



Hawks Newsletter

August 2021

From the Principals Desk



Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at McNicol Middle Magnet and STEM School! It is a new beginning in many ways. I am delighted to now serve you in a slightly different capacity as the principal of our school. It has been a pleasure being here at McNicol for the past five years, supporting and guiding my grade level families. I now have the opportunity to expand my influence to serve all McNicol families.

The disruption of our lives over the past 18 months by the pandemic has forced us to make numerous adjustments. Seventy percent of our students took advantage of virtual learning for the entire 2021 school year. Apart from when they came in for testing, most students have not been in the building. These students will now have to be reacclimated to the routines and rituals of attending brick and mortar school.

Secondly, the school has become accustomed to hosting only 30 % of the students in-person since October of 2020, and we will now be at 100%. Please be assured that every effort will be made to ensure strict adherence to all District mandates and guidelines.

Charles Darwin stated that *"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change."* Our current situation requires us to make changes. We will all have to adjust, ensuring that we do what's best for all, and not any one individual. Now more than ever it is evident that our individual choices may impact many.

I am confident that the McNicol faculty & staff are committed to providing a safe, secure and fulfilling learning environment for your child. Our support does not just consider the needs of students, but also of their families. Please take advantage of the many resources we provide. Parents, students and community members, I welcome your involvement and input on things that may impact how effective we are as a school. We are all members of the McNicol family that has successfully weathered the past 18 months together, and we will continue to do so. Although we are facing many challenges, let's aim to make it the best year ever.

Your proud Principal, Ms. Benka-Coker

Calendar of Events

- **8/18 First Day of school**
- **9/6 & 9/7 NO SCHOOL**
- **9/16 NO SCHOOL**
- **9/20 Interim Reports Issued**
- **9/23 SAC/ PTSA at 6 PM**



McNicol's Resources

- **Aftercare**
- **Unity for Teens**
- **Community Liaison - Ms. Brown**
- **Family Counselor - Ms. Azemard**
- **Psychologist - Ms. Moscato**
- **School Resource Officer - Officer L. Rios**
- **School Counselors - Ms. Gannon (6th Grade); Ms. Lee (7th Grade); Ms. Montrose (8th Grade)**
- **Social Worker - Ms. Asensio**

Our 2021-22 School Theme:

EMBRACING NEW ADVENTURES, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS



MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATION



MR. DECEMBERT



MRS. RYSER

6TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

7TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MRS. COBY

8TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

*A mentor empowers a person
to see a possible future, and
believe it can be obtained.
- Shawn Hitchcock*



McNicol Uniform Policy

McNicol Middle School has a unified dress code that is enforced. Students should begin wearing their school uniform on the very first day of school this August.

Shirts: Red, White, Black, or Blue polo or (school spirit) shirts. Students may wear a T-shirt under the polo shirt provided it does not hang below the uniform shirt.

Pants: Navy blue, black, or khaki

McNicol Middle School has an ID Badge Security System. Students are

required to wear their ID badge on a lanyard AT ALL TIMES. The school provides the first ID badge and lanyard at no cost.



Students not in dress code will need to call home for new attire. Please call us at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Benefits of a Uniform Policy

Research suggests that school uniforms

- o Improve discipline, self-esteem and self-respect.
- o Focus the student towards learning.
- o Eliminate the fear of whether their clothing choice will be acceptable by peers.
- o Strengthens school pride.
- o Identify student population from strangers on school grounds.
- o Cost effective.





OUR DEVOTED GUIDANCE



MS. GANON

6TH GRADE GUIDANCE COUSELOR

"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

— Christopher Robin to Pooh, A.A. Milne



MS. LEE

7TH GRADE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

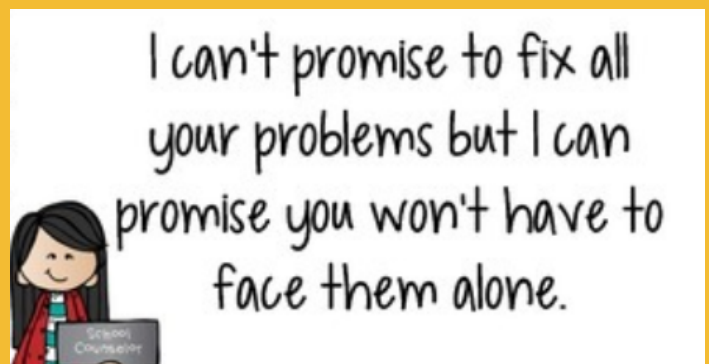
"May you see sunshine where others see shadows, and opportunities where others see obstacles." unknown



MRS. MONTEROSE

8TH GRADE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

"If you keep on believing the dreams that you wish will come true." - Cinderella



McNicol Middle Magnet School



The Mighty

HAWKS



BE



RESPECTFUL

- Use a respectful tone of voice
- Respect the ideas, beliefs and opinions of others
- Never make excuses for your behavior

BE

RESPONSIBLE

- Set goals
- Plan your time wisely
- Prepare nightly for the next day



BE



SAFE

- Know and follow the school's safety policies
- Practice healthy habits
- If you see something, say something

BE

A LEARNER

- Pay attention in class and take notes
- Get all assignments done in a timely manner
- Ask for help when needed



EMBRACING NEW ADVENTURES



MAKE Something Good EVERY DAY

PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Apollo Middle School
6800 Arthur St
Hollywood, FL 33024



Attucks Middle School
3500 N 22nd Ave
Hollywood, FL 33020



McNiel Middle School
1602 S 27th Ave
Hollywood, FL 33020



Olson Middle School
550 SE 11th Terr
Dania Beach, FL 33004

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PHONE NUMBER
(754) 221-8253

WEBSITE
www.hispanicunity.org

SUPPORTED BY



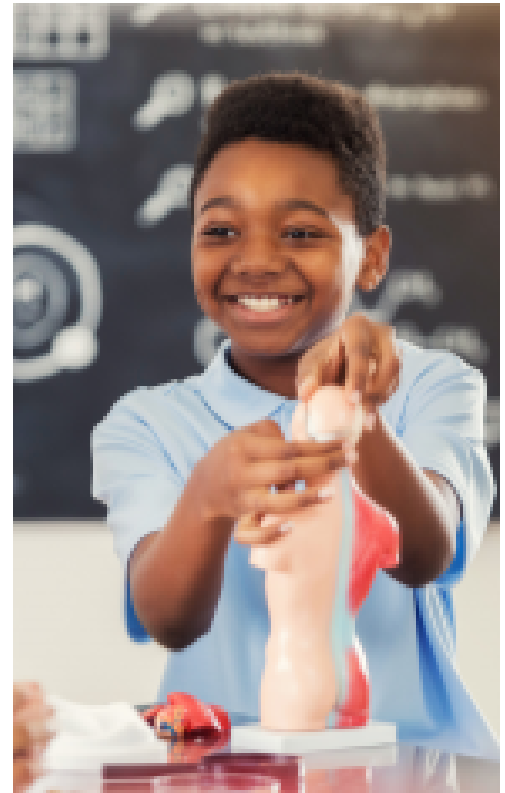
Children's Services Council
of Broward County
Our Future is Our Children



**Empowering a
New Generation
of Americans**



Unity 4Teens
Education



www.hispanicunity.org

Empowering Youth, Motivating
Minds, and Achieving Goals

YEAR-ROUND-PROGRAM

In our **Unity 4Teens (U4T) Youth Development Program** we offer both after school and summer school programming. We have exciting classes, including robotics projects, swimming lessons, arts and crafts and so many more **incentives** and free activities.

STUDENT RESOURCES

We offer an array of services to help your child achieve great success. Take advantage of the following services at **no cost** to your family.

One on one guidance in school

Homework Assistance

Improve Academic Grades

Community Service Hours



"I would have never pulled my grades up from a D to a B without the help of my Success Coach."

FAMILY RESOURCES

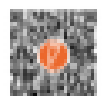
Our approach was designed to create a positive family and youth dynamic, all while assisting eligible families reach their full potential in the following areas:

- Financial Planning
- Home Ownership
- Employment Skills
- Family Engagement

REGISTER TODAY!

 **(754) 221-8253**

Scan the QR code below with your camera to register online!



QUESTIONS?

Contact Blanca Gomez, U4T Senior Program Manager.



McNicol Wins a \$7,500 Grant for

“Project Lead the Way”

McNicol Middle School will be getting a specialized program with materials to boost our computer science program this fall in **Mrs. Kleinman’s computer science classes!** We won a \$7500 grant from Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in the Spring of 2021!!! This is just one of the ways that McNicol continues to advance our STEM programs to help our students get college and career ready. Middle school is a time of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they’re passionate about today and how that relates to who they’ll become tomorrow.

PLTW Gateway’s 10 units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. And as students engage in PLTW’s activities in computer science, they see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Computer science = Top Dollar Jobs in the future

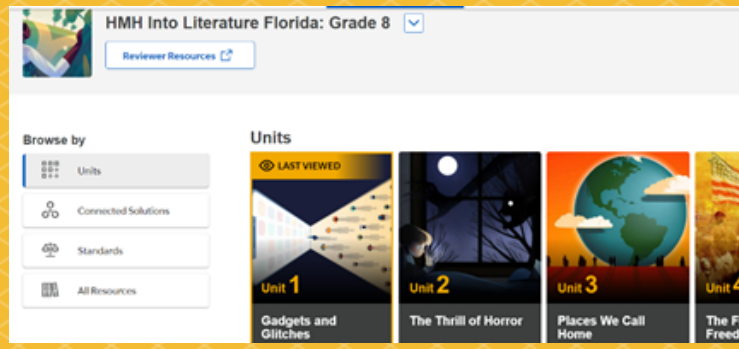
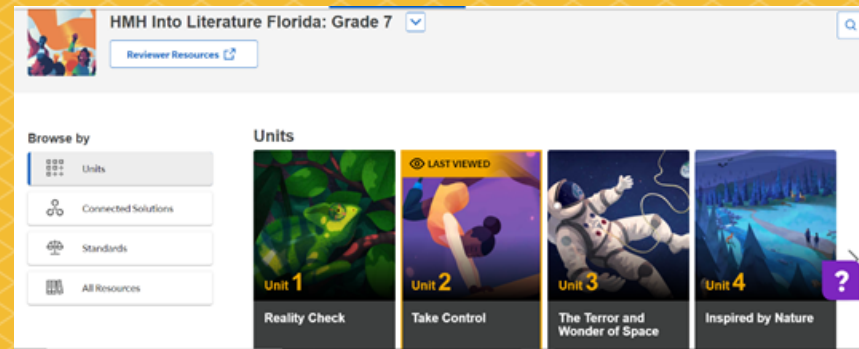
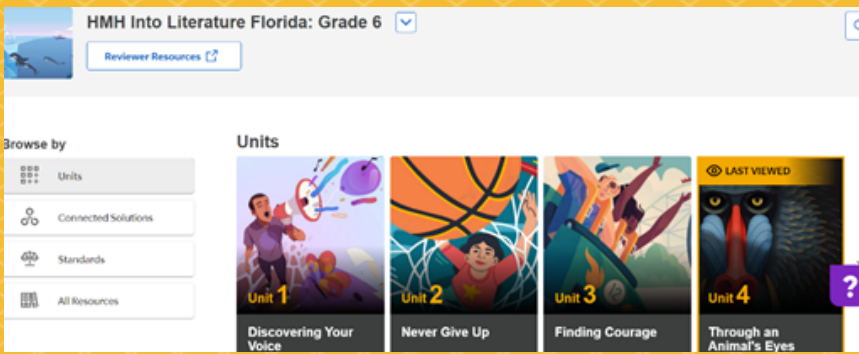
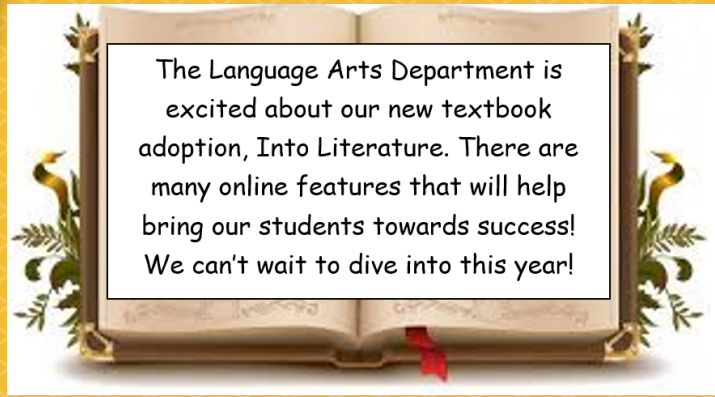
The field of computer science focuses on the study of software systems, and a degree in the discipline allows someone to pursue a variety of careers. The demand for computer scientists is not limited to positions in Silicon Valley technology companies. Instead, the increasing use of technology throughout the business world means that companies in many industries are hiring grads of computer science programs.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics also shows that some careers common among computer science degree-holders frequently lead to six-figure salaries. For instance, in May 2018, the median salary among computer and information research scientists was \$118,370, and the median salary among computer network architects was \$109,020. Software developers also typically received generous paychecks: their median salary in May 2018 was \$105,590.

PLTW Gateway
Sparks Engagement
and Illuminates
Possibilities



ELA DEPARTMENT



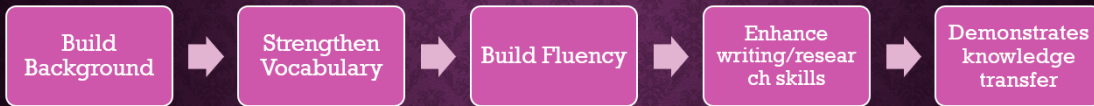
READING DEPARTMENT

Introduces READ180, a program designed to close achievement gaps and promote student achievement.

Read 180

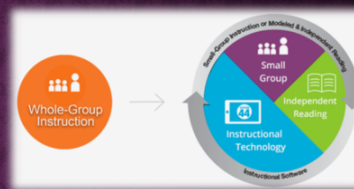
TARGETS AREAS OF THE BRAIN ESSENTIAL TO READING PROFICIENCY.

MEETS EACH LEARNER'S UNIQUE ABILITY LEVEL, INTERESTS, AND NEEDS.



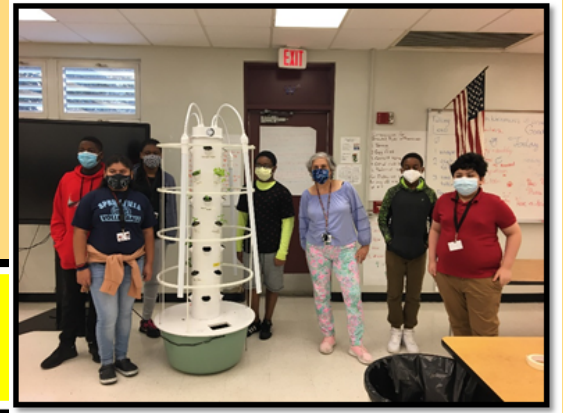
Blended Learning Classroom

- students rotate through the stations that will accelerate them to reading proficiency
- gives everyone in the classroom the unique tools they need to thrive
- flexible rotation model that combines traditional and online instruction



S.T.E.M.

A Hydroponic Garden in Our STEM Program = Engineering for the Future



Mrs. Kleinman worked with her Summer Learning Experience students to re-install our hydroponic garden in her amazing STEM classroom. Did you know that hydroponic gardening is perfectly aligned to our standards? Mrs. Kleinman plans on continuing the hydroponic garden with her students this year, and we may have a crop of vegetables to show for it soon!

Hydroponics is growing plants by supplying all necessary nutrients in the plants' water supply rather than through the soil. The word derives from the Greek root words "hydro," meaning water, and "ponics," meaning working.

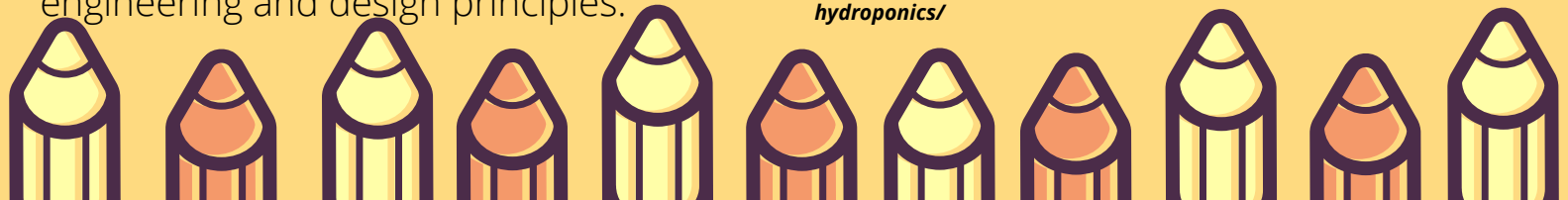
When students grow plants hydroponically, they begin to investigate plant needs through a different lens and have the chance to develop a deep understanding about the conditions required for healthy plant growth and development.

Hydroponic gardening also offers the opportunity to explore foundational engineering and design principles.



Guiding questions emerge such as: **How can we provide support for plants without soil? How do plants grown with just water and nutrients compare with plants grown in soil? How can we get the tallest plants using a hydroponics setup?** These questions lead to experimentation and problem-solving in the classroom. Recordkeeping becomes a natural outgrowth of these endeavors. Concepts related to basic plant parts and needs, nutrition, food production, recycling, agricultural technology, and other areas come to life in these soilless growing environments. These studies may even lead to classroom business opportunities or fuel student career interests.

Information above was taken from: <https://kidsgardening.org/exploring-hydroponics/>





- The purpose of ESE is to help each student with a disability to access his/her educational services and progress in school.
- These services should also help the student prepare for life after graduation from high school.

Welcome back McNicol Hawks! We are so blessed to start off our 21-22 school year with the experiences we have gone through, and most importantly our health. We have so many fun activities planned for our students and parents that is currently in the works! This school year Ms. Lewis is our department chair lead, and she is so excited to work closely with all of you and provide support in any way needed.

**ESLS TEACHER
MS. LEWIS**

Our support teacher at McNicol. She is our department chair and loves helping out in any way that she can!

**SVE TEACHER
MS. LEITNER**

A team player with many roles here at a Hawk land. Absolutely talented at what she does for our students.

**SPEECH LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST
MS. ENGLANDER**

An essential piece to our ESE puzzle. Dedicated to teach our students with Speech and/or language impairments.

**PARA-
PROFESSIONAL
TEACHERS**

Ms. Barragan, Mr. Gensel, & Mr. Valencia are passionate and loving individuals who support our students.





SAC

School Advisory Council



- Members:
- Parents
 - Teachers
 - Principal
 - SAF Chair
 - Students (HS)
 - Community representatives

SAC is responsible for studying the school's academic record and developing an annual plan to improve education in vital areas such as student achievement, curriculum, safety and discipline.

Meetings: 8 times a year – at the school

Possible discussion points:

- What can be done to improve the school
- Which measures to take to reduce tardiness at the school
- How to allocate A+ funds



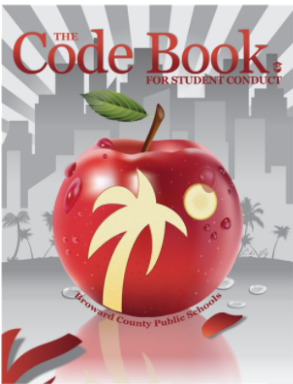
School Advisory Council – SAC
 Parent, Teacher, Student Association – PTSA
 School Advisory Forum – SAF
A Title I Parent and School Community Event

This month we need parent input on our 2020-21 School Improvement Plan and Title I Addendum

September 23, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

SAC PTSA SAF

Your Voice Matters!



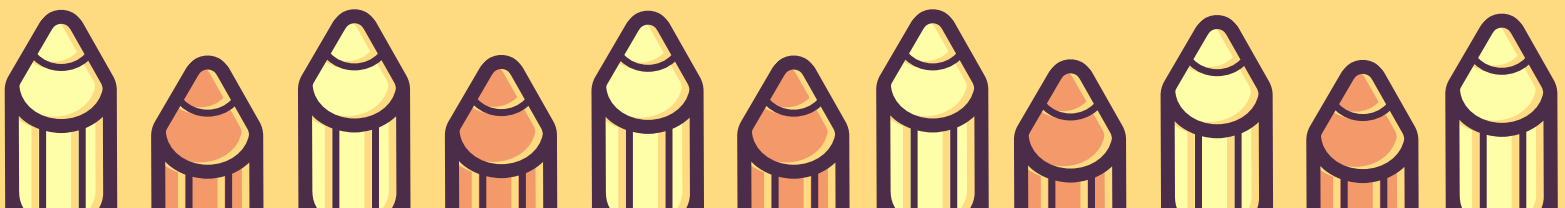
Statement to Parents:

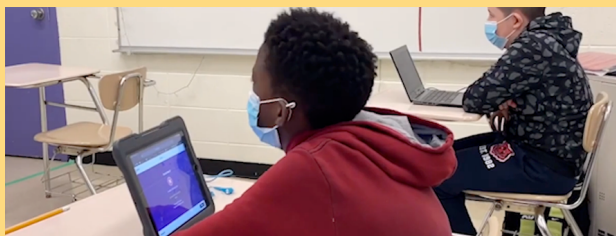
Parents and students, the Code of Student Conduct Handbook Goes Green! Parents are invited to review the Code of Student Conduct Handbook and complete the required forms by accessing the Back to School Forms link found on the Broward Schools' webpage at: <https://www.browardschools.com/backtoschool-onlineforms>

What is Title I?

Title I is a K-12 program that provides additional academic support and learning opportunities for students at schools with high percentages of socioeconomically disadvantaged children

The program is intended to help ensure that all students meet state academic standards.





BY MRS. BEHM

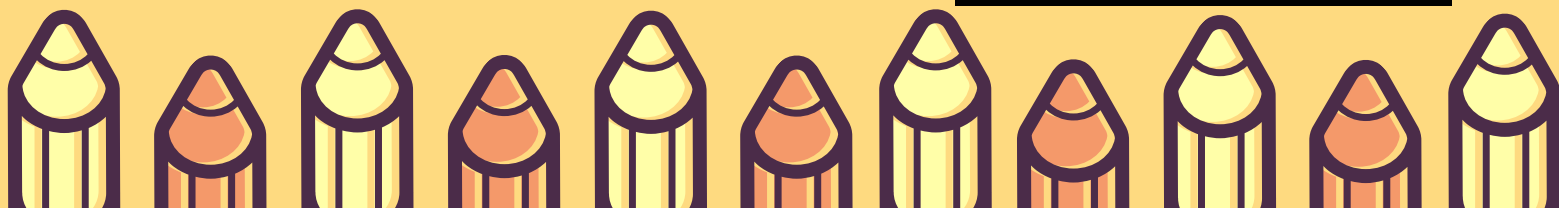
Woo Hoo! We are so happy to announce that McNicol Magnet Middle and STEM School is officially a Verizon Innovative Learning School (VILS) for the 2021-2022 school year.

As one of nine Broward County Public Schools selected to participate in a partnership with Verizon Innovative Learning and Digital Promise, this initiative has the potential to be a catalyst for change in education here at McNicol. We will help close the digital divide to ensure that our students soar!!!!

Digital Promise collaborates with Verizon to provide EVERY student and teacher with a device, and up to a data plan! We cannot emphasize enough how having a device will impact the equity gap, affording access to technology to our students.

We are honored to have been selected to be a VILS school from 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years with the possibility to extend making it for two more years! More information on device distribution is to come. Please follow us on Twitter @McNicolHawkLife.

To complete your required documents please go to this link or scan the QR code below. For more information about Verizon Innovative Learning Schools and Digital Promise please visit <https://verizon.digitalpromise.org/>





students

orientation



Thank you!
To our amazing sponsors

- Ms. McDonald, McNicol Community relations & Motivation Specialist
- BJ's Wholesale Club
- Creating Our Future Inc
- Do You Have the Time Foundation
- Equitable
- Farm Share
- Fast Signs of Hollywood
- Hallandale Band
- Hispanic Unity of Florida-Unity 4 Teens
- Just Curly Cute Hair Care
- McNicol Faculty Council
- Pastor John White of Immanuel Temple
- PDQ @Dania
- Temple Solel Synagogue

Our student orientation was hosted on Wednesday, August 11th and it was truly a success. We welcomed hundreds of students into our building and provided an overview of the great year that is to come. We had the participation of many staff members who made this event a true success. With the help of our sponsorships we were able to provide perishable and non-perishable items for hundreds of families. A big thanks to Ms. Jona Brown for coordinating this!

Furthermore, we wrapped up our orientation with a pizza party for all our families. A big thanks to Ms. McDonald for putting that lunch together--including getting us the delicious pizza from Little Caesars. With the collaboration of the Hallandale band, we also provided our families with a great performance and a warm welcome.

"Today was a success and we couldn't have done it without this amazing team. A special thanks to Ms. McDonald, our administrative team, Ms. Brown, our staff members, sponsors, and most of all our McNicol students (past & present). I am truly blessed to serve as your principal. You all make my job easier!" -Ms. Benka-Coker



It's soccer time!



JOIN THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

TRYOUTS START Monday, August 30th

Try out and have a chance to
get physically active and

win a GIFT CARD!

Who: Ms. Perdomo

Where: Room 135



When: Tryouts are August 30th-September 1st

***Permission slips can be dropped off NOW! ***

Why: To **have fun** while practicing full body conditioning

How: Complete a permission slip by a parent

Questions? Ask Coach Perdomo (Room135)