Inspire and Equip Every Child With Every Opportunity Every Day!

2021/2022

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS
Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. We are thrilled that you have selected McCracken as your school of choice. As always, our dynamic faculty and staff have worked very hard and planned challenging learning experiences for your child. We maintain our commitment to providing your child with a safe, orderly, and positive learning environment. Our rich tradition of excellence in education and athletics is evident in the success of our students.

The Parent-Student Handbook is an invaluable resource. I urge you to read all of the contents carefully concerning school rules, policies, procedures, expectations and the code of conduct. The school calendar includes important dates regarding grading periods, progress reports, holidays, concerts, athletic events, and many other important school functions. This is also available on our website. Frequent updates are posted via our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Parents – it is very important that you read this handbook thoroughly and discuss this information with your student. Please feel free to contact any of us for assistance throughout the school year should you have any questions or concerns. An open line of communication with your child’s teacher is the key to the success of your child.

I am very excited to be working with you this year. I encourage each student to attend school every day, to make excellence your standard, to become involved in extracurricular activities and to . . .

SOAR WITH THE EAGLES!

Margaret Peach, Principal

Mission Statement
The mission of McCracken Middle School is to provide a positive learning environment for all students, to enrich the quality of their lives, to encourage them to reach their full potential as individuals, and to enable them to become productive members of society.
Ms. Jeannée Abercrombie-Johnson, Assistant Principal – 8th Grade
Ms. Tanae Copeland – N-Z
Ms. Morgan Jenkins – H-M
Mr. Daniel O’Brien, Counselor – A-G
Mr. Brian Landon, Assistant Principal - 6th Grade
Mr. Ernest Rice, Assistant Principal - 7th Grade
Ms. Jeannée Abercrombie-Johnson, Assistant Principal – 8th Grade
Ms. Katrina Johnson Robinson, Special Ed., 504 Coordinator

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS
Mr. Daniel O’Brien, Counselor – A-G
Ms. Morgan Jenkins – H-M
Ms. Tanae Copeland – N-Z

RESOURCE OFFICER
Deputy Billy Swanlund

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Main Office ..................................594-4457
School Fax ..................................596-8418
Cafeteria ..................................... 594-4463
Transportation .............................594-4423

Nondiscrimination Policy
Spartanburg County School District Seven does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in the provision of educational opportunities and benefits, in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries and complaints should be directed to The Charles H. Humphries, Jr. Administration Building, 610 Dupre Drive, (864) 594-4400.

Employee / Student Rights and Responsibilities
A copy of the Spartanburg County School District Seven Sexual Harassment Policy is on file in the main office with the principal’s secretary, Mrs. Crocker, and in the media center.

Media Policy
 Occasionally, our students, faculty, and staff may be photographed, interviewed, and/or identified for publication, broadcast transmission, and/or electronic display by the news media or school and district officials. All releases will be performed in accordance with school district policy and privacy laws. As such, only directory type information will be provided. This information includes name, school, grade level, teacher, participation in officially recognized activities, etc. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school principal. Students have access to MacBooks in each classroom and the library. The district has multiple safeguards in place, such as website filters and blockers, to prevent students from viewing inappropriate materials. All students are expected to use their computer access responsibly and for educational purposes only. Failure to do so may result in loss of computer privileges. If you do not wish for your student to have access to computers, you must call 594-4457 and speak to Ms. Peach to discuss this decision.

Parent-Student Handbook
Each student is given an e-copy of the Parent-Student Handbook and is responsible for its contents. It is also available on our website: mccracken.spartanburg7.org.
Attendance

Attendance is taken each class period. Students are expected to be in school every day except in cases of emergency. Only the following are considered lawful absences from school: personal illness, serious illness or death in the immediate family, and religious holidays. Students participating in school-sponsored activities during the school day are not marked absent. Upon returning to school after an absence, a student must bring a note from home on the day of his/her return. This note must include the date of absence, the reason for absence, and be signed by a parent, guardian, or physician. Responsibility for making up work lies entirely with the student. The student should make appointments with his/her teachers to set up a schedule for the completion of incomplete work. All incomplete work should be made up within 10 days of the students return to school.

**Students are allowed 5 parent/guardian notes per semester. All absences above 10 require a medical note for the absence to be excused. Excessive absences will result in an F/A (failure due to attendance).**

Any student acquiring 10 consecutive unexcused absences will be dropped from our attendance rolls and lose credit. (State Law.)

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**ATTENDANCE IS TAKEN AND CREDIT IS RECEIVED PERIOD BY PERIOD. EXCESSIVE TARDIES AND DISMISSALS WILL CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CREDIT IN PERIODS MISSED.**

Tardies

Any student who is tardy to school (after 7:45 a.m.) should report directly to the office. Tardies to school are excused only for doctor’s or dentist’s notes and court appointments. Students arriving to school after 8:05 a.m. without a medical excuse will not be admitted to 1st period and will receive an absence for 1st period. Students who arrive on a late school bus will be given a bus tardy slip by a bus supervisor and marked present, not tardy. Tardies reset each semester.

- Tardies 1-5: WARNING
- Tardies 6-15: DETENTION HALL
- Tardies 16-25: ISS

Truancy

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all state schools are required to establish a uniform management information and reporting system on truancy. The State Board of Education recognizes that truancy is primarily an educational issue and that all reasonable, educationally sound, corrective actions should be undertaken by the school district prior to resorting to the juvenile justice system.

1. Truant – A student up to 17 years old meets the definition of a truant when the student has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences. A Student Attendance Intervention Plan will be developed in a meeting with the administrative staff, parent/guardian, and student.
2. Habitual Truant – A “habitual” truant is a student up to 17 years old, who fails to comply with the intervention plan developed by the school, the child, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) and who accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences. This child may need court intervention and an initial truancy petition may be filed. The written intervention plan, and documentation of non compliance, must be attached to the truancy petition asking the court for intervention.
3. Chronic Truant – A “chronic” truant is a student up to 17 years old who has been through the school intervention process, has reached the level of a “habitual” truant, has been referred to Family Court and placed on an order to attend school, and continues to accumulate unlawful absences. Should other community alternatives and referrals fail to remedy the attendance problem, the “chronic” truant may be referred to the Family Court for violation of a previous order. All school intervention plans existing to this point for this child and family must accompany the Contempt of Court petition as well as a written recommendation from the school for the court and the action the court should take.

Early Dismissal

Once students have arrived at school, they are not permitted to leave the school grounds for any reason without permission from the office. If a student leaves school, he/she must give his/her SOAR teacher a note from a parent/guardian on the day of the early dismissal stating the student’s name, the date, reason for dismissal, and the time of departure. Students will only be dismissed at class change. The student should go to the attendance office closest to his/her dismissal time. For the safety and protection of our students and faculty, a parent/guardian should sign the student out at the front office and must have a photo i.d. Please consult the bell schedule provided on page 10. Telephone dismissals are not permitted.

Student Arrival

Students may not be dropped off before 7:15 a.m. Students arriving before 7:30 a.m. should report to their designated holding area. Teachers will greet your child and direct them to the appropriate area.
Halls
Students should only be in the halls at the beginning and end of school or while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission or special duties. Students in the halls during class time must have an E-Hall Pass. Students must be courteous at all times and keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running or shouting in the halls is NOT permitted. Rolling bookbags are not permitted in the hallways.

Before School
Students arriving by car before 7:30 a.m. should be dropped off at the designated loop at the back of the school or the loop nearest the gym. Students eating breakfast should report directly to the cafeteria. All other students should report to their grade level hallway. Please remember students may not leave their assigned areas once they arrive. Students may not be dropped off prior to 7:15 a.m. at either entrance. The drop off door opens at 7:15 a.m.

Alcohol and Drug Policy
Student use, possession, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, “look-alike” drugs, steroids, or possessing drug paraphernalia on any school premises or at any school function (home or away) is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy could result in permanent expulsion from school. Law enforcement officials may be contacted upon initial investigation and verification of the violation. Drug dogs may (without any prior notice) search the school building, including lockers, classrooms, school grounds, and parking lots.

Tobacco Policy
All District 7 properties are tobacco-free, including the use of E products.

Assemblies
McCracken Middle School students will display courteous behavior in school assemblies. Students will give full attention to the speakers or performers on stage and show appreciation only through clapping hands. Whistling, shouting, and foot stomping is not appropriate. Visitors often form a lasting impression of our school and community by our behavior at assemblies. Removal from an assembly will result in disciplinary action.

Care of School Property
The citizens of Spartanburg County School District Seven have provided some of the best equipment and facilities found anywhere. Students will take care of the building, equipment, and grounds, so they can be passed on to future students in good condition. Any student who defaces, damages, or destroys school property will be required to repair or replace the damaged item(s) and will also face further disciplinary action. Except in cases of unavoidable accidents, students are liable for all damage they do to school property.

Closing or Delay of School Due To Weather
When inclement weather or unavoidable circumstances forces school to close, no student should report to school. No teachers or staff will report to school and the administration building will also be closed. Employees and students will be required to attend when the make-up day is scheduled.

To eliminate confusion on suspect days, everyone is requested:
1. Not to phone any radio station or school official, and
2. To listen to the radio or television for the closing or delay announcement; it should be made no later than 6:15 a.m.

When it becomes necessary to dismiss during the regular school day, announcements will be made over the radio and television stations.
If appropriate and possible e-Learning Days will be used. Students will be given downloaded assignments prior to their departure the day prior. Students will have 3 days to complete the assignment.

Emergency Fire Drills
Fire drills, as required by law, will be held at regular intervals. Such practice is important and should be approached seriously. Specific instructions for evacuation of the building will be posted in each classroom. Students should leave the room immediately upon signal with a minimum of conversation. Lines should be kept well organized and move rapidly. No student, teacher, or staff member should re-enter the building until an administrator gives an “all clear” signal.

Copies
When requesting extra copies of the following, a $1.00 charge will be applied. (1) schedules; (2) report cards; (3) attendance printouts; (4) progress reports.

Deliveries/Gifts
Balloon and/or flower deliveries will not be accepted for students. Gifts for students may not be brought to school for holidays and other occasions.
Telephone Use
We cannot call a student to the office to accept a phone call. In case of illness, the student should report to the school nurse’s station and the nurse or the adult on duty will call the parent or guardian. McCracken Middle School does not permit possession of cell phones or cell phone use in the building or on school grounds at any time. Students may use the phone in the Main Office with permission.

Please see the Code of Conduct for offenses and consequences.

Please know and understand the consequences of violating this policy as it will be strictly enforced by the administration. Confiscated phones and documentation of violations will be kept by Mrs. Willcox in the main office.

Be sure to discuss this policy seriously with your student to avoid costly errors on his/her part. Phoning parents or friends, text messaging fellow students or others, taking pictures of papers or other students have no place in an instructional environment and will not be tolerated.

**McCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

Cell phones/electronic devices will only be returned to a parent, between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. (for all cell phone violations).

The parent must pick up and sign for the phone.

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**Elevator**

The elevator is reserved only for students with disabilities.

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**Dress Code**

**THE GENERAL RULE IS THAT APPROPRIATE AND NONDISTRACTING ATTIRE shall be worn in an educational setting.**

1. **APPROPRIATE ATTIRE**
   - Skirts and shorts must be at least fingertip plus two inches length or longer when standing
   - Shirts with sleeves for young men
   - Clothing must cover undergarments
   - Pants, shorts, skirts, and socks must be worn at the waist
   - Straps on young ladies' tops must be the width of “four fingers”
   - Proper foundations must be worn

2. **INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE**
   - HATS, HEADBANDS, BANDANAS, HEADWRAPS, AND SUNGLASSES MUST BE LEFT AT HOME. (Violation will result in confiscation.)
   - Gloves worn in building
   - Tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, and tops with string straps
   - Bare midriffs and backs
   - See-through garments
   - Leggings or tights worn as pants

   **Sheer legging or tights as accessory to inappropriate length skirts**
   - Only human hair colors may be worn to school.
   - Hair picks and rat tail combs are not permitted.
   - No chains on pants
   - Collars or wrist bands with metal studs/spikes
   - Excessively long wallet/pocket chains – no more than 3 inches
   - Holes/tears/worn places in pants/shorts/skirts/shirts may not be above fingertip length and not on the torso of shirts/blouses/dresses
   - Shirts or skirts covering leggings must be fingertip length plus **two inches**
   - No hair or body paints may be worn
   - Pajama apparel
   - “Sagging” pants (Pants are to be worn at the waist.)
   - Clothing with alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances advertisement references
   - Clothing displaying vulgar writing or symbols, sexual references, or weapons including knives and guns
   - Clothing displaying gang affiliation or gang symbols
   - Tattoos displaying gang affiliation or gang symbols

3. State health regulations require that shoes and shirts must be worn at all times in a public building.

4. While the displayed message on clothing may not be obscene or profane, the message may still be deemed inappropriate for an educational environment. Students will be asked not to wear the clothing. If parents are unable to bring dress-code appropriate clothing, students will be issued shorts or T-shirts to wear to minimize the impact to learning.

5. Students will be warned and given an opportunity to correct inappropriate dress. Continued violations will be considered in defiance of school staff.

**THIS DRESS CODE APPLIES TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS – SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT SEVEN**
Discipline
We should teach our children to have self-discipline. Discipline develops self-control, character, orderliness, efficiency, and self-restraint. Every student and his/her parent or guardian must read and sign the Spartanburg County District Seven Discipline Policy.

Dances
Due to health concerns, dances are suspended until further notice.

Parties
Due to health concerns, parties are suspended until further notice.

Smoking/Tobacco Products
No smoking or tobacco products are allowed in the building or on the school grounds at any time; offenders will be appropriately disciplined. McCracken Middle School is a smoke-free campus. This policy also includes the use of e-cigarettes, juules, or any vaping device.

Library
The library is open from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You must have a library E-Hall pass from one of your teachers to go to the library during school hours or before school. You may go to the library after school without a library pass. All books must be checked out at the desk and returned by their due date or you will pay a fine.

Lost and Found
Lost articles found in and around the school should be turned in to the main office. Students are encouraged to write their name in their coats and jackets. Articles without identification will be turned over to a charitable organization at the end of each nine weeks. MMS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Off Limits
1. All classrooms are off limits to students before 7:30 a.m. unless they have a pass from the teacher.
2. Parking lots are off limits the entire school day.
   **Students may not be in the building after 3:15 p.m. unless they are accompanied by a teacher.**

Cafeteria
Student behavior in the cafeteria should be based on courtesy and cleanliness.
Students eat lunch in the cafeteria and then may remain outside until the end of lunch. On rainy days, students may stay in the cafeteria area. Students may only use the restrooms near the cafeteria during lunch.
Students may purchase lunch/breakfast by depositing money into their account any morning before school in the cafeteria. A student ID card serves as your meal card. Applications for free or reduced lunch were mailed to your home address. During the year these applications are available from the cafeteria clerk. Student Lunch (regular) = $2.45; Student Breakfast (regular) = $1.60; Student Lunch (reduced) = 40¢; Student Breakfast (reduced) = 30¢; Adult Lunch = $4.00; Adult Breakfast = $2.35.

Student Lunches
Outside, commercially prepared lunches are not permitted at school. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Spartanburg School District Seven School Meal Prices for 2021-2022**

Prices are available and updated as necessary on the district website.
Test Re-Take Policy

The goal of McCracken Middle School’s retake policy is to actively involve the learner in the development of skills and habits that will assist his/her ability to obtain mastery of standards and tested skills. Teachers will provide opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery through retaking of a major assessment, excluding exams. Departments or teams of teachers will determine some of the specifics of the policy based on content and instructional needs. The following components will be a part of all policies.

- Students must initiate the process for a retake.
- Students may retake 1 test in each content area each 9 weeks.
- Students must make corrections prior to the retake.
- Students will retest within 2 weeks of the original test date.
- The grade on the retest will be the grade of record.
- Students not participating in YES and the P-8 Test Re-Take Policy
- 8th grade students will not be able to retake tests during the second semester, as we transition to Spartanburg High School.
- Copies of tests/exams are never sent home or given to parents/students.

Promotion Policy

Students must pass all four core academic courses (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies) in order to be promoted to the next grade level. If a student fails one or more of these courses they will be required to attend and pass Summer School to be promoted. Students failing any core academic course will be placed in a course credit recovery lab during the school year.

Exam Policy

1st semester exams will be given December 14-17, 2021. December 18th is a half day. School dismisses at 12:15. In lieu of second semester exams students participate in the YES Program, with the exception of high school credit courses. Students not participating in YES will take ALL exams. If YES Week cannot take place, all exams will be given. Exams are never given early for any reason. Please make your plans accordingly. All students should take their exams with their class at the appointed time.

If a student is absent due to illness or injury, a doctor’s note is required. The student must make arrangements with the teacher(s) involved to make up the exam within 10 school days of their return. Grades will be issued based on the grades in hand until the work is made up, then adjusted when exam grades are available.

If a student is absent due to unavoidable circumstances or family responsibilities, the student may appeal to Ms. Peach for approval to take his/her exam(s) late. Grades will be issued based on the grades in hand until the work is made up. Final semester grades will be adjusted when exam grades are available.

If a student is absent on exam days for no reason, the student will not be allowed to make up the exam(s) and will receive an exam grade of 0.

If a student is suspended during first semester exam days, he/she will not be allowed to take exams until he/she has served all of the suspension days. The student must make arrangements with the teacher(s) involved following their return to school to make up the exams. Students suspended at the end of the year will be required to come back in the summer to make up their exams. This will be handled through their grade level principal.

Any exam that is not taken will be recorded as a 0 on the student’s record and their grade averaged accordingly. Exam grades for 6th, 7th and 8th grade courses count 20% of the student’s final grade. However, if the 7th or 8th grade course carries a Carnegie unit, those exams count 20% of the student’s semester grade. If the 7th or 8th grade class requires an end-of-course exam, the exam will count 10% of the semester grade and the end-of-course exam will count 20% of the entire final grade.

Copies of exams are not sent home or distributed to parents or students. Parents may review exams with the teacher in a conference setting.

Exam Week or YES Week ~ May 24-May 27, 2022

Students participate in high interest and engaging Year End Studies. A pass/fail grade will be issued on May 28 during the Presentation of Learning Day. Students not participating in YES and the POL Day will be required to take All exams. Students absent for illness or injury must present a doctor’s note. If YES Week cannot take place, all exams will be taken.

School E-mail

Parents may correspond with individual teachers through e-mail at the school. E-mail addresses may be obtained by calling the school office, from the Spartanburg District Seven web page, or this handbook. The web address is www.spartanburg7.org. Click on District 7 Schools and Websites. Click on Contact › Staff Directory for an alphabetized list of teachers.
Guidance
As an integral part of the total instructional program at McCracken Middle, a comprehensive school counseling program is designed to equip students for academic success, to prepare them for the world of work, and to provide them with the resources necessary to live harmoniously with others. The program is a collaborative effort among students, parents, counselors, a career technician, administrators, and the community. The components of the counseling curriculum include educational development, character development, career development, and personal/social development. Counselors and career specialists are available to:

1. Help new students orient to our school with new teachers and friends in a different setting;
2. Arrange conferences whenever a student, a teacher, a parent, or the counselor feels it necessary;
3. Talk with any student, parent, or teacher;
4. Provide students and parents with education and career information;
5. Assist in test interpretation and evaluation of capabilities and interests;
6. Develop individual graduation plans during 8th grade; and
7. Classroom guidance and character education lessons.

Medication
Administering any prescription medication to students is not a recommended procedure for schools, but at times, it becomes necessary. Any medicine that needs to be administered at school will include the following:

1. Written order from a physician detailing the name of the drug, dosage, and time interval medications are to be taken.
2. Written permission from the parent or guardian of the student requesting that the school district comply with the physician’s order.
3. Medication must be brought to the school in a container labeled by the pharmacy or physician and given to the nurse.

In the event that the nurse is absent, the grade level guidance counselor/AP will assist with medication. Please contact our school nurse, Ms. Stephanie Russell / Regina Robinson, with any questions.

Schedule Corrections
Students who require a class correction must fill out a schedule correction form (obtained from the guidance office). Students should give requests to the students’ guidance counselor. No changes are made without the proper form and procedure. No schedule corrections for semester courses will be made after the first five days of the class without a penalty. For year-long courses, no schedule changes will be made after the first ten days of the class without penalty. The penalty for late withdrawal from a class is a W/F grade.

Student I.D. Cards
All students must have a picture Student I.D. Card made at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment anytime during the year. All I.D. cards are $5.00. This card is to be carried with the student whenever he/she is on school property. The card is required to receive textbooks, check out library books, attend home athletic events and dances, and serves as the student’s lunch ticket. Periodic I.D. checks will be conducted throughout the year. Failure to have an I.D. card during check will result in detention hall.

Textbooks
Students are reminded that they are responsible for their textbooks, which are the property of the state and must be accounted for at the end of the year. Students should always check their book when issued and report any damage to the teacher in order to avoid being fined for book damage upon return. Students are encouraged to use book covers to protect books and avoid fines being assessed. Students will be charged for any books, lost, stolen, or missing that they were issued by the school.

Book refunds will only be made at the end of each semester. A copy of the paid receipt with Ms. AJ’s notation that the book has been returned is required before a refund may be issued.

Nutrition Policy
Food & Drink in Classrooms: Only water in clear water bottles is allowed in class. Food is served in the Eagle Eatery.
**MacBooks**

Students are also responsible for the care and maintenance of their MacBook. Students are to abide by the Student Pledge and the guidelines found on 7ignites web page at 7ignites.com. Parents new to MMS are required to attend a MacBook 101 orientation prior to their child receiving a MacBook.

**Withdrawal**

The procedure for withdrawal from school or transferring to another school is as follows:

1. Parents must come into the office and speak with the Attendance Secretary Registrar, Ms. Ruff.
2. All fees must be paid, textbooks and library books must be returned. Student's MacBook Air, case, and charging cords must be returned in good working order.
3. Return completed form to attendance secretary before school records can be requested.

**Detention Hall**

Detention Hall is held after school from 3:15-4:00 p.m. Students are expected to work silently on academic assignments and to refrain from any disruptive behavior. The only acceptable excuse for not reporting to detention hall is an excused absence from school. Multiple offenses of Detention Hall may result in more severe consequences.

**In-School Program**

ISP will be assigned to students whose behavior warrants removal from classes for a period of time, but suspension out of school is not recommended. This is an effort by the administration to give students an opportunity to improve their behavior. Failure to comply with the rules of ISP will result in suspension out of school. Multiple offenses of ISP may result in more severe consequences. ISP and Detention Hall must be served in its entirety or made up.

**Bell Schedule 2021-2022**

**6th Grade**

- Transition To Soar ................................................................. 7:45-7:50
- Soar .................................................................................... 7:50-8:10
- 1st Period ............................................................................. 8:15-9:05
- 2nd Period ........................................................................... 9:10-10:00
- 3rd Period ............................................................................ 10:05-10:55
- Lunch .................................................................................. 11:00-11:27
- 4th Period ........................................................................... 11:32-12:22
- 5th Period ........................................................................... 12:27-1:17
- 6th Period ............................................................................ 1:22-2:12
- 7th Period ............................................................................ 2:17-3:10

**7th Grade**

- Transition To Soar ................................................................. 7:45-7:50
- Soar .................................................................................... 7:50-8:10
- 1st Period ............................................................................. 8:15-9:05
- 2nd Period ........................................................................... 9:10-10:00
- 3rd Period ............................................................................ 10:05-10:55
- Lunch .................................................................................. 11:00-11:50
- 4th Period ........................................................................... 11:55-12:22
- 5th Period ........................................................................... 12:27-1:17
- 6th Period ............................................................................ 1:22-2:12
- 7th Period ............................................................................ 2:17-3:10

**8th Grade**

- Transition To Soar ................................................................. 7:45-7:50
- Soar .................................................................................... 7:50-8:10
- 1st Period ............................................................................. 8:15-9:05
- 2nd Period ........................................................................... 9:10-10:00
- 3rd Period ............................................................................ 10:05-10:55
- 4th Period ........................................................................... 11:00-11:50
- 5th Period ........................................................................... 11:55-12:45
- Lunch .................................................................................. 12:50-1:17
- 6th Period ............................................................................ 1:22-2:12
- 7th Period ............................................................................ 2:17-3:10

Students are always dismissed by their teachers, not a bell. Students will only be dismissed from school at class change.
Inclement Weather Schedules
One Hour Delay Schedule (OMIT 2nd Period)

First Bell: ............................................................................................................. 8:45
Tardy Bell to SOAR: .......................................................................................... 8:50
SOAR: ........................................................................................................... 8:50-9:05
Dismissal from SOAR (Follow schedule TBD): ......................................... 9:05

Two Hour Delay Schedule (OMIT 2nd & 3rd Period)

First Bell: ............................................................................................................. 9:45
Tardy Bell to SOAR: .......................................................................................... 9:50
SOAR: ........................................................................................................... 9:50-10:05
Dismissal from SOAR (Follow schedule TBD): ......................................... 10:05

Athletic Policies

As a member of the South Carolina High School League, McCracken Middle School follows all guidelines outlined in the league handbook concerning rules for scheduling, conduct of games, officials, and eligibility requirements. Specifics concerning each of these areas can be found by going online to the SCHSL website: www.SCHSL.org.

Key Information from the high school league handbook is listed below.

1. **Students must be academically promoted to be eligible.** Anyone repeating a grade can become eligible if he/she is meeting the district’s promotion policy at the end of the first semester.
2. Once a student establishes his/her eligibility at a school, he/she can become eligible at a member school by having a bona-fide change of address or a hardship release granted by the South Carolina High School League. Otherwise the student will be ineligible for participation for one year.
3. 6th-grade students may not participate in athletics per the SC High School League Rule.

**Key information concerning the conduct of teams at McCracken Middle School is listed below.**

1. Each coach will determine his/her own team rules concerning practices, absences, tardiness and behavior. Violations of those rules may include penalties such as extra practice time, conditioning, suspension or dismissal from the team.
2. Student athletes at McCracken who are suspended may not practice or participate in a game during the suspension period. The student must also sit out the first scheduled contest following the suspension.
3. If a student receives a second suspension or has accumulated six days of Out of School suspensions, whichever comes first, he/she will be dismissed from that team. Any student with three offenses of Out of School suspensions will not be allowed to participate in McCracken athletics the entire year.
4. To participate in athletics second semester, student athletes must meet certain academic requirements from the first semester. Any student who receives more than one “F” in the four core courses during first semester will not be allowed to participate in athletics for second semester.

As in the case with discipline matters, decisions may be appealed to the next level of administration, including the athletic director and the principal.

Students are reminded that the Code of Conduct is in effect for all MMS and School District Seven events and athletic functions including events at Spartanburg High School.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Band

McCracken Middle School offers a complete program for the study of wind and percussion instruments. Band is offered in grades sixth, seventh and eighth and is a program built from the feeder elementary school band programs of District Seven. Band is a full-year course. In order to enroll in band, a student must complete the Spartanburg School District Seven elementary band program or have at least one year’s experience in a band program from a different school district. *Select students may be invited to participate in the SHS Marching Band. MMS Jazz Band, Flute Choir and Master Musician Series are audition bands for interested band students. Director: Janet Kuntz

Beta Club

The Beta Club is an organization which stresses high academic achievement and dedicated service to the school and community. In order to be eligible for membership, 7th and 8th grade students must obtain and maintain all A’s and B’s. The combination of academic excellence and loyal service should make the Beta Club a rewarding experience and a great privilege for all members. Sponsors: Priscilla Martin, Jami Hughes.

Cheerleaders

McCracken has one cheerleading squad. The squad consists of 16 girls. The selection process is advertised and takes place in the spring for interested rising 7th and 8th graders. Experienced cheerleaders from area colleges select the new squads.

Chorus

McCracken has several choirs available in addition to a pop ensemble. Southern Accents is an auditioned group of singers that meet one day a week after school for rehearsals. This ensemble of approximately sixteen singers performs at all choir concerts, special events both at school and in the community and sometimes with choreography. Auditions for these groups take place in August for the school year. Director: Leigha Pace.

Culinary Arts Club

The Culinary Arts Club exposes interested students to the food service industry and culinary arts. The club features guest speakers, field trips, competitions and service learning projects that will increase the students’ talent and knowledge of food related topics. Interested 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who are enrolled in Foods and You should contact Ms. Thomas. Sponsor: Karon Thomas

Girl Power Club

The Girl Power Club benefits its participants by providing them with a level of support and encouragement needed to be successful academically, socially and interpersonally. The organization is open to any McCracken Middle School female student. As a guidance program, the students participate in goal setting, college tours, and drug prevention activities. Sponsor: Ava Long

Environmental Club

The Environmental Club is interested in the conservation and preservation of natural resources. It provides an opportunity for students to become involved in wise use of resources and encourage others to respect the environment. Activities include maintaining a weather station, recycling, "Adopt-a-Highway" maintenance, and nature related activities. Sponsor: Darlene Porter, Jennifer Keiner.
Newspaper
The Eagle Eye is published periodically to "show off" excellent efforts by our students. Included are creative writings and artwork by students at all three grade levels. Strive to have something published in the Eagle Eye. Sponsor: Kellie Matheson.

Orchestra
Students interested in orchestra may enroll in the course by grade level. The orchestra classes are part of a continuing program which begins in the fifth grade and continues through the high school. Students make a year long commitment to the orchestra program. Opportunities for field trips, solo/ensemble activities, camp and private lesson scholarships, All-State participation, and performances are all a part of the orchestra curriculum. Students attend a limited number of after school rehearsals (approximately 7 per semester). Opportunities are also available for students to participate in Green Sneaker Fiddlers, Chamber Orchestra and the After Hours Concert Club. Director: March Moody.

Sports
Our athletic department is great! Winning is a tradition at our school. Listen for tryout times, see the coaches, and earn your place on these winning teams: football, wrestling, boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball. Every 7th and 8th student can participate in the McCracken sports program by supporting our teams by attending the games. Catch the winning spirit! Athletic Director: Ralph Fowler.

Student Council
The Student Council is made up of a president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, an historian, a publicity chairman, senators from each of the three grades, and representatives from each grade level. The council officers and the senators make up the Cabinet (the planning group for the Council) which meets at 7:40 a.m. most Thursdays. The full Student Council meets on Thursdays at 7:40 a.m. as needed. The purpose of the Student Council is to promote good citizenship and school spirit and to sponsor activities and service projects for the entire school to enjoy. Some of their projects include pre-school Orientation, the Back-To-School Dance, the Christmas Project for needy children, and special events for all grades in the spring. Student Council members must maintain an average of “C” or better with no “Fs” and acceptable behavior with no suspensions. Sponsor: David Burnett, Scott Anderson.

Yearbook
The McCracken yearbook, The Talon, is always fantastic! Volunteer your time and talent to help make it even better. Be a part of recording the history of McCracken Middle School. Sponsor: Alan Ruff.

Distinguished Gentlemen
Distinguished Gentlemen promotes future success through interpersonal, academic and social skill development. The gentlemen will work on communication skills, goal setting, professionalism, and career readiness. There will also be opportunities for college tours. Sponsor: Ernest Rice.
The students riding in the District Seven school buses have a very important role in the safe operations of the buses. They have a responsibility to conduct themselves as not to jeopardize the lives of their companions as well as to protect their own lives. The bus driver has a full time job in the safe operation of the bus and should not have to direct his/her attention elsewhere. Therefore, we are asking that parents talk with their children concerning their conduct on the bus and their cooperation with the bus driver. Listed below are some of the requirements that are of vital importance for the safe operation of the bus.

- Following all safety procedures.
- Respecting and cooperating with the bus driver at all times.
- Getting on and off the bus in an orderly manner.
- Filling of seats starts at the rear of the bus – unless seats are assigned by the driver – (saving seats for friends is not permitted)
- Remaining in seats until the destination is reached.
- No shouting, but talking in conversational tones.
- No eating or drinking on the bus.
- No throwing of objects in or out of the bus.
- No hitting or playing with other students.
- No sticking of head, arms, or legs out of windows.
- No pushing or shoving while loading or unloading the bus.
- No marking, cutting, or defacing of interior or exterior of bus.
- No unnecessary talking with the bus driver while bus is in motion.
- No smoking or use of any tobacco products - including e-cigarettes - on the bus.
- No swearing or use of vulgar language.
- No object (band instrument, back pack, school project, etc.) larger than can be transported in student's lap nor exceed the height of the bus seat will be allowed to be transported on the bus.
- No use of cell phones or CD players/MP3 players/Radios while on the bus. If seen it will be taken by driver and turned in to school principal.

Transportation is to be provided for children living more than 1.5 miles from the school they are designated to attend, providing the bus can be operated safely and the students abide by the rules and regulations. Transportation requests for students needing to be transported to a stop other than their home address must follow these steps: 1. Parent/Guardian must submit request in writing to the school Principal. 2. Principal must approve/disapprove. 3. If approved request must be faxed to Transportation Office for Director’s approval/disapproval. 4. School will contact parent/guardian with decision. (THIS PROCESS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE 12 NOON ON DAY OF REQUEST.)

Students who fail to abide by the rules cited above while riding a school bus will be given a Referral Report indicating his/her misbehavior. This referral will be given to the school principal/assistant principal and issued to the student by the principal/assistant principal. Disciplinary offenses related to school bus transportation will be treated in accordance with the district code of conduct as approved by the District Seven Board of Trustees.

We want your child/children to arrive safely at school and return home safely each day. Your cooperation with this policy is helpful in our accomplishing this.

Linton Carpenter
Director of Transportation
Behavior Consequences

Students who are guilty of repeated breaches of conduct may be suspended or expelled if the offense does not already carry such punishment. Though not specifically mentioned in this list of breaches of conduct, any act which is detrimental to the good order, best interest, and physical safety of the school may be punished according to its nature and degree at the discretion of the administration. Please see the District Seven Code of Conduct for a detailed description of discipline offenses and consequences.

Definition of Bullying

SECTION 59-63-120
A gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function where the school is responsible for the child or on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop and that:
   a) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of harming a student, physically, or emotionally, or damaging the student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or
   b) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Reporting
Any student who believes he/she has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying should file a complaint with the principal or his or her designee. Such a complaint may also be filed by a student’s parent. If any employee receives a complaint of harassment, intimidation, or bullying or observes any behavior which could amount to harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the employee must transmit the complaint to the school’ principal or other designated contact person as soon as practicable.

Consequences for Engaging in Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
If the investigation determines that harassment, intimidation, or bullying has occurred, the administration at the school shall take reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, and effective corrective action. Examples of corrective action include, but are not limited to, disciplinary action against the aggressor, up to and including termination of an employee or expulsion of a student; special training or other interventions; apologies; dissemination of statements that the school does not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying; independent reassessment of student work; and/or tutoring.

Non-Students on Grounds
The principal is empowered to take appropriate action against non-students who trespass on school grounds. Such action will include the right to call the police authorities and swear out warrants. The authority for such action in Section 16-17-420 of the South Carolina Code of Laws as follows:

Disturbing School. It shall be unlawful:
1. For any person willfully or unnecessarily
   a. To interfere with or to disturb in any way or any place the students or teachers of any school or college in this state
   b. To loiter about such school or college premises, or
   c. To act in an obnoxious manner thereon; or
2. For any person to
   a. Enter upon such school or college premises, or
   b. Loiter around the premises, except on business, without the permission of the principal or president in charge.

Any person violating any of the provisions in this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, or conviction thereof, shall pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days.

Searches and Seizures
Students and parents should be aware that state law treats persons entering the premises of the school as having consented to a reasonable search, with or without probable cause, of such persons and their effects, including without limitation, lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses bookbags, wallets and satchels.

Field Trips and Other School Sanctioned Events
The Code of Conduct is in effect at all McCracken Middle School and District Seven events. Students assigned ISP or OSS will not be allowed to attend the first daytime trip or school event following the suspension. Students who have been assigned an out of school suspension may not attend any overnight field trips.
What is ODYSSEY? ODYSSEY consists of a series of programs provided by Spartanburg County School District Seven to meet the needs of gifted and talented students in grades 3-12. At the middle school level, ODYSSEY III serves academically/intellectually gifted and talented students through courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science. Theatre ODYSSEY serves students gifted and talented in the theatre arts through a class one afternoon after school each week, Saturday workshops, and a summer program.

How do students qualify for ODYSSEY III? Students qualify for ODYSSEY when they meet South Carolina state identification criteria. The criteria are related to student performance in three dimensions: A–Reasoning Ability, B–High Achievement in Reading and/or Mathematical Areas, and C–Intellectual/Academic Performance.

A student in grades 3-12 automatically qualifies for placement based on a composite aptitude or intelligence test score greater than or equal to the 96th national age percentile. A student can also qualify by meeting the criteria in two of the three performance dimensions. Assessment in Dimension A is based upon student scores from an aptitude or intelligence test. Beginning on July 1, 2004 a student must score at or above the 93rd national age percentile in order to meet the criterion for this dimension. Assessment in Dimension B is based on student scores from either a nationally normed achievement test such as Terra Nova, MAP, or the South Carolina READY test (grades 3-8 only). A student must score at or above the 94th national percentile on an approved reading or math subtest or Advanced on the READY in Reading or Math to meet the criterion for Dimension B. All students are automatically screened in Dimension A and Dimension B whenever new scores are available through the state and district testing programs. Individual students are screened whenever they are referred for this purpose. Performance information for Dimension C is collected only for those students who meet the criteria in Dimension A or Dimension B but not both. Information about Dimension C is provided to parents of children who are being assessed in that dimension. Note: Privately administered tests may be used for advisory purposes only. Scores from these tests can not be used for identification.

When are students identified for ODYSSEY III? Most students entering ODYSSEY III have been identified as academically gifted and talented during their elementary school years. Other students are identified whenever their current performance profile indicates that they have met placement requirements. Students who do not meet state criteria in one year may be considered for placement again each year. It is possible for a student to meet state criteria and qualify for academic ODYSSEY placement at any grade level from the end of grade 2 to the end of grade 11.

How can a student be referred for possible placement in ODYSSEY III? Parents may refer a child for screening by completing a parent referral form. These forms are available in each school office. Students may also refer themselves. Self-referral forms are available in the Guidance Department for this purpose. Staff members also refer students for screening.

How do students qualify for Theatre ODYSSEY? South Carolina uses a process of audition and interview to identify students gifted and talented in the arts. Theatre ODYSSEY holds auditions each fall in each middle school. When are students identified for Theatre ODYSSEY? Each fall the Theatre ODYSSEY teacher visits every 7th grade Language Arts class to introduce the program and explain the audition process. Signs announcing the time and place of auditions for 7th and 8th grade students are posted in each middle school.

IDEA and Section 504

The Department of Special Education in Spartanburg School District Seven offers a continuum of services for students who have a qualifying disability under the realm of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Assistance is also provided for students who are disabled and qualify for services according to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). Should assistance be required regarding information or access to these services, please contact the school guidance counselor or the Department of Special Education.
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</table>
Academic Calendar 2021-2022

August
9 – 13 Staff Development Days
16 First Day of School

September
6 Labor Day Holiday
16 Progress Reports

October
18 45th Day/End of 1st 9 weeks
25 Report Cards

November
1 Staff Development Day
2 Election Day Holiday
18 Progress Reports
24 – 26 Thanksgiving Holidays

December
17 Half Day/End 1st Semester
20 – 31 Winter Holidays

January
3 Staff Development Day
4 Students Return
10 Report Cards
11 90th Day
17 MLK, Jr. Holiday

February
7 Progress Reports
14 Staff Development Day

March
17 135th Day/End of 3rd 9 Weeks
18 Staff Development Day
23 Report Cards

April
4 – 8 Spring Break
11 Staff Development Day

May
26 Half Day (Students)
27 Half Day/Last Day (Students)
30 Memorial Day Holiday
31 Staff Development Day

First/Last Day of School
- 2022

- Holiday
- 135th Day /End of 3rd 9 Weeks

Days missed due to inclement weather are typically designed as eLearning days. In the event a missed day is not made up through eLearning, in-person makeup days will be held on the following Staff Development days: Feb 14, Mar 18, and May 31.