



# The Game Changers Guide

## From the Principal's Desk

***Hello Hawk Game Changers!***

***We are in the final month of 2020 and we are surely going to wrap up this year with a deliberate focus on our growth and development!***

***Last month we spent some time creating goals in our student data chats and this month we jumped right into ensuring that we are heading in the right direction of meeting those goals. It is most definitely Game Time!***

***We began this month with a school wide challenge! Our school wide challenge has only one expectation in order to succeed! Ready for that expectation? Drumroll please..... cameras on, Hawks! That's right families; we are encouraging 100% of our Hawks to turn on and leave on their cameras for the entire class period each and every school day. This challenge began December 7th! We have put brand new iPads into all Hawk hands and we have spent the time showing Hawks how to create cool backgrounds and edits. Now, it is time to show us your face and connect with your teachers and classmates! Let's do this!***

***Your dedicated Principal,  
Mrs. G***



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/14-12/18: SPIRIT WEEK
- 12/15: SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT @ 4:30 P.M.
- 12/17: VIRTUAL CLUB MEETINGS @ 3:00 P.M.
- 12/18- VIRTUAL MAGNET MILESTONE DANCE
- 12/18: FIRE DRILL
- 12/21-1/1: HOLIDAY BREAK/NO SCHOOL
- 1/4: STUDENTS AND STAFF RETURN
- 1/5-1/11: READING AND MATH IREADY DIAGNOSTIC #2

KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STAY  
SAFE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



# Congratulations

## McNicol Teacher Named NBPTS National Spotlight Winner

McNicol's own Mr. Gonzalez received national recognition from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) for teachers who have used their expertise to support students, their colleagues, and community amidst the pandemic. In an award letter, NBPTS wrote "you were selected, in part, for your commitment to students through your advocacy around issues of equity. We would also like to highlight and recognize your work around integrating technology and supporting students and your colleagues with remote learning."

In March, Mr. Gonzalez was finishing up his last year as the school's Instructional Technology Facilitator when the pandemic suddenly closed schools. For 5 years he had been promoting technology integration and the use of CANVAS for online learning and testing. In the 3rd QTR of 2020, his last CANVAS training was on developing connections with students in an online environment, which would later become a recurring theme in pandemic remote teaching. He assisted many teachers, students, and parents in the transition to online instruction through training, laptop distribution, and telephone technology support.

His consistent visionary approach as a National Board-Certified Teacher has focused on Equity/LGBTQ advocacy and bringing unique course offerings to students. His dramatic improvements to McNicol's Magnet Science and Pre-Engineering Program include our state-of-the-art Sound Engineering Studio which he developed with Mrs. Gurreonero using SMART Renovations funds. He currently serves as Department Head of Magnet Electives, Equity Committee Member, Sound Engineering Teacher and is also noted as a prominent Global Scholars teacher in Broward County Schools.

When we asked Mr. Gonzalez what motivates him daily, he had this to say, "I think about what kind of teacher I needed the most when I was young, then pray for God's blessing that I may be that kind of blessing for my students." Congratulations Mr. Gonzalez, McNicol is lucky to have you!



**National Board @NBPTS · 6h**

Meet #NBCTstrong @iFriarGonzo, he was one of the first teachers in Broward County to officially celebrate LGBT history Month with a public musical performance during a Diversity Symposium that he hosted in Oct 2014 for Hispanic Heritage Month.

**NBCT SPOTLIGHT**

**Francisco Gonzalez, NBCT**

Music Teacher  
at McNicol Middle School  
in Broward County Public Schools

Certified in 2008  
Early Adolescence/Young Adulthood  
Music

# Location of McNicol Middle School Improvement Plan and Title 1 Plan (Addendum)



## **Title I, Part A, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged**

Title I is a federally funded program for economically disadvantaged children who reside in school attendance areas with a high concentration of children from low-income families. Since a high incidence of poverty in a school has a direct correlation with low academic student achievement, the goal of the Title I Program is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and the skills to master the Florida Standards.

The School Board of Broward County (SBBC), Title I, Part A Program supports school efforts in ensuring that all children meet challenging academic standards by providing resources to schools with economically disadvantaged students. Our district operates Title I Schoolwide programs that provide all students with access to services. These resources provide additional teachers, professional development, extra time for teaching, parent engagement activities, and other supplementary instructional activities designed to raise student achievement.

The McNicol Middle School Improvement Plan can be found on our school website using the link here: <https://www.browardschools.com/domain/9235>

The Title 1 Plan (Addendum) can be found on the school website using the link here: <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/47855>

## **School Counselor Corner**

### **Course Recovery/Remediation Program**

**Opportunity to makeup failing grades in quarter 1.**

All middle school students MUST satisfactorily pass all core classes to be promoted. If you failed a core class quarter 1, here is an opportunity to make up that grade! We know you have what it takes to do well, but you might be experiencing a bump in the road for some reason. With the challenges many people are facing with this pandemic, we want to support you here at McNicol Middle School. Our Course Remediation Program is one of those ways! I ask that you take some time to improve on your current situation through our Wednesday evening, teacher supported Quarterly Recovery Class.



Education is the most **POWERFUL WEAPON** which you can use to **change** the **WORLD**.



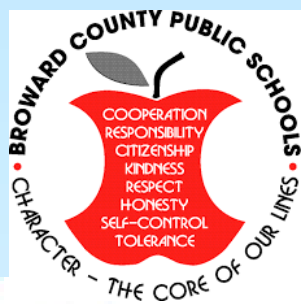
**Quarterly Recovery Class  
Wednesdays 6 PM – 8 PM  
Teams Link on Grade Level  
Canvas**

**Remember your Grade Level Counselor is always there to support you.**

**“Education is the foundation upon which we build our future.”**

– Christine Gregoire





Kindness is the character trait for December. Kindness is being helpful, thoughtful, caring, compassionate, and considerate.

Kindness involves having a deep concern for the welfare of others. Empathy, compassion, gratitude and generosity are all the marks of a kind person.

Demonstrating kindness includes being willing to inconvenience yourself for the benefits of others. Caring for the needs and feelings of others by giving of our energy and time is a critical ingredient in becoming a person of character.

# CONGRATS DOMINIC DE LEON!

Dominic is an 8th grade student here at McNicol. He's a member of our Esports Club and he created the logo you see below! This will be the logo for when the Esports Club competes and practices with other teams across the district and state.

Students submitted designs and voted on which one they'd like to represent the team.



Esports:  
More than a Game

# MAGNET MILESTONE

Students! Did you receive your exclusive invite to our virtual dance party via TEAMS (December 18th from 5pm-6:30pm)? Check out all the info you need below:

**MCNICOL MIDDLE**

## **MAGNET MILESTONE**

*To enhance our whole STEM magnet experience, students were encouraged to successfully complete ONE activity. As a THANK YOU to students that participated, you're invited to our . .*

### **VIRTUAL DANCE PARTY**

**12/18/2020**

**5:00 - 6:30 PM**



**TikTok COMPETITION**

**Email your Tiktok video by 12/16**  
charlene.franklin@browardschools.com

DJ Lord Miller

👉 \* 🎁 GUEST ARTIST 🎁 \* 👈

**LIVE DANCE COMPETITION**

**Bring you best moves to show your stuff**

**WIN PRIZES FOR THE BEST:** TikTok and live dance competitions





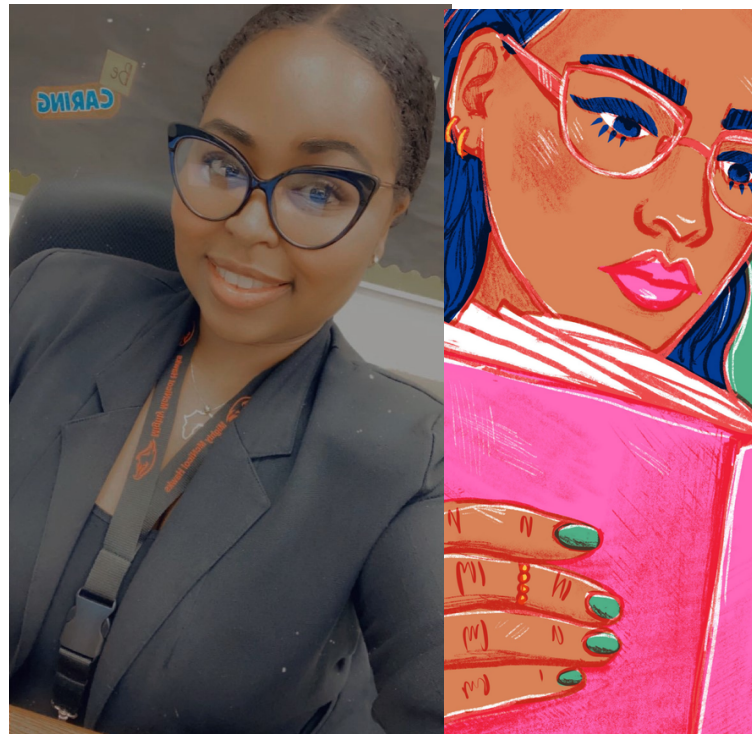
## Mrs. Kleinman

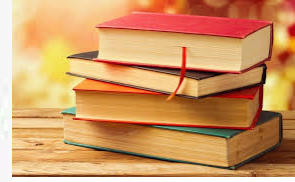
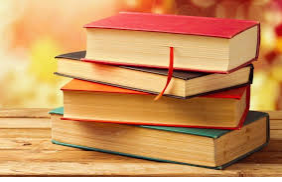
Mrs. Kleinman is our new Engineering teacher! She grew up in Israel and knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a teacher. Her father was an elementary school principal, and she knew she wanted to carry on the family tradition of positively impacting children! She began her journey with children as an English tutor in Israel. She then became a preschool teacher, and then taught Kindergarten and 1st grade for 12 years. This is Mrs. Kleinman's 16th year teaching! Over the Summer, Mrs. Kleinman was engaging in extensive trainings and workshops in Computer Science and studying middle school students, as this is her first time teaching at the middle school level. She has been married to her husband for 28 years. He is an editor at the Miami Herald. If you read the Herald you have read his work. Mrs. Kleinman has 2 daughters who are her absolute pride and joy! We're happy to have her here at McNicol!



## Ms. Poitier

Ms. Poitier is one of our new 6th grade Reading teachers! She has been teaching Kindergarten and 1st Grade for the past 6 years. Ms. Poitier loves teaching because she loves being able to shape young minds and the joy that children bring!. She loves to read, shop, and sing karaoke!!! She stays busy in her spare time serving as a SUPER AUNT to two nieces and three nephews, as well as teaching reading at FIU to grades 7-9 each summer. Ms. Poitier is a die-hard sports fan which is why she is going to be an amazing Athletic Director for us here at McNicol Middle School. Ms. Poitier also serves as our National Junior Honor Society Adviser as well as our monthly school newsletter editor. Welcome to the Hawk family Ms. Poitier!





## SMART READING TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Winter break is right around the corner, and holidays can get pretty hectic, which means routines can easily fly out the window. As your family prepares for the holidays, use these tips from SmartReading.org to keep your child engaged in learning and reading over winter break.



- **Read for fun!** Whether your child is in the mood for holiday stories or the newest installment from a favorite series, winter break provides the perfect opportunity to set aside school books and read for fun.



- **Make reading a family affair, especially during the holiday season.** Many children forget the true meaning of the holidays, which is giving the gift of love. Pick out a book together, take turns reading, discuss your favorite parts and finish by holding a celebration.



- **Create a new tradition.** A little predictability is comforting for kids. Starting a special Winter Break Story Time can be a new tradition that links reading with happy memories. Hot cocoa and your favorite stories will have the whole family feeling comfy and cozy, while creating memories that will last a lifetime.



Remember, you don't have to be an expert to help your child with reading. By simply interacting with readers around books, you can show them that books are important and worthy of our attention.

Top it Off Tuesday!  
Wear your favorite WINTER HEADGEAR!

Wacky Wintery Wednesday!  
Wear your UGLY HOLIDAY Sweaters

Tinsel Toe Thursday!  
Wear your favorite HOLIDAY SOCKS!

Festive Friday!  
GREEN & RED EXPLOSION!!  
Wear as much green & red as possible!

Mad About Plaid Monday!  
Wear your BEST PLAID Outfit!

Let's countdown to winter break & enjoy the season with...

# Holiday SPIRIT WEEK

## DECEMBER 14TH-18TH

You may participate each day or come in uniform this week.

Post your daily pics to win @ [https://padlet.com/melissa\\_gurreonero/adkrnddz1o14tvbx](https://padlet.com/melissa_gurreonero/adkrnddz1o14tvbx)





# GAME CHANGERS, IT'S TIME TO SHOW US WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!



You've been practicing for the "big game!" Your teachers have been great coaches and they've reviewed the game plays with you!



## IT'S GAME TIME!

**The iReady Mid-Year Assessment  
Reading & Math – January 5-11, 2021**

*Prize alert: Students who complete the assessment by the 11<sup>th</sup>  
WITHOUT a RED FLAG (no rushing) will be entered into a  
drawing!*