

# McKinley STEMM Academy

## Fall Newsletter

*A K-8 Title I school*

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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.

Parent Teacher Conferences are this month!! Conferences will be held on WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27th IN THE EVENING AND THURSDAY October 28th ALL DAY with NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 29TH. 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.

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

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## **McKinley STEMM Academy Welcomes Famous Artists**

Last year during the shut down, our art teacher Ms. Clinton and her students worked on a project titled, “How can we spread messages of positivity in our community during COVID?” As a part of that project, Ms. Clinton and her students interviewed Georgia Artist and Muralist Kevin Bongang. The students loved his work so much that when it came time for them to create their own mural they wrote letters to ask Mr. Bongang to come to Toledo to assist them with their mural project. Thanks to our Community Partner, Yarder Manufacturing (who supplied the metal for our sculpture) Mr. Bongang and our students began the work to create a movable sculpture that will be on display throughout Toledo. He also worked with our older students by painting messages of inspiration on the bricks in our school and our younger students created functional and logo art.

Our students also had the opportunity to work with LA-based, Glass City Riverwall Artist Gabe Gault. Mr. Gault and the GCRW crew came in and held a sunflower workshop with our students to create our own Glass City River Wall in our cafeteria. Students learned more about the GCRW project and learned that it is the largest mural in the United States!! They also learned how Gabe draws sunflowers and about the Native American images that are being painted next and why their stories are so important to this area.

The week ended in a very exciting moment when our students learned that Mr. Bongang will be returning to paint a mural in his artistic style on our playground thanks to a grant from Promedica!!

We are grateful to everyone who supported us on these projects and for creating such a special week for our students!

To see more information about this project check out the video on Toledo Public Schools Facebook page.



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## **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.

## **Picture Day**

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

Informational packets were sent home last week 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.

## **Important Second Quarter Dates**

October 11- Picture Day  
October 15- End of First Quarter  
October 27-28 Parent Teacher Conferences  
October 29- No School  
Nov. 2- Election Day No Class for Students  
Nov. 24-26- Thanksgiving Break  
Nov. 29- Picture Retake Day

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Dec. 16- End of Second Quarter/1st Semester  
Dec. 17- Teacher Workday No Students  
Dec. 20-Jan 1- Winter Break No School  
Jan. 4- Teacher In Service/ No Students  
Jan. 5-School Resumes

### 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 new 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 teacher(s).

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.

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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.

Parents/Guardians not attending conferences will receive their student's information via mail.

## **Daily Health Assessments to Continue this Year**

Families and staff members are expected to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to attending school. If a student or staff member has one of these symptoms, they will need to stay home.

Fever (over 100) or chills  
Cough  
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing  
Fatigue  
Muscle or body aches  
Headache  
New loss of taste or smell  
Sore throat  
Congestion or runny nose  
Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

**Children should not be sent to school after receiving fever, or other symptom-reducing medications such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.**

## **Health and Safety Guidelines**

*Guidelines may fluctuate to adhere to Health Department and CDC guidelines.*

- Masks are required for anyone who enters the building.
- Students in grades K-12 will be required to wear a mask
- All staff members will be required to wear a mask
- Increased hand washing and use of hand sanitizer

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- Increased cleaning protocols are in place for classrooms and all common areas
  - Strive to meet social distancing recommendations of the Toledo Lucas County Health Department's school guidelines
  - Arrival, dismissal, and daily schedules will shift to follow health and safety guidelines.

*It is a requirement of the school district to report a student with symptoms of COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 exposure to the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.*

Keep phone number(s) and email addresses up-to-date with the district. Parents/guardians should regularly check for emails and other communication from the school district, principals, and teachers to stay informed about important information.

### Visitor Policy

- The school year we still have a "No Guest or Visitor" rule. This includes parent volunteers. Exceptions may be made for essential business. Any visitor with essential business must wear a mask. Visitors are not permitted to enter the building to join students for lunch, even on special occasions such as student birthdays.
- Parents/guardians needing to drop off an item for their student (ex: lunchbox, bookbag, etc.) will be asked to leave the item on a designated cart in the school lobby rather than bringing it into the office. All items must be clearly labeled with the student's name and homeroom teacher. This cart will be checked frequently throughout the school day and items will be delivered to the students. *Confidential information, students medications, and items of significant value should be dropped off in the office rather than in the lobby.*

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- Parents/guardians arriving late with a child or signing a child out of school early will need to enter the main office wearing a mask. It is not necessary to sign in using the Raptor system when picking up or dropping off a student or other items.

## **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

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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 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.



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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