



November 12, 2009

Quarter 1 Report Cards

Report Cards were mailed on Friday, November 13th. Please take the time to review this information with your child. If your child is not meeting your expectations of academic success, I encourage you to contact your child's guidance counselor at McCourt to discuss a strategy for improvement. Please keep in mind that the grades for art, technology education, home economics, and health/physical education are progress grades since these classes meet on a trimester basis.

Extracurricular Eligibility

We believe that a student's primary goal at school is to be academically successful. Please remember that students, who are not meeting expectations and/or failing two or more classes, are not eligible for extracurricular activities. This includes attendance at school dances, participation on athletic teams, and attendance at sporting events, and other after school programs. Please also be aware that this policy does not include staying with teachers for extra help. Eligibility for extracurricular activities is determined by school-wide progress reports or report card periods. Please see the Student Handbook, page 49, for more information.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences have been scheduled from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on November 19th and December 2nd. On these evenings you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their academic and behavioral performance over the first quarter of the school year. Parent-Teacher conferences allow for a very brief meeting with your child's teachers. If you feel that your concerns or questions will require more than five minutes, you are encouraged to contact your child's teachers to schedule a meeting outside of this event. In addition to meeting with your child's teachers you will have the opportunity to visit our Book Fair.

We are asking parents to adhere to the following schedule:

November 19th 6:00-8:00PM – Parents of students with last names A-K

December 2nd 6:00-8:00PM – Parents of students with last names L-Z

School Picture Retakes

Our photography company, Lifetouch, will be at McCourt Middle School on Tuesday, November 17th to take pictures of students who missed picture day or to retake pictures of students who would like them retaken. If you wish to have your child's pictures retaken, please send in the original picture package. If you would like to purchase

pictures, order forms are available in the main office, and attached to this email. If there are any problems with the pictures you received, you may contact Lifetouch directly at 828-5220.

Student Absences

As you may know, the number of students absent each day has been above what is typical. We are asking for your help. If your child is going to be out of school for any reason, please call and leave a message in the morning at 725-2092. This will eliminate the need for us to call you to check on your child. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Recent Fundraisers

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all of those in our McCourt community that participated in any of our recent fundraisers. Your participation and generosity have provided us with the opportunity to support programs and activity that we believe are essential to our middle school students. Thank you.

You can continue to support McCourt Middle School through donations of the following items: empty ink or toner cartridges from printers or copiers, old cell phones, and box tops for education. You can send your child to school with the items you wish to donate. They may turn them in to their homeroom teacher. Finally, McCourt Middle School is listed in the Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks for Education program. Please be sure that you direct your donations to McCourt.

Parent Coffee Hour

We will continue to provide an opportunity to meet with the assistant principal and principal during the school day. Last year this program was effective in answering questions and providing updates on school activities. The next Coffee Hour will be Wednesday, December 9th, at 8:30 in the McCourt library. We invite all McCourt parents to attend.

McCourt PTO

The next McCourt PTO meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the McCourt Library. All members of the McCourt community are invited to attend.

McCourt's Magic Traits

As you may know, McCourt Middle School implemented PBIS three years ago. This program is designed to encourage appropriate behavior from students by clarifying expectations and celebrating good behavior. This has been a very successful program at McCourt. Our magic traits are respectfulness, responsibility, and readiness to learn. These traits are center to our conversations with students about our expectations of them. We encourage you to also use these traits in conversations with your child. Throughout the year we will provide periodic updates on our PBIS program. Ask your child about the Great Traits Giveaway.

Upcoming Dates

November 9 Quarter 2 begins

November 17 Picture Retakes

- November 19 Parent – Teacher Conferences, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- December 2 Parent – Teacher Conferences, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- December 1 H1N1 School-Based Vaccination Clinic
- December 9 Parent Coffee Hour – 8:30 a.m. in the McCourt Library
PTO meeting – 7:00 p.m. in the McCourt Library
- December 8 Arrival of Quarter 2 Progress reports
- December 10 McCourt Holiday Concert

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