

McKinley STEMM Academy

Fall Newsletter



A K-8 Title I school

Mrs. Christina Ramsey-Principal
Mr. Scott Burgard – Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kathy Manrow- Administrative Assistant
Phone (419)671-3750* Fax 419-671-3795 *



Welcome back McKinley STEMM Academy families! We have had a great start to the school year with many exciting things happening!

This newsletter lets you know what has been happening here at McKinley STEMM as well as keeping you updated on upcoming events and gives you important information in regards to safety policies and procedures as well as other “need to know” information.

This year we welcomed three new staff members to our team. Ms. Jones is our 5th and 6th grade math teacher, Professor Campbell is our 7th and 8th grade science teacher and Mr. Burgard is our new assistant principal. All come to us with a great deal of experience in their field... we are very happy to have them here at McKinley STEMM Academy.

Do you follow us on Facebook? Many of the projects that your students are working on are shared on our McKinley STEMM Facebook page. Give us a follow and see what we are busy working on!

~ Mrs. Ramsey

McKinley STEMM Academy mural to be featured at the Momentum Art Festival this weekend!!!

Last year we welcomed muralist Kevin Bongang to McKinley STEMM Academy. He spent one week working with our now 6th and 7th graders creating a mural titled “How Can We Spread Messages of Positivity to Raise People’s Spirits During a Global Pandemic?” This mural has been selected to be on display during the Momentum Art Festival in downtown Toledo.

Special thanks to our community partner, Yarder Manufacturing who created the framework and donated the panels for our sculpture.



To see more information about this project check out the video here



DRESS CODE/RECESS

Just a reminder as we head into colder weather, hoodies are not permitted to be worn in the building. If your child's classroom feels chilly during the day, students may wear any solid color fleece or fabric sweater without a hood. No slipper type boots are permissible. Boots are not permitted on the gym floor so make sure your child has tennis shoes on gym days or they will not be able to participate.

Toledo Public Schools has a mandatory recess policy. Students will go outside daily unless we have inclement weather.

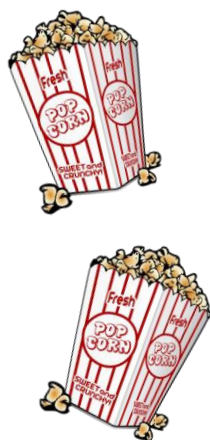
ACADEMICS

Can you believe midterms are right around the corner? Teachers begin entering grades this week and they will be mailed home on September 21st. Many of our students are still struggling post pandemic. I cannot stress the importance of reading!! Please encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes every night. Believe it or not those minutes add up and make a big difference in academic achievement.

Parent Teacher Conferences are in October!! Conferences will be held on **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26th IN THE EVENING AND THURSDAY October 27th ALL DAY** with **NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 28TH**. Conferences will be held on Wednesday from 3:45 until 7:00 pm and again on Thursday 8:00 12:15 and will resume from 2:00 - 7:00. Please make sure that you schedule a time with your child's teacher. Student success truly depends on parental involvement and communication. Kindergarten progress reports and grades 1-8 report cards will be handed out during Parent/Teacher Conferences, they will not be mailed.

Look What's Popping at McKinley STEMM Academy!!!

Last week students brought home a flier outlining our end of First Quarter Incentive! McKinley STEMM Academy will be having a Popcorn Party on Thursday, October 20th for our end of the quarter, quarterly incentive! All students have the opportunity to **earn** the party as long as they meet the criteria of having **ZERO** referrals, passing grades in all subjects, and no more than one phone call home due to poor behavior - for the remainder of 1st quarter. McKinley Staff will be keeping track of this information starting on Monday, September 12th. We would love for every child to attend, so please have a talk with your child about this information and we look forward to celebrating their achievement!



Picture Day

Monday October 11th will be
Picture Day at McKinley STEMM!!

Informational packets will be sent home soon regarding pricing.
Students are expected to be in Dress Code for Fall Picture Day. There
will be an opportunity to dress up for school pictures in the Spring.

New Cell Phone Policy

This year we rolled out a new cell phone policy. All students in grades K-8 must have their cell phones off and away for the duration of the day. Students in grades K-3 are required to have them off and in their book bags while students in grades 4-8 are required to turn them in to their teacher at the beginning of the day. Cell phones are locked up and returned to students at the end of the day.

Since we have started this policy we have seen an increase in student classroom participation. Students are focusing more on their schoolwork and are leaving the classroom less. We have also seen our students more social with each other and engaging in a more positive manner. We feel all of these are a win for our students as we continue to do the work of preparing our students for high school and college and career readiness. We thank you for your continued support as we work to make McKinley STEMM Academy the best educational choice in TPS.

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance every single day is very important to student success and growth. Please make sure that your child is attending school every single day. If your child has to miss part of a day or an entire day due to a special circumstance, please make sure to notify the school immediately, and if that is not possible, please make sure that your child is bringing in a doctor's note or parental note to notify the school of the absence and why. Attached at the bottom of this newsletter is the Ohio truancy law (HB410) that was adopted a few years back by the Ohio Department of Education. Please make sure to review those guidelines. It is in the best interest of you and your child.

Important Dates to Remember

October 11- Picture Day

October 14- End of First Quarter

October 26-27 Parent Teacher Conferences

October 28- No School

Nov. 8- Election Day No Class for Students

Nov. 15- Picture Retake Day

Nov. 23-25- Thanksgiving Break

Counselor Corner by Ms. Herr

This quarter at McKinley STEMM I will be working with your student(s) on kindness and bullying prevention as a school-wide theme for November. Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade will have presentations focusing on the Sandy Hook Promise. Kindergarten through fifth grade students will have specific lessons based on their grade level. These two methods are the standard across all TPS elementary schools, and every student in the district based on their grade level will receive the same presentation and information. All students will learn how to report bullying, the definition of bullying, how to deal with a bully, and ways to treat each other with kindness through my classroom guidance lesson and reinforcement from their teachers.

As a reminder TPS' Board Policy classifies bullying as:

“Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property, on a school bus or at a school sponsored activity. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation or bullying by an electronic act may be suspended.”

Encourage your child(ren) to discuss what happens at school with an adult within the building, so we can take appropriate measures. As the School Counselor I strive to have all of the students at McKinley STEMM enjoy a safe learning environment. Encourage your child(ren) to treat others with kindness and follow the golden rule, “treat others as they would want to be treated”.

5th & 6th grade students will be receiving Naviance presentations during the month of October. At parent-teacher conferences, parents/guardians will receive a report with information on TPS' Naviance Program and what their students have completed in the program. Naviance is the district's college and career readiness program and strives to align student's interests with college and career goals.

McKinley STEMM Academy is a Title I Schoolwide Building

What is Title 1?

- Title I funds are designed to serve at risk and disadvantaged students.
- Title I funds are federal dollars that supplement State and Local funds, they do not supplant them.
- Title I Funding is based on the building's percentage of low income students.
- Title I Services are based on the academic needs of the students All TPS buildings run a School Wide Program, which means every student and every staff member is eligible for services.

How does being a Title I building help our students' community? Provide opportunities to increase student achievement
Provide instructional supplies and materials
Provide instructional programs and experiences
Provide educational field trips
Provide additional teachers and support staff
Provide professional development for the entire staff
Provide parent engagement activities

Parents Right to Know

As a parent/guardian with a student participating in a Title I funded program run by and supported by Toledo Public School, you have the right to know the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that any local school district receiving Title I funds must provide the following information to parents/guardians who ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher:

Whether the teacher has met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides your child instruction. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements. The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification (such as National Board Certification) held by the teacher and the field of discipline of certification or degree. Whether your child is provided services by instructional paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. All requests must be made in writing and should include the following information: student's full name, legal parent/guardian's full name, address, city, state, zip code and teacher's name. Your request can be sent to the Toledo Board of Education, Human Resources Department.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The State of Ohio has passed a new truancy law, Ohio HB 410. All Ohio schools are mandated to enforce Ohio HB410 starting in the 2017/2018 school year. This letter is to inform you of the mandates that we are required to enforce. Good attendance to school is a vital part of your child's educational success. The Toledo Public School Board of Education endeavors to reduce truancy through cooperation with parents, diligence is investigating the causes of absence and use of strict guidelines in regard to tardiness and unexcused absence. Ohio HB 410 requires us to take the following steps in an effort to reduce truancy:

- Attendance tracking has changed from **days** of school to **hours** of school.
- Ohio law now considers students who miss **38 hours** (6 days) excused or unexcused of school in one month or **65 hours** (10 days) excused or unexcused in a school year, excessively truant. School districts are now required to notify you when your child reaches that threshold. Any future absences will require evidence that explains why the absence from school was necessary (e.g. court documentation, doctor's notes). Final authorization of an absence will be determined only after the required additional information is presented.
- If a student is absent **30 hours unexcused in a row** (5 days), **42 hours unexcused in a month** (7 days) or **72 hours unexcused** (12 days) in a school year they will be considered habitually truant from school.
- Once a student has met the threshold of habitual truant the school will form an Absence Intervention Team. The team must consist of two school representatives (one of which must be familiar with the child), the child's parent/custodian and the child. Team members may include a member of a public/private agency who is providing assistance to lower absences. The student and parent are required by law to be active participants on an Absence Intervention Team and follow any subsequent plan to improve school attendance. Failure to participate and comply will result in the truancy filing on the student and possible filing against the parent/guardian through juvenile court. Additionally, if the parent/guardian fails to participate, it may result in a mandatory referral to Lucas County Children Services Board.

Please be sure to report your child(ren)'s absences to the school by contacting them directly **and** by sending in a written note the following day. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Nicole Deshuk, Director of Truancy Prevention at 419.671.0819.

Thank you,

Toledo Public Schools