

McCall Primary
4496 Dixie Avenue
Acworth, Georgia 30101
www.cobbk12.org/McCallPrimary

770-975-6775
FAX 770-529-1580

Thomas Farrell, Principal
Wendy Embry, Assistant Principal

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK 2018-2019

My child's teacher is: _____

My child's bus COLOR and driver is: _____

My child eats lunch at: _____

The room mother for my child's class is: _____

Her telephone number is: _____

July 2018

Dear Families of McCall Primary School:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! Over the course of this school year you will find that McCall has a wonderful staff and tremendous community support. Our mission at McCall is "Love, Learn, Lead". We believe that by providing our students with a loving and nurturing environment they will be better able to learn our rigorous curriculum and apply these skills to be the leaders of tomorrow. As you have a chance to interact with our staff and students throughout the year, I believe you will find that our mission is an embedded part of our school culture.

This year we will be continuing our focus on STEM instruction. We will be investing in resources and professional development so that our staff will be better able to provide rigorous, relevant STEM instruction. We anticipate that we will become the first primary school in Cobb county to be STEM certified this school year.

This is my ninth year as the McCall Primary Principal. I am beginning my twenty second year with the Cobb County School District. Prior to working at McCall Primary I spent eight years at Bryant Elementary and five years at Hayes Elementary. I am originally from New York and attended the State University of New York at Geneseo for my bachelors and masters degrees. I received my leadership certification and level six certification from the University of West Georgia. I reside in Powder Springs with my wife and three children ages eleven, thirteen, and fifteen.

We welcome your presence in our school and in your child's education. I invite you to become involved in any way possible. You may partner with your child's teacher or volunteer to support our PTA.

I am committed to continuing the excellence that characterizes McCall Primary. I welcome your support in ensuring that all of our students **Love, Learn, and Lead**. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is a way that I can assist you.

Thanks,

Thomas Farrell

@McCallPrincipal

McCall School Council

The A+ Education Reform Act (HB1187) established school councils in Georgia to bring communities and schools closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve difficult educational problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the school-based decision-making process.

All members of the School Council should:

- Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
- Regularly participate in council meetings
- Participate in information and training programs
- Act as a link between the school council and the community
- Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community, and
- Work to improve student achievement and performance.

School councils provide advice, recommendations and assistance to principals and local boards of education. The management and control of public schools remains the responsibility of local boards of education. The school leader is the principal, who also serves as the chair of the school council. A school council is comprised of seven council members who serve two year terms.

Each school council shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) representatives, to include the principal, two teachers, two parents/guardians and two business people who are also parents/guardians of students in the school. Specific requirements regarding these members are as follows:

- (1) A number of parents/guardians, at least two of whom shall be business persons, who are not employed at the school and so that such parents/guardians make up a majority of the council ;
- (2) At least two certificated teachers, excluding any personnel employed in administrative positions, who are employed at least four of the six segments at the school;
- (3) Other business persons may be elected by the council from community businesses;
- (4) The principal; and
- (5) Other members as specified in the council's bylaws, such as, but not limited to, students, staff, and representatives of school related support organizations. Qualifying individuals selected under this provision may also count as parents/guardians for the purposes of Section (1) above.



Welcome to McCall Primary School

#HappiestSchoolInCobb

McCall Primary PTA would like to welcome you to a new and exciting 2018-2019 school year. We appreciate your contribution, time, and commitment to our wonderful school community. PTA supports our students, teachers, staff, and entire school community. Joining McCall PTA you become a voice for our students and a huge part of what makes our school year a great success. Students at McCall Primary are encouraged to LOVE, LEARN, and LEAD. PTA strives to build all of our events around the education and success of our students and school community.

McCall Primary PTA events would not be successful without the help of all of our parent, teacher, staff, and community volunteers. We are always looking for and grateful for volunteers and the time they dedicate to support our events in any way they can. PTA would like to thank our community partnerships and greatly appreciate the support they give to our school community. Please feel free to reach out anytime for volunteer opportunities, questions, concerns, or suggestions. mccallprimarypta@gmail.com

We are looking forward to a fun filled 2018-2019 school year and the opportunity to grow our McCall Primary School community with the foundation of student success.

Please join me in welcoming our 2018-2019 PTA Board Officers and Chair Committee:

Ashley Figueroa – PTA President

Lynette Reid – Vice President

Melissa Smith – Treasurer

Christopher Martin – Secretary

Mahirah Rokarya – Membership & Volunteer Chair

Georgia
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

PTA Events/Activities

Thursday, August 9 th	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Open House
Thursday, October 4 th	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	PTA/ Literacy Night
Thursday, November 29 th	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	PTA/ Winter Musical
Friday, November 2 nd	5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Fall Festival
Saturday, December 1 st	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Breakfast with Santa
Thursday, January 31 st	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	STEM Night
Thursday, March 7 th	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	PTA/Math Night
Thursday, May 2 nd	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	PTA/Spring Musical
Friday, May 3 rd	8:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Million Word Celebration

Other Important Dates

October 15 th - October 19 th	12:30 PM- 4:00 PM	Conference Week
May 6 th – May 10 th		Teacher Appreciation Week

*Dates are subject to change.

COBB COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vision

A school district of excellence where all students succeed.

Mission

One Team

One Goal

Student Success

McCall Primary School

VISION

Inspiring successful learners for life.

MISSION

Love, Learn, Lead

Committments

We promise to...

- Respect and value diversity
- Provide a safe and supportive environment
- Provide opportunities to engage parents in their child's education
- Differentiate instruction to meet each student's unique needs
- Relate instruction to our students' lives and their future
- Build strong relationships with all stakeholders
- Provide leadership opportunities for students and staff

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 514 GLOVER STREET
 MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30060
 770-426-3300
www.cobbk12.org

SUPERINTENDENT: Chris Ragsdale

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Randy Scamihorn, Chairman - Post 1

rscamihorn.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 770-337-8553

High	Allatoona, Kennesaw Mountain, North Cobb
Middle	Awtrey, Barber, Durham, McClure, Pine Mountain
Elem.	Acworth, Baker, Bullard, Frey, Hayes, Kennesaw, Lewis, McCall Primary, Pickett's Mill

Susan Thayer - Post 2

sthayer.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 678-773-1877

High	Campbell, Osborne, Oakwood Digital Academy, H.A.V.E.N. Academy, Adult Education Center
Middle	Campbell, Floyd, Griffin, Lindley 6th Grade Academy, Lindley Middle
Elem.	Belmont Hills, Birney, Brown, Fair Oaks, Green Acres, LaBelle, King Springs, Nickajack, Norton Park, Russell, new Smyrna replacement elementary school

David Morgan - Post 3

dmorgan.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 404-702-185

High	Pebblebrook, South Cobb
Middle	Cooper, Garrett, Tapp
Elem.	Austell, Bryant, Clarkdale, Clay, Compton, Harmony-Leland, Hendricks, Mableton, Powder Springs, Riverside Primary, Riverside Intermediate, Sanders

David Chastain - Post 4

dchastain.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 678-896-6399

High	Kell, Sprayberry
Middle	Daniell, McCleskey, Palmer
Elem.	Addison, Bells Ferry, Big Shanty, Blackwell, Chalker, Keheley, Kincaid, Nicholson, Pitner, Rocky Mount

David Banks - Post 5

dbanks.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 404-725-3394

High	Lassiter, Pope
Middle	Hightower Trail, Mabry, Simpson
Elem.	Davis, East Side, Eastvalley, Garrison Mill, Mountain View, Murdock, Powers Ferry, Sedalia Park, Shallowford Falls, Powers Ferry, Tritt

Scott Sweeney - Post 6 - Vice Chairman

ssweeney.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 678-646-2470

High	Walton, Wheeler
Middle	Dickerson, Dodgen, East Cobb
Elem.	Brumby, East Side, Eastvalley, Mount Bethel, Powers Ferry, Sedalia Park, Sope Creek, Timber Ridge

Brad Wheeler - Post 7 - Board Vice Chair

bwheeler.boardmember@cobbk12.org | 770-335-5982

High	Harrison, Hillgrove, McEachern
Middle	Lost Mountain, Lovinggood, Smitha
Elem.	Cheatham Hill, Dowell, Due West, Ford, Hollydale, Kemp, Milford, Still, Varner, Vaughan

SCHOOL INFORMATION

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESSES: A staffed clinic is maintained at McCall for a portion of the day. There, minor cuts and bruises are treated. We are not staffed to care for sick children. It is important that children stay home if they are sick or have a fever. It is the Cobb County Board of Education policy that a student having a temperature of 100 degrees or above be sent home immediately. We will provide short-term care until the parent can come to get the child. If a child has an accident during the day which requires immediate medical attention, the child will be taken to a local emergency room, if parents cannot be reached, provided the parents have signed a medical release. Judgment in such cases is at the discretion of school authorities. Parents assume all financial responsibility such as ambulance and hospital bills.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: The After School Program operates each school day from 2:10-6:00 pm. Activities are planned that include art, games, homework assistance and general recreational activities. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per week. There is a yearly, non-refundable application fee of \$10.00 per child. **Payment for each child is due in advance on the first day of the school week or each day the child is in the program. Students whose fees are not paid in advance will not be allowed to attend.** Advance payment not used during one week rolls over to the following week. The children are provided with a snack and restroom break after the roll has been taken. Students are not permitted to participate in the program unless they are properly enrolled in the program and have emergency numbers on file. Application materials are available at registration and in the school office. The program does not operate on teacher workdays or school holidays, or in case of inclement weather.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Entrance Age -All Georgia resident children shall have attained age five on or before September 1st in order to be eligible for admission into the Kindergarten program. All Georgia resident children shall have attained age six on or before September 1st in order to be eligible for admission to first grade.

Social Security Numbers -These are requested for each child entering school.

Birth Certificate -Children must present legal birth certificates prior to entry into the Cobb County Public Schools.

Immunization Certificate -All children entering or attending school MUST have a certificate BEFORE entering school. This certificate (GA form 3231) can be obtained from a private physician or local health department.

Dental, Vision, Hearing and Nutrition Certificate: -All children entering school for the first time in a Georgia public school are required to have a dental, hearing and vision screening. This certificate (GA form 3300) may be obtained from a private dentist, doctor or a local health department.

Proofs of Residency: -Parents must present two (2) proofs of residency within the attendance zone prior to enrollment. Utility bills, telephone bills, addressed mail, lease or home contract are acceptable proof of residency within our attendance area.

ADVANCED LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP): The Advanced Learning Program at McCall is open to those children that have been identified as academically gifted according to the criteria and guidelines set forth by the State of Georgia. These children participate in the program on a regular weekly schedule (5 segments) with a certified teacher. The children participate in a challenging, interdisciplinary program through a series of units and activities specifically designed for gifted learners. These units emphasize areas such as creative problem solving, simulations, logic, computer science, research and the encouragement of independent study.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES: Regular school attendance is required by law for all children enrolled in public school. Regular attendance means actual attendance of a child during the entire day of school. If the child comes to school after 11:15 a.m. or leaves before 11:15 a.m., he/she is counted absent. **PARENTS BRINGING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL AFTER THE 7:50 BELL MUST PARK AND COME INTO THE OFFICE TO SIGN IN THEIR STUDENT. STUDENT MUST OBTAIN A TARDY PASS. ALSO, PARENTS MAY NOT ESCORT THEIR CHILDREN TO THE CLASSROOM ONCE THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY HAS BEGUN.** Tardiness creates a problem to the total school because classes are disrupted each time a child arrives late. Children who are tardy miss much of their early hours of instruction, a critical period of instruction during the school day. Please try to schedule appointments (doctor, dental, etc.) and extracurricular practices for after school hours. A county perfect attendance award is given to children that are neither tardy nor absent during the school year. An additional attendance award is given to children who have not been absent, but have been tardy less than 3 times during the school year. School starts at 7:50 a.m. and is over at 2:10 p.m. ***Children should not arrive at school prior to 7:15 a.m. due to our inability to provide supervision of children before that time.***

BOOK FAIR: We have one book fair each year. This is an opportunity for the children to purchase books from a selection of titles appropriate for their age level. All proceeds from the book fairs will be used to purchase items needed in the Media Center and classrooms.

BUS PERMISSION: Students are to ride their assigned buses only. The two exceptions to this are:
1) if the parents are out of town and the student is staying overnight in another student's home, or
2) if there is an emergency in the home. Any changes in the usual dismissal changes **MUST BE WRITTEN BY THE PARENT AND APPROVED BY THE OFFICE.** Bus drivers will not allow unassigned students on their buses who do not have prior approval by the office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE: If your address or phone number at home or work changes, please send the change in writing to the office. **IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE KNOW WHERE TO CONTACT YOU, ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.**

COMMUNICATION: All County, school-wide and PTA correspondence will be sent home with children on Tuesday of each week. Classroom communication and papers may be sent home daily or weekly, at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

CONFERENCES: There is one scheduled parent/teacher conference this school year on Monday-Friday, October 15-19. Spring conferences will be scheduled only with the parents of students with academic concerns. Teachers share specifics about the progress being made by children with the parents during the conference. A conference may be requested at any time the parent, teacher, or administrator feels there is a need.

CONTRACTED SERVICES:

All District employees and contracted service employees are required to have background checks before working in our schools.

DISCIPLINE: An orderly environment must be maintained for learning to take place. Mutual respect between teacher and child is vital. A feeling of "belonging" and having success in the classroom greatly reduces problems. Our objective at McCall is to teach children self-control and responsibility. We insist on an orderly operation as the only means whereby learning can take place. We cannot accept behavior which is distracting or disruptive. We will always attempt a positive approach in working with our children. All children are guided to respect self, others, and property. Calm, respectful, well-mannered behavior is to be evidenced at McCall Primary School. All adults should feel free to remind any child of the need for respectful behavior at any time. McCall strives to build an atmosphere of respect because we feel that this is the groundwork of strong self-discipline. We need and desire the positive relationship between home and school that is so necessary if children are to profit. The JCDA-R (Elementary) Student Code of Conduct will be sent home during the first week of school. Parents may also find the Student Code of Conduct online at: <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/j/JCDA-R.pdf>

DISMISSAL: Children may be dismissed before the school day ends only when a parent or guardian appears in person at our school office. Proper identification will be requested before a child is released from school. A note to the teacher on the day a student will leave early will help the teacher plan the child's instructional day. Children will not be allowed to leave with anyone other than the parent or guardian under any circumstances, prior to regular dismissal, unless a written notice is given to the office. **PLEASE DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOM TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD. TEACHERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO RELEASE THEM.** If there is a change in what your child normally does after school, a note from the parent is required. If an emergency arises, please notify the school office **BEFORE 1:00 P.M.** For security reasons, phoned-in dismissal changes **CAN NOT AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You may FAX **emergency** dismissal changes **BEFORE 1:30 P.M.** to **(770) 529-1580.** **Faxed changes should have the custodial parent's signature so that we may compare it to the signature on file.**

IMPORTANT: **Due to the activity in the office, hallways and classrooms at the end of the day and to assure the safety of all of our students, we will NOT call children out of the classrooms for early pick-up after 1:45. Parents needing to check their children out early must make arrangements for pick up before 1:45.**

DRESS CODE: All students of the Cobb County School System are encouraged to observe a standard of grooming and dress consistent with the level of formality of the school situation. Administrators and teachers shall enforce the dress code policy, and the principal or designee shall be the final judge as to the appropriateness, neatness and cleanliness of the wearing apparel, or whether or not apparel is disruptive, distractive or in violation of the dress code.

All elementary students may wear appropriate shorts, which are fingertip length, and are non disruptive to the education process. **Shorts must come down to the fingertips when arm are straight at the side.** Clothing or ornamentation displaying or advertising substances illegal for minors is prohibited. Tank tops or tops with thin straps must not be worn. Clothes that expose the midriff or back are prohibited. Hats may not be worn. No tennis shoes with roller blade wheels attached may be worn. Flip flops are prohibited. Sneakers must be worn on PE days.

EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER: A form is provided for parents to indicate where their child will go and who will transport their child in the event of snow and/or icy road conditions which necessitate early release of children from school. If you want your child to ride the school bus or daycare center van as usual, this should be indicated as your first choice on the form. Be sure your child's teacher has this form on file for your child. If there is inclement weather, the After School Program will not be in session.

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Absences must be followed by a written explanation to the teacher as to the reason for the child's absence. Please send this with your child the day he/she returns. Excused and unexcused absences are governed by state law. Reasons for excused absences include personal illness, serious illness or death within the child's immediate family, recognized religious holidays observed by the child's faith, serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly, or conditions which render school attendance impossible or hazardous to the child's health or safety.

FIELD TRIPS: A field trip is a planned educational experience directly related to and correlated with a particular unit of study or a specialized function of the school. The principal will approve only those trips which can be shown to have a direct and meaningful relationship to the curriculum. When trips are taken, there will be a notice and permission slip brought home by each child participating. No child will be allowed to go on a field trip unless the permission slip is returned, signed by a parent or guardian, prior to the day the trip is to take place. **We cannot accept permission given over the phone or FAXed to us.** A donation is usually needed to cover expenses of the trip. Field trips may be denied to any child exhibiting any behavior which is deemed as unsafe by the teacher or administrator.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Our school Café offers great breakfasts and lunches at reasonable prices. At lunch, students may choose from a wide variety of foods: 3 entrée choices, 4 fruit/vegetable choices, bread, and dessert, along with a choice of milk or calcium-fortified fruit drink. Extra items such as ice cream and pretzels may be available for purchase.

Our menus are planned by our Food and Nutrition Services staff of Registered Dietitians to satisfy Federal School Nutrition Program requirements while also meeting the Dietary Guidelines for Americans—more fruits, vegetables, and grains, less fat. In order to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, healthier cooking methods such as baking and steaming are used to prepare the meals. In addition, foods are carefully selected to use low fat versions of traditionally high fat foods. At the same time, we don't sacrifice good taste. If a child has a food allergy, parents may discuss their needs with the Food and Nutrition Service Manager.

Eating in the cafeteria is a learning experience. It is there that a student learns to enjoy new foods and practice courtesy and good manners. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their children. However, please sign in and get a visitor's pass from the front office. While we always want to provide a balanced nutritional meal, **we ask that you do not bring in meals from fast food restaurants or carbonated drinks when visiting the café.**

Students are encouraged to prepay for meals for the week, month, quarter or year. We prefer for students to prepay for their future meals in the morning before coming through the lunch line. Pre-payment can be made by credit card at the Cobb County School District website. This will save time, as prepaying in the lunch serving line slows down the line for all students. Cost for meals are as follows:

Student Breakfast \$1.50	Student Lunch \$2.35
Guests Breakfast \$2.00	Guest Lunch \$3.75

Al a carte prices will be available in the school cafeteria.

Free and reduced lunches will be provided for those families who qualify and complete the proper Federal application form. The applications are available online. They can be found on the Cobb County website www.cobbk12.org, under the Parents pull-down menu. Click on "Lunch Menus" for the link for the online application.

Please make sure that your child has money for meals each day so charges do not occur. Your student can ask the cashier how much credit is on his account, or you can call our Café Manager, Ms. White, at 770-975-6781 to check the balance.

Our goal is to have the best lunch possible for our students at a reasonable cost. For more information about food and nutrition services, please refer to the County Food and Nutrition Services web site <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/foodservices/>. You'll find updated menus and a complete price list for all lunch and a- la Carte choices offered in our school's cafe. Menus featured in our café are tailored by the Cobb County Food and Nutrition Services Department based on student preferences.

HOMEWORK: Homework is defined as **necessary** additional preparation in a given subject area which is either assigned, suggested, or approved by the child's teacher. This study is to be completed within a specified time limit and normally is of such length and nature that the child must independently complete part or all of the assignment during non-class time. Primary-aged elementary children are not expected to have homework every day. Homework is assigned at the discretion of the teacher. Any work assigned for the primary-aged child should not exceed 30 minutes. In addition to regular homework, occasional projects of a long range nature which require some weekend time are appropriate for all elementary children. Incomplete classwork is not considered homework and does not fall under the same time limitations.

INSURANCE: School accident insurance is available to children during the first few weeks of school. Information is included in the folder students bring home the first few days of school.

LOST AND FOUND: Items left at school are placed in a lost and found bin located outside the gym area. All unclaimed items are donated at the end of each quarter to a local charity. **LABELING YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS** will assist us in finding the owner.

LUNCH CHARGES: Cobb has a LIMITED charge policy. If a student arrives at school without money, they are allowed up to \$7.05 in charges at elementary school. Charges are not allowed for a la carte, adults, or at high school. If your child arrives at school without money for lunch and has reached the charge limit, he/she will be provided with an alternate meal (such as a peanut butter sandwich and milk or a cheese sandwich and milk). No alternate meal will be provided at breakfast.

MAKING UP MISSED CLASSWORK: If a child is absent for only 1 or 2 days the teacher will work with the child to make-up the missed work. If a child is out for 3 or more days, a parent should call the office by 8:30 am and request make-up work. It may be picked up in the school office after 2:45 pm. Failure to make up missed work after a reasonable amount of time (as designated by the teacher) will result in no credit work/tests not made up. When a child is absent from school, and the absence is unexcused, the teacher is not obligated to provide make-up work but may do so at his/her discretion. The purpose of this policy is to discourage unnecessary absences.

MEDIA CENTER: McCall has a well-supplied media center which surpasses the accreditation standards set by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We encourage parental help in the media center. Kindergarten and first grade children check out one book at a time. Children will be allowed to USE books

in the center, but must return the book or pay for the book before they may check out another book. Any book damaged beyond repair is the responsibility of the child.

MEDICATIONS: Medication may be administered ONLY by office personnel, and only if it is in the original container (properly labeled with needed dosage), and written permission from the parent is on file. We reserve the right to refuse administration of certain medications. Georgia Law, O.C.G.A. §16-12-191, provides that persons may be in possession of medical marijuana under limited circumstances defined in the law. Because of federal law, parents should make other arrangements for administering medical marijuana at school. Under no circumstance should a student be in possession of medical marijuana, nor should the school nurse have access to the student's medical marijuana. It is the parent's responsibility to administer medical marijuana.

Because the office is so busy in the morning we require that the first dose of morning medication be given at home. Our clinic nurse is not on duty until 7:30 AM and we appreciate parents who can arrange their child's medication around school hours, giving the medication before and after school times.

PARTIES: Cobb County Board of Education Policy stipulates only one party is allowed each year. That party is held just prior to winter holidays. Please do not request parties at other times of the year. Additionally, **invitations to birthday parties or get-togethers MAY NOT be distributed at school**. We suggest the use of the U.S. mail to accommodate the invitations. This limits embarrassment and hurt feelings if a child is not invited or is unable to attend the activity. You may contact your child's teacher if you would like to supply "treats" on your child's birthday. Because balloons and flowers may not be taken on school buses, please do not bring or send these items to students during the time they are at school. Your understanding and following this policy is greatly appreciated.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION/COMMUNITY PARTNERS: We are fortunate to have Northwest Christian Church, Freedom Church, Cedarcrest Church, The House at Lakepointe, PUBLIX, Texas Roadhouse, Summit Baptist Church, the City of Acworth, Horace Mann, Liberty Mutual, Chambers Select Realty, Chick-fil-a, Bay Equity Home Loans, Slyman Realty, Kennesaw Tire, The Piedmont Group, Christian Brothers Automotive, Grass Roots, and Atlanta Budokan as Partners in Education/Community Partners and wish to include other businesses in the Cobb community. If you know of businesses who might like to partner with McCall, please call the school office.

PERFORMING ARTS: The Cobb County School System provides a performing arts program for all children in kindergarten through eighth grade. These performances are usually brought to the school during our Cultural Arts Day or children may be transported to these performances by Cobb County School System buses during normal school hours. A donation from parents is requested to help cover the cost of these performances.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Children should not bring personal playthings or toys, sports equipment, CD players, novelties, radios, headsets, beanie babies, games, etc. to school. In the event an item is allowed on a special occasion by the classroom teacher, written notification of the event will be sent home. At all other times, items will be taken from the child and kept by the teacher or administrator until a parent can come to retrieve them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Physical education is a vital part of development of the total child. A written excuse is necessary for a child to be excused from physical education. Children must provide a note from a physician if they are to miss more than three consecutive days of physical education classes. An excuse for physical education from total participation of any duration or restrictive participation beyond five consecutive days shall be confirmed by a physician's statement specifying the type of illness or injury and

the nature and duration of the restriction. **In order to participate, tennis or athletic shoes must be worn on P.E. days.**

PTA MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the McCall PTA is encouraged for all staff and parents. Grandparents, step-parents, other relatives and anyone else interested in our school is eligible for membership. The cost for membership is \$7.00 per person. Our goal is to have 100% of our supporters as members!

PUPIL RECORDS: If your child transfers to another school, his/her records will be sent to the new school when we receive a request from the receiving school. Please notify our office **in writing** at least two days in advance of a move so that records can be prepared and charges cleared. Release forms must be signed by a parent or guardian before special education records may be sent. Your child's records are available for inspection by parents or guardians upon request.

REPORT CARDS: Report cards are sent home each nine weeks after the first conference period. Teachers may send an "Academic Alert" for students during the marking period if the child is experiencing difficulty. Final report cards will be mailed. Each student will bring three postage stamps during the last month of school for this purpose.

Kindergarten and 1st grade uses the standards based report card. A rubric will be sent home with the first report card to explain the system. Teachers will also be available to answer any questions

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Special education is specially designed instruction provided at no cost to parents that meets the unique needs of each student that is identified with a disability. A child with a disability is a child evaluated and determined to be eligible for special education services for intellectual disabilities, a hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, a specific learning disability, or Deaf/blindness.

Response to Intervention (RTI): RTI is a flexible problem-solving model in which schools provide assistance to match the learner's needs. The Cobb County School District has adopted the model developed by the Georgia Department of Education that organizes school intervention services into four levels, or *Tiers*.

Students with emerging difficulties in school are first given *Tier 1*, universal support. If that help is not sufficient, they are next provided with *Tier 2*, more targeted interventions. If sufficient progress is not evident the student may move on to *Tier 3* for more intensive interventions. Students with significant school delays who do not respond to Tier 3 may be eligible for *Tier 4*, special education.

Tier 1: These supports are those academic and behavioral strategies that all teachers routinely use at the first sign that a student is having problems in their classrooms. As examples of Tier 1 supports, teachers may change their method of instruction, provide a child with additional individual help, or check the child's homework each day.

Tier 2: If the student continues to fall behind peers despite classroom supports, the teacher may refer the child to the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) team to collaborate with other professionals and provide further enhanced strategies.

Tier 3: If data provided by the Tier 2 team shows continued problems, further support is requested through Tier 3. At this point the RTI team contacts the student's parent(s) and meets with the teacher to collect more detailed information about the child. With that information, the team and teacher identify

possible reasons why a student is experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties and put together a practical, research-based plan to address those student problems. The classroom teacher may carry out the intervention plan alone or other school staff may assist. While the intervention plan is in action, the team monitors the student's progress.

Tier 4: If the RTI team finds after trying several individualized intervention plans that a student still has not made sufficient progress, the school may refer the student for Tier 4, special education. Students may need to go through a formal evaluation process, including specialized testing, to determine if they qualify for these services.

TRANSPORTATION: All precautions are taken at the school to insure safety. We have staff members on duty while cars and buses are loading and unloading in the designated areas on the school campus. The bus area, located on the right side of the building (the **first** driveway coming from the City Hall side of Acworth is designated "FOR BUSES ONLY" during the school day. **Students should never be dropped off inside or beside the bus driveway.** Car drop-off and pick-up areas are located on the left side of the building and may be accessed by the **second** driveway off Dixie Avenue, coming from the City Hall side of Acworth. Parents who wish to park and enter the school may do so from the parking lot located to the left of the building. Cars must exit on Academy Drive. This is a right turn only from the parking lot.

TUTORING: Teachers are not allowed to be paid to tutor children in their classes. You may check out books over the summer for enrichment, but may not check out materials which have not yet been presented to the child. In order to account for materials checked out, only parents or guardians may receive loaned materials (NOT TUTORS). A school official must collect a deposit equal to the value of the items. These items must be returned at least one week prior to the first day of school. At that time, deposit money will be refunded.

VISITING THE SCHOOL: A warm welcome is extended to parents and interested persons to visit the school. **Upon entering the school campus after our school day begins, all parents and visitors are to report immediately to the welcome desk located just inside the office.** For security reasons, all visitors must sign in and be cleared. Each visitor and volunteer will be issued a badge which indicates that they are approved to be in the school. Anyone not wearing a badge will be challenged by the staff and directed out of the area and back to the office. This safely monitors the school environment. Permanent PTA, substitute teacher, and volunteer badges are to be returned to the office at the end of the visit. **For people wishing to spend formal time observing in classes, 30 minute observations may be set up at least one day in advance of the observation.** Additionally, there are school guidelines which are to be followed. Anyone violating these guidelines will be asked to leave. Classroom observations may not be used to evaluate children or staff. Evaluating children other than your own violates the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Staff evaluations are the responsibility of the school administrator who is trained in staff evaluation techniques.

VOLUNTEERS: Parents are needed to serve on PTA committees and to enhance our school by working in various jobs. We encourage that you call and offer assistance. The rewards are many for both student and parent. Because of confidentiality issues and the protection of privacy of our students' records, volunteers are not permitted in the office area. Interested parents should contact the office or their child's teacher. **For liability reasons, we must request that our volunteering parents make other arrangements for the care of their pre-school aged children during the time they are working and visiting in our classrooms and school.** Parents are encouraged and welcomed as volunteers in other areas of our building.

SCHOOL BUS STATEMENT

Our goal is to provide each eligible student the most safe and sufficient means of transportation to our schools. We believe that students are citizens of Cobb County and have a right to a safe and comfortable trip to and from school. Along with these rights are also responsibilities. The Safety rules and regulations have been developed to assure all students of their rights to a safe trip. It is the adult's role to inform students of their responsibility to follow these rules. When rules are broken, the privilege of riding the bus will be interrupted. We encourage our parents to help instill the rules of conduct to bring about an atmosphere of respect and safety for one another.

SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT

The behavior of students on school buses is considered an extension of classroom behavior. Maintaining proper conduct while on the bus shall be the joint responsibility of the student, parent, bus driver and school officials. Students shall observe the following code of conduct established by the Cobb County Public School:

1. Students must show proper respect to the driver at all times and obey all driver instructions.
2. Large toys, insects, glass bottles, animals, plastic bags, straight or safety pins, skateboards or objectionable and dangerous items are not permitted.
3. Tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol and weapons or look-a-likes are prohibited.
4. Students will keep his/her arms and head inside the bus at all times.
5. Nothing is to be thrown in, out or from the bus.
6. The use of obscene language or gestures is forbidden.
7. Destruction or defacing school property is prohibited.
8. Fighting or physical play is prohibited.
9. Unnecessary noise is prohibited.
10. Food, gum or drinks cannot be consumed on the bus.
11. Drivers are required to assign seats to elementary and middle school students.
12. Students must be seated at all times unless otherwise directed by the driver.
13. Students must be quiet at railroad crossings.
14. When crossing a street is necessary, students will wait for the driver to signal to cross the street and then cross in front of the bus in full view of the driver.
15. Students may transport band instruments only if space is available.
16. The emergency door, windows and hatches will be used only at the direction of the driver.
17. Students are to be at the bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled time and wait in an orderly manner. The bus is not considered late until 5 minutes past the scheduled time.
18. Students may not be allowed to ride a bus or to disembark at a bus stop other than that assigned for their residence unless principal gives written approval.