# Merlin Messenger

Parent Newsletter - March



## 3rd 9 Weeks Report Cards

As a reminder, report cards will now be found in the student portfolio section in your Skyward Family Access account.

Progress reports will be available for parents to view on Thursday, March 21st in Skyward.

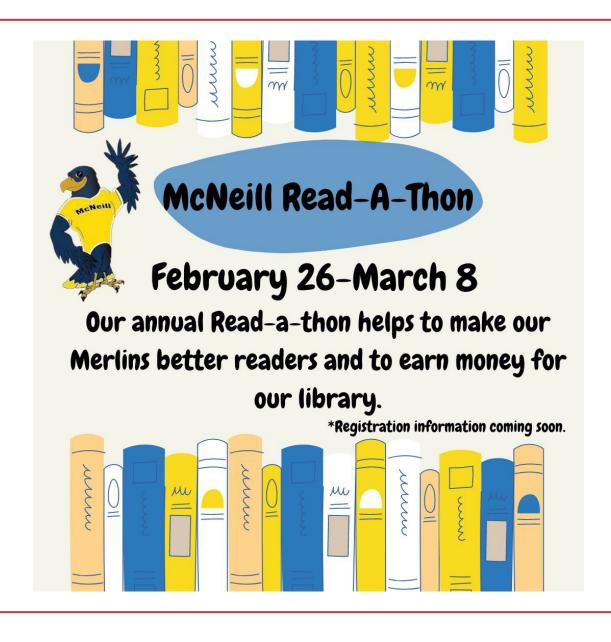
Please see the attached guide down below for the simple, 4-step process to access your child(ren)'s grade report.

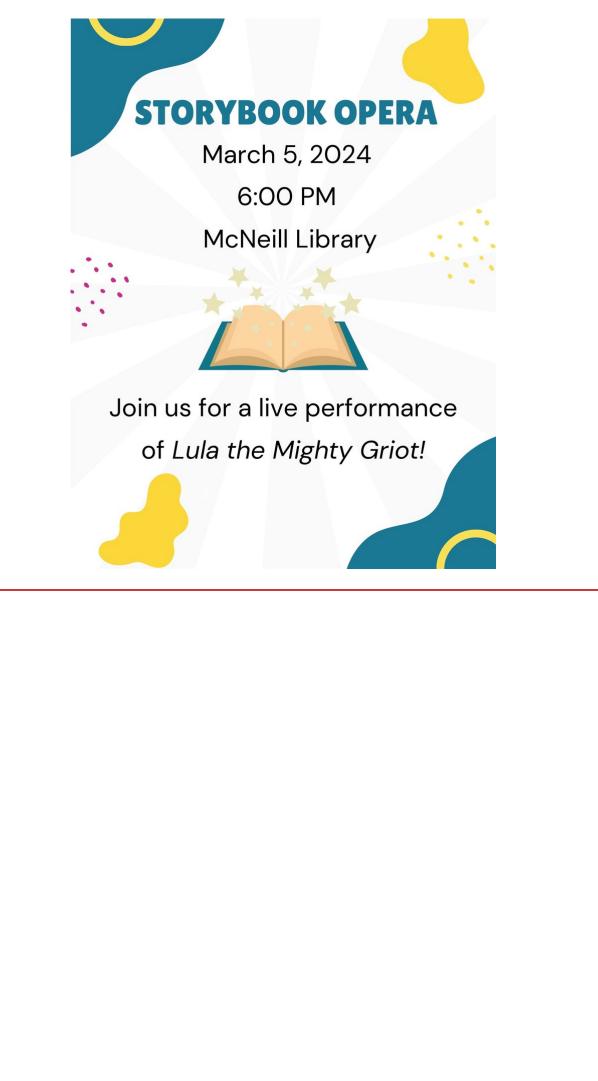
If you need help with Family Access, please contact our secretary, Mindy Gonzalez, mgonzalez06@lcisd.org.

How to view progress reports and report cards in Family Access.pdf

**Download** 

297.3 KB











## **Club Information - March**

Our clubs are underway. It is important that parents pick up or drop off students on time. We appreciate your support! Below you will find a list of clubs, meeting dates, and sponsor name(s). Please reach out to the club sponsor with any questions.

#### **Club Name**

Checkers Club - Mondays

- March Date(s): 3/4, 3/18, 3/25
- Sponsors Mr. Jones

#### Medical Detectives Club - Tuesdays

- March Date(s): 3/5, 3/19, 3/26
- Sponsor Nurse Mager

### Men in the Making - Wednesdays

- March Date(s): 3/20
- Sponsor Mr. Jones

#### Puzzle Club - Wednesdays

- March Date(s): 3/20, 3/27
- Sponsor Ms. Kirkpatrick, Ms. Wood, Ms. Garnes

#### Choir - Thursdays

March Date(s): 3/7, 3/21, 3/28

O----- MA- O----

#### Lego Club - Thursdays

- March Date(s): 3/7, 3/21, 3/28
- Sponsor Ms. Kirkpatrick

#### MCA - Fridays

- March Date(s): 3/1, 3/22
- Sponsor Mr. Yoon

#### Rhythm & Step - Fridays

- March Date(s): 3/1
- Sponsor Ms. Garnes/Mr. Jones

### **PTO News**



## **March Dress Down Days**

Our March dress down day(s) will be held on the following date(s):

Friday, March 1st: Twin Day (Students Pay \$1)
Friday, March 8th: End of Nine Weeks (Free Dress)

## Twin Dress Down Day!

\$1

Friday, March 1, 2024
Find a friend & coordinate your outfits!



Please send \$1 with your student to participate in Dress Down Day.

\*All clothing must meet LCISD student dress code policy.

## **March Spirit Nights**

Our March Spirit Night(s) will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 6th: Crust Pizza Wednesday, March 28th: Tulip Gelato



## Wednesday, March 6th 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Come out to support McNeill Elementary! Stop by Crust Pizza Co. - Richmond and mention the organization for lunch or dinner, and they'll generously donate 50% of all Garlic Knots & Garlic Cheese Bread back to us!

### **CRUST PIZZA CO. - RICHMOND**

4836 Waterview Town Center Drive STE 100 Richmond, TX 77407 (281) 657-7787 • WWW.CRUSTPIZZACO.COM

## **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**





DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 TIME: 3-8 PM

A PORTION OF EACH SALE WILL
GO TO MCNEIL PTA

THE TOP 2 MOST PARTICIPATED CLASS
TEACHERS WILL WIN A 25 DOLLAR GIFT
CARD!!!



TULIP GELATO
7417 W GRAND PKWY S
#130, RICHMOND, TX 77407



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING VOLLALL

## **Morning Arrival**

School doors open at 7:15 a.m. with students entering classrooms at 7:30 a.m. and instruction beginning promptly at 7:45 a.m. There is minimal traffic with drop off between 7:15 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Please keep this in mind when planning your day.

The **front parking lot/area** (located in the front of the school) is designated for staff arrival and bus drop off from 7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. There are no car drop-offs in the front during this time. It is important that parents adhere to this policy so that staff and students arriving can arrive to school in a safe manner.

We have a staff member positioned at the end of the driveway to ensure that staff and buses can enter the front drive. Please be courteous and respectful of our staff out front as they are there to help with morning arrival.

Parents can park along the street and walk their child to the main entrance. If doing so, please remember the following:

- Follow the posted speed limits while in the school zone.
- Do not make a U-Turn in the middle of the street.
- Street parking regulations in Texas: 15 feet away from a fire hydrant / 20 feet away from crosswalk at an intersection / 30 feet away from stop signs.
- Double parking is not allowed so please do not drop your student off in the middle of the road. Either pull to the curb or come through the back drive to be greeted by our friendly safety patrol students.



LCISD libraries are hosting a book festival! Books selected from the Texas Bluebonnet List and the Texas 2x2 list will be showcased with a book experience. Each experience will focus on enriching the lives of our readers with unique, hands-on activities. All elementary students are invited to the event!

#### **EXPERIENCES INCLUDE**

-OTTER EXHIBITION -BOLLYWOOD DANCERS -WILDLIFE PROGRAMS -MARIACHI BAND

BOOK FAIR • FOOD • LITERACY EVENTS • VIP EXPERIENCES

APRIL 6, 2024

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

-BOOK EXPERIENCES
-BOOK FAIR AND FOOD TRUCKS

FREE ENTRY

TERRY HIGH SCHOOL 5500 AVE. N ROSENBERG, TEXAS

Register for this event here!



Spring Book Festival Information Sheet ENG and SP 23-24.pdf

**Download** 

1.8 MB

## ATTEND TODAY, **ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

#### GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



Build skills and develop good habits Read well by the end for showing up on time



STUDENTS of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS Pass important

courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS Stay on track for graduation

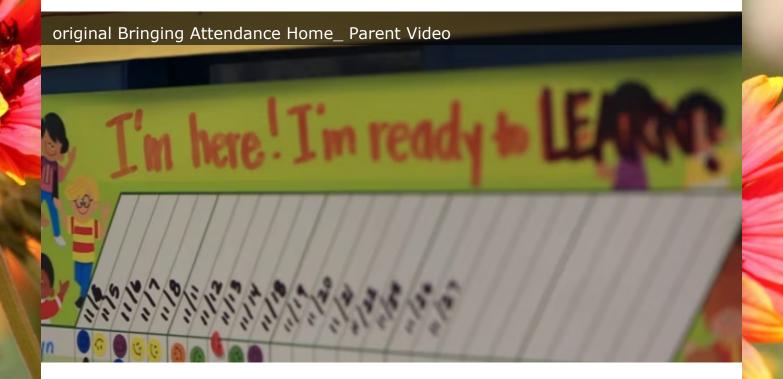


**COLLEGE STUDENTS** Earn their degrees Succeed in their jobs



School attendance is a critical aspect of a student's academic journey. Regular attendance helps students acquire knowledge and plays a significant role in their overall development. Students develop a sense of responsibility, discipline, and punctuality by attending school regularly. They learn to manage their time effectively and prioritize their tasks, preparing them for future challenges. School attendance is crucial for a student's academic and life success.

Let's work together to ensure that our Merlins attend school regularly and on time.



**Yearbook Information** 

## Yearbooks selling fast!

## Order your 2023-2024 Yearbook now for just \$35

## Three easy ways to order:

- Go to <u>Balfour.com</u> and type in our school name <u>McNeill Elementary School</u>. Purchase a yearbook online using a credit or debit card.
- 2. Make a payment using Venmo to McNeill Elementary PTO @McNeill-PTO
- Complete the form below and return to front office with your cash or check attached. Make checks payable to: McNeill Elementary PTO

For questions, please email Delores Williams at <a href="mailto:merlinyearbook@gmail.com">merlinyearbook@gmail.com</a>

While supplies last. Scan now to preorder.



Cost: \$35		
Student Name :		
Teacher/Grade:		
Parent/Guardian Nan	e:	
Email:		
D1		
# of Yearbooks	Total Cost	
Payment Method		Venmo

## Join the PTO

## McNeill PTO Membership Sign-up

JOIN McNeill Elementary PTO TODAY!!

McNeill Elementary PTO is a vital part of the school community bringing together parents, teachers, administrators, and students. We provide an excellent opportunity for parents to meet one another, get comfortable with the school and its staff, and support each other's common goals. Plus, we have a lot of fun in the process!

#### MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$10!!

Each year our PTO funds social events, tools for education, student programs, school supplies, etc. We also provide much needed extras to enhance our student's overall school experience. The PTO can only accomplish all of these things with your help, so please join us today and become involved.

If you would like to make a donation to the PTO we welcome your support. If you are making a donation, please make checks payable to "McNeill Elementary PTO". All donations are tax deductible.

## Counselor's Corner



During the month of March we will be learning about Caring, the fifth pillar of Character Counts. I will be going into the classrooms focusing on Caring and Kindness. Each morning we will start our day off with a character Count message during announcements. After Spring Break we will ERASE Hate through our next NPFH activity. Encouraging students, faculty and family members to take a stand against bias and bullying. Our goal will be to cover our No Place for Have bulletin board of hearts with written messages of hope, respect, acts of kindness, and actions to stand up against inequality making our school a place where all students can thrive.

#### Character Building At Home!

Two Highs and a Low—Model caring in your family . Take an interest in each other's day. When you have dinner together, begin with "Two Highs and a Low." Ask each member of the family to tell the two high points of the day and one low. Be sure to show care and respect when each person shares the high and low points. Remember, what is a low point for one person may not be a low point for another. Don't brush off a child's low point. Try to understand what happened and why it was a low. Be compassionate and ask questions. You will learn a lot about each other.

Your child learns that adults have their own ups and downs. And everyone gets to know each other better. Starting this routine when your child is young makes caring communication an important part of your family life.

Ms. Fielder and the students had a lot of fund creating our Love Links. I'm so proud of our Austin Astronauts, some students made multiple links, drew great pictures and wrote inspirational words and quotes. Our links were mailed to PEACE headquarters to be part of a Guinness World Record chain link.



Important Dates and Events:

March 8- Early Release Day @ 11:30

March 11-15 SPRING BREAK

McNeill Counselors 832-223-2805 fpatterson@lcisd.org William.Jones@lcisd.org

## **Repeated Information**

## **Volunteer Information**

If you are interested in volunteering in Lamar CISD for the 2023-2024 please complete the volunteer background check application found here <a href="https://www.lcisd.org/community/volunteers">https://www.lcisd.org/community/volunteers</a>
This background check will allow you to serve on campus in a variety of capacities with both students and teachers.

We appreciate your help in keeping our campus and students safe. Thank you for volunteering in Lamar CISD!

## **Lunch Visitors**

Lunch visitors will be welcomed daily during. Lunchroom visitors are limited to **TWO visitors** per child per day.

As a large campus, our space is very limited, and we must be creative with how we safely accommodate lunch visitors for parents who would like to eat with their children. There will be one lunch table and the lounge area designated for visitors. Please be sure to sit in these areas only.

Visitors may eat **ONLY** with their child. Visitors may not provide food for children who are not their own or interact with them.

Visitors must sign in at the front office with a government issued identification card or a passport to receive a pass. After the scheduled lunch time, parents must leave the building.

Parents are highly discouraged from dropping off lunches or having lunch delivery services at school. The constant deliveries are a disruption to the instructional environment. Students should bring easy to open items with them daily for lunch and snacks to minimize contact. No nut-based snacks for the classrooms.

#### McNeill Lunch Schedule (1).pdf

Download

151.7 KB

## Lamar CISD Elementary Handbook / District Code of Conduct

The Lamar CISD Elementary Handbook has been approved by the LCISD board and is now posted with updated changes. Please follow this link to review:

https://www.lcisd.org/departments/academics/elementary-education

#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Technology Devices**

Personal Technology Lamar CISD believes that appropriate use of students' technology devices enhances our students' education. Students may be asked to bring their own device to school. This includes but is not limited to: cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, electronic tablets, and laptop computers. Students may use devices in class at the teacher's discretion. Students must follow teacher, campus, and district rules and guidelines for use.

(Campus Guideline: All electronic devices must remain in the student's backpack turned off during the instructional day unless the teacher allows the student to use the device for an assignment.)

#### Vapes / e-cigarettes

During the last Texas Legislative session, a law was passed making it illegal for a student to be in possession of a vape / e-cigarette at school events or on campus. If a student is found in possession of such items violating the district code of conduct, there is a mandatory placement at ALC. (Page 113 Elementary Student Handbook)

#### Possession Of Prohibited Items Students shall not possess or use:

(For a complete list of prohibited items see page 99 of the LCISD Elementary Handbook)

- fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device
- razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- "look-alike" weapon
- air gun or BB gun, firearm, stun gun
- a pocketknife or any other small knife
- mace or pepper spray

(Parents, please discuss this with your child and check your student's backpacks or pockets every periodically. Students have shared that on the weekends they go fishing or hunting where they use a pocket knife. We simply do not want a pocket knife left in a pocket or back pack from a fun weekend trip inadvertently. If you look on page 113, there's mandatory placement to ALC if these items are brought on campus.)

#### **Compulsory Attendance Law**

#### Excused Absences for Compulsory Attendance

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. The District shall excuse a student from attending school for the following purposes:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship
- Health-Care Appointments\*
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state
- TAPS at Military Funeral
- Parent, Stepparent, or Legal Guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services leaves for active duty
- Personal Illness\*\*
- Death/Funeral of an Immediate Family Member
- Quarantine Absences for a student who is required to quarantine will be excused with written documentation from a medical physician or the school nurse.

\*Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services shall be excused, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health-care provider. A consultation over the phone or via video (telemedicine) is considered an appointment with a health care professional. However, an appointment with a school nurse does not count as an appointment with a health care professional.

\*\*When a student is absent from school due to personal illness, the student upon return, or within 5 days of returning to school, must submit a note signed by a parent giving the date(s) and describing the reason for the absence.

#### **Unexcused Absences**

If an absence does not meet the criteria for an excused absence, the absence will be considered

are not limited to the following:

- Any absence without required documentation.
- Family trips/vacations, reunions, weddings, parent business trips.
- Non-school sponsored activities.
- Private lesson or tutoring.
- Religious retreats, camps, mission trips, and individual rites other than a religious holy day.
- Non-enrollment days These are days that a student is not in school due to transferring to another LCISD campus or alternative placement.

#### **ABSENT NOTES:**

Parent notes may be sent by email but must come from a parent's verified email account. The note or email must be sent to the campus attendance clerk. Excuse notes turned in after 5 days are subject to approval by the campus principal. An excessive number of absences will be referred to the Campus Attendance Review Committee (ARC). If a student is absent 5 consecutive school days or more, a doctor's note is required within 5 days of the student's return to school for the absence to be excused.

#### MAKE-UP WORK:

It is critical for students to work with teachers when they return from an absent from school so that assignments can be completed.

## **Parent Standards of Conduct**

The LCISD Board of Trustees approved the Parent Standards of Conduct on August 1, 2023.

Parent Standards of Conduct - 08.01.23.pdf

Download

147.2 KB

Parent Standards of Conduct - Spanish - 08.01.23.pdf

**Download** 

145.5 KB



## 2023-24 McNeill's Standard Dress Code

#### Parents,

Please help to ensure that your child is in dress code everyday. Outside of dress down days, students are expected to adhere to our campus dress code. Thank you in advance for your help.

Collared (polo style, no logo) solid color tops in red, white, navy blue and yellow. Bottoms may be in solid color khaki, navy blue or blue denim jeans, slacks shorts, skirts, or jumpers. McNeill spirit shirts may also be worn.

#### Clarifications:

- Students are required to wear their ID's daily.
- On PTO Free and Pay dress down days students must follow the LCISD dress code policy.

## Car Rider Pick-Up Procedures

To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that you please follow the procedures listed below to help the car rider line remain safe and move quickly.

- 1. The car rider line is a **CELL PHONE FREE ZONE**.
- 2. Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:10.
- 3. Parents will hang their car rider signs on the rearview mirror.
- 4. A teacher will assign you a number as you enter the car rider line.
- 5. You will pull forward to your designated number indicated on the sidewalk to your right.
- 6. Do not stop when you see your child walking. A Safety Patrol student or teacher will assist your child with entering the car.
- 7. Please do not get out of your vehicle for any reason.

- 8. Once your child is in your vehicle, you must remain in the car rider line. **Do not go around the** cars in front of you to exit the car line.
- 9. If your child is not at the designated number provided, you will be asked to move forward and park in a designated parking spot. A staff member will go to the gym and walk your child to your vehicle.
- 10. Please be patient and drive slowly.



## Rainy Day Dismissal Procedures

On inclement weather days, we will implement our Rainy Day Dismissal procedures to ensure all students get home safely. All dismissal procedures will remain the same for car riders, bus riders, daycare, and YMCA students. Please note the changes below for walkers and bikers in the event of a Rainy Day Dismissal.

#### **Walkers & Bikers**

- Students will report to the library and sit by grade level.
- After the bus and day car buses have departed, parents of walkers/bikers may make their way to the front of the school.
- Parents will be asked to sign their child out with one of the staff members in the front foyers.
- Students will be released from the library to the parent after they have been signed out.

In the event you would like to change your child's transportation method, please contact the front office before 2:15 pm. Thank you in advance for your understanding as student safety is our top priority.

## Early Pick-Up and Transportation Changes

If you take your child out of school before dismissal time, you will need to report to the office to sign him/her out. Your child will stay in the classroom until you arrive. If it necessary for someone other than the parent/guardian pick up your child, that person must be signed, dated note with the child. The person picking up your child must show photo identification to the office staff. Accumulated time of early pick-ups is calculated by minutes in lost instruction time. Request to check out your child must be done prior to 2:15 pm.

Any changes in the normal transportation of your child must be stated in writing with a parent/guardian signature. We ask for everyone's help in not making changes frequently. However, we understand that in rare cases, unexpected changes will need to happen. These can be called in to the front office by 2:15 pm. We are not able to process changes after 2:15 pm. This includes parents that come to the campus without prior notice to pick up their child. Any change in transportation arrangements for any student requires a note to the teacher. Make sure you write your child's first and last name, teacher's name and indicate the date(s) for the change and how the child is going to go home. We ask that the parents not email the change since there maybe times that a teacher is not in attendance or does not have a chance to read their email.

Please note on early release days the latest you can pick up is 11:00 am!

## Visitor / Volunteer Badges

Parents and other visitors / volunteers are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors / volunteers must first report to the main office, sign in as a visitor / volunteer, present a valid State issued ID, and wear a visitor's / volunteer's badge. To better protect our students, visitors and staff, all LCISD campuses screen for registered sex offenders. A valid State issued ID is required to enter all campuses.

(New Requirement: Badges must be worn on the upper torso / chest area in clear view)



## **SMARTTag Reminders**

- Students will be required to wear their SMART Tags daily. They should wear them with their lanyards to school. No items should be attached to lanyards.
- All students will start receive SMART tags by the end of the first week.
- Any student who misplaces their SMART Tag will need to purchase a replacement one.
   Replacement SMART Tags can be purchased for \$5 in the front office

SRP: Standard Response Protocol

## **IN AN EMERGENCY** TAKE ACTION



#### HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

#### STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain Close and lock door in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced Do business as usual

Account for students and adults Do business as usual



#### SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

#### STUDENTS

Return to inside of building Do business as usual

ADULTS Bring everyone indoors Lock outside doors Increase situational awareness Account for students and adults Do business as usual



#### LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

#### STUDENTS

Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door

#### ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible Lock the classroom door Turn out the lights Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door



#### EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

#### STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to If possible, bring your phone Follow instructions

#### **ADULTS**

Lead students to Evacuation location Account for students and adults Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Prepare to evade or defend



#### SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

#### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

#### ADULTS Lead safety strategy

Account for students and adults Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Safety Strategy Hazard Tornado Evacuate to shelter area Hazmat Seal the room Earthquake Drop, cover and hold Tsunami Get to high ground



## **Emergency Drill Practices**

Every month Mcneill students will practice a safety drill along with a fire drill. Drills are not announced so we can practice them in case we are presented with a situation to activate one in real time. Teachers reviewed the procedures for these drills with their students during the first week of school. These drills have **not** changed from last year to this year.

## Federal Report Card

McNeill is sharing the below information about the district and your child's campus with you as part of its obligations under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). Federal Report Cards for the state, the district, and each of the district's campuses are now available on the district's website at this link:

https://www.lcisd.org/departments/academics/raa/performance-reports-and-legal-postings or are also available on the Texas Education Agency's website at: https://tea.texas.gov/finance-andgrants/grants/essa-program/federal-report-card. A detailed description of these reports is enclosed.

If you have difficulty accessing the information from the website, hard copies of the reports can be requested from the district or campus office. If you have questions about the information, please contact McNeill Elementary at 832-223-2800 or the Lamar CISD Research, Assessment, & Accountability Office at 832-223-0136.

#### Federal Report.pdf

Download

179.9 KB

# HELPFUL DOCUMENTS 2023-23 LAMAR CISD CALENDAR

2023-24-instructional (1).pdf

**Download** 

148.7 KB

## Dates to Remember

#### **MARCH**

- March 1: TELPAS (Gr. 3 Listening & Speaking)/PTO Dress Down Day Twin Day (Students Pay \$1)/MCA/Rhythm & Step/Read a-thon
- March 4: TELPAS (Gr. 3 Listening & Speaking) / Checkers Club/Read a-thon
- March 5: TELPAS (Gr. 2 Reading & Writing)/Story Book Opera @ 6PM in Library/PTO Meeting @ 6:30PM in Library/Read a-thon/Medical Detectives
- March 6: TELPAS (Gr. 2 Listening & Speaking)/Texas Educational Diagnostician's Week/Read a-thon
- March 7: Choir/Lego Club
- March 8: 3rd Nine Weeks Ends/PTO Free Dress Day/Early Release @ 11:45AM/Read a-thon
- March 11-15: Spring Break (No School)
- March 18: 4th Nine Weeks Begins/ TELPAS (Gr. 2 Listening & Speaking)/Cheer Tryout Clinic/Checkers Club
- March 19: Cheer Tryout Clinic/Medical Detectives
- March 20: Cheer Tryout Clinic/Men in the Making/Puzzle Club/PTO Spirit Night @ Tulip Gelato
- March 21: Report Cards Posted in Skyward/Choir/Lego Club/Cheer Tryout Clinic
- March 22: MCA
- March 25: Cheer Tryout Clinic/Checkers
- March 26: Cheer Tryout Clinic/Medical Detectives
- March 27: Puzzle Club/Cheer Tryout Clinic

- March 28: Choir/Cheer Tryouts/Lego Club/PTO Spirit Nigh @ Tulip Gelato
- March 29: Student Holiday/Staff Development No School for Students



## **McNeill Elementary**

Email: jearine.jordan@lcisd.org

Website: <a href="https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home">https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home</a>

Location: 7300 S. Mason Rd., Richmond, TX 77407

**Phone:** (832) 223-2800

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins">https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins</a>

