



Hawks Newsletter

August 2022

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at McNicol Middle, where “Kindness Begins with Me”.

It was great to have all our students back in the building last year, but it did present a few challenges. Students who were restricted to the confines of their homes and going to school in isolation were now expected to return to the building, picking up where they left off. Well, that is what they certainly did. Imagine a child leaving midstream as a 4th grader and returning as a 6th grader.

This student did not have the benefit of living through the remainder of 4th nor being a 5th grader. Going through the emotions, behaviors, and experiences that a child is entitled to go through during this period. We learned last year that there would be no skipping of phases for many of our students, and some of our 6th graders were really 4th or 5th.

This year, I hope that our children have gotten over the initial shock of transitioning from virtual to a brick-and-mortar school, and reacclimated to the routines and rituals. In the past school year, it was perpetually evident that they were overly excited to again be interacting with their peers. So excited that they sometimes did not make the best choices. Therefore, in an effort to correct this issue, I selected a theme that focuses on kindness.

KINDNESS to yourself; KINDNESS to your friends, KINDNESS to your families and caregivers; KINDNESS to people you like; and finally, KINDNESS to those you may not like. In a world where you can be anything, be KIND.

Be assured that the McNicol faculty and staff are committed to supporting your children through their middle school journey, as it is arguably the most difficult phase of their lives. We will provide a safe, secure, and fulfilling environment for your child, both physically and emotionally.

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 this pandemic together, and we will continue to do so. Let us make it the best year yet, despite all the challenges. Our obstacles will transform to steppingstones and challenges to opportunities.

Welcome to the 2023 school year here At MCNICOL MIDDLE SCHOOL,
WHERE KINDNESS BEGINS WITH ME.



At McNicol, our support does not just consider the needs of the students, but also those of the family.

Please take advantage of the many resources we provide.



Calendar of Events

August 2022

8/6: 1st Day of School
8/17: Expectation Assembly
8/29-8/30: Soccer Tryouts
9/5: No School (Labor Day)
9/7: Soccer game vs. Beachside
9/8: Open House
9/9: Soccer game vs. Avant Garde
9/12: Soccer game vs. Hollywood Academy
9/13: Interims reports issued on Virtual Counselor
9/14: Soccer game vs. Gulfstream
9/20: Soccer game vs. Attucks
9/22: Soccer game vs. Olsen
9/26: No School
9/21: Peace Day Activities
9/28-9/29: 6th grade Health Screenings
9/28: Soccer game vs. AC Perry
9/30: Soccer game vs. New Renaissance

- Aftercare - Unity for Teens
- Behavior Specialist:
All 6th Graders & 7th Grade Girls - Tiana Poitier
All 8th Graders & 7th Grade Boys - Errol Simpson
- Community Liaison - Ms. Shawquae Robinson
- ESE Specialist - Ms. Christine Olmeda
- ESOL Liaison - Ms. Betty Shore
- 504 Liaison - Mr. Kenneth Bankston
- Family Counselor - Ms. Sharonda Azemard
- Psychologist - Ms. Brianna Chin
- School Resource Officer - Officer L. Rios
- School Counselors:
Ms. Homene St. Louis - 6th Grade
Ms. Ealisha Pierre - 7th Grade
Ms. Chandra Lee - 8th Grade
- Social Worker - Ms. Melissa Belizaire

KINDNESS

begins with me

Meet your ADMINISTRATORS



Greetings Hawks!

Welcome to McNicol Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year! My commitment to partnering with parents, students, and community members while providing a safe, nurturing, and child-centered learning environment is my priority. I graciously look forward to having your child in our classrooms and hallways, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

McNicol is a place where EVERY child will feel welcomed and connected while fostering positive relationships that support both their academic and social growth. I encourage all families to join me in working together to ensure that our children experience success daily, as we maintain our school atmosphere, which is a warm, nurturing environment for everyone.

I am elated to watch your child flourish. High standards and expectations for each student in academic performance, extracurricular opportunities, and responsible citizenship are the core values that I embrace. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open to my McNicol family and community.

Please email me any questions, concerns, or suggestions at my email address: angela.coby@browardschools.com.

Regards,

**Angela Coby
8th Grade Assistant Principal**

KINDNESS

begins with me

meet your ADMINISTRATORS



Welcome to McNicol School!

I am Mr. Decembert your 7th Grade Assistant Principal. This is my 7th year at this wonderful school, and I would like to welcome everyone back to another great year of learning. As we approach this new school year, we will continue to keep student achievement as our top priority. We experienced improvement in our achievement data last year and we expect the same this 2022-23 school year. We will continue to meet every child where they are and move them forward.

Parents are valuable partners, and we encourage you to visit our school, consult with our staff, and participate in all the great activities that we have planned this school year. Further, we invite you to become aware of what our curriculum has to offer, and the resources used to educate your children. We realize that a robust middle school education is essential preparation to student's long-term success. With your support, McNicol Middle School will continue to be a positive environment where everyone is successful. We value and appreciate our students, staff, and families! Thanks again and feel free to contact me for any questions that you may have.

Best regards,

**Brisco Decembert
7th Grade Assistant Principal**



Greetings Hawks,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! It is my privilege to serve as the 6th Grade Assistant Principal. I look forward to an exciting year as we assist our 6th grade students with the transition to middle school. I strive to provide a positive learning environment that promotes not only academic growth, but also focuses on social emotional learning and preparing students to become college, career, and life ready.

I truly believe the foundation to a student's success is a team effort and I encourage both parent and community involvement. Together we can assist our students in soaring to new heights and reaching their full potential. I welcome you to the Hawk family and I look forward to meeting and working with you. If I can be of any assistance, or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

**Jenna Gentile
6th Grade Assistant Principal**

KINDNESS

begins with me



KINDNESS begins with ME

Always Remember

THE 5 BS

Medical Middle Magnet School
The Mightly
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



BE **KIND**

- Treat others the way you like to be treated
- Doing the right thing as often as possible
- Acts of being courteous, helpful, and understanding of others

SCHOOLWIDE PBIS AT MCNICOL MIDDLE MAGNET & STEM SCHOOL

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) is the science behind building effective environments that teach and encourage appropriate behaviors to replace the use of inappropriate behaviors. PBIS is a 3-tiered model of behavioral instruction and intervention designed to provide students the proper intensity of support based on need. Here at McNicol, we pride ourselves on the "5 B" Model: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be a Learner, and Be Kind. School-wide or Tier 1 PBIS includes 10 critical elements which we implement as our core behavioral curriculum. Our goal is to build and sustain a safe, inclusive, and positive school environment for all students, staff, and families. McNicol Middle's Behavior Specialists for the 2022-2023 School Year are Ms. Poitier and Mr. Simpson. They will be more than happy to provide support to all stakeholders here at McNicol (parents, students, faculty, and staff). Ms. Poitier is responsible for all 6th graders and 7th grade girls, and Mr. Simpson is responsible for all 8th graders, and 7th grade boys. Take a look at some expectations of our "5 B's":



5 Bs

SETTING

HAWKS		CLASSROOMS	HALLWAYS	CAFETERIA	BATHROOMS	BUS LOOP
EXPECTATION	BE RESPECTFUL	Teacher Created	Use appropriate language when addressing adults and peers.	Clean your entire area including the floor before leaving your table.	Clean up after yourself and give each other privacy	Maintain Level 3 voice to hear your bus number over P.A. system
	BE RESPONSIBLE	Teacher Created	Proceed directly to your assigned class on time	Adhere to Level 3 announcements for dismissal procedures	Clean up after yourself. No playing and hanging out in the bathroom	Proceed to bus loop only after your bus number is called
	BE SAFE	Teacher Created	Walk on the right side of the hallway and keep hands and objects to yourself.	Remain seated at your assigned tables. Sit up straight with both feet on the floor under the table.	No fighting, playing, or hanging out in the bathroom	Stay seated while the bus is moving
	Be A LEARNER	Teacher Created	Walk on the right side of the hallway and keep hands and objects to yourself.	Adhere to Level 3 (total silence, eyes on speaker and technology put away) during dismissal procedures.	Follow directions that are posted in the bathroom for cleanliness	Learn and follow all bus rules continuously
	BE KIND	Teacher Created	Be mindful of personal space when transitioning between classes.	Pick up items on your table, even it is not yours.	If someone needs assistance reach out to a staff member immediately	Allow room for fellow students to sit when seats are limited.



SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Chandra W. Lee, School Counseling Director – 8th Grade

Ealisha Pierre, School Counselor – 7th Grade

Homene St. Louis, School Counselor – 6th Grade

5 Ways School Counselors Can Help Students (and Parents Too!)

The main role of a school counselor goes beyond just listening to problems. It is being an advocate for all students. Here are a few ways school counselors advocate for their students:

ASSISTING WITH ACADEMICS

Did you know that counselors can help kids excel academically? School counselors can teach kids how they learn best, different ways to study and even how to organize their bookbags. They can also attend meetings with parents and teachers and offer a variety of interventions to help your child succeed.

ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS

Sometimes teachers think that counselors are making excuses for student, but what they are truly doing is advocating. If a child has just experienced a major loss or traumatic event in their life, they will not be the same for a while (if ever). As counselors, we work hard to inform teachers of things that our students are going through so that they can extend them some grace. Counselors also make sure that students are treated fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, language spoken or disability.



LISTENING TO PROBLEMS

School counselors are not therapists, however they are trained to deal with a variety of issues stemming from home or school. Sometimes kids are not doing well in school because the problems they face are too distracting and they cannot concentrate until they get out what is bothering them. School counselors help students through classroom guidance lessons on a variety of social skills/academic issues, individual counseling and group counseling.

SORTING OUT CONFLICT

A part of a school counselor's job is helping kids get along. Whether the conflict comes from a Snapchat video gone wrong, best friends suddenly on the outs because someone is getting ignored, or a simple miscommunication, counselors are equipped to deal with various kinds of conflict. Counselors can even deal with conflict that arises when a parent cannot seem to meet in the middle with the teacher. Before jumping to contacting the principal, schedule a conference with your child's school counselor and that may fix the issue.

SOLVING TRICKY BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

Behavior problems interfere with learning and cause frustration for the parents and the student. Often behavior problems are caused by some other underlying issue—academic issues, home problems, emotional imbalances, boredom, just to name a few. School counselors can meet with students on an individual basis to get to the root of the problem. They can also sit in on meetings between parents and teachers to recommend various interventions to help your child be successful.



Coming together is a
beginning; keeping
together is progress;
working together is
success.

Edward Everett Hale



ESE SPECIALIST

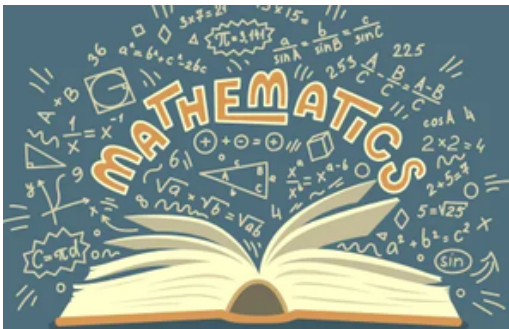
Ms. Olmeda



Ms. Olmeda's main goal is to create a supportive, communicative, and receptive team that ensures students with disabilities will be empowered to demonstrate increased participation and performance, while supporting teachers and monitoring services & accommodations in the classrooms and remaining in compliance with the district guidelines.

MATH COACH

Ms. Patterson



Hello Hawk Nation!

My name is Mrs. Patterson, I am the Math Coach here at McNicol. I am extremely excited for this upcoming school year. My role here as coach in its simplest form is, I help teachers teach and students learn. Some of the practicals for what that looks like is supporting teachers in navigating curriculum and the use of instructional strategies. I also push-in with students throughout the school day as an extra "teacher" for small group instruction. Again, I am looking forward to this school year and meeting all our Hawks.

ELA DEPARTMENT



This year we will be working with our Into Literature textbooks to navigate our instruction. Not only will we be working on this textbook, but we will be utilizing novels, and other resources to ensure that we are targeting reading and language arts skills in our classrooms.

I am honored to serve as the 2022/2023 Language Arts Department Chair for our magnificent McNicol Middle School.

Literacy has always been a lifelong passion of mine. I am working with an exceptional group of educators in my department, and I will ensure that as a leader, we are working collaboratively together to ensure success for our students.

-Ms. Nieves

READING DEPARTMENT



We are excited....

to roll out a reading program that accelerates students to read at grade level.

Bridges the gaps to mastery with blended learning.

READ180 gives everyone in the classroom the unique tools they need to thrive anytime, anywhere.

Students and teachers can customize the learning experience using flexible rotations model that combines traditional and online instruction.



Students are our priority here at McNicol Middle and I am excited to be working in collaboration with all teachers to meet all academic goals. As the Reading department chair I will create a professional environment to provide teachers with the adequate resources to close achievement gaps. I can not wait to work with parents, teachers and students.

I am very excited about this upcoming year!

-Ms. Perdomo

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Hawks Nation, as the Mathematics department chair, I am readily available to assist students and my colleagues beyond the classroom and for enhancement. In collaboration with your teachers, I look forward to plan, organize, and implement fun standard base engaging math activities to bring to you in the classroom.

-MS. DEZORME



Here are 5 Tips: For Becoming A Better Math Student

- **Be Prepared.** Get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, bring your materials, and stay up to date.
- **Take Effective Notes.** Be organized, include key words, vocab, questions you might have, and add reminders/hint.
- **Ask Quality Questions.** Be specific, ask why, confusing words.
- **Have A Strategy.** Use techniques, estimations, word problem strategies
- **Check Your Answers.** Check on your own (use estimation/substitution), check with a friend, back of the textbook



SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Welcome back Hawks!

We are excited to begin this school year exposing our students to origins of Western civilization, the foundations of government in the United States, and the exploration and settlement of North America.

Remember, responsible care of your school-issued and personal technology makes academic achievement easier for every Hawk.

Let's soar!

-Ms. Solly



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a great summer and are looking forward to the school year.

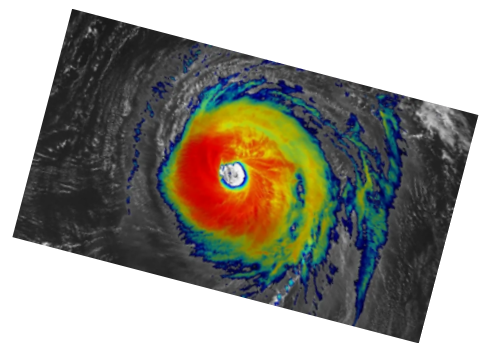
We are excited to be back and cannot wait to share the great things that will happen in the McNicol Middle School Science Department. We made strides last year and we are getting back into the swing of things. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to get our students on track and continuing the growth that we experienced last year.

All grade levels will do at least one lab activity (hands on activity) in the first 3 weeks and will do many lab activities throughout the year. Along with the lab activities the teachers will do many teacher-led demonstrations.

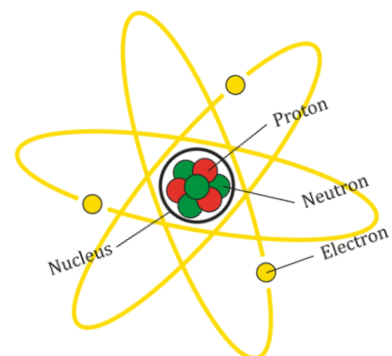
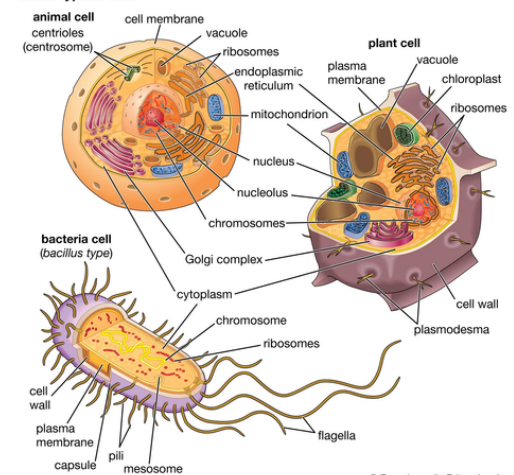
Our 6th grade students will start the year learning about the atmosphere and weather. It is hurricane season, and we hope that all the storms will stay away from all of us. If we experience a storm, track it along with your child. This would be a wonderful learning experience for everyone. Our 7th grade and 8th grade students will start off learning the Scientific Method. The 7th grade students will work on the building blocks of life, which is the cell. Our 8th grade will be working on the building blocks of matter which is the atom.

Parents any support you give your child is greatly appreciated. It could be as simple as reviewing the notes that they take in class and asking them questions about what they have learned. It takes a village to raise a child and TOGETHER we can make a difference in your child's life.

Mr. Charles T. Montalto
Science Department Chair



Some typical cells





Welcome back!

You have been so very missed. We are thrilled to start the 22-23 year together! This year we are working hard to serve our special education students, and to build meaningful relationships where our students will always remember us. It all starts with being kind!

My name is Ms. Lewis, and I am the ESE department chair for this school year.



The ESE department would like to introduce our new ESE specialist Ms. Clark-Olmeda. We are over the moon to have Ms. Clark-Olmeda with us! She currently has 7 foster children that either have autism, learning delays, and ADHD. It is obvious that Ms. Clark-Olmeda deeply cares about children, and will use her superpowers to create relationships, guide our team, and help close those gaps for learning.



Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS)

McNicol Middle

Issue No. August 2022

VILS Coach



Nashira Moore

What is VILS?

Verizon Innovative Learning provides free technology, free internet access, and hands-on learning experiences to help ensure the benefits of technology are realized by all. Students gain access to an iPad to use for schoolwork and other school related activities.

Coaches Role

As the VILS coach I will provide teachers with pedagogical support to advance the achievement of all students and close digital learning gaps. I will also support staff, students, and families by helping to align district and VILS goals and support learning throughout the year.

iPad Importance...

- For student's educational use both in classrooms and at home.
- To promote engagement and STEM proficiency.



WASHINGTON DC

Field Trip

Greetings Parents,

We are excited about the upcoming year as we prepare your child to become productive citizens. We also want to provide our students with learning experiences outside of the classroom. Therefore, the Social Studies department is planning an exciting adventure to our nation's capital, Washington D.C. This will be an excellent experience to view sites that our students learn about in their social science courses. Some of the sites visited will include, the Capitol, White House, Museum of African American History, and the Supreme Court to name a few. This will indeed be an exciting experience filled with learning and exploration.

More detailed information will be available during the Open House scheduled for September 8, 2022. If you feel this will be an exciting experience for your child, please contact me Mr. Wilson at 754-323-3400 or email me @jonathan.wilson@browardschools.com.

Thanks in advance for your interest.



Unity 4Teens Education

THE UNITY 4TEENS (U4T) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS INITIATED IN 2011 IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEED FOR STRUCTURE, ENRICHMENT, AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME OF BROWARD’S MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH. OUR PROGRAM HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS, LEARN SKILLS TO HELP THEM GROW INTO SELF-SUFFICIENT, AND PRODUCTIVE ADULTS. THROUGH OUR MULTIGENERATION APPROACH, WE NOT ONLY HAVE OUR YOUTH IN MIND, BUT WE ALSO WORK WITH THE FAMILIES. OUR SUCCESS COACHES WILL CONNECT YOUTH - AND THEIR FAMILIES - TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WITH TO ENSURE BOTH YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILY’S NEEDS ARE BEING MET.



www.hispanicunity.org

WHILE IN OUR U4T PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL:

- LEARN LIFE SKILLS,
- EXPLORE CAREER PATHS,
- DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AS THEY ENGAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN PROMOTING THEIR YOUTH VOICE,
- DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS,
- AND LEARN HOW TO FOCUS ON CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES THROUGH OUR MENU OF ENRICHING ACTIVITIES, I.E.: CHESS CLUB, ROBOTICS, TEEN OUTREACH PROGRAM, NUTRITION, ETC.

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

And More!



"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
- And More!

REGISTER TODAY!

(754) 221-8253

Scan the QR code with your camera to register online!



QUESTIONS?

Arelis Dilone - U4T Program Manager

adilone@hispanicunity.org