

Hello Parents and Bulldogs,

We have had a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. As a reminder, there is no student drop off or pick up in the staff lot off of Wilmeth. This lot is reserved for staff parking and bus drop off in the morning. We have had a few close calls in the staff parking lot with parents exiting as buses are entering the lot or as our staff is walking into or out of the building. Please do not drop off or pick up your child in the staff parking lot.

As a reminder, all students must have a 2023-2024 student ID visible each day as they enter campus. Students are not required to wear their ID after they enter, but they must have it visible to enter the building. We have had our ID machine set up everyday this week to make student IDs for those students that did not have their ID made at schedule pick up. Beginning on Monday, August 28th, any student that does not have a 2023-2024 McKinney North ID will be required to complete a request for a new ID. The requests for a new ID will create an automatic \$5 charge on HAC.

While the ID is a part of our daily safety procedures, we also use it for check in at games and other school events. **All students must have their 2023-2024 McKinney North High School ID to sit in our student section at home football games.** Our first home football game is this Saturday at the MISD Stadium. The game will begin at 10:30am. Gates will open 45 minutes prior to game time. We want to see all of our Bulldogs on Saturday morning wearing ORANGE and supporting our Football Team, Cheerleaders, Guard Dawgs, Band, North Stars and Color Guard as they begin the Fall Season.

Along with our first football game this week we also have our first pep rally to support all our teams and celebrate the start of school with all of our students. At this time, we are unable to allow visitors to the pep rally. We do love that parents enjoy attending these special events and we will continue to evaluate ways that we can offer opportunities for parents to attend. For now, we will offer a live stream of the pep rally. The link will be released on Friday, August 25th.

For our parents of 9th graders, preliminary student score reports for all STAAR grades 3-8 assessments are available via the MISD Home Access Center (HAC). Standard student score reports for all STAAR grades 3-8 assessments were posted on August 16, 2023, to the state-sponsored family portal at [texasassessment.gov](https://www.texasassessment.gov). For information on how to access the state-sponsored family portal, visit the MISD STAAR EOC page at <https://www.mckinneyisd.net/accountability-evaluation/staar-eoc/>. For information explaining how to understand the STAAR Student Report Card, visit this link. The information is available in both English and Spanish. Please contact your child's campus if you have any questions. This same link can be used to access STAAR scores for all End of Course assessments taken last spring in high school as well.

If your child is currently enrolled in a weighted class and as a family you are beginning to see that this course may not be the best fit, please be sure to review the attached document for all information regarding the drop process for weighted courses. [23-24 Weighted Course Exit.pdf](#) If you have any questions about how your child is doing in a particular class please contact the classroom teacher directly.

As mentioned at the beginning of the year in my communications to students and parents I shared that phones, smartwatches, and earbuds were not allowed to be used during instructional time. Students are expected to place all of these items in their backpacks as they enter the classroom. We have already been receiving very positive feedback from our teachers on how this school-wide effort has reduced distractions and improved student engagement. Students may still use all of these items at lunch or during passing periods.

Teachers have also shared that it is important for students to bring a charged laptop to school everyday. Students that are currently having tech issues must check in with the tech bar help station in the cafeteria during their lunch. It is important for our students to remember that if they have already dropped their laptop off for a repair it is their responsibility to check with the tech bar help station to see if repairs have been completed. Laptops will not be delivered to the classroom, students must pick them up.

All of our student drivers must purchase a parking permit and have it properly displayed in the car by Monday, August 28. Students parked in the school parking lot without a proper permit will receive an orange sticker reminding them to purchase the permit. Parking permits may be purchased in Gamma house before or after school.

As I stated earlier it has truly been a great start to our school year. I am looking forward to seeing our students and parents at many of the upcoming events. While school has only just started, I do want to remind all parents and students that we have a holiday coming up soon. Students will have a holiday on Friday, September 1st and Monday, September 4th. I also want to remind all parents to join us for our annual Curriculum Night on Monday, September 11th. We will be running a bell schedule so that parents have the opportunity to walk their child's schedule and hear from each of their child's teachers. Our evening will begin at 5:30pm. Please mark your calendars now for September 11th Curriculum Night.

I hope you all have a great weekend and I hope to see many of you at the game on Saturday morning. I would also like to take a moment to remind all parents to follow us on social media through both Twitter and Facebook:

Twitter - @McKinneyNorthHS

Facebook - McKinney North High School

Let's Go Dawgs!

Jae Gaskill