

Alexander K. McClure Elementary School

Student and Parent Handbook

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Alexander K. McClure Elementary School. This handbook contains useful information we believe will be important to you as your child progresses through McClure. It is our hope that this handbook will answer many of your questions. However, if you have a concern that deals specifically with your child's needs and progress, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher.

With your active help and support, we can work as partners in providing our children with the best educational environment possible. Please keep in mind our vision for the learning of all our students:

A.K. McClure's vision is to instill in children a lifelong love of learning so that they will become contributing and competitive members of our global society. We must work to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and to perform at the proficient and advanced level of work. Our school will provide consistent academic instruction and monitoring of that instruction so that students can learn while in a safe learning environment. McClure will prepare students to be academically successful through high expectations, data driven instruction, and the belief that all students can learn. Our expectation is that parents, students, teachers, administrators and the community will understand and support our vision and goals.

Sharon Marino
Principal

A MESSAGE TO OUR STUDENTS

McClure Elementary School is a very special place. We strongly believe that our students can achieve and attain their goals. We want you to know that we are all here to help you in every way possible so that your dreams can become realities. The first step is that you believe in yourself and know that you are important. You are somebody and you have a great future. The second step requires effort on your part and ours, and we must have mutual respect and understanding. Always remember, we are here for you and your parents. There is no problem we cannot solve together.

HOME AND SCHOOL NETWORKS

McClure offers many opportunities for parents and guardians to become involved. Support McClure and your child by volunteering your time to work at the school (clearances needed), working with our Home and School Association, School Advisory Council, attending our Parent Meetings, utilizing the Parent Resource Center (equipped with computers) and much more! Please note that according to the Act 126 law, trip chaperones should have clearances prior to attending a school trip. Join us at Back to School night (9/12) for more information and check the monthly calendar and newsletter for updates!



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Alexander K. McClure Elementary School is to create an educational and nurturing environment that fosters academic and social achievement, collaborative learners, and future leaders. We embrace diversities and unique learning styles and enable children to become lifelong learners and productive members of society through the use of critical thinking, problem solving, and real life application.

MONTHLY COMMUNICATION

A McClure Newsletter (Panther PRIDE) and calendar are given to each student on the first school day of each month to take home to families. Notices/flyers, phone calls, text messages, Class Dojo and e-mails are also sent home announcing special events. Please remind your child about the importance of bringing all notices home and check his/her folder daily.

VISITORS TO MCCLURE

Visitors are welcome at McClure Elementary. ALL visitors must have photo identification to enter McClure; please follow our Visitor Guidelines prior to visiting:

1. Send a note or call your child's teacher to prearrange a time for an appointment when the teacher is not instructing his/her class. If you would like to visit the classroom, 24-hour notice is required. Please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements.

2. All parents and/or visitors must enter and exit through the Marshall Street entrance of the building and report immediately to the Main Office (located on the 2nd floor). You will need to show photo identification and complete the visitor's log.

3. Appointments with the principal or assistant principal can be made by calling the Main Office (215)-400-3870.

MCCLURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

ACT 26 POLICY

The Pennsylvania General Assembly has enacted legislation (ACT 26), which requires all public schools to take a mandatory course of action in dealing with students who are found to be in possession of weapons.

The law requires the arrest and disciplinary action, of any student found in possession of a weapon on school property, in a school program, or while traveling to or from a school program, including time on public transportation.

The law defines a weapon to include, but not limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. There is no requirement that the student use or try to use the weapon, and possession for self-protection is not a defense. Parents are asked not to send tools or supplies such as metal or any type of scissors to school with your children. The law requires that violations will become a part of a student's permanent disciplinary record, and will be available to any school in which the student may later enroll. Parents will be required to sign an affidavit prior to enrolling their child in any public school to disclose the existence of any weapons violations or other serious violations. These measures, required by ACT 26, are designed as a safeguard to ensure that all

public schools are safe havens in which all students may interact in an environment and climate, which fosters learning, and strongly discourages potential acts of violence.

Please be aware of what your child brings to school. Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe school where learning is the top priority.

HOMEWORK AND BOOKS

Our school homework policy states that each child will have a homework assignment Monday-Friday. Please check the student homework book for daily assignments. As part of their homework assignment, children are expected to read for at least 15-30 minutes each evening and sign the log sheet. If your child is not coming home with assignments, call the school for clarification.

BOOK POLICY

On July 12, 1999, the School Board adopted an expanded textbook policy charging that each student be responsible for the proper care of school property, including textbooks, supplies, and equipment entrusted to his/her use. The policy also states that students should return books and school property on time. Students and their parents will be assessed for lost and damaged books. Consequences for not returning books/school property may occur.

ELECTRONIC POLICY

Electronic games, radios, cellular phones, iPods, mp3 players, iPhones, digital cameras, lasers, or any other electronic devices are not permitted to be used during school hours. If a student is using the device during school hours it will be confiscated. Parents are responsible for supervising their child's social media use; if inappropriate social media use impacts the school/learning environment, consequences will be taken in accordance to the Student Code of Conduct. **The school is not responsible if a student brings an electronic device to school and the device is stolen, lost or damaged.**

First Confiscation

If a staff member sees or hears any electronic device in the building or on school grounds, it will be confiscated. A parent/guardian must come up to the

office between 3:30-3:45 p.m. Monday-Friday to sign for and retrieve the device.

Second Confiscation

If a student has the same electronic device or another device confiscated, it will not be returned until the **last student day in June.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that we make a distinction between play clothes and school clothes so that we may maintain a proper working/learning atmosphere at McClure. When students are neat and clean, they are better prepared to learn. We strongly believe that clothing and appearance make a difference in attitude and behavior.

A uniform policy has been adopted by The School District of Philadelphia, which is **mandatory**. The McClure Elementary Uniform policy is listed below:

All students must wear navy blue pants, skirts or jumpers and white collared shirts. During cold weather, students may wear a navy blue or white sweater or sweatshirt (no hoodies preferred). NO open toed shoes are allowed at school. Sneakers should only be worn on gym days. McClure has implemented a gym uniform policy (navy blue sweatpants, navy blue “Panther Pride” t-shirts, and sneakers). T-shirts will be available for sale through the school. Please note that bandanas are not a part of the school uniform and students are prohibited from wearing them.

NURSE



If your child complains of a **serious illness** at home, please do not send him or her to school. It is the parent’s responsibility to care for the child and to follow through with medical care at home. If your child has a condition, which requires special consideration or medication such as asthma, diabetes, etc., please notify the nurse.

School policy dictates that children may not bring medication to school. If it becomes necessary for a student to take medication during the school day, please contact the nurse, and she will support you with this procedure. The nurse can be reached through the Main Office at 215-400-3870, option 3.

Please do not make routine dental, medical, or appointments for your child during the school day.

HOME ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

It is important that the school and the teacher have Emergency Contact Information for each student so that we can properly care for our children in the event of an emergency. **Inform the school secretary and your child’s teacher when you change your address or telephone number.** It is vitally important that your correct address and phone number are on file in the main office in the event of an emergency that involves your child.



ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

All students enter and exit the building through the schoolyard. Pre-K students will be dropped off and picked up from their classrooms by a guardian at least 18 years of age. **Bright Futures drop off is at 8:30 a.m.**

The schoolyard will open for K-5 students at 8:20 a.m. Please do not send your child to school prior to 8:20 a.m. as we do not have staff to supervise them in the schoolyard.

All students should line up upon entering the yard. At 8:30 a.m. the principal/designee will greet the students, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and enter the building. Anyone that arrives during the greeting/pledge, kindly wait outside the gate until completed and then move to the lines quietly. Students will be dismissed through the yard at 3:09 p.m. **Parents/Guardians in Grades K-2 will be required to physically sign-out the students at the admission lines.** For any student, only those listed on the Emergency Contact form, and who have appropriate ID, will be allowed to pick up the students; ensure that all names of those who can pick up the child are listed.



BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

All McClure students eat breakfast and lunch in school. McClure participates in a Universal breakfast/lunch program which means all children are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch free of charge. **Students are served breakfast as soon as they enter the school building at 8:30 a.m.**

Lunch is provided; however, students are welcome to bring their own lunch. **Parents are asked to send students with lunch in the morning, please do not bring lunches to the Main Office as we will not be responsible for getting the lunch to your child.** No glass bottles are permitted on school premises; if students are bringing a lunch, it should be a “healthy” lunch. Soda, candy and chips are not considered a “healthy” lunch.

Due to safety concerns and the high rate of food allergies, we do not allow birthday/celebration cakes/food to be served to our students; however, parents in Grades K-1 only may arrange with the teacher to celebrate the child’s birthday and bring in non-edible treats or participate in a collaborative game. These celebrations may only occur from 2:40 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

On good weather days, children have recess before or after eating their lunch. During inclement weather the children remain in the cafeteria until the lunch period ends.

ATTENDANCE/LATENESS

It goes without argument that a youngster who is not in school is not going to learn his or her school lessons. It is most important that you encourage regular attendance. Time lost is very difficult to make up. Every minute of every day counts.

If you child is absent, you are required to submit a written note within three school days of the child’s return. Failure to do so will result in the absence being coded “unexcused or illegal.” After three unexcused/illegal absences, you will receive a C-31, which is a legal document stating your child’s absences and a Student Attendance Improvement Plan will be initiated. Students with excessive excused absences and latenesses will also have a plan initiated.

The School District of Philadelphia Attendance Policy:

“The Attendance Policy: After nine (9) cumulative absences for illness for which a parent writes an excuse note, the 10th absence for illness must be accompanied by a physician's note. In addition, if a student arrives after 10 AM or leaves before 1 PM without a valid excuse note, the student will be marked in the School Computer Network as half a day unexcused. Two half days will add up to one full day in the School Computer Network.”

Keep in mind, again, that the excuse note must be turned into the classroom teacher within three days of the absence; otherwise it will be considered “unexcused or illegal.”

Late arrival interferes with school and class procedures. **Students are considered late if they are not with their lines in the schoolyard and enter in through the Marshall Street door at 8:40 a.m. or after.** Students are expected to arrive at school on time and enter the building in line with the class. Once the classes have entered the building, students must enter the Marshall Street door to receive a late pass. *Children’s acceptance to future schools is often contingent on their attendance, punctuality, and school performance. Furthermore, excessive absences and tardiness negatively impacts our school wide data and progress.*

EMERGENCY DISMISSAL

We urge you to limit early dismissal to extreme emergencies. It is disruptive and interferes with your child’s learning and that of their peers. Whenever it becomes necessary to excuse a child during the school day, a parent or responsible adult (on the emergency contact list/with photo ID) must come to the Main Office for the child. For safety reasons, children cannot be excused alone. This is a firm policy of the School District.

****We will not honor any early dismissal after 2:30 p.m.
*Effective immediately, students may not be dismissed early without documentation of an appointment or other emergency.***

***Any student with an early dismissal/lateness will not be eligible for Perfect Attendance recognition, incentives and rewards.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In rainy, snowy or cold weather (below 32 degrees) Effective immediately, all students will enter in through the school yard during inclement weather. K-2 students will enter through the 6th Street schoolyard door at 8:20 a.m. and be seated in the gym. Grades 3-5 will enter through the Schoolyard Fire Tower door at 8:20 a.m. and report directly to the lunchroom. At 8:30 a.m., grades K-5 will report directly to their classrooms for breakfast. For safety reasons, we ask that parents and guardians drop off their children at the external door; children will be escorted to their inclement weather pick-up location. For supervision and the safety of your child, students **MUST** enter through their respective door: K-2 (6th St./Schoolyard) and 3-5 (School yard Fire Tower). These doors will close promptly at 8:40 a.m. and students arriving after 8:40 a.m. will need to enter in through Marshall Street and receive a late pass. Please adhere to using the correct door to ensure the safety of your child and a smooth admission process.

Do not send children to school earlier than 8:20 a.m. during inclement weather. Listen to (KYW/1060 AM) radio or television news broadcasts concerning "All Philadelphia Public Schools" when there are severe weather conditions, which may necessitate a delayed opening or closing of schools. In the event of an early closing of schools, we must know where your child can go if you are not home. Once sent home, please complete and return the Emergency Contact Form to your child's teacher. It is very important that all phone numbers you submit are in working order. If it appears that school might be dismissed early, parents should listen to the radio. There should be an emergency plan for your children in extreme weather conditions.

EMERGENCIES

Messages from home cannot be relayed to children nor items delivered to children during school hours. Such actions interrupt your child's learning and that of their peers. Messages will only be taken in a real emergency and then only when serious enough to be delivered to the child by the principal.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The School is not responsible for personal property that is brought to school (including but not limited to):

- Bats, jump ropes, footballs, fidget spinners, Pokémon cards, and other toys should not be brought to school and will be confiscated.
- Please do not bring large amounts of money to school.
- Excessive jewelry and make-up should not be worn to school.

SCHOOL RULES AND DISCIPLINE CODE

We know that parents want to be informed about their child's behavior. We also know that by working together, we can improve school citizenship. Accordingly, we pledge to do our best to keep you well informed. Attached you will find applicable portions of the Student Code of Conduct, and the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policies for your reference.

McClure's School Wide Behavior Expectations are as follows:

- *Be Responsible*
- *Be Respectful*
- *Be Cooperative*
- *Be Peaceful*
- *Be a Problem Solver*

All students are expected to behave in an acceptable and responsible manner while at school, on field trips, in the schoolyard, lunchroom, bathroom and all other school related situations.

Under most circumstances when students fail to observe basic and essential school courtesies and school rules, parents of the students are notified to attend a parent-school conference to discuss the behavior and mutually seek a positive solution. Students who violate the Code of Conduct may lose school privileges including, but not limited to, trips, clubs, promotion activities, leadership roles, and more. **The School District's Code of Student Conduct is strictly followed. The full Code of Conduct is available on the School District of Philadelphia's webpage (www.philasd.org)**

BELL SCHEDULE

Student Admission ~ 8:30 a.m.
Student Dismissal ~ 3:09 p.m.
Early Dismissal ~ 12:09 p.m.

Alexander K. McClure Elementary School
600 W. Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19140
P-215-400-3870
F-215-456-3871
www.philasd.org/schools/mcclure
@mcclurepanthers