

McIntosh County School System

Student Handbook

2020-2021



McIntosh County School System



Home of the Buccaneers

Superintendent

Dr. Jim Pulos

Board of Education

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Mission Statement

Educational Excellence and Equity for All

Vision Statement

To graduate all students prepared for college and/or careers.

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the McIntosh County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment programs or activities or in employment policies.

Inquiries concerning the application of the Perkins Act, Title I, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 and ADA to the policies and practices of the Board of Education may be addressed to the McIntosh County Board of Education, 200 Pine Street, Darien, Georgia 31305; to the Regional office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, Georgia 30323; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Title VI/VII Coordinator is Mrs. Shelly Sheets at: ssheets@mcintosh.k12.ga.us

Section 504 and Special Education Director is Mr. DJon McNair at: djmcnair@mcintosh.k12.ga.us

Title IX Coordinator is Ms. Cassandra Noble at: cnoble@mcintosh.k12.ga.us

McKinney-Vento Act Coordinator is Ms. Tonya Armstrong at: tarmstrong@mcintosh.k12.ga.us

Open Records Officer is Mr. Merwan Massa at: mmassa@mcintosh.k12.ga.us



McIntosh County Schools

Dr. James G. Pulos
Superintendent

July 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Considering the seriousness of the COVID-19 issues our country and community continue to face, the significance of returning to classrooms is undeniable. These are historic and challenging times unlike any other in our country's history – challenges that demand vast resources and considerations not normally expected of our schools. Many of you may have anxiety regarding the uncertainty that lies ahead. Please know that we all share the same concerns and strive to maintain a safe and conducive learning environment for everyone.

Over the past several months, our COVID-19 committee met on numerous occasions to discuss developing and ever-changing information regarding this virus in order to make recommendations regarding our options for returning to school. This committee was comprised of representatives from every school with the intent to discuss items of concern and ideas with other school members. This team reviewed guidance from various sources, actions of other districts, and applied the concepts to our unique circumstances in McIntosh County. As well, I have discussed the information below at length with our local health department officials.

On Monday, July 6, 2020, the Board of Education was briefed on our plans for returning to school, and numerous questions were addressed. I am certain that many more questions will surface, and we will address those as well. As we stand today, I would like to provide the following information regarding our reopening. Please understand that we will make adjustments as the situation changes.

- We feel that it is absolutely imperative that we return to normal operations this fall with our great staff/faculty and students in our buildings. The loss of face-to-face instruction experienced over the past few months by our students is not acceptable, and the impact may be felt for years to come.
- We will maintain our current school year calendar with the understanding that adjustments may need to be made if a situation warrants.
- We do not support placing additional demands upon each teacher to facilitate face-to-face instruction and virtual instruction simultaneously. We may need to make virtual options available if our current situation changes significantly.
- We realize that some of our students may have legitimate reasons for not returning to the normal classroom. We will address those concerns on a case-by-case basis dependent upon the documented reasons. This may require a meeting of the student's individual education plan (IEP) committee, review of 504 plan accommodations, and/or consideration of potential requirements for limited hospital homebound (HHB) services. These cases should be the exception and not the rule. Parents with concerns will need to individually contact the school prior to the start of school.

We have committed to increasing the academic rigor at our high school as we prepare our students for college and/or careers after graduation. We will offer two Advanced Placement (AP) courses this year for eligible students, and will offer Spanish I and Spanish II for high school credit in the middle school that will lead to advanced classes in Spanish in the future. As a part of our community values, we will offer the History of the Old Testament and New Testament as electives. We have added the requirement that all seniors must participate in an interview session supported by the community prior to graduation.

Our mission statement provides: "Educational Excellence and Equity for All!" These are not hollow words to us. We want every student to feel welcomed and supported in our schools. We will not tolerate any form of racism, discrimination, or any other injustice. Furthermore, we must all work together to continue our efforts to build great relationships throughout our community that support our common goal of educating our youth. I want to wish each of you an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Pulos", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jim Pulos
Superintendent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Agendas/Hall Passes</u>	<u>Lockers</u>
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lunchroom Rules</u>
<u>Bell Schedule/School Hours</u>	<u>Make-Up Work</u>
<u>Bullying</u>	<u>McIntosh County Mobile App</u>
<u>Bus Information</u>	<u>Media Center</u>
<u>Cameras in the Classroom</u>	<u>Medications</u>
<u>Cell Phones/Electronic Devices</u>	<u>Messages/Telephone Usage</u>
<u>Child Abuse or Neglect</u>	<u>Medical Conditions and Emergency Care</u>
<u>Class and Teacher Assignments</u>	<u>Parents and Visitors</u>
<u>Clubs and Organizations</u>	<u>Parent Conferences</u>
<u>Code of Conduct for Athletes</u>	<u>Parental Rights & FERPA</u>
<u>Counseling</u>	<u>PBIS</u>
<u>Directory Information</u>	<u>Perfect Attendance</u>
<u>Dress Code</u>	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>
<u>Driver's Licenses</u>	<u>Policy Manuals</u>
<u>Dual Enrollment</u>	<u>Promotion/Retention</u>
<u>Early Dismissal</u>	<u>Quiet Reflection</u>
<u>Eligibility for Participation</u>	<u>Registration/School Entry Information</u>
<u>Emergency Drills</u>	<u>Schedule/Class Change</u>
<u>Field Trips</u>	<u>School Calendar</u>
<u>Flowers</u>	<u>School Councils</u>
<u>Food and Beverages</u>	<u>School Records</u>
<u>Georgia High School Association</u>	<u>Student Code of Conduct</u>
<u>Gifted Education</u>	<u>Student ID</u>
<u>Grade Report Dates</u>	<u>Student Alcohol Use</u>
<u>Grade Reporting</u>	<u>Success Tips</u>
<u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>Suicide Prevention</u>
<u>Graduation Ceremony</u>	<u>Suspension/Expulsion</u>
<u>Graduation Requirements</u>	<u>Teacher Authority</u>
<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Testing</u>
<u>Homecomings/Senior Contests</u>	<u>Textbooks/Computers</u>
<u>Honor Graduates/Honor Roll</u>	<u>Tobacco Free School Policy</u>
<u>HOPE Scholarship/Grant</u>	<u>Tobacco Use Prohibited</u>
<u>Hospital/Homebound Instruction</u>	<u>Transfers/Withdrawals</u>
<u>Insurance</u>	<u>Valedictorian/Salutatorian</u>
<u>Internet Acceptable Use Policy</u>	<u>Weapons</u>
<u>Interviews and Searches of Students</u>	<u>Work Permits</u>

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



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McIntosh County Academy

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Your Mobile School App

