



The PawPrint is a publication of the McNairy Central High School Journalism Department. The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty or staff.

EDITOR Lisa Forsythe

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- THU Aug. 16**  
 •6:00 VB Hardin Co  
 •6:00 GSOC Hardin Co
- FRI Aug. 17**  
 •SPIRIT DAY: White Out Day  
 •9:30 Pep Rally  
 •5:00 70's Night Tailgate Party  
 •7:00 FB Freedom Prep(H)
- SAT Aug. 18**  
 •6:00 Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
- MON Aug. 20**  
 •6:00 JV FB Riverside (A)
- TUE Aug. 21**  
 •5:00 VB Chester Co  
 •6:00 GSOC Southside (A)
- THU Aug. 23**  
 •5:00 VB Bolivar  
 •6:00 GSOC Wayne Co (A)
- FRI Aug. 24**  
 •SPIRIT DAY: Luau/Hawaiian Day  
 •5:00 80's Night Tailgate Party  
 •7:00 FB Tishomingo (H)
- SAT Aug. 25**  
 •VB Corinth Tourney
- MON Aug. 27**  
 •5:00 VB Lexington  
 •6:00 JV FB Chester Co (H)
- TUE Aug. 28**  
 •11:30 Yearbook Sale  
 •5:00 VB Madison  
 •6:00 GSOC Sacred Heart (A)
- WED Aug. 29**  
 •11:30 Yearbook Sale
- THU Aug. 30**  
 •5:00 VB Middleton  
 •6:00 GSOC Lexington (A)
- FRI Aug. 31**  
 •School Dismissed for Staff Development  
 •5:00 90's Night @ MCHS  
 •7:00 FB Covington (H)
- MON Sept. 3**  
 •School Dismissed - Labor Day

### SENIORS!

If you have not had the opportunity to make your selections for your casual and formal picture for the yearbook, you need to do so asap. This information needs to be given to Mr. Mike Waller. If not chosen by August 17, journalism will choose your pictures that go in the yearbook.

Cap and gown pictures will be included in the yearbook this year so they will taken around the first week of November.

### SENIOR PARENT ADS

The envelopes containing the information about purchasing a senior parent ad will be distributed around the first week of September. The deadline for purchasing a senior ad is Thursday, September 13 at 3 pm.

### YEARBOOK SALES

- \$65 - Aug 28 & 29 ONLY
- \$80 - Oct 10 & 11
- Jan 15 & 16

The earlybird yearbook sale will be on Tuesday, August 28, and Wednesday, August 29. On these 2 dates ONLY, you may purchase your yearbook for \$65. They will be sold at lunch on these 2 days. After this date, they will be sold again on Wednesday, October 10, Thursday, October 11, Tuesday, January 15 and Wednesday, January 16 for \$80.

You may also order online beginning Tuesday, August 28, 2018 through Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com).

### PARENTS, NEED GRADEBOOK ACCESS?

Send an email to [grades@mcnairy.org](mailto:grades@mcnairy.org) with your name, the student's name(s) and grade(s). You will receive a username and password within 3 school days.



## State Dept. Mandates School Attendance Policy

By Lisa Forsythe, Editor

The 2018-2019 school year has seen the addition of some new faces on campus, as well as new policies and procedures. One change that parents and community stakeholders should be aware of is the state-mandated attendance policy.

The school year for students is 180 days, and student attendance at school is important every one of those days! A child's learning is directly linked to being in class every day.

"To ensure that every child and parent knows how important it is to attend school daily, Tennessee has a Compulsory School Attendance Law (TCA-49-6-3001) which requires all children ages 6-17 to attend school each day." The law gives school districts authority to set requirements related to student attendance following the state guidelines (TCA-49-6-3002a) To comply with these requirements, the McNairy County School System has developed the following procedures:

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused.

### Documentation must be submitted within three (3) days of the return from the absence.

Excused absences shall include:

- personal illness/injury
- illness of immediate family member
- death in the family
- extreme weather conditions
- religious observances
- college visits
- pregnancy
- school sponsored or school endorsed activities
- summons, subpoena, or court order or
- circumstances which in the judgement of the principal create

emergencies over which the student has no control.

In some circumstances, students may be excused by the parent for missing a day due to sickness that is not severe enough to require a doctor's visit, or for personal family reasons. Parents may excuse a student from school up to a total of five (5) for the school year.

### Students shall be present at least 50% of the scheduled day in order to be counted present.

The school district will categorize the student's attendance performance as one of the following three levels, or tiers:

#### TIER I

•On a student's fourth unexcused absence, the school will send a warning letter to the parent or guardian.

•On a student's fifth unexcused absence, a letter will be sent by the McNairy County Attendance Supervisor. Parents will be contacted by phone, and a conference will be scheduled at the school between the student, parents and the school social worker. At the meeting, an attendance contract will be agreed upon by all the involved parties. The contract will include:

- a specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;
- the period for which the contract is effective; and
- penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court.

#### Tier II

•If a student accumulates additional unexcused absences in violation of the attendance contract in Tier I, the student will be subject to Tier II. This will result in a meeting with the At-

tendance Supervisor, and a school administrator to discuss the breach of contract. At this point, an individualized assessment will detail the reasons a student has been absent from school. The attendance supervisor may refer the student to counseling, community-based services, or other services to address the student's attendance problems.

#### Tier III

•If the truancy interventions under Tier II are not successful, Tier III will be implemented. This tier will cause the student to go before the truancy board. The board will be comprised of school administrators and community stakeholders, who will address the student's needs in an age-appropriate manner.

**Any additional unexcused absences will trigger a petition to juvenile court.** Also, Tier II and Tier III may include additional penalties or required services on an individual basis.

### SUMMARY OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCE STEPS:

- warning letter from school on 4th unexcused absence
- meeting with school social worker and attendance contract on 5th unexcused absence
- individualized attendance assessment, possible penalties and/or services on the next unexcused absence
- student referred to the Truancy Board on the next unexcused absence
- student remanded to appear in juvenile court on the next unexcused absence.

### Military Service of Parent/Guardian

If a parent or custodian is serving active military

service, the student may be provided with one day excused absence prior to the deployment of and one day excused absence upon the return of the parent or custodian. Principals may also allow up to ten (10) excused cumulative (all year total) absences per year for students to visit a parent/guardian during a deployment cycle. Students should provide documentation to the school as proof of his/her parent's guardian's deployment. Students shall be permitted to make up schoolwork missed during these absences.

### Make-Up Work

Make-up work must be made up and turned in **by the end of the second day** after the student returns to school. Students may request make-up work (whether from excused or unexcused absences) immediately upon return to school and if class time is not taken from other students.

Students absent on scheduled end-of-course (EOC) exam days must present a signed doctor's excuse or have an excused release by the principal prior to testing to be eligible for make-up exams. Excused students will receive an incomplete in the course until they have taken the EOC exam. **Students who have an unexcused absence shall receive a failing grade on the EOC exam which shall be averaged into their final grade.**

### DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOCATION

More than ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) reported unexcused absences by a student during any semester can result in a student's driving permit/license to be revoked, or prevent the

application for a new one. To reclaim a revoked license, the student will be required to make a passing grade in at least three (3) full unit subjects or their equivalency at the end of the next grading period.

### CREDIT/PROMOTION DENIAL

Credit/promotion denial determinations may include student attendance; however, student attendance may not be the only criterion. Students and parents/guardians will be notified if a student is in danger of failure to promote due to excessive absenteeism.

### ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

At MCHS, all courses will have a required final exam at the end of the course. It is at the teacher's discretion if the exam is comprehensive, but all students must take the final. Students who do not have more than one (1) unexcused absence in a class will be exempt from the Final Exam. Grades are not an exemption from the final; i.e., a student with an "A" average who has more than one unexcused absence will be required to take the final exam.

Note that tardies / late check-ins / early check-outs are not addressed in the attendance policy. Those are considered behavior issues and will be treated as disciplinary problems by the school administration.

Sources:  
 •My TN Public Schools (<https://mytennesseepublicschools.net/enrollment-and-basic-information/school-attendance/>)  
 •McNairy County Board of Education Attendance Policy 6.02 ([http://images.pcmac.org/uploads/TennesseeSBA/TennesseeSBA/Departments/Documents/Categories/Documents/2008MC\\_57BSISCEBE431EEEF07D.pdf](http://images.pcmac.org/uploads/TennesseeSBA/TennesseeSBA/Departments/Documents/Categories/Documents/2008MC_57BSISCEBE431EEEF07D.pdf))  
 For questions concerning the attendance policy, contact Attendance Supervisor Eric Holcombe at 645-3267.

## Y'all Come on Back Now, ya' Hear?

MCHS will kick off the first Decades' Night this Friday at Don Whitaker Stadium. We are going all the way back to the beginning and inviting classes from our first decade to return to the Hill.

From 5:00 - 6:30, Bobcat alumni can enjoy cake and ice cream at the tailgate party, meet up with old friends, and tell all the "glory days" stories they can remember (don't you think Robert Lee will have a few of those?) Alumni will have the opportunity

to sign up for our alumni database, and we will be playing 70's music all night long! T-shirts commemorating the 50th birthday will be on sale at the gate. At halftime, we will recognize the first football team, cheerleaders and band members who are present. If you're feeling really hip, dress for the evening in your favorite 70's fashions and join us for an evening of great fun as we celebrate Biff turning 50!

## Get Your Commemorative T-Shirt!



T-shirts will be on sale at the football game. Shirts are bright gold with white and royal blue design, and are available in adult sizes Small through 3x for \$20 (\$3 extra for 4x). Shirts can be also purchased online at [mchscats.org](http://mchscats.org) and shipped or picked up in the school office. All proceeds will benefit 2019 Project Graduation.

70's Night

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence!

### MCHS vs Freedom Prep

## August 17

MCHS invites back graduates from

## 1970-1979

5:00 - 6:30 Tailgate Party

*Dress in 70's Fashions, hear your favorite music, eat some free food and visit with classmates as we celebrate the 70's all throughout the night!*

A HUGE THANK YOU to 70's Night Sponsors

- First United Methodist Church, Selmer
- St. Rest Missionary Baptist, Guys
- Friends of the Library, Selmer
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church, McNairy