



August 3, 2017

Hello Cowboy Parents!

I hope you are enjoying your summer break. It certainly goes by fast! I can't wait to hear all about the students' summer adventures! I have a few notes to share with you as we prepare to kick off another school year. As always, you are welcome to reach out to one of the contacts below if you have a question.

See you soon!

Dr. Epperson

**Stay connected to CMS**

We would love to have every family follow us on our Facebook page and Twitter. There are always great things happening at CMS that you will want to know about.

<http://www.twitter.com/cockrillms> @CockrillMS

[www.facebook.com/cockrillms](http://www.facebook.com/cockrillms)



We have some new faces at CMS, so we want to make sure you have correct contact information to start the school year.

CMS Front Office 469-302-7900

School Attendance, Susie Teel 469-302-7986, [steel@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:steel@mckinneyisd.net)

Registrar/Records, Mari Dominguez 469-302-7914, [mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net)

Nurse, Mary O'Grady 469-302-7906 [mogrady@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mogrady@mckinneyisd.net)

Sandra Carter, Secretary to the Principal 469-302-7918 [sacarter@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:sacarter@mckinneyisd.net)

Dr. Amber Epperson, Principal 469-302-7918 [aepperson@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:aepperson@mckinneyisd.net)

504 Coordinator, Brad Watkins 469-302-7987 [bwatkins@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:bwatkins@mckinneyisd.net)

Secretary to Assistant Principals, Donna Parker 469-302-7878 [dparker@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:dparker@mckinneyisd.net)

Assistant Principal (A-G), Stewart Herrington 469-302-7878

[sherrington@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:sherrington@mckinneyisd.net)

Assistant Principal (H-O) Melanie Machost, 469-302-7987 [mmachost@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mmachost@mckinneyisd.net)  
Assistant Principal (P-Z and ESL), Jennifer Zornes 469-302-7877  
[jzornes@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:jzornes@mckinneyisd.net)  
Counselor (A-L) Lori Mitchell 469-302-7963 [lmitchell@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:lmitchell@mckinneyisd.net)  
Counselor (M-Z, GT, and AVID), Courtney Starnes 469-302-7962  
[cstarnes@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:cstarnes@mckinneyisd.net)  
Special Education Lead, Victor Gore, 469-302-7975 [vgore@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:vgore@mckinneyisd.net)  
Gifted and Talented Services, Karen Green 469-302-7913 [kjgreen@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:kjgreen@mckinneyisd.net)  
Physical Education, Amanda De La Garza 469-302-77925 [adelagarza@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:adelagarza@mckinneyisd.net)  
Boys Athletic Coordinator, Aaron McNeil 469-302-7926 [amcneil@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:amcneil@mckinneyisd.net)  
Girls Athletic Coordinator, Heather Alda 469-302-7925 [halda@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:halda@mckinneyisd.net)  
Band, Gary Williams 469-302-7933 [gawilliams@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:gawilliams@mckinneyisd.net)  
Choir, Dorrie Seamans 469-302-7924 [dseamans@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:dseamans@mckinneyisd.net)  
Drama, Sarah Nobles 469-302-7932 [snobles@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:snobles@mckinneyisd.net)  
Orchestra, Nicole Brown 469-302-7935 [nbrown@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:nbrown@mckinneyisd.net)  
Cheerleading, Michelle Wandersee 469-302-7857 [mwandersee@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mwandersee@mckinneyisd.net)  
AVID, Michelle Rumley, 469-302-7867 [mrumley@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mrumley@mckinneyisd.net)  
Durham Bus Services 972-542-8316



### **Returning Student Registration**

[Home Access Center](#) is open now for returning students to register for the 2017-2018 school year. Remember every returning child must update registration information for the new school year. Please have registration updates completed by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Can't remember your HAC login credentials? Contact Mari Dominguez [mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net)

### **Are you Moving?**

If you are planning to move and will not be returning to Cockrill this year, please help us by sending a note to school or contacting our school registrar, Mari Dominguez at [mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mdominguez@mckinneyisd.net)



### **Access to Schedules**

Your child's schedule will be viewable in the Home Access Center (HAC) on August 21st. Please print your child's schedule and bring it with you to Meet The Teacher on August 22nd.

[Home Access Center](#)

*\*All schedules are subject to change and official schedules are distributed to students the first day of school. We hope that few, if any, changes will be necessary at that point, but there is always a possibility.*

*\*If you have a question about your child's schedule after August 21st, your assigned counselor is your point of contact. Email is the easiest way to make initial contact with them. If you need to visit in person, please schedule a conference time so we serve you most effectively.*

*\*Sometimes students have to make choices if the schedule does not allow them to take every specialized course they prefer. Priority is given to academic course levels errors or actual schedule errors (missing a course) for schedule changes.*

\*Note: The High Schools have a different method of communicating their schedules and they will send out their information to you soon.



[School Supply List](#)

School supply packs ordered through EPI will be available to pick up at Back to School Night.

**BACK to  
SCHOOL  
Night**

### Back to School Night

- We will welcome our students back on **Tuesday, August 22nd from 5:00-6:30pm**. We have limited parking, so we ask last names A-L to attend from 5:00-5:45 and M-Z to attend from 5:45-6:30. Our full staff will be in attendance for the entire event, but spreading out attendance will help everyone have access to parking.
- **Print your schedule** from HAC on August 21st prior to arrival. [Home Access Center](#)

- Please bring a current **utility bill** for your proof of residence for the 17-18 school year.
- All supplies will be delivered to your child's science classroom. Be sure supplies are labeled. Students are assigned lockers the first day of school and teachers help them access the lockers. If there is a problem with a locker or combination, we can address it immediately in small groups and reduce any anxiety this might cause the students.
- Remember to visit the PTO table to purchase your membership and CMS spirit wear.
- If you have a schedule question or need help with updating registration, please visit the library and staff will be available to help you.



All 6th graders are assigned lockers on the first day of school and students are taken in small groups during the day to practice. 7th and 8th graders will be given a Google form link to complete to request a locker on the first day. We assign those individually with the students. No worries or stress necessary!



### **Buses**

For questions regarding bus transportation, please contact Durham Transportation directly at 972.542.8316. Or visit this site [Durham Transportation Services](#)



### **Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, iPods, Etc.)**

Electronic devices are allowed at CMS, but please make sure to reinforce your expectations for your child's use during the school day. Cell phones are utilized in the classroom at the teacher's discretion. If left unattended, these items go missing or get broken from time to time. If an item is lost we will certainly investigate, but we can't

guarantee that the device will be recovered. Please discuss this with your child prior to sending the devices to school. Devices should never be left unattended. Any conduct that disrupts our school environment will be addressed using the student code of conduct.



### **Dress Code**

Please refer to the [Student Code of Contact](#) for detailed information. Here are a few basic reminders for you as you begin your back-to-school shopping.

- No leggings or spandex (unless entire front and back sides are covered by your shirt or tunic)
- No spaghetti straps and tank top straps must be 3 finger width
- No see-through clothing
- No sagging pants or underwear showing
- No short shorts (must be at least fingertip length)
- No tummies showing
- No oversized clothing, i.e. no Tall T's
- Holes in jeans must be located below the knee area
- Hair color needs to be a natural shade so work on that if you have experimented with fun colors over the summer



- All carpool traffic goes through the front drive of the building.
- Please read signs and pull up to the end of the building when dropping off.
- There is no carpool in the back drive. This is designated for buses only.
- Be patient with one another to start the year. Our first priority is student safety, not speed, but carpool generally works quickly once the students and parent learn the routine.
- We discourage traffic pick-up in the parking lot because it is not safe for students to cross through parking lot traffic.
- Only use designated crosswalk at all times to cross traffic.
- The city has designated “no right turn on red” at the light where you leave carpool. This is in effect at all times and it is monitored by McKinney Police frequently.
- Cell phone use is prohibited in school zones, including the carpool lane.
- Ask your child to be looking for you, so we can keep cars moving.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

Students may be dropped off in the front drive between 8:15-8:45. Please pull to the end of the building so we can maximize space for traffic. The back parking lot is for buses ONLY. We ask everyone to use the front crosswalk when walking to school. Check carefully and watch for students walking in front of your car. As it gets closer to 8:45 a.m. the traffic increases, so please try to arrive earlier so that lines are not so long.

Students need to have their lunch money, backpacks, etc. ready so they can get out of the car quickly and not block traffic. There is no pedestrian supervision in the parking lot before and after school. We ask parents to use the designated carpool line.

Buses will drop off and pick up in the back of the school, so please do not drive your car in that area. If your child rides the bus, please make sure he/she knows which bus to ride (especially if you take your child to school and then he/she will be riding the bus home in the afternoon).

We do not use cards or numbers for afternoon pick-up, as you probably used in elementary school, so please ask your student to be looking for you during dismissal. Please use the entire length of the drive in front of the building. The entrances and exits operate the same in the mornings and afternoons. After the first week of school, you will figure out the best routine for you and your child. Be patient with one another. The entire carpool process takes about 15 minutes.



### **First Day Schedule Procedures**

Our first priority of the first day is making sure students are comfortable and happy. We do all we can to help them be at ease. On the first day of school, student schedules will be re-distributed on a colored sheet of paper. When students arrive at school they will report to their morning waiting area:

6th graders: Small Gym

7th graders: Large gym

8th graders: Cafeteria

Staff members will be available in the main hallways and waiting areas to help each child find first period successfully. Each student will show their schedule to their teachers at the beginning of each period to verify that they are in the correct class. Students without a schedule will report to the library.

There will be no schedule changes prior to September 5th. Therefore, students will need to follow this schedule for the first week of school, even if they plan to request a schedule

change. The counselors will address changes with schedules, with the most urgent changes taking priority.



### **Food Services**

For questions regarding food service, please contact Aramark Services at 469.302.4263.

Lunch and breakfast prices for 2017-2018 are:

Student secondary lunch \$2.80 increase of \$0.05

Student secondary breakfast \$1.10 No change

Student reduced Lunch \$0.40 No change

Student reduced breakfast \$0.30 No change

Milk \$0.75 No change

### **Free/Reduced Meal Service**

Parents and students may apply online at [www.mckinneyisd.schoollunchapp.com](http://www.mckinneyisd.schoollunchapp.com), starting **August 14, 2017**. All students who were on the free and reduced program last year will automatically receive benefits from the same status as the previous school year for an initial grace period of 30 days, meaning that the drop date for students who do not have a 2017-2018 application will **no longer receive benefits after Tuesday, October 10, 2017**.



### **Volunteer Background Check**

If you would like to volunteer at CMS, please complete the [Volunteer Background Check](#). If you have been approved in the past, you have until September to resubmit your form. You must complete a new form each year. Please note that if you do not complete the proper paperwork, you cannot help chaperone field trips or help with the school in any way. We need and want your help, so please fill out the forms now.



### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletics (NOT PE)**

If your child is a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade athlete, please make sure to complete required forms and get your physicals completed. This is required for UIL eligibility. You may NOT tryout for teams or participate without these items. If you have questions specific to your child, lady athletes should email [halda@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:halda@mckinneyisd.net) and men athletes should email [amcneil@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:amcneil@mckinneyisd.net). Visit the [CMS Athletics](#) page for more information.

If you have questions, feel free to call the school and we will be happy to help you! We know this year will be amazing! Can't wait!

## **~ PTO Corner ~**

**PTO has been busy this summer. We have a few important updates to share with you.**



- **PTO is GETTING SQUARE!** From now on you can purchase spirit wear and membership using a check, cash OR credit card during our face-to-face event. We will be at back to school night on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



- **Welcome Stephanie!** Please help us in welcoming Stephanie Jordan, mom of 7<sup>th</sup> grader Ava, to our board as our Staff Appreciation VP.



- **It is time to join PTO.** You can find the membership form [HERE](#), or see us on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cockerill's Back to School Night.





- **HELP IS NEEDED.** Help us welcome the teachers back in style during their August Academy. Sign up to volunteer and show them how thankful we are!  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fof4da8ab22aa8-cockrill>

Rosa Mena ([rosa.mena04@yahoo.com](mailto:rosa.mena04@yahoo.com))

Stephanie Jordan ([cajungurl123@gmail.com](mailto:cajungurl123@gmail.com))

**Thank you- this is going to be a great year!**

**~Amy Toson  
President**