



McAuliffe Manual School News | September 22, 2016

Principal's Message

I want to congratulate our Cross Country team and Soccer team for strong starts to our fall season. Go, Thunder! While our competition is tough right now as having teams only with 6th graders (playing teams in DPS with 8th graders), we are demonstrating excellence on the field. Student athletes are demonstrating strong work ethic and grit. It is this same work ethic and grit that we are also working on in the classroom. Our student goals this month focus on getting started right away and sustaining a task to produce high quality work. These goals are just the foundation of students building strong work ethic and the grit it will take to be successful – not just at McAuliffe Manual, but in high school and life.

I also want to clarify our homework policy. While nightly homework assignments are limited because of our longer school day, we do want to build strong study habits for our students and develop students as avid readers. Students should be



Home of the Thunder!

IMPORTANT DATES

Thur 9/22

Late Start at 10:15

Thur 9/29

Picture Day/
Re-takes Day

School
Accountability
Committee, 6:00pm

Community
Involvement

reading about 20 minutes every night. At times this may mean reading their language arts class novel to prepare for class or review passages from the day's lesson. At other times this may mean that students are reading a book of their choice that they enjoy. Students are also starting their first round of class assessments – both unit summative tests and weekly quizzes. Students should prepare for these by reviewing their class notes, completing teacher-provided study guides, or completing practice problems.

I hope that everyone enjoys their weekend. Thank you for your support!

Principal Jessica Long

TOP NEWS

Late Start - Thursday, Sept. 22nd

This is a reminder that we have a late start at 10:15am on Thursday, September 22nd.

Picture Day/Retakes - Sept. 29th

We have Picture Re-Takes Day on Thursday, September 29th. If you purchased a picture package already and would like for your student to re-take their picture, the picture package must be returned to the photographer. To purchase your students pictures prior to picture day:

- Pay online at mylifetouch.com - use credit card or PayPal on this secure site. The McAuliffe Manual Picture Day ID is: CG946580Y0
- Pick up the order form available in the office. This form of payment needs to be

Planning
Committee, 7:15pm

Fri 10/7

First Friday Coffee,
8:30am in office

Mon 10/24-Tues 10/25

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

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



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turned in to the photographer at time of picture.

First Friday Coffees

We invite families to spend the morning with us once a month. First Friday Coffees are a great way to see our community meetings and classes in action, see students in action, meet other families, and learn how to become more involved at McAuliffe Manual. These coffees are hosted by the school leadership team in the front office from 8:30-10:00am. Join us for our first event on Friday, October 7th!

Community Involvement Planning Committee

We are looking for a group of parents to help us start launching our parent and family involvement committees. If you are interested in helping lead this committee, please contact Principal Jessica Long at jessica_long@dpsk12.org. This planning committee will meet the last Thursday of each month at 7:15pm in the conference room. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 29th.

School Accountability Committee

The McAuliffe Manual School Accountability Committee meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:00pm in the McAuliffe library. All meetings are open to the public. We are currently recruiting our 2016-2017 officers. To inquire about participating on this committee, please contact Principal Jessica Long at jessica_long@dpsk.12.org. Because we sometimes need to reschedule due to a schedule conflict, please always watch for updates about the coming meeting. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 29th.

Recruitment for 2017/2018

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We are getting ready to launch the school choice season! We have many 5th graders who are interested in joining us next year at McAuliffe Manual. If you know of any families who are interested, please invite them to our upcoming Open House or School Tours starting in October. For information about these events and to have families sign-up visit our [Enrollment page](#).

Traffic

Thank you to everyone who has helped address traffic at pick-up. As we continue to focus on safety please keep two things in mind:

- Don't use the staff parking lot on 26th for pickup. We have many athletes crossing the parking lot getting to the fields and softball practice after school. Our coaches and staff members need access to the parking lot after school for athletics.
 - Keep the front of the building on 26th street clear for bus parking.
 - For those of you who are parking when you pick up the best locations are in front of the athletic fields on 26th or on the side streets.
- Thank you for your understanding.

Academic Course Updates

At least twice a month teachers will provide updates in our newsletter with what students are working on in their class.

- **Language Arts:** Students are nearing the end of their first novel study, *Freak the Mighty!* Ask your child what has happened recently in the book! This week while we read we are focusing on two major literary techniques: foreshadowing and tone vs

mood. Additionally, students took their second STAR reading test to measure their recent growth.

- **Math:** This week students are wrapping up their first unit on factors and multiples. Students took unit tests this week and are beginning and end of unit project. We are beginning our second unit on ratios, equivalence, and rational numbers this week. This unit is a major focus in 6th grade and middle school math.
- **Science:** This week, we're completing our second quiz of Physical Science to show off our learning about the different ways that light interacts with materials. Then, we're diving right into our next learning set by experimenting with the different colors of light. Check out our lab work anytime at denver.iqwst.com/webapp/#login with your student's IQWST ID and password. Expect your second Science scorecard being sent home for your review and signature. Students who score Advanced will also bring home a "Distinguished Scientist" Certificate!
- **Social Studies:** Students have started their next unit on studying global commerce. The unit focuses on learning about banana commerce. The diving inquiry question for the unit is "What is the real cost of bananas?" Lessons this week have had students explore the different points of view of farmers and others involved in the banana industry.
- **Engineering:** This week, we are reviewing our first quiz's data and building our first VEX Robotics designs! Expect an Engineering Scorecard that will be sent home for your review and signature early this week. Any student scoring Advanced will also bring

home a "Distinguished Engineer" Certificate!

Gifted & Talented (GT) Updates

This week, all students will be taking the NNAT3 (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test), which is used to screen students for the GT program in Denver Public Schools. The test is 30 minutes long and will be taken on computers during students' social studies block. In other GT news, students will have the chance to participate in enrichments during the school day. Please stay tuned for a list of programs that will be available!

Athletics

Starting next week, we will have student interest sign-up sheets for all late fall sports. Students will have the opportunity to sign-up Monday-Thursday of next week. Late fall sports include flag football (club), boys field hockey (club) and girls volleyball. Once we know our student interest, Ms. Lewis will be sending out more information for parent meetings related to each sport. In these meeting, we will discuss practice times and participation expectations. We are looking forward to the coming season.

Kickboard and Illuminate Access

Good news! We have been working since back-to-school night and the feedback we received to have parents be able to access to our paycheck system (Kickboard) and student assessment system (Illuminate). We are very close to having both of these up and running for parent/guardian access. Thank you for your patience as we finalize details. Keep an eye out in future newsletters about how to activate your parent accounts.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

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.

REMINDERS

Lost & Found

Lost & Found, which is located in our school office, is typically donated or disposed of on the last day of each month. Lost & Found will be donated Friday, September 30th at 3:00pm. Please mark items such as backpacks, binders, sweatshirts and jackets with your child's name. Expensive items such as jewelry and digital electronics are stored separately by Mrs. Almodovar in the office and are not donated at the end of each month but are kept until the end of the school year.

Lunch Applications

You should have received lunch applications in the mail. We highly encourage that all families complete the application – we want to make sure that as a school we can provide the appropriate lunch services to families! You can also complete the applications online at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. Thank you in advance for your participation!

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.

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](#)

[DPS School Lunch](#)

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

