



# MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

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Welcome to the 2025-26 school year at MACS!

Thank you so much for enrolling your child(ren) for this coming school year at McDonell Central Catholic High School and Notre Dame Middle School. We are so happy to have you joining or continuing with our family.

With the start of classes fast approaching, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome all of you back and drop some reminders and information to all of our 6-12 grade families.

## 6th grade, 9th grade and new family orientation night

Please join us on Wednesday, August 13th in the McDonell auditorium for an orientation/information night. Sixth grade students and families are asked to join us starting at 5:00 p.m. A presentation for all new families' information will begin around 6:00 p.m.. The presentation for 9th grade students and families will begin around 7:00 p.m. Students will get their lockers, a printed copy of their schedule and learn other important information. This is a great opportunity for students and parents to drop off supplies at their students' lockers, tour classrooms and meet and talk with teachers.

## Host families needed

MACS has a proud tradition of providing an opportunity for international students to experience our community and school life. We currently have four students accepted and placed with host families for this school year. We have six others that have been accepted but are desperately searching for families willing to take them in for this coming school year. Please contact either me or Mrs. Jimenez if you are interested in hosting an international student.

## Student Ambassadors orientation

All middle and high school students that want to continue being a student ambassador, or if you're interested in joining the group this school year, please contact Mr. Rider and plan on attending one of the four orientation dates. Ambassadors options to meet with Mr. Rider (in room 208) before the school year starts are:

August 11th: 10:00-11:00 (New Ambassadors) 10:30-11:00 (Returning Ambassadors)

August 12th: 10:00-11:00 (New Ambassadors) 10:30-11:00 (Returning Ambassadors)

August 14th: 4:00-5:00 (New Ambassadors) 4:30-5:00 (Returning Ambassadors)

August 15th: 4:00-5:00 (New Ambassadors) 4:30-5:00 (Returning Ambassadors)

## Handbook updates

There have been a few updates to the Notre Dame and McDonell handbook since it was first posted live on our website this spring. Notable changes are the addition of our school's Attendance Policy. We've also added some changes to some subtle changes to the dress code.

### Returning student pick up/drop off

All new and returning ND & McD students are welcome and encouraged to stop by during the following times to pick up their schedules, stock their lockers, purchase parking permits and pay any school fees and lunch account deposits: Monday, August 11th, Tuesday, August 12th and Wednesday, August 13th from 8:00 p.m to 2:30 p.m.

### 1st Trimester Schedules

Notre Dame and McDonell students first trimester schedules will be able to be viewed on FACTs on August 6th.

### Family Fun Night

We invite all of our MACS families to join us in a “Welcome Back” event at the McDonell/Notre Dame building for Family Fun Night from 5:00- to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20. This is a fun event where our entire MACS community gathers in celebration of each other and our schools. A meal will be provided.

### Bussing/Shuttle

Please make sure to check with the Yellow Bus Company on routes and bus numbers before the first day of school. Please contact Scott Sokup in our central office for any questions pertaining to our shuttle service to our three locations. Check out the [Shuttle Program Manual](#) for this school year.

### First Day of School

A reminder that on Monday, August 25th, we will be opening our doors to all students in 6th Grade, 9th grade and new students in all other grades. There will be no bussing provided on this day; however, MACS shuttles will be running. Lunch will be offered. Please make a special note that the day will start at our normal time at 7:50 a.m. with doors opening at 7:20 a.m.. The day will conclude at each school at 11:55 a.m. All students will report to classes on Tuesday, August 26th at our normal morning start time.

### Picture Day

Please mark your calendars to note that picture day for both Notre Dame middle school and McDonell high school will be Wednesday, September 3rd.

Please check out our website: <https://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/parents/> for parent resources. The school lunch menu can be found on the calendar: <https://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/calendar/>

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome your child(ren) and you for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the first educators of children, and we have always taken this approach to heart by welcoming parent involvement and input whenever possible. Please reach out to me, your child’s classroom teacher with any questions or each building’s administrative assistant for any volunteer opportunities.

I’m looking forward to an exciting school year!

Eric Wedemeyer

Principal

Notre Dame Middle School & McDonell Central Catholic High School