Please contact your student's advisor with questions. Go Thunder!

Principal Jessica Long



Home of the Thunder!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues 8/23

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

Fri 8/26

Picture Day

Tues 8/30

Mars Experience
Bus

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.



Picture Day - August 26th

Picture Day is Friday, August 26th, and students are allowed to dress down for picture day. Dress code still applies. See the dress code for dress down days on our website [here](#). Picture Packets with more information and order forms were sent home with students on Tuesday. Please contact the main office with any questions.

Mars Experience Virtual Reality Bus Comes to McAuliffe - Permission Slips Due August 26th

McAuliffe and McAuliffe Manual have the great fortune of being the only schools in Denver to work with Lockheed Martin to offer a Mars Experience Bus virtual reality experience for our students on Tuesday, August 30th. More details and a Lockheed Martin permission slip will be sent home next week with students via their Advisory teachers. Parents must sign and send back this permission slip by Friday, August 26th in order for their student to ride the bus.

See more details about this incredible opportunity [here](#). The Generation Beyond program is described as follows: "The first people who will visit Mars are sitting in a school today. In fact, the first astronauts will arrive before today's

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kindergarteners graduate college. To help inspire these students, Lockheed Martin created a one-of-a-kind virtual reality experience. The Mars Experience Bus is the first immersive VR vehicle ever built and it replicates the Martian landscape. Riders experience a virtual drive along the surface of the Red Planet."

Paychecks

On Tuesday your students received their first "Scholar Dollar" paychecks. We use the paycheck system with students as a way to reinforce and support our academic and behavioral expectations. Students can earn "Scholar Dollars" by demonstrating each of our ten IB Learner Attributes and by showing organization and preparation. Students can also lose dollars. Students lose "Scholar Dollars" for the following negative behaviors: Off-Task, Disrespect/ Disobedience; Being out of uniform; Tardiness; Use of Profanity; Disrupting Class and Using Verbal Putdowns.

Each Monday, students gain a new balance of \$50. Last week our weekly average was \$67. If your student is bringing home a paycheck balance of \$40 or below, there is reason to be concerned. As this balance is indicating that your student is showing an inconsistent meeting of McAuliffe Manual expectations.

Students will bring home their weekly paychecks for your review. **We are asking that all families review and sign their student's paycheck every Tuesday.** Students are responsible for returning the signed paycheck the next day to their homeroom. Students that do not return their paycheck signed on Wednesdays, will be assigned work zone that afternoon. If there are

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any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's advisor or Ms. Lewis.

Athletics

Athletic letters were sent home this week with information about the early fall season. Detailed practice times and try out information is now available for boys' soccer, boys' golf, girls' softball, co-ed cross country, and co-ed tennis. Our Assistant Principal, Natalie Lewis, is also our Athletic Director. Please reach out to her with any questions.

Athletics dates:

- Girls' Softball try-outs are Thursday, August 18th and Friday, August 19th at the McAuliffe International Smiley Campus
- Boys' Soccer and Cross Country practice begins August 22nd after school to 5:05pm
- Tennis try-outs are August 23rd and 25th at the McAuliffe International Smiley Campus
- Boys' Golf try-outs are August 23rd and 25th

WEEK IN REVIEW

Academic Overview

Look for more detailed information in upcoming newsletters about what's going on in classes. Here's a quick overview of the units students are currently studying. Ask them about some of their questions – I have been impressed with students demonstrating our IB Attribute of Inquirer as we have begun our units!

- **Social Studies:** Our first unit is focusing on the Olympics through several anchor texts.

Key formative questions during the unit include:

- What is the history and mythology of the ancient Greek Olympics?
 - What are the goals of the modern Olympic movement?
 - How are the arts a part of the modern Olympics?
 - **Science:** Our first unit is “Can I believe my eyes?” Students will be studying light and its interaction with matter through investigating the topic of light waves.
 - **Math:** The first unit is focused on factors and multiples and includes exploring and deepening conceptual understanding of the following topics: factors and multiples, common multiples and common factors, factorization, and the distributive property. We’re using the CMP3 curriculum as a key source in mathematics this year.
 - **Language Arts:** Students have started their first novel study. Students are reading *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick and will also be developing their own personal narratives. While studying the novel, students will be looking at author’s craft and investigating the inquiry question of, “how can a person influence another person’s life?”
 - **Engineering:** Students have begun our Robotics unit. We are excited about our partnership with Project Lead the Way which provides teacher training, support, and curriculum for our engineering program. The unit offers students rigorous, hands-on, project-based robotics lessons and design opportunities.
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REMINDERS

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.

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.

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.

