



McAuliffe Manual School News | October 13, 2016

## Principal's Message

Hello, McAuliffe Manual Community!

Happy October! Spirit Week was a great way to start the month! Thank you to all the families who participated. We will be moving back to a weekly newsletter to maintain consistency in communication. This week's newsletter has important updates on monitoring student performance at school – please review it carefully. In September I shared with you our goal for attendance, and I'd like to continue to ask for your support in meeting our goal. We would like to see our students achieve a 96% attendance rate. This means students can only miss 8 days of school (about once a month). It also means that students need to be on time to school and stay for the entire school day. Please make appointments outside of the school day whenever possible. Currently our attendance rate is at 94% which is one of the lowest rates for DPS middle schools. In order for us to meet our ambitious academic goals this year



Home of the Thunder!

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **Thur 10/13**

Fall Dance planning meeting, 7:15-8:15pm

#### **Thur 10/20**

Late Start at 10:15am

#### **Fri 10/21**

Fall Dance - 5:00-7:00pm

we need students in attendance every day. Please reach out to your student's advisor or Ms. Lewis if you have questions or concerns about your student's attendance.

I also wanted to share with all of you that one of our math and engineering teachers, Mr. Culhane, will be out for a time focusing on his health. We will share updates with students and the school community once we have information on an expected return date. In the meantime, we are currently looking for a long-term sub to fill his position. The school leadership team and other teachers are also supporting coverage of his classes and planning lesson plans.

*Principal Jessica Long*

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## TOP NEWS

### Late Start on October 20th

This is a reminder that Thursday, October 20th is a late start day with school beginning at 10:15am.

### Parent Access to Kickboard

Kickboard is our online tool that allows us to reinforce our school expectations and IB Learner Attributes in real time. Students earn or lose dollars for behavior choices throughout their day. As you know, paychecks go home every Tuesday for parents to sign and return to school. We now have online access so parents can see what's happening every day. With Tuesday's paycheck you will receive a letter with your access code to setup your parent account. Please call the main office with any questions. We're hoping that online parent access will help increase communication

**Mon 10/24-Tues**

**10/25**

Parent-Teacher conferences, 4:15-7:15pm

**Thur 10/27-Fri**

**10/28**

Fall Break

Get the McAuliffe Manual app for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)!



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with your student about their daily activities at school. Here are a few guiding questions you can ask your student.

- How do you think your week went?
- Are you earning more positive behaviors?
- How many dollars are you trying to earn next week?
- What is your plan to earn more dollars next week?
- Tell me about what happened when you earned this behavior.

### **Parent Access to Illuminate**

Illuminate is our data warehouse system where students take the majority of their tests and quizzes. Illuminate allows teachers to capture data for a variety of assessments and share that information with students online. Illuminate Home Connection is a great place to see your student's assessment results and current progress in their courses. To access the data your student sees, sign in using their Illuminate Home Connection account (directions can be found [here](#)). For questions, please reach out to Rachel\_Shea@dpsk12.org, our Data and Assessment Coordinator.

### **Advisory Updates**

Students have been working hard in advisory over the last month working on interpersonal communication skills. We have worked with students on strategies to bring up a conflict with another student and how students should respond to that conflict using a 4-part apology. Here are the frames and sentence starters we're using with students:

[ភាសាខ្មែរ](#)

[한국어](#)

[македонски јазик](#)

[بهاس ملايو](#)

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- Observe: I heard you say \_\_\_\_, or I saw you \_\_\_\_\_
- Think: This made me think \_\_\_\_\_
- Feel: I felt \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_
- Wish: I want \_\_\_\_\_
- Acknowledge: I acknowledge that \_\_\_\_\_
- Apologize: I apologize for \_\_\_\_\_
- Make it Right: What can I do to make it right?
- Commit: I commit to \_\_\_\_\_

It has been wonderful to see students develop their self-advocacy skills as they have begun to use this framework with each other.

October is anti-bullying month, and we have begun to focus on that in advisory. Our goals are to work together as a school community to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the impact of bullying on all children of all ages. MMMS has a zero-tolerance bullying policy, and you can read more about it in our [Student-Family Handbook](#). We have started with defining bullying behaviors and the different roles of bullying people may play.

### **Our *Spark Change* Campaign Has Started!**

At McAuliffe Manual, we offer students real-world knowledge, skills and experience by conducting service learning projects and working to improve their local and global communities. Taking action as the result of learning is an important part of being a principled and caring IB learner. Teachers at McAuliffe Manual develop MYP units in order to engage students with content and contexts that will inspire action, which might include developing empathy, making small-scale changes to behavior, raising funds for a cause, or generating awareness campaigns.

We have launched our service learning program by starting Spark Change (formerly known as Penny Harvest)! Students identify, raise money for, and give grants to local charity organizations. This program is managed by Elizabeth Hoff, Penny Alsabih, and our Spark Change Student Leadership Group. More service learning projects and activities will be coming soon!

### **Athletics Update**

Our Late Fall athletics program will begin next week. In order to ensure that we have space for each of our offerings, we decided to move forward and inform families through a quick newsletter announcement. The late fall season lasts from October 10th to November 11th. This year McAuliffe Manual will be participating in 6th grade only club offerings in flag football and girls volleyball. Co-ed field hockey will be a shared club with McAuliffe International. If students are interested in participating in club athletics, they must submit a physical form and \$50 club participation fee to the McAuliffe Manual office by Friday, October 15th. Practice for late fall athletics (except volleyball) will begin the week of October 10th. Practice schedules for each sport are below:

- Flag Football: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 4:10- 5:05
- Field Hockey: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4:10- 5:05
- Volleyball (Week of 10/17): Monday and Wednesday, 4:10- 5:05

Our very own Mr. Jamal Rankins will be coaching flag football, and Ms. Talia Brecher will be coaching field hockey. We will be sending information about our volleyball coach in the next week. If you have

any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate in reaching out to Ms. Lewis at natalie\_lewis@dpsk12.org with any questions. Go, Thunder!

### **Art Exhibition, & Community Event Recap!**

Last month, on Sept. 24th, Ms. Cardenas, among other artists, featured artwork in a gallery event at the Stanley Marketplace supporting our neighbors through Project Worthmore, a non-profit organization that works with and serves refugees in our city & community. Every year, PWM hosts an Arts Gallery Event to raise funds and awareness to support these refugees in their challenges and transition into an independent and fulfilling life in Denver. This year's opening night was both a lively and beautiful success — shout out to all of the McAuliffe Artists & families who came to support and engage in a unique cultural experience! For more information about Project Worthmore and their events, visit

<https://www.projectworthmore.org/>.

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## COMING EVENTS

### **McAuliffe Manual's First School Dance! –**

#### **October 21st**

We're excited to host our first school dance on Friday, October 21st from 5:00-7:00pm in the McAuliffe cafeteria!

Please help us organize and implement the first ever McAuliffe Manual school dance. We really want to make our sixth graders' first dance a memorable experience. We are hoping to have a photo booth, decorations, a DJ, lots of snacks, beverages and, of course, dancing! We will need

lots of parent volunteers to pull this off. A Sign-Up Genius has been created and can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948A8AC2FA46-mcauliffe>

See our flyer [here](#) that includes names of parent volunteers helping coordinate this event, plus our next planning meeting on October 13th from 7:15-8:15pm. This information is also posted on our website [here](#).

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences - Oct. 24th and 25th**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled to take place after school on October 24th and 25th (4:15-7:15pm). Two weeks prior to conferences advisors will send home sign-up forms for conferences. Families will sign up for 30-minute time slots to meet with their advisor. Conferences are mandatory for families and students to attend. During conferences, academic progress towards meeting our 6th grade promotion requirements and set character development goals based on our IB Learner Profile Attributes.

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## **ACADEMICS**

### **Subject Area Updates**

- **Math:** Students are working hard on solving ratio problems using various strategies such as tape diagrams, tables, double number lines, equations and the coordinate plane. We will be transitioning to rates, unit rates, and percent after that. Students took a quiz on Tuesday, October 11 to monitor their progress for this unit.

- **Language Arts:** Students finished our first novel, *Freak the Mighty*, last week in class. We are very proud of the hard work students have put in throughout this unit! Last week, students showed what they know by taking a summative assessment that requires them to extend the narrative from the perspective of another character. This week students are working on writing a personal narrative.
- **Science:** Scientists are wrapping up the last lessons of Physical Science and reviewing for our cumulative exam! The Physical Science Exam will take place on Thursday, October 13th for White Day classes and Friday, October 14th for Blue day Classes. Please make sure your scientist is studying the study guide at home to prepare. Check out our lab work anytime at [denver.iqwst.com/webapp/#login](https://denver.iqwst.com/webapp/#login) with your student's IQWST ID and password.
- **Social Studies:** Students are beginning a brand new unit on propaganda and elections. The unit will conclude with students creating a marketing campaign for a candidate utilizing three methods of propaganda. Currently we are examining propaganda techniques and analyzing primary documents. Students should maintain their binder organization so they do not lose their work packet for this project.
- **Physical Education:** We have finished our fitness testing for the 5 Health-Related Components of Fitness, so the students can begin to create SMART goals for themselves on the basis of their results. This week, we also begin Disc Golf (our lead-up to Ultimate Frisbee.) At this point, every student should

have returned their syllabus signed by a parent to Miss Hobbs.

- **Engineering:** Engineers are continuing to build the different mechanical gears with VEX Robotics. They are also regularly typing online for twenty minutes a day to grow their typing skills.

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## REMINDERS

### **Dress Code Reminder**

We want to remind families about our dress code as cooler weather approaches. Students must be in a McAuliffe Manual issued t-shirt or sweatshirt with black or khaki pants, shorts, or skirt. Other hoodies or jackets are not a part of dress code and should be kept in students' lockers. If you need to purchase a long-sleeved shirt or sweatshirt for the winter, please order from our uniform store at <http://thunderuniforms.com/>.

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## DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### **DPS Bond and Mill Levy**

This fall, the Denver Public Schools Board of Education is putting an initiative on the ballot seeking voter approval of bond and mill levy proposals to increase funding for our schools. We are sharing this letter ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) to address common questions about what this might mean for your family and your community.

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## HELPFUL LINKS

**Principal Long:** [jessica\\_long@dpsk12.org](mailto: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](http://ThunderUniforms.com)

**School supplies list** [here](#)

**[DPS School Lunch](#)**

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

