

23



Freshmen Orientation



**See inside for information
about Freshmen Orientation,
annual events, traditions, and
tips for a successful first year.**



Class of 2023 Orientation & Important Dates

Welcome Rocket! McNicholas High School hopes your first year of high school is fun and memorable. This document is designed to help you understand what will be happening during the first month and beyond of your high school experience.

Sunday, August 18

5 p.m.

⇒ **Freshman Family Mass and Picnic**
McNicholas High School Café

Monday, August 19

7:40 a.m. — 1 p.m.

⇒ **Freshman Orientation Day 1**
All students will meet in the Café and Student Union

Please bring the following:

- Your schedule
- Tablet PC
- Signed certificate of medical examinations
- Wear your Rocket Pride Class of 2023 shirt this day with uniform bottoms

Today, you will:

- Meet your classmates
- Interact with Peer Mentors
- Meet your Advisory Group
- Complete your lunch account (parents must set up online prior to orientation)
- Walk through your schedule
- Enjoy a free pizza lunch

Tuesday, August 20

7:40 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

⇒ **Freshman Orientation Day 2**

Students will report to the following areas:

Students A-F Café
Students G-O Library
Students P-Z Theatre (Room 100)

Please bring the following:

- Your schedule
- Tablet PC
- Packed lunch or purchase through Café

Today, you will:

- Meet your school counselor
- Attend Tech sessions
- Attend Theology session
- Dress in FULL uniform.



Wednesday, August 20

7:40 a.m.—2:40 p.m.

⇒ **First Day of School**

- Administrators and teachers will be available in the halls to help find you find your classes, if needed.
 - Dress in FULL uniform.
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Thursday, August 22

⇒ **School picture day.**

- From the waist up, you must dress according to our handbook (no t-shirts, spaghetti straps, midriffs, etc.).
 - Clean shaven
 - Natural hair colors only
- This picture will go in the yearbook. Faculty reserves the right to refuse photo for yearbook if criteria is not met.
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Tuesday, August 27

4 p.m.

⇒ **Freshmen Spirit Night**

- Join us for a pre-game celebration in the courtyard, and then head up to the Penn to show your Rocket Pride as we cheer on the Men's Soccer team as they take on Chaminade Julianne Eagles.
- Cost is \$5 and includes game ticket and meal. Please register using the attached form at the end of this packet.

Wednesday, September 4

6 p.m.

⇒ **Freshman Parent Meeting**

Meet the staff who are here to support you and your student. The school counselors will review the counseling curriculum. The theology department will give you information regarding the theology curriculum, retreats, and service. The technology department will provide an overview on how to use Schoology and Plus Portals.

7p.m.

⇒ **Meet the Teacher Night**

Parents will walk through their student's schedule and will briefly learn more about the curriculum of each class.

Thursday, September 5

10:20 a.m.

⇒ **Opening Mass**

Guardian Angels Church

Parents are invited to join us for this special "rite of passage" as we welcome our newest class to McNicholas.



September 20-21

⇒ Homecoming Weekend

Students will experience one of their first high school milestones by attending Homecoming Weekend. The dance is on Saturday, September 21. Many students go in co-ed groups of friends. There is no need for students to find “dates” to enjoy the evening. It’s very common for co-ed friend groups to go out for pictures and dinner before the dance. Students are allowed to bring other high school students, but they must have a permission slip signed by our Director of Student Life and the other high school’s principal prior to purchasing tickets.

Attire for the homecoming dance is semi-formal.

Thursday, September 26

⇒ Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parents can schedule a conference with any teacher(s) to discuss concerns. On-line sign-ups will be in September. Please read the school newsletter for announcement.



October 14-18

⇒ Quarter Testing Week (end of 1st Quarter)

The last week of each quarter is a scheduled testing week. Each teacher will approach the end of quarter differently. However, this is typically a busy week of studying. Organization, time management, a healthy diet, and a good night’s sleep are great formulas for success!

Sunday, October 27

⇒ Open House for Prospective Families

Please encourage family and friends to attend our annual Open House. Also, we’d love for you to volunteer! More details about how to get involved will be available in September.

Friday, December 20

⇒ End of First Semester and beginning of Christmas break!

One of the most exciting days of the year! Your student has earned a well-deserved break, and they have survived the first half of their freshman year.

Annual Events and Traditions

Walk Day



Students walking through the Mt. Washington community on Walk Day

⇒ **Friday, Sept. 20, 2019**

Walk Day is an annual tradition. It is traditionally held the Friday of Homecoming Weekend.

There are no classes on Walk Day. Students will come to school at regular time and will be dismissed after they have completed the Walk. Therefore, arrangements must be made for early pick-up.



Student Retreats

⇒ **Freshman Day of Renewal,
Friday, October 25**

Each year students will attend a retreat as part of their Theology curriculum. The retreat for the freshman is called "Freshman Day of Renewal." It will be a one-day retreat supported by the Theology department and senior peer ministers. Students will stay on campus for the day.



Mardi Gras

⇒ **Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020**

The annual Mardi Gras Pageant and Ball is the most prestigious student event of the year. It honors 40 senior students who have given their time and talents in service to the school and community throughout their high school experience. During the evening ceremonies, a Mardi Gras King and Queen are crowned. The King, Queen and Court then preside over a formal dance open to all McNicholas students.

The Senior Court consists of the top 20 young men and top 20 young women who have actively participated in school events and organizations. Membership on the Court is a result of four years of compiled voting from students and faculty. The top four sophomore and junior young men and women constitute the honor guard.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, who founded McNicholas High School, brought the Mardi Gras tradition from New Orleans to the school in 1952.

This is a formal evening. Attire for students not on court is suit and tie for men, and formal dresses for ladies. A white dress is reserved only for the Mardi Gras queen, so when choosing a dress, do not choose white.

Families of the Mardi Gras court are invited to attend.



Re-Registration

⇒ **January-February**

In January, you will receive a re-registration packet in the mail. This will contain information for the upcoming year tuition and any financial aid awards. At the time of registration, you must pay the registration fee and deposit to secure your spot. This is non-refundable as we use your registration numbers to determine staffing needs, number of classes, etc. There will be a late fee imposed for families who do not register on time.



2019 King Myles Bailey and Queen Georgia Cheek.

McNick at Night

⇒ **Saturday, March 14, 2020**

The annual McNick at Night is our largest fundraiser of the year. This adults-only event offers a fun evening of silent auction on-line bidding, live auction, dinner and open bar.

There is a special appeal each year that has allowed McNicholas to renovate the Café and Student Union, install and upgrade school-wide security systems, upgrade technology, and provide financial assistance to students.

All families are invited to attend. Be on the lookout for invites after the new year. But hurry, we have actually sold out the last few years!



Parent Involvement

⇒ **Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)**

PTSA meets monthly and plans events for students and supports the faculty.

⇒ **Athletic Boosters**

Meets monthly to discuss the needs of the athletic program, volunteer for grounds keeping, ticket booths, concession stands, and more.

⇒ **Theatre & Band Boosters**

Each group has their own Boosters organization. Meets regularly to support their programs.

⇒ **Rocket Shop**

The Rocket Shop falls under PTSA, but a large group of volunteers are needed to staff the Rocket Shop throughout the school year.

⇒ **Admissions Ambassador**

The Office of Admissions and Enrollment is always in need of enthusiastic parents to help spread the word about McNicholas as a premier Catholic co-educational high school.

⇒ **Rocket Nation**

New in 2018, this is made up of an enthusiastic group of financial supporters dedicated to providing tuition assistance to current and future Rockets. Membership is \$100 annually.

Stay informed. Our weekly newsletter is the primary method of communicating school news. If you have not been receiving the school newsletter, please contact skapp@mcnhs.org.

Tips for a Successful Freshman Year

- ⇒ Get involved early in an activity. This is the best way to meet new people, learn more about yourself and make high school fun.
- ⇒ If you are struggling with a subject, talk to your teacher or school counselor as soon as possible. Don't just "hope" you pass the test or assignment.
- ⇒ See your school counselor if you're feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, or sad.
- ⇒ Make healthy decisions and avoid destructive ones.
- ⇒ $E + R = O$ (event + response = outcome). You have the power to control your response to all situations. Your response controls the outcome.
- ⇒ If you do make a bad decision, take time to reflect on why you made that decision and how to avoid doing it again.
- ⇒ Surround yourself with friends who possess your values and respect you.
- ⇒ Make new friends. Everyone will be coming from many different schools. Hang on to the old friendships, but make new ones too! Remember, we are ALL Rockets!

Go Rockets!



Important Contacts

School Counselors

Mrs. Alaina Way (A-F), away@mcnhs.org

Mrs. Erica Stablum (G-O), establum@mcnhs.org

Mr. Matt Wehrman (P-Z), mwehrman@mcnhs.org

Student Life

Mr. Mike Orlando, morlando@mcnhs.org

Admissions and Enrollment

Mrs. Christina Mullis, cmullis@mcnhs.org

Business Office

Mrs. Roberta Veleta, rveleta@mcnhs.org

FRESHMAN SPIRIT NIGHT



Tuesday, August 27, 2019

- 4:30 p.m. Pre-game freshman rally in the courtyard
- 5:30 p.m. Rockets vs. CJ Eagles @ Penn Station Stadium
- 7 p.m. Please pick up your student promptly after the end of the football game. Students leaving earlier than 7 p.m. must have parental permission and must check out with an adult at the gate.

Cost: \$5. Includes pre-game rally, football ticket, and a meal from the concession stand (hotdog or burger, chips, drink)

To register, please submit the following page with your payment to the main school office by **August 21, 2019**

Questions or concerns? Please contact Christina Mullis, Director of Admissions at cmullis@mcnhs.org.

FRESHMAN SPIRIT NIGHT



Registration and Permission

Student Name: _____

I give permission for the above named student to participate in the Freshman Spirit Night event on Thursday, August 27, 2019.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Contact Phone Number

Please turn this form into the main office, along with your \$5 payment, in a sealed envelope, by August 21, 2019.