



Tucson Unified School District
Mary Belle McCorkle Academy of Excellence K-8

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July 26, 2021,

Dear McCorkle Academy PK-8 Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! The first day of school is August 5, 2021. We want to welcome our new families to our school and welcome back our continuing families. It is our privilege to be a part of your child's education.

As we return to school, masks are optional but encouraged. It is parental choice. We will continue with our cleaning process. Students will not share laptops, materials, or supplies. If your child needs a backpack, please send a clear plastic one that can be easily cleaned. Teachers will communicate individual classroom needs.

We strongly believe in TEAMWORK and our partnership with all our parents. Our continued mission is to work as a team with parents and our community to provide all students the opportunity to acquire the skills (Reading, Math, Writing, Science, Social Studies, etc.) and competencies (Agency, Curiosity, Creativity, Initiative, Multi-Disciplinary Thinking, and Empathy) needed to be successful citizens in the future.

The following information is intended to be of assistance to you and your child in understanding the procedures and upcoming changes at McCorkle Academy PK-8 Academy of Excellence.

Our start times will return to pre-pandemic times. Students may be dropped off at the north gate at 8:30 a.m. The Mountain Vista gate will also be opened at 8:30 a.m. Free breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. for kinder – 8th graders. **First bell will be at 9:10 a.m.** and the tardy bell will be at 9:15 a.m. The expectation is that students are in their classrooms at 9:15 a.m. so instruction may begin at the bell. If students arrive after 9:15 a.m., they will need to go through the front office to sign in and receive a tardy pass. Attendance and punctuality are very important. **The dismissal times for our students in K- 5th grade is at 3:25 p.m. and 6th - 8th grade is at 4:15 p.m. On Wednesdays K-5th will be dismissed at 2:25 p.m. and 6th - 8th grade at 3:15 p.m.** Please be aware that students may not remain on campus after the dismissal bell unless they are waiting for a bus or participating in an after-school activity. School Community Education does offer a fee-based before and after school care program for students. If you need this service, applications are available online or the front office may help you with this information.

In addition, we do use the Parent Link phone communication system to inform you of any events or emergencies. Please make sure we have your correct home phone or cell phone number. We also have a school Facebook page, Twitter, and Website. These are good information sources.

Our New Tech Project Based Learning continues in 4th grade- 8th grades. Students in 4th – 8th grade will continue using the New Tech project-based learning approach which engages students with dynamic, rigorous curriculum. Our teachers evolve from keepers of knowledge to facilitators of rich, relevant learning. Students

in K-8 will have their own laptop. Please look for a technology (laptop) contract to be sent home shortly after school starts. Both students and parents need to sign it.

In addition, our school continues to be a New Tech Network Project Based Learning Ambassador School. This means we will be a national training site for other schools. If you would like more information about New Tech PBL, please click on the link above or go to www.newtechnetwork.org



Our students will continue to have access to Spanish, Physical Education, Band, Orchestra, General Music including guitars, Civics, Technology electives and Art in elementary grades. Our 5th grade students will also have OMA Theater Arts as a special this school year.

We will continue to offer our *Advanced Learning Experience course of Two-Way Dual Language classrooms* in kindergarten-8th grade. 4th-8th Dual Language students will also be participating in New Tech Project Based Learning. The only difference is they will be doing it in Academic English and Academic Spanish. There are some Dual Language entrance requirements. We will have a flyer available at registration. If you would like to know more about it, please feel free to contact Ms. Alexis Campbell, or Mrs. Sonia Arvayo.

Schedules and class assignments will be posted in Parentvue. **Our Meet and Greet, meet the teacher night will be Wednesday, August 4 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Please proceed through the courtyard to your child's classroom. We will have schedules and class assignments posted on the whiteboards in the courtyard. Please feel free to come by during this time to meet your child's teacher and tour our campus. We look forward to visiting with our families at the Meet and Greet.

McCorkle PK-8 Academy of Excellence is a place where quality teaching and learning happens in each classroom. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I strongly encourage you to be an active member of our McCorkle PK-8 school team. When visiting the school, please remember to sign in at the front office. We are a secure facility and your child's safety is our top priority. Additionally, we could use your talents in our volunteer program and/or Parent Teacher Organization. If you would like to be an active member of our school team or visit the school, please give call Mrs. Marcia Pitman at 877-2001.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra O. C. Thiffault
Principal

