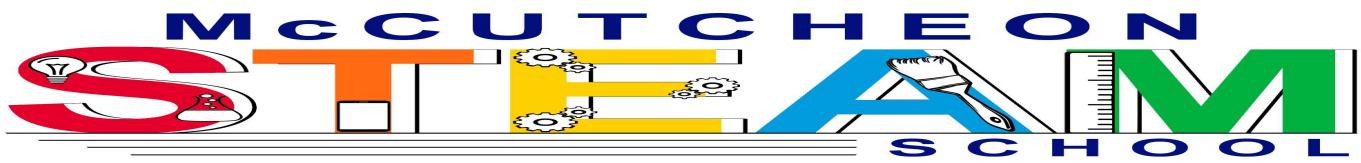


SEPTEMBER

2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 LABOR DAY No School for Students	3	4	5	6  Mustang Mall
9	10 Concert Band Tryouts  Grades 5-8 4:00-5:30 p.m.	11	12  Open House McCutcheon Open House 4:00-5:30 p.m.	13 Community Art Installation at Buttercup Park 3:45 p.m.
16	17	18  McCutcheon's Closet Clothing Drive 2:00-3:15 p.m.	19 Ravenswood Food Pantry  (by Door 4) 3:45-4:30 p.m.	20  Mustang Mall
23	24	25	26 8th Grade Field Trip @ Loyola Neuroscience Progress Reports Sent Home	27 professional DEVELOPMENT DAY  No School for Students
30				



McCutcheon Preschool Newsletter

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are so so excited for your child to be a part of our classroom at McCutcheon this year! This year we will be utilizing the Creative Curriculum, as mandated by Chicago Public Schools. We will be working on academic skills, functional skills such as following routine and directions, as well as social emotional skills. We engage all children in hands-on learning to promote curiosity, independence and kindergarten readiness skills. We are an inclusive and equitable school! Please always feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to work with you as a team!

As you prepare for this school year, we have a few reminders and requests below:

- * Please have your child arrive to school on time each day, as we begin our daily activities immediately!
- * We ask that you send your child with an extra set of clothing in case of spills or accidents! Pre-k can be messy!
- *If your child is not toilet trained, it is crucial you bring diapers & wipes to ensure your child stays clean and healthy throughout the school day.
- *We will be going outside and having gross motor time each day. We ask that your child comes to school in comfy shoes they can move around easily in.
- *Your child will be provided with meals each day at school. You are more than welcome to send them with lunches if need be. PLEASE make sure they are nut free, as we want to ensure are all students are safe.
- *Label everything with your child's name.

Best,
Ms. Bailey
Ms. Brokenrope
Ms. Hab
Mr. Kyle
Ms. West

ART - MS. CARAG

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MUSIC - MR. TEARSE

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STEAM - MS. DP & MS. VILLALOBOS

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION - MS. JASINSKI

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ENGLISH LEARNERS - MS. LIOTTA

Hello Families! My name is Mrs. Joselyn Liotta and I am the new English Language Program Teacher at McCutcheon. In my role I will be coordinating the school's diverse bilingual program and will also be providing support to students that speak a language other than English. In the coming weeks, I will be screening newly enrolled students that have another language listed on their Home Language Survey. This screener will allow our teachers and staff to provide your child with the appropriate instructional supports to help them succeed socially and academically. I look forward to being able to get to know you and your children!

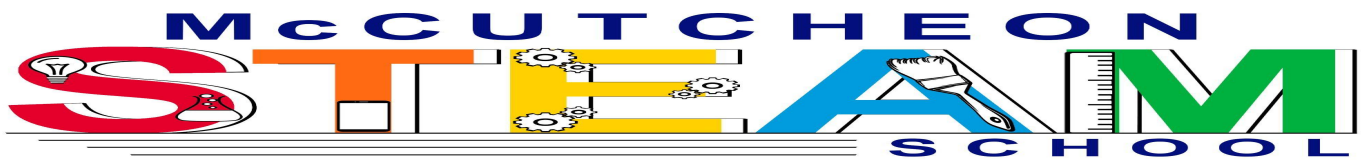
Kindly,
Mrs. Liotta

CONNECTEDNESS - MS. YANG

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McCutcheon Newsletter Grades K-2

KINDERGARTEN - MS. ARAGON

Welcome back to school! To learn more about what's happening in kindergarten, please email slaragon@cps.edu.

1ST GRADE - MS. SCARELLI

Hello families! September is here and we are buzzing with excitement in room 211! This month we will learn to be responsible for our belongings and bring our Homework Folder and Sight Word notebook to school each day. We will also begin working on our Sight Word Homework as well as our new math curriculum (Reveal Math). If you haven't already done so, please complete any required paperwork and submit it to the office or send it to school with your child and we will ensure it is delivered to the office staff. Thank you!

2ND GRADE - MS. HUDAK

Hello families and welcome back to a new school year! I am looking forward to working with you and your child! We will start off the year in reading by reviewing short vowel sounds and learning about informational text. We have a new curriculum in math, and we will begin with learning about place value. Our first science unit focuses on plants, and in social studies we will be discovering ways to learn about the past. Please check your child's red folder each day for their homework and any important papers, and please make sure your child completes their homework every night. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's have a wonderful year together!

K-2 CLUSTER - MS. JANKOWSKI

Welcome back to another school year! I am so excited for a great year with your child in room 213. We are going to learn a lot and have a lot of fun. As a reminder, your child will be bringing a folder home each afternoon with a daily report as well as any papers. This folder should be sent back to school each day. Our main curriculum is called Unique Learning System. Our first unit is called "This is My School!" By the end of this unit, the goal is for students to identify authority figures in the home, school and community. They will also identify purpose for rules in various situations and the consequences for not following them. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need any support.

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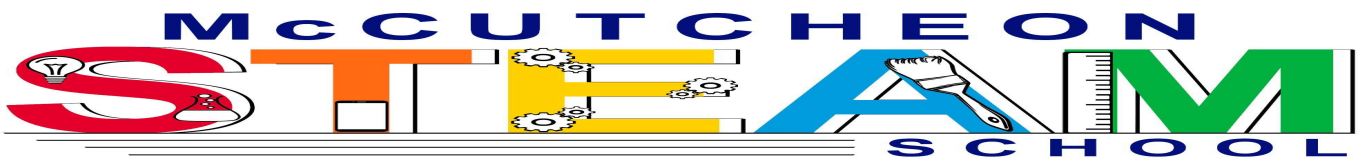
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McCutcheon Newsletter Grades 3-5

3RD GRADE - MS. KELLY

Hello third grade families! We have been hard at work getting to know one another and learning about classroom routines. Thank you to those of you who sent in school supplies with your child. In Reading, we are learning how to retell fables and folktales. In Math, we have started our first unit about place value, rounding, adding, and subtracting. Please ensure your child is attending school everyday on time. Starting Wednesday, September 4th, students will begin taking their beginning of the year assessments - STAR and I-Ready. Student scores will be sent home when testing has been completed. I'm looking forward to working with you and your child this year! If you have any questions or questions, please feel free to contact me.

4TH GRADE - MS. MILLER

Hello Fourth Grade Families! I hope you are all doing well, happy first week of school! Our students have quickly adapted to their new routines, and we've been diving into a range of subjects with enthusiasm. I am honored and excited to be your child's teacher this year.

This month, we're focusing on building a strong classroom community and setting goals for the year ahead. We have already started our first reading and math units- both on how to be a successful learner in those content areas. Soon we will begin learning about fractions in math and writing summaries and determining a story's theme in literacy. Our first science unit will be all about Earth's features, and our first social studies unit will dive into our government.

Again, I am thrilled to be your child's teacher and am truly looking forward to partnering with you to ensure their success in 4th grade this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,
Ms. Sparks
Email: bamiller7@cps.edu
Phone: (872)-215-1565
(Monday-Friday 8am-5pm)

5TH GRADE - MS. ANDERSON

Hooray for a new school year! These 5th graders are off to a great start. We've spent the past few days team building, letter writing, and playing lots of games. My heart is full of joy and excitement. It's going to be a beautiful year of hard work, grit, and growth!

3-5 CLUSTER - MR. LEMASTER

We are starting the year off strong! To begin the year, we are focusing on classroom rules and procedures. We are practicing how to do morning group, rotate through centers, be a good friend, and more! In ELA, the theme is leadership, and we will read different stories about leaders and how to be a leader ourselves. In math, the focus is on reviewing addition and subtraction skills. In science, we will begin to learn about different types of animals and what makes them unique. Along the way, we will be doing STEAM activities, Special Olympics games, and Fun Friday crafts. 202 is going to have a great year!

ART - MS. CARAG

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MUSIC - MR. TEARSE

Hello McCutcheon families and welcome back to school! I am so happy to be back at work, making music and having fun with your wonderful children each day. To start the year, we will be exploring the structure of music, basic musical elements, and review our solfege and basic rhythmic figures. We will be checking out a wide variety of music, but entering September we will begin checking out Hispanic musical traditions and artists for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly Chicago Children's Choir) will be sending a choir director to work with 3rd-5th grade students during one of their Music/Art/P.E. classes each week. I am so excited to have Uniting Voices come to work with our students, and cannot wait to hear them perform! Please reach out to me via email (ptearse@cps.edu) if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns.

STEAM - MS. DP & MS. VILLALOBOS

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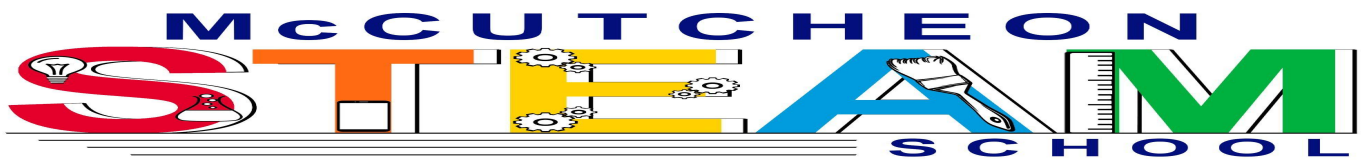
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McCUTCHEON Newsletter Grades 6-8

ELA/6TH GRADE HOMEROOM - MR. VEACH

Welcome back everyone! I am excited to start this school year off at McCUTCHEON. This month the 6th grade class will be exploring the essential question "What makes a hero" and we will be reading fantasy texts including the novel "The Smoking Mirror". 7th grade will be discussing the essential question "How is our identity shaped" and we will be reading the book "A Long Walk to Water". In 8th grade the essential question is "What is home?" and we will be reading "House on Mango Street". Please remember that students should be independently reading every night at home. If you have any questions please contact me at naveach@cps.edu. Thank you and I look forward to working with everyone this year.

MATH/7TH GRADE HOMEROOM - MS. DESILVA

We will start the year by getting to know one another, setting goals and expectations, and practicing routines and procedures. These things will set us up to have a successful, supportive, and efficient math class all year long! The second week of school, students will be completing Beginning of the Year (BOY) testing to assess their current math levels. We will also begin exploring the new math curriculum and workbooks, Reveal Math!

SCIENCE/8TH GRADE HOMEROOM - MR. HENKIN

Welcome back families! I can't believe we are about to start another school year here at McCUTCHEON. I am happy to see and/or meet your middle students again for Science and STEAM!

For the first week of school we will be spending time learning about schoolwide and classroom expectations and norms, building classroom routines and procedures and getting to know each other. Additionally, we will begin to practice some Science and Engineering skills and practices to get back into the Science and STEAM mindset.

In science, we are starting our first units the second week of school. Our 6th graders will become microbiologists as they study the microscopic organisms on our bodies. Our 7th graders will become geologists and geographers as they study landscapes with a focus on Mars. Our 8th graders will become physicists as they study alternative forms of energy that we can use during rescue missions.

As a STEAM teacher this year I am excited to have our students further explore the world of STEAM. We will conduct STEAM challenges, enhance our technology skills such as typing, coding and programming, explore engineering among other STEAM-y things. We will also have time for BAM, ELA and Math enrichment, Social Emotional Learning and how to be successful students here at McCUTCHEON and beyond!

6-8 CLUSTER - MR. COLLINS

Hello parents and students! It's September already. Summer was a blast. We are all rested and ready to get back to work. We will start this month off celebrating Labor Day. Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement. Be prepared to be challenged in room 301. Come to class everyday ready to learn while having fun. This year we have many exciting resources and activities planned this year. I am excited and looking forward to seeing you all.

ART - MS. CARAG

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MUSIC - MR. TEARSE

Hello McCUTCHEON families and welcome back to school! I am so happy to be back at work, making music and having fun with your wonderful children each day. To start the year, students will be reflecting on their class songs they composed and performed last school year, as well as begin a 'refresher' unit covering our rhythmic, melodic, and expressive musical terms and definitions. This unit will provide students with a solid foundation of academic musical terms to use throughout the rest of the school year. We will be checking out a wide variety of music, but entering September we will begin checking out Hispanic musical traditions and artists for Hispanic Heritage Month.

I am excited to be working with both the Rock Band and Concert Band students this year after school! The Rock Band will meet after school from 4-5PM on Mondays; students have the option of performing many different instruments including guitar, bass, piano/keyboard, and voice among others.

The Concert Band will have a special event on September 10th from 4-5:30PM in the music room (102). These students will have the opportunity to try out all our different concert band instruments (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, snare drum, glockenspiel) at stations led by professional musicians!

Please reach out to me via email (ptearse@cps.edu) if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns.

STEAM - MS. DP & MS. VILLOBO

Welcome back students and families! We are planning another fun year filled with STEAM events, challenges, and activities. Middle School students will be having STEAM lab every day! Mr Henkin and Ms DeSilva will be teaching STEAM and more! We are excited for another great year! GOOOO STEAM!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - MS. JASINSKI

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Mrs. Liotta

CONNECTEDNESS - MS. YANG

McCUTCHEON's Open House is on September 12, 2024. You can come inside the school building to see where your students are learning and spending the whole school day! Meet the teachers, see the classroom, and join in on the McCUTCHEON community. We'll have free clothing and giveaways as always! We hope to see all of our families there!

COUNSELOR - MS. MALCOLM

All 8th graders will take the High School Admission Test on Wednesday, October 9th, 2024 at McCUTCHEON Elementary. For information on Chicago High Schools and the application process please go to go.cps.edu. The application process typically opens in September and closes in December-updates on exact dates will be communicated when they are available. Information sessions as well as the High School Fair will be communicated when they become available, please reach out to Ms. Malcolm with questions: kamalcolm@cps.edu.

A MESSAGE FROM ADMIN

Greetings McCUTCHEON Community! Welcome back to another exciting school year! I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our returning students, as well as those who are joining our school community for the first time. At McCUTCHEON STEAM Elementary School we believe in the power of education to transform lives and shape the futures of our Mustangs. Our team of educators and staff members are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential. We aim to foster a love of learning, critical thinking skills, and a sense of responsibility among our students. We have three core values that we speak into existence daily, Respect, Responsibility and Ready to learn. We have cultivated a culture and climate that will allow these core values to be experienced daily among our students. This year, we have exciting plans and initiatives in store for our students, families and community. We will continue to offer high quality curricula that combine academic excellence with social and emotional development. Our classrooms will be filled with engaging lessons, hands-on STEAM activities, creative arts, music and opportunities for collaboration and creativity. We will also continue to integrate technology into our lessons, empowering our students to become digital citizens prepared for high school, college and beyond. We understand the vital role you as parents and guardians play in your child's education. We value your partnership and encourage open communication. This year our school will host parent-teacher conferences, fun filled family events, host ongoing LSC Local School Council, BAC (Bilingual Advisory Committees), PAC (Parent Advisory Committees) meetings, and other events where we can come together to discuss your child's progress, address any concerns, and celebrate their achievements. We are excited to welcome you back to McCUTCHEON STEAM Elementary School for another year of growth, discovery, and success! Together, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, support one another, and create lasting memories. We believe that by working hand in hand, we can provide our students with the best possible education and prepare them for a bright future. Our Motto is We Are McCUTCHEON! Success Starts Here. We are planning on having another successful year with your partnership and support. Go Mustangs! Once again, welcome back! We look forward to an incredible year together.