

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE ELEMENTARY

Victoria Finsted-Principal

Cristina Meyer-Asst. Principal

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

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESS' THAT SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Dominos, Calvary Chapel, Texas Roadhouse,

Blue Marlin Real Estate, Storaway Self Storage, and Jersey Mike's.

September 2022

<p>9/1 Wear BLUE *****</p> <p>9/2 Early Release Day 1:15PM *****</p> <p>9/5 Labor Day No School *****</p> <p>9/6 PTO's Little Caesar's Pizza Kit sale begins *****</p> <p>9/8 Wear GREEN Open House, An- nual Title I Meet- ing & ESOL Open House 5:30-7:30PM *****</p> <p>9/9 Early Release Day 1:15PM *****</p> <p>9/14 Domino's Spirit Night 4-8PM *****</p> <p>9/15 Wear ORANGE Interims published to Focus 6th grade Open House 5:30-7PM</p>	<p>9/16 PTO's Little Caesar's Pizza Kit orders due Early Release Day 1:15PM *****</p> <p>9/20 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night 4-8:30PM *****</p> <p>9/22 Wear PURPLE 1st grade's event at the DeGroot Library 6PM *****</p> <p>9/23 Early Release Day 1:15PM *****</p> <p>9/27 SAC Meeting 3PM *****</p> <p>9/29 Wear BROWN *****</p> <p>9/30 Career Day Hat Day 50¢ Donation Early Release Day 1:15PM *****</p> <p>10/3 Virtual Principal's Chat 9AM</p>
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Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

I am so happy to welcome both our new and returning students back to an exciting 2022-2023 school year at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. We hope you had an amazing summer and are excited to join us for a fun and engaging school year. This year we are excited to announce that we plan to bring back many opportunities to come together and grow as a school community. Over the past few years we had to implement many safety protocols which prohibited on campus events, however for the first time in almost three years we are hoping to plan opportunities that will allow us all to reconnect face to face as one big happy family.

This year we are working in combination with our PTO to plan multiple family involvement events. These events will be advertised on our website, Facebook page and in messages sent home from both the classroom teacher and administration. We are planning events that will promote school to home connection activities, planned celebrations and informational events. Additionally this year we are welcoming volunteers back on campus. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit our school website for important information on the steps involved to become a registered volunteer with Brevard Public Schools

Again, I welcome you to another amazing school year here at Christa McAuliffe! I look forward to building many beautiful memories with both you and your children as we work together to support our future leaders of tomorrow. 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



COLOR OF THE WEEK

Help our Kindergarteners learn their colors by wearing the "Color of the Week" each Thursday!

9/1 – Blue	9/8 – Green	9/15 – Orange
9/22 – Purple	9/29 – Brown	10/6 – Black
10/13 – Pink	10/20 – White	

Trunk or Treat

On Thursday, October 27th, we will have our "Trunk or Treat" event for McAuliffe students (details to follow). To accomplish this, we are asking for donations of bags of **individually wrapped** candy. We will be holding a contest and the class that turns in the most amount of candy **by weight**, will win a pizza party! We ask that the candy not contain peanut butter or nuts due to allergies. Candy must be turned in by the morning of Wednesday, October 20th to count. **Please write the homeroom teacher's name on the bag so that your child's class receives credit.**



BELL SCHEDULE:

Our bell schedule is as follows:

Arrival: 7:30AM Classrooms open at 7:45AM

Pre-Start Bell: 7:55AM

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

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

Dismissal begins at 2:30PM All students are dismissed at this time.



REMINDER:

Students are not allowed on campus before 7:30AM, teachers are 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: Parents, please drop students off in the morning, at the overhang and only along the sidewalk, not in the 2nd, outside lane. For pick-up, please 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.

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

STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED 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 your child. We appreciate your cooperation .

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EARLY CHECK-OUTS

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

BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHECK-OUT POLICY

If anyone other than a legal parent/guardian is going to check a student out early, for non-emergency reasons, the individual **must be listed on the registration form AND we must have a signed, dated note from the legal parent/guardian PRIOR to the student getting check-out.** Listing an individual on the registration form as an emergency contact on the registration form does not authorize them to check students out early for non-emergency reasons.

Be sure the note contains the first and last name of the adult who will be checking the student out. A new note is required each time a student is checked out early by someone other than the parent.

Spare Change of Clothing

If your child is in Pre-K, Kindergarten or 1st grade, or has any reason that they may need a clean set of clothing throughout the school day, it is extremely important that you pack a spare set (top, bottoms and under garments) in a Ziploc bag and place it in their backpack in case of accidents.

If your child has an accident or other issue that requires a change of clothing, and does not have any, we will unfortunately have to contact you to bring some to school.

Check their backpacks frequently so if there is soiled clothing you can replace it with a clean set.

6TH GRADE OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 15th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Parents and students will begin in their child's homeroom class, then they will experience the daily rotation as by moving through each teacher's 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!!

PREK–5TH GRADE OPEN HOUSE, ESOL OPEN HOUSE AND ANNUAL TITLE 1 MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Please note the following grade level schedule for classroom Open House:

5:00 - 5:30PM **PreK & K**
5:30 - 6:00PM **1st & 2nd grade**
6:00 - 6:30PM **3rd & 4th grade**
6:30 - 7:00PM **5th grade**



6th grade will hold their Open House on Wednesday, September 15th from 5:30-7PM
ESOL Open House is from 5:00 - 7:00PM with Mrs. Redito & Mrs. Meyer in room 501.

Before and After School Program

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 feel free to contact our program coordinator, Mrs. Tracy, for more information by phone at (321)768-0465 ext. 47113 or by email at mcgreal.tracy@brevardschools.org.

Hours of child care are from 6:30-7:30AM and 2:30-6:00PM

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. Please contact Mrs. Marshall by phone at 768-0465 ext. 47173, email her at: marshall.josena@brevardschools.org or send a note with your child to Mrs. Marshall.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)

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 testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions gets 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 /interact with the online testing platform, visit the links 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 - <https://www.fldoe.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 Cristina Meyer at (321)768-0465 or via email at: meyer.cristina@brevardschools.org

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at FLFAST.org

Dates for first progress monitoring session:

Kindergarten - Sept. 7th—16th

1st and 2nd grade - September 7th & 8th

3rd through 6th grade - September 13th & 14th



We ask that you please not schedule any appointments on your child's testing dates. Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging them to do their best during this test administration.

TREATS FOR BIRTHDAYS & CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Due to safety measures intended to keep students healthy, **home made treats** are not allowed to be given to students for birthdays or other classroom celebration treats.

All 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. We ask that you send the items to school with your child to limit classroom disruptions.

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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

If you are in need of an interpreter for parent meetings, please contact our ESOL assistant, Pat Ursich, by phone at: (321)768-0465 ext. 47066 or by email at: ursich.pat@brevardschools.org

If you need Sign Language Interpreter Services for parent meetings, programs, etc., please contact Asa McKeown by phone at (321) 633-1000, ext. 11535 or by email at: mckeown.asa@brevardschools.org



FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL STUDENTS!

All student may enjoy a variety of breakfast items, FREE of charge in our cafeteria! Some of the items offered are: cereal, muffins, biscuits, fresh fruit, juice and several different types of milk.

Breakfast Hours are from 7:30AM.-7:55AM. If your child would like to eat the free school breakfast, please make sure that they arrive to school by 7:45AM, so they have plenty of time to eat and get to their classroom by 8:00AM, when instruction starts.

MyPaymentsPlus.com

All students at McAuliffe 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., register for

[MyPaymentsPlus.com](https://www.mypaymentsplus.com) to put money in your child's account.



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

~View your child's account

~Email for accounts running low

~Track purchases

When registering your student, use your their school ID number and birth date. Contact your child's teacher if you need your child's student ID number.

**** If sending cash to school for snacks, please be advised that the full amount you send will be placed into the snack account, no change can be given. Only send the amount of cash you would like to be placed into their snack account.**

School Advisory Council (SAC) Members Needed

What is SAC? SAC is a committee of parents who have been approved by our McAuliffe parents to help the administration, teachers, and staff to develop and evaluate the School Improvement Plan (SIP). We also ask for approval for certain budget items and vote on how to utilize SAC funds given by the state.

Why join? Parents can be more informed and involved in our school based decisions. Each school must have a SAC by law. The council must consist of the principal and a balanced amount of teachers, parents, and other staff members.

When are the meetings? We meet the last Tuesday of every month at 3:00 in the Media Center. Attendance at each meeting is required, so please only submit your name if you can commit to the following meeting dates: **Sept. 27th, Oct. 25th, Nov. 29th, Dec. 13th, Jan. 31th, Feb. 28th, Mar. 28th, April 25th and May. 16th.**

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

How can I join? Click or paste this link into your web browser <https://forms.gle/3BzQUzf3rmyhAwC6A> fill out your contact information, or contact Josena Marshall by phone at (321)768-0465 ext. 47173, or by email at: marshall.josena@brevardschools.org or fill out the form coming home with students and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

This will allow your name to be added to the parent ballot. Voting will take place through a Google Form sent via school email, school text, and school website on September 16,2022. Mrs. Marshall will email you to let you know if you have been elected as a SAC member.



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 upon request from the front office. They are also available in our Parent Involvement Binder and located on our school's website. 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.

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, we will send home a letter providing you with specific details about the situation.

LOST and FOUND

We already have a LOT of items such as jackets, sweaters, hoodies, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc. that have ended up lying around campus left. Make sure all belongings are labeled with first and last names.

Please encourage your child(ren) to look through the many forgotten items on the stage in the cafeteria, on the benches out at the recess field or in the commons area on the outside stage if they are missing something.



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. 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. You must present a valid state issued ID and wear the badge provided while on our school campus, no matter the reason for the visit.
- ◇ Volunteers may not bring children with them when they volunteer at school or chaperone field trips.
- ◇ Volunteers can not discipline students, dispense medications or handle confidential documents. Contact a staff member with any issues or concerns.
- ◇ Volunteers must follow the school dress code and not wear anything revealing or that displays any profane message or pictures.
- ◇ They should serve as a positive role model for students and refrain from inappropriate behaviors.
- ◇ Check with a teacher before showing up to their classroom. Tests, meetings, or other events may be scheduled for that time/day.
- ◇ Volunteers should ALWAYS be appreciated!! We SO appreciate all of the time and effort our volunteers give to our school, students and staff!

Information about volunteering opportunities at McAuliffe:

⇒ Visit our school's 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

Don't delay if you would like to chaperone your child's field trip or help at school event, the process does take a bit of time while they complete the background check.

If you have any questions, please contact our 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!

What Does PTO Do?:

~Holiday shop set up & sales

~Valentine grams

~Staff appreciation

~6th grade dance

~Spirit gear

~Classroom supplies

~Spirit week rewards

~School wide programs

~Fundraising

~Family involvement events

~Much, MUCH MORE!

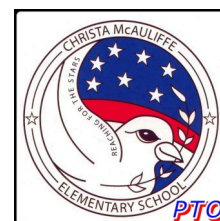
Our PTO Executive Board:

President—Leslie Hedges

Treasurer—Open

Vice President—KerryBeth McNally

Secretary—Open



Being a board member is easy and doesn't take much of your time. No experience necessary! It's an amazing opportunity to be a part of something BIG & POSITIVE. Interested in being a part of the our PTO team? Email us at: mcauliffepto123@gmail.com or call (321)768-0465 ext. 47018 for more information. We would LOVE to have you for a few minutes, few hours, a few days or more, it's all up to you!