

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE ELEMENTARY



Victoria Finsted-Principal

Cristina Meyer-Asst. Principal

155 Del Mundo St. NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907

(321)768-0465 Fax: (321)877-0929

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Dominos, Texas Roadhouse, Chick-Fil-A, Whit's Frozen Custard
American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 117, Storaway Self Storage, and Jersey Mike's.

September 2023

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

I am so happy to welcome both our new and returning students back to an exciting 2023-2024 school year at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. Over the summer many teachers were here on campus preparing to welcome your children back into their classrooms. We hosted a wonderful training for our staff to support engagement practices that your child will experience throughout the school year. Here at Christa McAuliffe, we believe all children can achieve with the love and support from a strong school community. Our goal will be to create a classroom setting for your child that helps them to reach their learning potential each day!

Again, welcome to our amazing school! I look forward to building many beautiful memories with both you and your children as we work together to help build confident and lifelong learners. Please know that I am here to support you and the needs of your student. If ever you have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to email me directly or simply call the school. Together we can make this an amazing school year filled with many successes for all!

Sincerely,

Victoria Finsted - Principal



STUDENT NICKNAME FORM

An addition to FL law requires schools to obtain parental permission to use a name other than a child's legal name. (Example: Timothy to be called Tim, Susan to be called Sue, Lisa to be called Lee, etc.) This form is available in the office or on website www.brevardschools.org/McAuliffeES. Forms are due to the office by Friday, September 29, 2023

Trunk or Treat

Our "Trunk or Treat" will be held on Thursday, October 19th, for McAuliffe students and their siblings (details to follow). To accomplish this event, we are asking for donations of **bags of individually wrapped candy**. The class that turns in the most amount of candy **by weight**, will win a PIZZA PARTY!! We ask that you not send any candy that contains peanut butter or nuts due allergies. Candy must be turned in by the morning of Wednesday, October 18th to qualify for the contest. **Label the bag with the homeroom teacher's name so your child's class receives credit for your donation.**



9/1
Early Release Day
1:15PM

9/4
Labor Day
No School

9/7
Wear **BLUE**

9/8
Early Release Day
1:15PM

9/11
PTO's Little
Caesar's Pizza Kit
Sale Begins

9/13
Domino's Spirit
Night 4-8PM

9/14
Wear **GREEN**

Open House, An-
nual Title I Meet-
ing & ESOL Open
House
5:30-7:30PM

9/15
Early Release Day
1:15PM

9/18
Interims published
to FOCUS

9/19
Long Dogger's
Spirit Day
ALL DAY
10:30AM-9:30PM

9/20
PTO Meeting
3:30PM

9/21
Wear **ORANGE**
1st grade event at
DeGroot Library
5:30PM

9/22
Early Release Day
1:15PM

9/25
SAC Meeting 3PM
6th Grade Parent
Night
5:30-7:00PM

9/28
Wear **PURPLE**

9/29
Parent Consent
Nickname Forms
Due

PTO's Little
Caesar's Pizza Kit
PAPER orders due

Hat Day
50¢ Donation
Early Release Day
1:15PM



COLOR OF THE WEEK

Please help our Kindergarten students learn their colors by wearing clothing for the "Color of the Week" every Thursday.

9/7 – Blue, 9/14 – Green, 9/21 – Orange, 9/28 – Purple, 10/5 – Brown, 10/12 – Black, 10/19 – White, 10/26 – Pink

PRE K–6TH GRADE OPEN HOUSE, ESOL OPEN HOUSE & ANNUAL TITLE 1 MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Please note the following schedule for the classroom Open House:

5:30 - 6:00PM PreK & Kindergarten

6:00 - 6:30PM 1st grade & 2nd grade

6:30 - 7:00PM 3rd grade & 4th grade

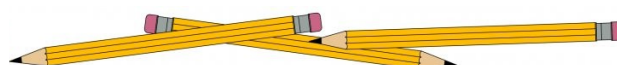
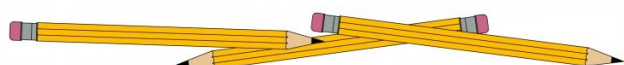
7:00 - 7:30PM 5th grade & 6th grade



The ESOL Open House is from 5:30 - 7:30PM with Mrs. Redito & Mrs. Meyer in room 501.

Materials Available for Check-Out

A wide variety of educational materials are available for check-out from the Title I Parent Resource Center. If you are interested in checking out materials such as math or reading games, children's books, parenting books, etc., to work with your child at home, contact Mrs. Marshall by phone (321)768-0465 ext. 47173, email: Marshall.Josena@brevardschools.org or send a note to Mrs. Marshall.



McAuliffe Before and After School Program (BAC)

Did you know that we have a Before and Afterschool program on our campus? Our amazing program keeps kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents peace of mind. They help children learn, grow and reach their full potential, while inspiring every child to leave their unique mark on this world.

Please contact our program coordinator, Mrs. Tracy, for more information by phone (321)768-0465 ext. 47113 or (321)722-4185, by email Mcgreal.Tracy@brevardschools.org or visit the website: www.brevardschools.org/Page/1284 Child care hours are from 6:30AM-7:30AM and 2:30PM-6:00PM

TREAT POLICY FOR BIRTHDAYS & CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Due to safety measures intended to keep our students healthy, **home made treats** are not allowed to be given to students. Any treats sent to school must be **individually wrapped, store bought** snacks (ex. Little Debbie, Hostess, chips, etc.) or store bought cookies or cupcakes **in their original sealed package**. Please send the treats to school with your child if at all possible to limit classroom disruptions.

Balloons, banners and other birthday party decorations, etc. are not allowed in the classrooms as they are a distraction to students trying to learn.

Please keep them for your celebration at home.



Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST)

Testing Dates for the first FAST progress monitoring session

September 6th & 7th: 3rd through 6th grade

September 12th & 13th: 1st and 2nd grade

September 12th through 29th: Kindergarten



We ask that you please not schedule appointments on your child's testing dates.

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring tool that will be administered 3 times per year to track your students' progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout the year. Your student's results from these tools are for informational purposes only. You will be given information about how to access the results after the testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds and each student will see different questions.

If you or your student would like to review or interact with the online testing platform, visit these websites below:

Kindergarten & 1st grade - <https://flfast.org/resources/renaissance-star/renaissance-star>

2nd grade - <https://flfast.org/resources/renaissance-star/renaissance-star>

3rd through 6th grade - www.fl DOE.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best

3rd through 6th grade - <https://flfast.org/families.html>

If you have any questions related to this test administration contact our assistant principal, Cristina Meyer, at (321)768-0465 or by email: Meyer.Cristine@brevardschools.org. For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at FLFAST.org

Thank you for supporting your and encouraging your child to do their very best during this test administration.

BELL SCHEDULE:



The McAuliffe bell schedule is as follows:

Arrival: 7:30AM Students can NOT be dropped off before 7:30AM

Breakfast: 7:30AM—7:55AM, breakfast is FREE for ALL students at McAuliffe.

Classrooms Open: 7:45AM

Pre-Start Bell: 7:55AM

Instruction Begins: 8:00AM Children arriving after 8:00AM are marked tardy.

Dismissal Begins at 2:30PM All students are dismissed.

REMINDER:

Students are NOT allowed on campus before 7:30AM, staff is not on duty until then. Students need to be picked up no later than 2:45PM. on regular days and 1:30 on early release days. Children who are picked up late will be sent to the Brevard After School Program. A \$29.00 drop-in fee and a \$25.00 registration fee will be charged if they are sent to child care.

Drop off and Pick up Procedures: When dropping students off only do so at the overhang and only along the sidewalk, not in the 2nd lane of the car loop. For pick-up, remain in your vehicle until your child is delivered to your car at dismissal. Only use **the car loop and not the bus loop** for drop-off and pick-up. **DO NOT** park on the sidewalks because students must then walk in the streets. Police will issue tickets for parking on the sidewalks and in no parking zones.

The bus loop and the back parking areas of the school are **NOT** meant for student drop-off or pick-up, only use the car loop for drop-off. These procedures are in place for the safety of our students.

STUDENTS ARE RELEASED AT 1:15PM EVERY FRIDAY

TARDY POLICY– Students arriving after 8:00AM will need to be walked into the office by an adult, this is for the safety of the students. We appreciate your cooperation.

EARLY CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

When students are checked out early for any reason during a time they are not in their classroom (P.E., Music, Art, Media, recess, lunch, etc.), they **WILL NOT** be able to retrieve their belongings from the classroom as they are locked. Their items will remain locked up in their classroom until they return to school. If you know ahead of time that you will be checking your child out early, send a note to the teacher so they have your student keep their belongings with them.

Please note: Early Check-out ends at 2:00PM on regular days & 12:45PM on early release days, please plan accordingly.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A VALID, STATE ISSUED, PHOTO ID AS IT IS REQUIRED TO SIGN A STUDENT OUT.



EMERGENCY CHANGE OF CLOTHING

If your child is in Pre-K, Kindergarten or 1st grade, or has any reason they may need a clean set of clothes while at school, it is extremely important for you to pack a spare set (top, bottoms and under garments) in a Ziploc bag, labeled with their first and last name and put it in their backpack. Check your child's backpacks frequently for soiled clothing and don't forget to replace it with a clean set. We have very limited spare clothing in the clinic. If your child has an accident or other issue that requires a change of clothes, and does not have any with them, you will have to bring some to them. **THANK YOU!**

6TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

Monday, September 25th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Parents/guardians will start the evening in their child's homeroom class. They will then experience the daily rotation by moving through the different classroom. Each teacher will be discussing a different topic.

Mrs. Staples - FOCUS Live Gradebook

Mrs. Labbe - Google Classroom

Ms. Beech - Science Fair

Mrs. Powers - Grading policy, field trips, 6th grade non-negotiables & rewards

We look forward to meeting you!!

2023 - 2024 FAST SCORES

Student's FAST scores from the 2022- 2023 school year are available on FOCUS as well as on the parent portal for review. <https://www.brevardschools.org/cms/lib/FL02201431/Centricity/Domain/8370/test%20scores%20FOCUS.pdf>

FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL MCAULIFFE STUDENTS!

Christa McAuliffe students can enjoy a variety of breakfast items, **FREE** in our cafeteria! Some of the food items offered are: cereal, muffins, biscuits, fresh fruit, juice & several flavors of milk.

Breakfast Hours are from 7:30AM-7:55AM. If your child is going to eat the a school breakfast, please be sure they arrive to school by 7:45AM at the latest so they have enough time to eat and get to their classroom by 8:00AM, when instruction begins. We understand that bus riders are not able to control the time they get here, they will always be allowed to get breakfast as soon as they get off of the bus no matter what time it arrives to school.

MyPaymentsPlus.com

All McAuliffe students receive FREE LUNCH this year; however, if you want your child to have the option to purchase extra items such as water, chips, cookies, ice cream, etc., be sure to register for [MyPaymentsPlus.com](https://www.mypaymentsplus.com) to put money in your child's account. Be sure to place the money in the "general fund" account, not the lunch fund account or they can't use it for snacks.

"Make your first payment your last!" Enroll in our online pre-payment program today. You can:

~View your child's account ~Email when account is running low ~Track purchases

Use your student's ID number and birth date to register, contact the school if you don't know it.

**** If you send CASH to school for snacks, please be advised that ALL of the money you send will be placed into the snack account, no change can be given, so please only send the amount you would like to be placed into your child's snack account. ****



WANT TO JOIN OUR 2023/2024 SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)?

What is SAC? SAC is a committee of McAuliffe stakeholders which include parents who have been approved by other McAuliffe parents to help our administration, teachers, and staff to develop and evaluate the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The council is up to date on McAuliffe happenings, they review and provide input for classroom library book lists, and when applicable, SAC is sought for approval of specific budget items and asked to vote on how to utilize SAC funds given by the state.

Why join?

- As a school stakeholder you are more informed and involved in our school-based decisions.
- Each school must have a SAC by law.
- For equitable voting purposes, the council must consist of various stakeholders. (Ex: principal, a balanced number of teachers, parents, community members, and other staff members.)

When are the meetings held? Meetings are held the **last Tuesday of every month at 3:00PM in the Media Center.** Attendance is valued, so please only submit your name if you can commit to the following meeting dates:

Sept. 26th, Oct. 31st, Nov. 28th, Dec. 19th, Jan. 30th, Feb. 27th, Mar. 19th, April 30th, and May. 14th

Can I attend SAC meetings if I'm not a member? Absolutely; however, only members have voting power.

How can I join?

1. Select this link <https://forms.gle/yJWpGgJVy78SMUsD8> and fill out your contact information,
2. **OR** contact Josena Marshall by phone at 768-0465 ext. 47173,
3. **OR** by email at marshall.josena@brevardschools.org.
4. **OR** send a message to the school and we can send home a printed form with your student.

Title I Information

Title I is a federally funded program designed to improve achievement at schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch prices. Every student enrolled in our school is eligible for Title I services. Programs are designed to serve children who need extra help in meeting state standards. Our school has coordinated our Title I plan with our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Parents who are elected to serve on the School Advisory Committee (SAC) participate in the development and review of all school plans including the Parent-Student-Teacher Compact, and Parent Involvement Plan. Copies of these plans are available on our website, upon request from the front office, and can be viewed in our Parent Involvement Binder located in the front lobby. Translated documents are available upon request. We appreciate any feedback you have about our Title I program. Please email Mrs. Marshall at: Marshall.Josena@brevardschools.org with any feedback.

State Education Agency(SEA) Complaint Procedures: If any Local Education Agency or School Plans (e.g. Title I LEA Plan, Title LEA PIP, Title I School PFEP or SIP) are not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the Title I, Part A plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education. Parents must be informed of their rights to submit comments. Comments received at Title I schools MUST be forwarded to the Office of Title I and those comments will be included with the submission of the LEA Title I plan, as required.

STRINGS and CHORUS

Chorus: Chorus is open to new and experienced singers in 4th, 5th and 6th grade and is held every Wednesday from 2:25PM-3:30PM.

Beginning Strings: Beginning strings is open for new players in 5th and 6th grade wanting to learn to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. It is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:25PM-3:00PM.

Intermediate Strings: Intermediate Strings is open to students in the 5th and 6th grade who have at least one year of experience on the string instrument. It is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00PM-3:35PM.

If you're interested in any of these afterschool music clubs, please contact Mrs. Bryant by emailing her at Bryant.Penny@brevardschools.org or send a note to school with your student.

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

If you need accommodations for any school programs or activities, please contact our office by phone (321)768-0465 or by email: McAuliffe@brevardschools.org

If you are in need of a language interpreter or a sign language interpreter for parent meetings please contact Mary Redito, our counselor, at (321)768-0465 ext. 47024 or by email: Redito.Mary@brevardschools.org

ESSA/NCLB: PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW

No Child Left Behind requires that Title I schools have highly qualified staff. **"Each parent of a student at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School has the right to request information about the professional qualifications of the student's teacher(s) and any paraprofessionals who serve the student. This information will be provided upon request."**

Non-Highly Qualified Notification

NCLB requires us to notify parents when a teacher, who is not highly qualified, teaches your child for four consecutive weeks. If this occurs, you will receive a letter providing specific details about the situation.



Let the Butterfly Struggle



There's a story about a mother who discovered a butterfly struggling to escape its cocoon through a tiny opening at the top. She became concerned when the creature seemed to give up after making no progress; certain that the butterfly wouldn't make it out without help, she enlarged the hole.

On its next try, the butterfly wriggled out easily. But the young woman's joy turned to horror when she saw its wings were shriveled and useless. Her well-intentioned intervention had interrupted a natural process. Forcing the butterfly to squeeze through a small opening is nature's way of assuring that blood from the creature's body is pushed into the wings, by making it easier, she deprived the butterfly of strong wings.

Childhood, too, is a sort of cocoon. If a healthy adult is to emerge, parents must allow, even encourage, their children to struggle, make mistakes, learn from them and pay the price for bad judgments and conduct.

Of course, good parents should protect their children from serious harm, but being overprotective can itself inflict damage. Adversity is not always an enemy. Teaching can help a young person develop wings strengthened by self-confidence and self-reliance.

Helen Keller once said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

VOLUNTEER & CHAPERONE INFORMATION

Volunteers and chaperones are **VERY** important to our school.

Volunteer/Chaperone policies:

- ◇ All volunteers/chaperones must be registered and fingerprinted through Brevard Public Schools yearly. To become a registered volunteer, please visit: <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/11104>
- ◇ Volunteers, chaperones and visitors must sign in and out in the front office using a valid state issued, photo ID and always wear the badge provided while on our school campus.
- ◇ Volunteers may not bring children with them when they volunteer at school or when chaperoning field trips.
- ◇ Volunteers can not discipline students, dispense medications or handle confidential documents. Contact a McAuliffe staff member with any issues or concerns.
- ◇ Volunteers must follow the school dress code, and not wear anything revealing or that displays profane message or pictures.
- ◇ Volunteer always serve as a positive role model for students, and should refrain from inappropriate behaviors.
- ◇ Always check with a teacher before showing up to a classroom. Volunteering must be scheduled ahead of time as tests, meetings, and other events may be scheduled.
- ◇ Volunteers should **ALWAYS be appreciated!!** We very much appreciate the time and effort our volunteers give to our school, students and staff!

Information about volunteering opportunities at McAuliffe are often emailed, to get on our volunteer email list, please send a message to our Volunteer coordinator, Chris Bell at Bell.Chris@brevardschools.org

⇒ Visit our school's official website at:

<http://brevardschools.org/pages/McAuliffeES>

- ~ Place your cursor over the "Parents & Students" tab
- ~ Click on "Parents"
- ~ Click on "Volunteer Information"



Make a Difference

If you would like to chaperone your child's field trip or help at a school event, don't delay in registering, it takes time to process. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Chris Bell, by email at bell.chris@brevardschools.org or by phone at (321)768-0465 ext. 47007

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE PTO



What is the PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization)?

- A volunteer program to give back to the students, teachers, staff & school.
- The purpose is to positively impact the lives of our children by bringing parents, teachers and the community together to support children's educational success.
- We help fund schoolwide events, student rewards, technology and so much more!

If you're interested in helping out (for ANY amount of time) with our PTO, just drop them an email at: McAuliffePTO123@gmail.com or call (321)768-0465 ext. 47018.

*All volunteers must be registered and fingerprinted with the BPS volunteer program yearly. For more information about volunteering, contact our volunteer coordinator, Chris Bell, by email at Bell.Chris@brevardschools.org or by phone at (321)768-0465 ext. 47007.

2023-2024 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents: Leslie Hedges & Kerry Beth McNally Secretary: Allyson Scheck Treasurer: Leslie Hedges

SPIRIT HERO ONLINE STORE

The ONLINE McAuliffe PTO Spirit Hero store has short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts and hoodies for sale. More merchandise is being added soon! Everything purchased from the online store is shipped right to the house! To order use this QR code:



SCHOOL SPIRIT STORE

School spirit baseball hats, waxed string friendship bracelets, fun stickers, waterproof labels perfect for water bottles, pencil boxes, binders, notebooks, waterproof stickers for inside of shoes and holographic stickers for sale **AT SCHOOL! CASH ONLY.** You can get an order form from the office or download it from our website: www.brevardschools.org/McAuliffeES, just click on the "Parents & Students" tab, then click on "PTO".