

## **EdChoice Vouchers**

The State of Ohio recently announced that students enrolled in EdChoice provider high schools (including McNicholas) who reside at an address linked with a public school on the state list of underperforming schools might be eligible for an EdChoice voucher towards tuition. As far as I know, this opportunity applies only to McNicholas students who live in the Cincinnati Public School District. McNicholas has sent information to these families by U.S. mail and email. If you think your family is eligible and you have not received information, please contact me.

## **Schedule for 2019-20**

Most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays will use a schedule similar to the one we used 2018-19: all class periods will meet each day; however, class periods will be a little longer and lunch periods a little shorter. Most Wednesdays and Thursdays will be double-block days: the first four periods will meet for about twice as long on Wednesdays, and the last three periods will meet twice as long on Thursdays. The remaining time (the missing fourth period) on Thursdays will have two uses. All-school Masses and assemblies will use the remaining time so we won't need to shorten regular class time as much. On Thursdays without school-wide gatherings, we'll use the remaining time as an Explore period. Teachers will offer and all students will select high-interest learning opportunities that supplement regular coursework. Some off-campus service and career shadowing opportunities will be included. A few times during the year, the pair of double block days will take place on a pair of days other than Wednesdays and Thursdays to accommodate Masses for holy days on fixed dates, such as the Feast of All Saints. On the second day in each pair of block days (most Thursdays), students will be dismissed at 2:10 to provide time for teachers to meet. The purposes of these changes are

- More opportunities for sustained in-depth learning in longer class periods
- More acclimation to the longer class periods many colleges use
- More opportunities for service and career shadowing during the school day
- Fostering interest in lifelong learning
- Taking advantage of research findings that weekly teacher meetings devoted to improving instruction in light of evidence about student learning can raise student achievement.

## **Important Opening Dates**

August 18 – First freshman orientation event: evening Mass and picnic for freshmen and parents

August 19 and 20 – Freshman orientation days

August 21 – First class day for all

September 20 – Opening home varsity football game. Homecoming.

## **Uniform guidelines update**

Thanks to all families for your patience during the updates to the uniform guidelines. A couple of new notes:

- McNicholas will stay with Educational Outfitters as the skort supplier.
- Women will be required to wear a khaki, navy or grey skort in the styles named on the Educational Outfitters website for McNicholas.
- Skorts may be purchased online or in the store located at 2656 East Sharon Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241.
- McNicholas will credit the lowest cost version of one skort for each enrolled female

student to her tuition bill for 2019-2020.

- Educational Outfitters will be on campus Wednesday, July 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a sizing event. Skorts will be on display, and students may try on the samples for sizing purposes. Skorts will not be available for purchase at that time, but can be ordered online using the sizing information determined.
- Educational Outfitters website will be ready to accept orders by mid-July. The McNicholas website will have a link to the site in the Quick Links section located at the top right of the site when the Educational Outfitters site is ready.
- During the transition, we may experience some supply issues. If you are having some challenges getting the style and size you need, you may wear your old plaid skirt to start the school year. Families should have access to a good supply of the skorts by the middle of October. After mid-October, all women should be in the skort or pants outlined in the new guidelines.

The revised uniform section of the Student Handbook is excerpted below.

## **STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICIES**

It is expected that students will be appropriately dressed and well-groomed at all times during the school day to present the best version of themselves and the school. A general expectation is that clothing should fit in “Goldilocks” ways – not too short, too long, too loose, or too tight. Final determination of the appropriateness of any student’s dress will be made by the administration. Students who fail to comply with the dress code will receive the appropriate demerits for each violation according to our Progressive Discipline System.

### **WOMEN**

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**SKORT:** Specified Educational Outfitters styles available in khaki, navy or grey (when available) worn no higher than 2 inches above the knee. Rolling the waistband is not permitted. Skorts must be buttoned and zipped at all times.

**PANTS:** Dress pants in khaki, navy, or grey. No denim-style, corduroy, cargo-style, or capris. No pockets on the outside of the pants. Pants are to be worn at the waist. Belts are recommended. Style and fit should be suitable for employment in a conservative office -- neither too tight nor too loose.

\*Shorts and plaid uniform skirt are no longer permitted.

**LEGGINGS:** Navy, black, or grey leggings mid-calf or longer are permitted. Flesh-tone, black, navy, or grey hose and tights are permitted. Sweat pants under the skort are prohibited.

**SHIRT/TOP:** Uniform polo shirt in white, grey, or hunter green (with Archbishop McNicholas logo), short or long sleeved. Students will be asked to tuck in any untucked shirt deemed sloppy in appearance. Shirts worn under the uniform polo must be plain green, white, grey, gold, black or navy without letters or images and should be tucked in at all times.

### **MEN**

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**SHORTS:** Khaki, navy or grey (when available) shorts no higher than 2 inches above the knee

**PANTS:** Dress pants in khaki, navy, or grey. No denim-style, corduroy, or cargo-style. No pockets on the outside of the pants. Pants are to be worn at the waist. Belts are recommended. Style and fit should be suitable for employment in a conservative office -- neither too tight nor too loose.

**SHIRT/TOP:** Uniform polo shirt in white, grey, or hunter green (with Archbishop McNicholas logo), short or long sleeved. Students will be asked to tuck in any untucked shirt deemed sloppy in appearance. Shirts worn under your uniform polo must be green, white, grey, gold, black or navy without letters or images and should be tucked in at all times.

#### **ALL STUDENTS** ---

**SWEATSHIRT:** Students may continue to wear any McNicholas spirit wear sweatshirts for 2019-2020. A uniform polo shirt must be worn under a sweatshirt. Sweat pants are not permitted. Fleece pullovers with quarter zipper or hoodies with the school logo purchased through the Rocket Shop and/or through McNicholas athletics, clubs or programs are permitted.

***\* Please note: Hoodies (even if issued by clubs, teams, or Rocket Shop) will not be permitted starting in the 2020-2021 school year except on Spirit Days.***

**SOCKS:** Socks must be worn above the ankle. Socks must match the uniform.

**SHOES:** Dress shoes or gym shoes may be worn. Shoes must have a back. High heels may not be worn.

**COATS/HATS:** Outside jackets/coats/vests are not to be worn inside the building during school hours. Hats, bandanas, hoods, or any other headwear are not permitted.

**PERSONAL GROOMING:** All students must be neat and clean in appearance. Eccentric hair styles/ colors, visible tattoos and body-piercing are not permitted. Women may wear modest earrings. Men are to be clean shaven every day and are not permitted to wear earrings during school hours. The administration reserves the right to decide if any hair style, hair color, jewelry, accessories, or other appearance is inappropriate for the school atmosphere.

**SPIRIT DAYS:** Most Fridays (or the last day of the week) are Spirit Days. Students are permitted to wear an Archbishop McNicholas Spirit Top with the normal school bottom. A Spirit Top is a shirt that is purchased in the Rocket Shop or approved by a McNicholas team or club. If a student chooses not to wear a Spirit Top, then the uniform polo shirt must be worn. Students will be asked to tuck in any untucked shirt deemed sloppy in appearance. Those choosing not to participate should wear the regular school uniform.

**JEANS/SWEATS DAYS:** Periodically we will have Jeans/Sweats Days for various reasons on designated days. Jeans/Sweats with a McNick Spirit Top will be permitted. Jeans/Sweatpants must be in good condition (i.e. no holes). Sweatpants purchased in the Rocket Shop or approved by a McNicholas team or club are preferred; however, solid green, white, grey, gold, black and navy are permitted. Leggings and shorts (including athletic shorts) other than the school uniform shorts will NOT be permitted. Those choosing not to participate should wear the normal school uniform.

**OUT OF UNIFORM DAYS:** Periodically, students will be permitted to be out of uniform on designated days. On those days, students can wear the theme of that particular day (i.e.

Homecoming Week) with the school uniform bottom. Shorts other than the school uniform will NOT be permitted. Those choosing not to participate should wear the normal school uniform.