



## **Manual High School and McAuliffe FAQs**

### **Q: What factors influenced the decision to bring McAuliffe to the Manual High School building?**

In the 2015 Call for New Quality Schools and its Supplement, DPS requested a new middle school provider to serve as a feeder for Manual High School. This need was identified, in part, due to the voluntary contract surrender of Pioneer Charter School. The Call did not produce high quality applications. On Sept. 17, 2015, the Board instructed the District to hire a school leader to work in collaboration with the community and the principal of Manual High School to design a school to open in fall 2016. In Oct. 2015, the District hired Jessica Long to lead the Manual feeder middle school, now called McAuliffe at Manual. Ms. Long developed the school plan in consultation with Manual High School principal Nick Dawkins, McAuliffe International School principal Kurt Dennis, District staff, and members of the Manual and Near Northeast communities. The Office of Family and Community Engagement further supported community dialogue toward the school design and the shared campus considerations.

### **Q: What is the focus of McAuliffe at Manual?**

McAuliffe at Manual is dedicated to providing students with an outstanding liberal arts education with an international focus. By developing strong learning communities centered on core values and shared commitment to academic excellence, all of our graduates will be prepared for high school, college, and beyond. Through the collaborative efforts of students, teachers, parents and community our graduates will be inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are prepared to live the life they dream and be leaders of the future. McAuliffe at Manual will increase the number of students in poverty, students of color, students with disabilities, and English language learners that enter high school at grade-level. McAuliffe at Manual is a diverse community that has a relentless focus on academic excellence and embraces culture, language, innovation, arts and athletics.

### **Q: How does the school plan for McAuliffe align with Manual High School?**

Co-locating and aligning programming with Manual High School offers many unique opportunities for McAuliffe at Manual students. McAuliffe at Manual shares in the Manual High School's focus areas of culture, community and innovation. In order to prepare middle school students for success in high school, McAuliffe at Manual will emphasize rigorous academics, career and college preparedness, student life and character development, and shared school leadership. McAuliffe at Manual students will also have access to high school level courses while in middle school. There will be strong collaboration between the curriculum, vision, and values at both schools. Manual students will have leadership and mentorship opportunities as they work with McAuliffe students. McAuliffe at Manual students will potentially be able to earn high school credit by taking advanced classes at Manual, and will have the opportunity to access collegiate prep programming.

Manual High School's physical facilities are among the best in the city. The school's 1,200-seat auditorium is the venue for events ranging from musical productions to major community meetings. The Thunderdome is a fully equipped, state-of-the-art gym for basketball and other indoor athletics. Manual also has an Olympic-sized pool, one of the district's largest outdoor stadiums, music rooms, and recently refurbished science labs – all of which will be available to McAuliffe at Manual students for their use. Both principals will work together to create a shared-campus plan for the use of the facilities in order to best serve students at both schools.

### **Q: Who will the school leaders be and how will they work together?**

Nick Dawkins will be the principal of Manual and Jessica Long will be the principal at McAuliffe at Manual. Both leaders have demonstrated a shared commitment to collaborative leadership and continuity between mission and vision between schools.

**Q: What are the opportunities my student will have in Manual High School's Med School?**

Manual High School is the first school confirmed to launch a new program called the CareerResidency as part of its medical-focused CareerConnect pathway, called the "Med School at Manual." Manual may have the opportunity to apply for state Pathways in Technology Early College (P-TECH) funding to support its CareerResidency sustainably. The program is a grade 9 through 11 CareerConnect pathway paired with a grade 12 through 13 (or potentially 14) **CareerResidency program** and/or **preferential admissions to a four-year university** that allows students to envision and pursue their own personalized college and career pathway **within Colorado's high-opportunity industries**. For more information visit:

[http://manualhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=291883&type=d](http://manualhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=291883&type=d)

**Q: Are there any enrollment priorities for McAuliffe students into Manual?**

Any McAuliffe eighth grader will have a guaranteed spot at Manual and priority admission into the Med School at Manual if he or she chooses to pursue this program.

**Q: Does Manual have the facility space for McAuliffe?**

Given current enrollment numbers, Manual has enough room to dedicate the third floor of the building to the McAuliffe at Manual students. Manual students will attend classes on the first and second floors. We expect total student enrollment for both schools to be 1,100 when both schools are fully enrolled in the 2018-2019 school year, which is well below the building's capacity of 1,600 students. McAuliffe at Manual will start with a sixth grade class of about 150 students and add an additional sixth grade class in the subsequent years about the same size until it is serving grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Why will McAuliffe at Manual be located at the Smiley campus for its inaugural year?**

In order to support the successful launch of McAuliffe at Manual, a one-year incubation alongside the flagship McAuliffe on the Smiley campus was proposed and approved by the school board in December. Having both schools on the same campus will allow for easier collaboration and training between the two school staffs. This plan also gives Nick Dawkins and his team more time to focus on the academic and cultural initiatives already underway at Manual High School.

**Q: What will co-location of two McAuliffes at Smiley look like?**

McAuliffe at Manual will have its on wing on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Smiley Campus. While both schools will have the same academic programs and shared school model, each will operate as its own school with its own school leadership and teaching staff. McAuliffe at Manual students will benefit from some of the elective programming that the flagship McAuliffe at Smiley campus offers. Similar to when McAuliffe at Manual is located at the Manual High School building, McAuliffe at Manual will develop a shared campus plan for its first year when it is located at Smiley with McAuliffe at Smiley's executive principal Kurt Dennis.

**Q: What transportation options will be available for students?**

Transportation will be provided for students who live within the enrollment zone to the Smiley Campus in the 2016-17 school year. Students will then participate in the Success Express transportation system for the near northeast in the 2017-18 school year. More details on transportation specifics will be provided as soon as they are determined.

**Q: What will be the name of the new McAuliffe at Manual?**

The current name is McAuliffe at Manual. The principal, Ms. Long, will work with McAuliffe at Manual students and Manual High School students and families to select a permanent name for the new school in its innovation planning the spring of 2016. Being a part of a founding school gives students many opportunities to shape their middle school experience. McAuliffe at Manual students will help select the school's mascot and help determine the after school clubs and enrichments that the school will offer.

**Q: How can I stay involved in the design process for McAuliffe at Manual?**

We encourage community engagement in the design process for McAuliffe at Manual, and there will be opportunities to participate in this process throughout the spring. To see upcoming events visit the school's website at <http://mcauliffemanual.dpsk12.org/>. You can also contact the principal, Jessica Long, directly at [jessica\\_long@dpsk12.org](mailto:jessica_long@dpsk12.org) or (720)423-6550.

**Q: What are the school leaders doing to keep McAuliffe at Manual and Manual students safe?**

Student safety is a top priority for Mr. Dawkins and Ms. Long. We will create a shared campus plan that best supports middle school and high school students. The plan will ensure staggered starts, dismissals, passing periods, and lunches so that students are interacting primarily with their peers during the school day. Middle School students will be supervised at all times during the school day.

Manual has taken many steps to increase student safety in recent years. The current and past school year has seen an 85% reduction in discipline issues from five years ago. This is a decrease that few other high schools in the city can match and is a reflection of the enhanced school, student, and academic culture at Manual.

**Q: How is discipline handled at McAuliffe?**

Should a teacher or staff member have a discipline incident with a student, the teacher will work to correct the problem with the individual student through the least invasive intervention (i.e. warning or a mandatory conference, parent notification, written reflections, and/or other disciplinary action). Staff who are hired at McAuliffe at Manual have experience with restorative approaches to discipline and the onboarding process allows them to deeply understand their role in the discipline process. School leadership observations of classroom teachers will provide immediate and personalized support to teachers who need it to promote strong and healthy classroom management and environments. McAuliffe International Schools use the Denver Public Schools discipline matrix and follow DPS policies and procedures regarding student discipline and appeals processes.

**Q: How will school leaders be supporting current Manual families during this transition?**

We know this is a new change for the Manual community and we will work closely with you in the coming weeks and months to address your questions and concerns and make this transition as seamless as possible. We invite our community to become involved and join the Common Grounds team. Information about the team and how to join can be found on the school's website

[http://manualhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=290118&type=d](http://manualhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=290118&type=d). If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dr. Colleen O'Brien at [colleen\\_o'brien@dpsk12.org](mailto:colleen_o'brien@dpsk12.org).

The principals of McAuliffe at Manual and Manual High School will work with families and students in developing the shared campus plans and plans for transportation as details become available.

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**Q: How do I enroll my student at McAuliffe or Manual?**

Manual High School and McAuliffe at Manual are both full participants in the Denver Public Schools Choice System. For more information about School Choice, please visit <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/>.