



A.N. McCallum High School

Principal Update

Welcome Back to Mac! August 2022

Greetings Mac families! I am thrilled to start another exciting year at A.N. McCallum High School. This is a special year for us because it marks the 70th year of McCallum at home on Sunshine Drive.

The start of the school year always comes with big feelings for both our students and staff. Our goal is to help students know they are loved and supported while empowering our staff to meet their students' varying needs in a healthy learning environment where everyone can excel. If you are new to the Mac family, welcome! You are starting an adventure with an amazing community. Please know we are here to help.

We are Partners in your Child's Education

Last year, I dropped my new kindergartener off at his elementary school and felt like I was putting my world into the hands of his teachers and support staff. All parents understand this feeling. Parents who are *also* educators have insight that other parents may not. I simply *knew* my child would be loved by his teachers. I was excited to know he would get to experience this sensation of love and acceptance through the magic of education. I also knew he would likely push their buttons just like he sometimes pushes mine. But, the love would be there no matter the challenges.

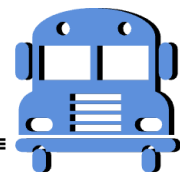
I CALL MY STUDENTS
"MY KIDS" BECAUSE
IN OUR YEAR TOGETHER
THEY AREN'T JUST KIDS
ON MY CLASS LIST,
THEY BECOME A PART
OF MY HEART.

Mac educators love our students! Teachers and our support staff come to school every day to serve kids. My hope for this year is that we can work together with the knowledge that your child is loved both at home and at school.

Monday, August 15

[2022-23 Bell Schedule](#)

FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL



How we Communicate

We want to keep you informed. There are many ways we communicate with families and students:

- **MacJournalism** - Our journalism program keeps us all informed through their MacJ posts on Instagram (@macjournalism). They rarely miss an event or an important announcement. Note: if you don't have an Instagram account, the MacJournalism posts are worth getting an account and just following their posts.
- **Blend Announcements** - Depending on the nature of the announcement, students and parents will receive Blend Announcements.
- **Morning Announcements** - Our Mac Student Council does morning announcements, as well as a moment of silence and pledges, at the beginning of 2nd and 6th periods.
- **MacKnightly eNewsletter** - Our wonderful Mac PTSA sends out a weekly newsletter called the MacKnightly Newsletter with important announcements. To sign up to receive this, please sign up at the bottom of this webpage: <https://mccallumptsa.org/>.
- **Principal Update** - I send a Principal Update (like this one) about once a month. It serves to connect and highlight important information.
- **Emails and Texts through School Messenger** - School Messenger is the system used by AISD to send group emails and text messages. Occasionally, parents have accidentally opted out of receiving these by indicating they would like their email made private. To check your settings, go to your Portal, click on the tile "Frontline SIS Self-Serve", click on the tab "Edit Contact Info", and scroll down to check that you have indicated "No" to making your email private (unless, of course, you'd like to opt out of emails)
- **Coffee/Tea with the Principal** - Every month I hold a Morning Coffee with the Principal and an Evening Tea with the Principal. We start each session with an update on all things Mac and then move to Q&A. I hold both the morning and evening with the hopes that one will fit your schedule, though you are always invited to attend both. These are typically held over Zoom but I plan on holding a few on campus this year as well.

Coffee & Tea with Principal Griffith

Let's connect and talk about all things Mac. I'll hold this month's coffee and tea right during the week before the start of school and answer any lingering questions you may have. You are invited to join me for either (or both!) of the following gatherings:

Evening Tea with the Principal:

Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Morning Coffee with the Principal:

Friday, August 12 at 9:15 a.m.



Both meetings will use this Zoom Code:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92246843505?pwd=OTY4RXQ0OHJsb0c0aZrRVR5R3FoZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 4684 3505

What to do if (when) my student has a concern in the classroom?

We are in the business of people. We can expect that there will be differences of opinion, misunderstandings, confusion in communication, etc. What do you do when something happens? Please follow these steps when addressing a concern or misunderstanding.

- **STEP 1:** As often as possible, we want our students to practice advocating for themselves. The first step in addressing a concern is to encourage your student to speak with their teacher. Most problems can be resolved at this level and it is great practice for students to become advocates in their own lives.
- **STEP 2:** If you and your student feel there is still an issue, please email your teacher directly. You can find their contact information in the [AISD Directory](#) or by emailing through the Parent Portal Frontline Self-Service.
- **STEP 3:** The best next step is for the student or their parent to reach out to their support team of AP and/or counselor to help resolve the problem



Your Mac Support Teams

It's important you know your student's support team - their Assistant Principal and Counselor. We have a few changes to our team this year.

	Assistant Principal	Counselor
All Student in Fine Arts Academy	Gabe Reyes gabe.reyes@austinisd.org	Shelley Goldstein shelley.goldstein@austinisd.org
Last Names A - GO (not in FAA)	Andy Baxa andy.baxa@austinisd.org	Loren Croom loren.croom@austinisd.org
Last Names GP - PA (not in FAA)	Larry Featherstone larry.featherstone@austinisd.org	Cristela Garcia cristela.garcia@austinisd.org
Last Names PE - Z (not in FAA)	Tammy Stone tamara.stone@austinisd.org	Marc Garcia marc.garcia@austinisd.org

- 504 Coordinator - **Josh Amy** - joshua.amy@austinisd.org
- College and Career Counselor - **Camille Nix** - camille.nix@austinisd.org
- Principal's Admin Assistant - **Bonnie Baker** - bonnie.baker@austinisd.org
- Guidance Secretary - **Kerren Campa** - kerren.campa@austinisd.org

From the College & Career Center

ATTENTION - All students who requested ACC Courses - IMPORTANT

Fall Austin Community College Dual Credit Update

Deadline to register for ACC courses is August 5 - no exceptions! After the 5th, if you have not fully registered for an ACC course, you will be dropped and placed in AP, OnRamps, or regular courses based upon your course history. Any student who indicated interested in a fall ACC course has received correspondence via email on how to fully register.

All of the steps outlined [HERE](#) must be completed in order for a student to take ACC courses.

Remember that on-campus ACC courses only get to happen if we have 16 students enrolled in each section. If your course doesn't make, you will be placed in AP, OnRamps, or regular courses.

Senior Information

Class of 2023, are you ready? It is going to be a FUN year!

Seniors, sign up [HERE](#) to attend college application work sessions on the following days:

- August 8 at 1:00 pm - Essay help
- August 10 at 1:00 pm - Application set up
- August 11 at 10:00 am - Resume help
- August 12 at 2:00 pm - Application set up

Here is a checklist of tasks to accomplish prior to graduation:

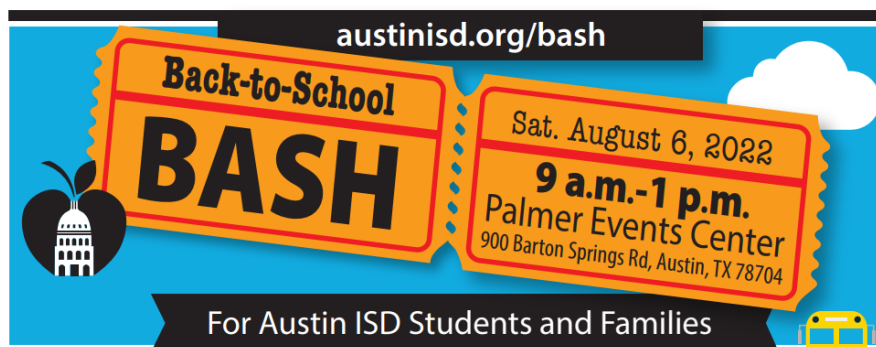
- Apply to four year or two year school, enlist in the military, or apply to the workforce*
- Take and pass the Texas State Initiative exam (many of you are exempt - stay tuned for more info!)*
- Complete the FAFSA or the opt-out form.*

School Supplies

Students should come to school with a refillable water bottle, writing utensil, paper, fully charged Chromebook, and a backpack in which to put it all. If your student is new and doesn't yet have an AISD issued Chromebook, please be on the lookout for an email with information on getting one. Teachers will communicate specific needs for their classes to their students during that first week of school.

Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar

- **Make-Up Freshmen Orientation** - If your incoming 9th grader was not able to attend the June Transition Camp, please consider them attending the make-up session on Thursday, August 4 from 9:05 - 10:35 in the MAC Theatre on the north side of campus. AISD will run the buses for this event. You can find your bus schedule at <https://www.austinisd.org/transportation> (note: the Bus Finder application will be ready to go sometime this coming week).
- **Back to School Knight** - Mark your calendars for our Back to School Knight on the evening of **Monday, September 12**. Please note the AISD high school date for Back to School Night is September 8, but we have a varsity football game that night. We will do ours on September 12 instead.
- **High School 101 for Freshmen Parents & College 101 for Senior Parents**- These sessions will be led by our counseling team to help incoming parents learn the ins and outs of high school and senior parents navigate next steps. *Date/Time TBD*
- **Austin ISD Back to School Bash** - Saturday, August 6 - [Read more here](#)



Period Products at Mac



I have wonderful news! Austin ISD will now be providing free period products in all girls and gender neutral bathrooms. This is a great thing for all our students who experience periods at school. You can read more about this in KUT article [“Getting your Period at School is the Worst. Austin ISD is Trying to Make it Better.”](#)

We have already received the supplies and will ensure they are in bathrooms on the first day of school. What’s worse than having your period at school? Having your period on the **FIRST** day of school :)

Drop Off & Pick Up at Mac

Sunshine Drive is used by AISD buses to drop off and pick up students who ride the bus. Because of this, Sunshine Drive from Houston to Stark is off limits to private transportation pick up in the afternoon. Our recommendation is that you communicate with your student a rendezvous location along Houston St. or Grover Ave. We don't recommend that students cross the street to get to their pick up vehicle. The traffic seems to be worse the first couple weeks of school. Let's be patient and treat each other with civility as we get our students home safely.



Parking - This Year will be an Adventure!

The good news is that construction of our new dance studio is starting soon. The bad news is that we will have less parking to accommodate construction materials and equipment. The lot directly north of the MAC Theatre (the biggest slashed circle on map above) will be blocked and we will not have those parking spaces. The large lot right along Koenig is available *after* the band finishes practicing in the morning at 8:30ish. Students would need to move their cars right at the end of school so the band can practice. I highly recommend carpooling this year.

Parking is very limited.

My child has a doctor's appointment.

How do I pick them up early from McCallum?

Parking is limited and our school is very spread out. We want to make the process of picking up your child early as simple as possible. Here is the easiest way to pick your child up early for an appointment:

1. Send a note in the morning with your student The note should include:
 - a. Reason for leaving
 - b. Time leaving
 - c. Student ID#
 - d. Parent phone number
 - e. Parent signature
2. Student should take the note to the office before school (or at their earliest convenience) and receive a pink slip from the main office.
3. Student will show the pink slip to their teacher.
4. Parent picks up student at the main entrance by the flag poles at the designated time.
5. Student brings their pink slip and their doctor's note back to the main office.

*****If you follow these steps, there will be no need to find parking, come into the school, stand in a line, and wait for an office aide to retrieve your student. Woo hoo!**

Taco Shack Bowl

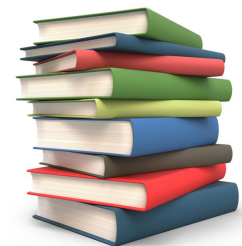


Mark your calendars for the 21st Annual Taco Shack Bowl between McCallum and Anderson on **Thursday, August 25**. The day starts with a very early morning Spirit Bowl at the two respective Taco Shacks near each school. The evening ends with the high energy football game at House Park. Go Knights!

Summer Reading Assignments

It's not too late!

All students in on-level and advanced English classes have summer reading assignments. Your student can find their assignment by [clicking here](#).



Recognize Excellent Customer Service

Do you know a McCallum HS staff member who went the extra mile? Submit them for a RAVE (Recognizing All Valuable Employees). We can't wait to hear about some of our employee's awesome deeds.

<https://www.austinisd.org/hr/customer-service/rave>



Thanks for taking the time to read the Principal Update. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year at McCallum.

Go Knights!

Thank you,

Nicole Griffith
Proud Principal
McCallum High School



McCALLUM
HIGH SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District