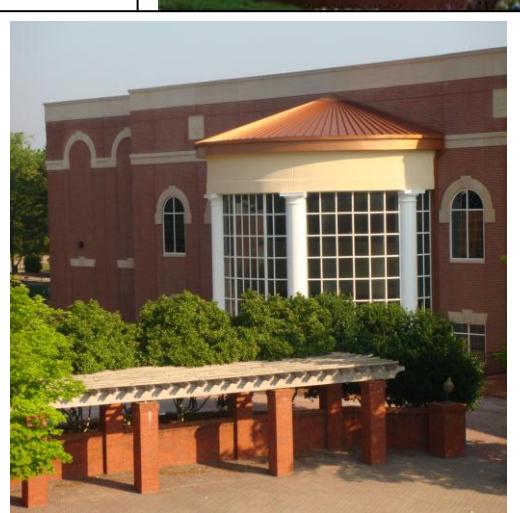
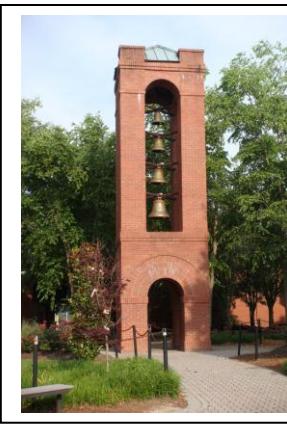


9th Grade Orientation

Frequently Asked Questions

2013-2014



MCEACHERN HIGH SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Academic Questions:

What is the class schedule?

Students take eight classes, following an odd/even schedule. Odd classes (1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th periods) meet on one day and even classes (2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th periods) meet on the other day. Odd and even days are indicated in the calendar portion of the student agenda.

How will I be notified of my child's grades?

School progress reports are provided every six weeks. Included in this report is a grade average for each class, conduct, and days absent. In addition, students are provided an updated class average during the 9th and 15th week of the semester. Parents are encouraged to access Pinnacle in order to monitor their child's grades and attendance via the Internet. Passwords are the same from middle to high school, but may also be obtained from Lynn West whose office is located in the Media Center. Once parents have received the password, Pinnacle link and directions are available through the county website - www.cobb.k12.ga.us.

I have a question about one of my child's classes. Who should I contact?

Contact the teacher through email or voicemail. Contact information is available through the school website - www.cobb.k12.ga.us/~mceachern/

What resources are available if a student is having difficulty with academic classes?

Teachers often schedule review sessions before and after school. In addition, tutoring sessions may be available in the evenings for certain classes. Students need to talk to their teachers to discuss options.

I have questions about my child's program of study. Who can I contact?

Grade level counselors are responsible for graduation requirements. Additional information can be found on the McEachern website -- www.cobb.k12.ga.us/~mceachern/

Attendance Policies:

What should I do when my child is absent from school?

A parent note explaining the reason for the absence needs to be sent with child when he/she returns to the class that was missed. Parents should expect a phone call home on the day the student was absent. A phone system provides an automated message to the home phone number on the day of the absence.

What constitutes an excused or unexcused absence from school?

Excused – State law governs excused absences. A student's absence may be excused for the following reasons:

1. personal illness
2. serious illness or death in the family
3. special and recognized religious holidays observed by his/her faith
4. preinduction physical examination for service in armed forces
5. court order
6. conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to his health or safety
7. voter registration

Unexcused – No parent or doctor note provided upon return to classes or note provided does not meet one of the aforementioned state-mandated "excused" reasons.

What constitutes an excused tardy to school/class?

Tardies are excused for doctor appointments, dental appointments, court hearings, and student illness. If the student is tardy due to student illness, a parent note is required to excuse the tardy. Please note – tardies to class and school are cumulative for each semester.

What constitutes an unexcused tardy to school/class?

A student is tardy to school/class if no note from parent or doctor/dentist is presented at the time of check-in. Tardies due to missing the bus, oversleeping, car trouble, etc. are unexcused.

What is the cumulative effect of absences?

First, and most obviously, good school attendance has been linked through research to an increase in student performance and achievement. It is one of the first habits of student success that a student comes to school and arrives to all classes on time.

Attendance Referral Process – Administrative rule JE

The primary goal of this attendance protocol is to address unexcused absences for students ages six to fifteen. Absences stemming from out of school suspensions, while concerning, shall not warrant a School Social Work referral unless deemed necessary by school administration. Please see the chart below for a quick look at the revised attendance protocol.

| Absence threshold | Old Policy | Absence threshold | New Policy |
|---|---|---|--|
| 5 Total Absences | Teacher makes a phone call | 3 UNEXCUSED | Teacher will make phone call |
| 10 total absences | School sends letter (unless student has known medical condition) | 5 UNEXCUSED absences | School will use automated calling system to call parents and send letter |
| 15 total absences | Student is referred to school social worker to address attendance | 7 UNEXCUSED absences | School Social Worker referral (intervention on case as needed) |
| 7 UNEXCUSED absences 14-17 years old | | Letter and phone call to parent that 3 additional unexcused absences will result in denial/suspension of driving privileges | |

What should I do when my child is checking in late to school?

Students are to report directly to the attendance office (located on the bottom floor of the Freshman Center) to check-in. Failure to check in properly may result in an administrative referral.

What should I do when my child is going to check out early from school?

The child needs to bring a parent note indicating the reason for check out and parent daytime phone number. Notes for early dismissal must be given to the first period teacher. Parents may pick up their child in front of the attendance office near the Freshman Center. Parents may be required to show identification. Students are responsible for checking out through the attendance office before leaving campus.

There has been a change in contact information for my child. What should I do?

Please contact the grade level counselor.

Student Medical Clinic:

Where can my child go if he/she gets ill at school?

The student medical clinic is located on the bottom floor of the Freshman Center. Students requesting to go to the clinic will be issued a pass from a teacher or administrator. When appropriate, the nurse will contact the parent to discuss check out procedures or minor medical care.

If my child requires prescription medication, how will this be handled?

Parents are required to transport controlled substances to and from school. The nurse will monitor and dispense all medication. For further information, please refer to Board Policy Manual (Student Policy "JGCD" – Medication) located on the Cobb County School District website – www.cobb.k12.ga.us

May I send Tylenol or another over-the-counter medication with my child to school? If so, what is the proper procedure?

Yes. The medicine policy (JGCD) does allow students to have over-the-counter at school, provided that the medications are maintained in their original containers and are handled responsibly. Students are allowed to carry over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol or Advil, for their own use but are not permitted to dispense the medication to other students.

If a parent wishes for any prescription or over-the-counter medication to be administered by the school, written consent must be given. Prescription drugs that are administered must have the name of the student, the name and strength of the medication marked, as well as the dosage and time for the medication to be given. Parents are encouraged to make schools aware of any medication a student may be taking and to discuss its administration with school officials.

Transportation:

I am uncertain of my child's bus route. How do I get more information?

Information will be posted in several locations on campus prior to and during the first month of school. In addition, bus numbers and pick-up times are available online through the Cobb County School District website (www.cobb.k12.ga.us - bus transportation link) or by phone at 678-594-8000.

I plan to drive my child to and from school. Where should I go?

For both drop-off and pick-up, enter the north entrance and go to the flagpole area (between the gym and the Performing Arts Center). The Freshman Center entrance and the areas behind the FAC are for bus traffic only.

If my child wants to ride the bus home with a friend, what should I do?

The student needs to take the bus form note provided, which includes a parent's daytime phone number and alternate bus number, to the Freshman Center office before school. Notes received after 8:20 am may not be accepted. Notes must be approved before a bus pass will be issued.

Behavior Expectations:

What is the dress code for students?

Modesty and decency of dress is stressed at McEachern High School. There is a direct relationship between dress, grooming, conduct, and success in school. Students are expected to dress and groom themselves with formality of school in mind. Clothing that disrupts the educational process is unacceptable. Bare midriffs, tight, sheer, revealing clothes, and tank tops are not permitted. Students will not be permitted to wear clothing with imprints or writing that is suggestive or immoral or clothing that endorses violations of policy.

Girls - Skirts/Dresses/Pants

1. **SKIRTS and DRESSES** must be at least fingertip length. Students should measure the skirt before coming to school and be sure that it is of proper length when standing or walking. Backless or strapless dresses are NOT permitted. Slits may be no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee.

Boys - Pants Only

1. **Shorts/Pants** must fit and remain on the waist and not be excessively baggy.

All Students

1. **Tops** may have sleeves or be sleeveless for both males and females. All sleeveless apparel must have shoulder straps three (3) inches or wider, and the sleeve curve must be close to the underarm so that no undergarment can be seen and no view is possible to the chest area. Tops may not expose the shoulder blade area. No skin may show at the waist or back. When a student raises this/her arms above the head and the midriff is exposed, the top is not appropriate for school. Neither low-cut necklines nor tube tops/halter tops are allowed.
2. **Headgear:** Student may not wear head coverings- including but not limited to hats, hoods, caps, headbands, scarves, and knitted bonnets- inside any campus building. Headgear that is worn inside a building may be confiscated.
3. **Pants/shorts/skirts** must be fingertip length. No excessive slits. No leggings/jeggings unless accompanied by an outer garment of fingertip length.
4. House/bedroom shoe and sleepwear (i.e., pajama bottoms) are not allowed.
5. Undergarments should not be visible (boxer shorts, athletic shorts, bras, etc.-any item of clothing under the outermost garment).
6. Articles of clothing with tears or slits that expose skin not normally visible under the other guidelines of this dress code are not allowed.
7. Footwear must be worn at all times- **No house slippers!**

8. Clothing and jewelry which advertise or imply products that would be illegal such as drugs, tobacco and alcohol products, as well as any clothing which depicts statements or pictures that would be offensive to the mores of the Powder Springs community, will not be permitted (such as gang references, sexual references, etc.). Clothing recognized as being related to a group or gang, such as shirts with gang references, belts of excessive length, etc., are strictly prohibited.

9. Bandanas or bandana-type scarves of any kind are prohibited.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T WEAR IT.

What is the ID badge policy?

All students will be issued a student identification card that must be carried at all times. Student identification cards may be required for admittance to school activities. Lost identification cards will be replaced through the school book store. Students who fail to identify themselves properly will be subject to disciplinary action as described in the Student Handbook

What is the student handbook policy?

Students are expected to have a student handbook. The handbook serves as an assignment agenda, pass to/from class, and summary of school policies. Students are provided a free handbook at the start of the year. Replacements can be purchased through the school book store.

If my child gets a referral, how will I know?

Students are given a copy of all referrals and are responsible for sharing this information with parents. Parents will be contacted directly depending on the severity of the incident or the type of consequence given. Please read all information contained on the referral. Students will be held responsible for the date and time of the disciplinary action. Failure to serve may result in additional consequences.

Miscellaneous Information:

Where can I get more information about athletic events at McEachern HS?

Visit www.mceachernathletics.org

What school-sponsored activities are offered for students at McEachern HS?

A list of clubs/organizations and athletic teams are provided in the student handbook; see club sponsor or coach for more information.

As a parent, I want to get more involved. How can I help?

During the school year, volunteer opportunities will become available. Please provide your name and phone number to the grade level office. In addition, parents are encouraged to join the McEachern Booster Club and the PTSAs. Contact the athletic director for more information.

What is the best way to reach a faculty member?

Email. Addresses are available through the school website (www.cobbk12.org/~mceachern/). Voicemail messages can also be received at the teacher's personal mailbox or the school general delivery mailbox. Specific voicemail extensions can be also be found on the school website.

Assistance Directory:

| WHEN YOU..... | SEE |
|---|---|
| are late | Attendance Office/Bottom Floor Freshman Center |
| are sick | Clinic/Freshman Center |
| are leaving early | Attendance Office/Bottom Floor Freshman Center |
| have been absent..... | Classroom Teacher |
| need a transcript | Counselor's Office in Business Technology |
| are withdrawing/changing schools | Administrative Office in Career Technology Building |
| have a question about college | Career Center/Business Technology |
| change your address/telephone number | Grade-level Counselor |
| apply for free/reduced lunch..... | Manager in Dining Hall |
| have a bus transportation request..... | Freshman Center Office |
| have locker problems | Building Administrator |
| have lost something | Freshman Center/Russell Hall/Sr. Bldg. |
| need a visitor's pass..... | Russell Hall/Attendance Office |
| need driver's license Cert. of Attendance | Attendance Office |
| ARE IN DOUBT | ASK!!!! |

Information in this section is subject to change. Students and parents will be made aware of changes through one or more of the following: newsletters, school announcements, and phone messages.

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Academics:

How can I review test scores on a specific school?

Visit the "test score" link on the county website (www.cobb.k12.ga.us). A complete listing of test scores is available for each school, including data from previous testing years. In addition, the Georgia Department of Education (www.gadoe.org) and the Georgia Office of Education Accountability (www.ga-oea.org) provide annual report cards on all public schools in the state.

School Safety:

The Cobb County School District has Zero Tolerance for drugs, alcohol, tobacco and weapons. What does this mean?

Zero tolerance means that when a discipline infraction occurs under the policy, the student is subject to a mandated suspension with no exceptions. Specific zero tolerance infractions, which include offenses for drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons and bullying, and the suspension designated for each offense, are spelled out in the Cobb County School District policy manual. This information is available on the school district web site at www.cobb.k12.ga.us, in local school handbooks, and in student folders.

Define the "School Safety Zone"

The School Safety Zone is defined by state law as the area "in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, or school board and used for elementary or secondary education, and in, on or within 1,000 feet of the campus of any public or private technical school, vocational school, college, university, or institution of post-secondary education."

Where can I get further information regarding Cobb County's policies and procedures?

Information is available on the School District website under "Board Policy Manual." In addition, each student receives a Parent Information Booklet at the start of the school year. The booklet includes updated policy information including discipline procedures.

Inclement Weather:

How does the Cobb school district decide whether or not to close school due to inclement weather? Will my child have to make up the days missed if school is closed?

The school district takes several factors into consideration when deciding whether or not to close schools. Our primary concerns are whether or not road conditions are safe for traveling and if school buildings have full heat and power. Specifically, we check the following: road condition information gathered by the school district's transportation department and from local law enforcement, including whether roads are currently icy or anticipated to be icy; the time snow or ice starts and the expected accumulation; weather predictions; school building and parking lot conditions; temperature and wind-chill. We also closely monitor weather forecasts and confer with neighboring school districts to see how they are handling the situation. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous bus routes in the district. So, even if it looks clear on some streets, hazardous conditions may exist in other parts of our district. Our school system tries to notify students and their families of school closings as soon as possible. The decision whether or not to close school is made by 5:30 a.m., except in situations when inclement weather may force school closings during the school day. The following media sites will carry information regarding school closing: radio stations – 750 AM, 1080 AM, 1550 AM, 94.1 FM, 97.1 FM, 101.5 FM, 105.7 FM, and 106.7 FM; television stations – WSB Channel 2, WAGA Channel 5, WXIA Channel 11, and WGNX Channel 46.

Driver's Education Courses:

Does Cobb County School District provide driver's education courses for students?

Through a collaboration with Marietta City Schools, Cobb County School District offers the "Marietta/Cobb Public School Driver's Education Program." For information, call 770-429-3170 or visit the school district website (www.cobb.k12.ga.us).

Information in this section has been edited. More detailed information is available through the Cobb County School District website – www.cobbk12.org

McEachern High School Contact Information

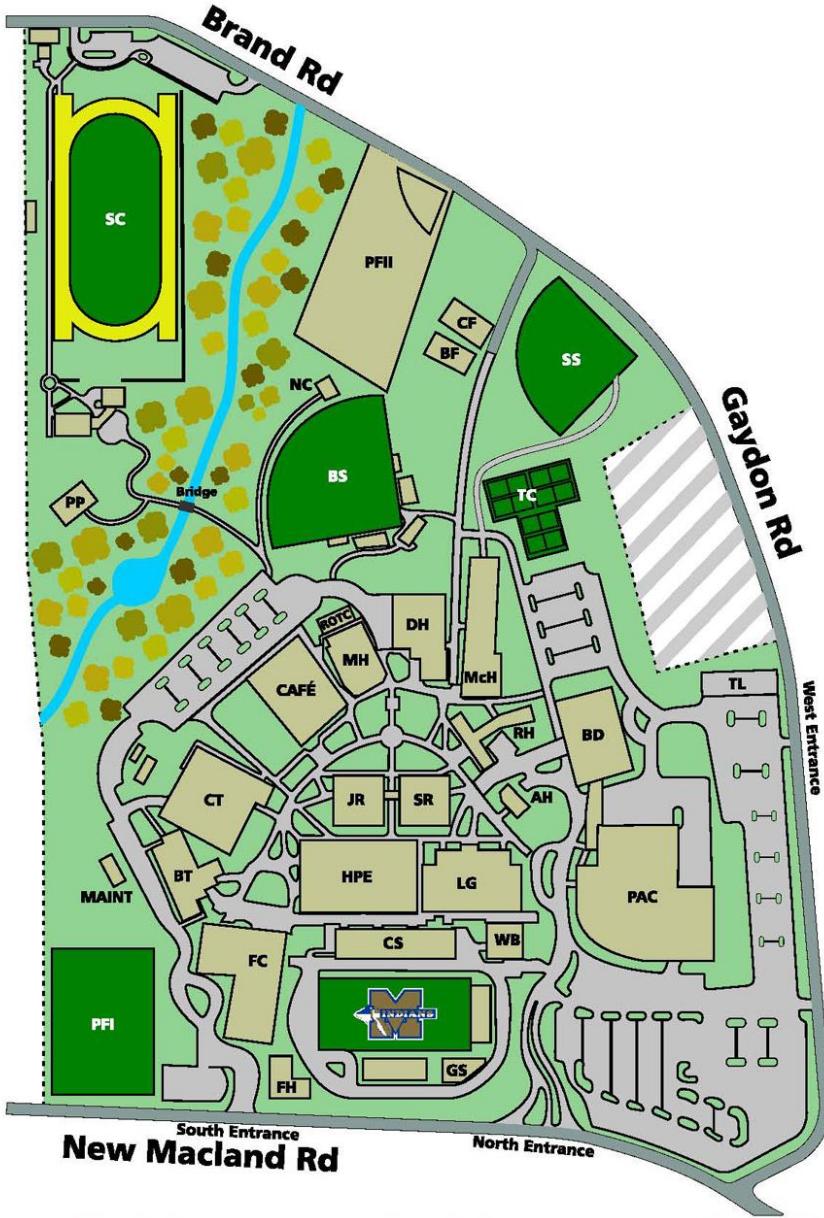
Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Main Office & Principal | 770-222-3710 |
| Attendance Office | 770-222-3725 |
| Dining Hall | 770-222-3711 |
| Freshman Center | 770-222-3723 |
| Counseling | 770-222-3710 x282 |
| Media Center | 770-222-3726 |
| Medical Clinic | 770-222-3710 x297 |
| Teacher Voice Mail | 770-222-3710 (dial extension at prompt) |
| | |
| Cobb County Board Of Education | 770-426-3300 |
| Cobb County Transportation Office | 678-594-8000 |

Important Websites

| | |
|---|---|
| McEachern High School | www.cobbk12.org/~mceachern/ |
| Includes teacher email addresses and voicemail extensions | |
| Freshman Center | www.cobbk12.org/~mceachern/ Click on Freshman Center Link |
| McEachern Athletics | www.mceachernathletics.org |
| Cobb County School District | www.cobbk12.org |

School Map



All Visitors Must Register at Russell Hall

| | |
|------|--|
| AH | Alumni House |
| BD | Band/Drama Facility |
| BF | Baseball Field House |
| BS | Baseball Stadium |
| BT | Business Technology |
| CAFÉ | McEachern Cafeteria |
| CF | Cheer Facility |
| CS | Cantrell Stadium |
| CT | Career Technology |
| DH | Dobbs Hall |
| FC | Freshman Center |
| FH | Football Field House |
| GS | Girls Soccer Facility |
| HPE | Health Physical Education |
| JR | Junior Hall |
| LG | Lovinggood Gymnasium |
| MH | Murray Hall |
| McH | Macland Hall |
| NC | Nature Center Cottage |
| PAC | Performing Arts Center |
| PFI | Practice Field I (Football, Soccer) |
| PFII | Practice Field II (Lacrosse, Softball) |
| PP | Picnic Pavilion |
| RH | Russell Hall |
| SC | Sports Complex |
| SR | Senior Hall |
| SS | Softball Stadium |
| TC | Tennis Courts |
| TL | Transportation Lot |
| WB | Wrestling Building |