



McKinley Classical Leadership Academy

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"The School of "The Ultimate Challenge!"

KELVIN ADAMS, PH.D.

SUPERINTENDENT

STEPHEN D. WARMACK SR.
PRINCIPAL

September 7, 2016

Dear McKinley Families,

We have now been in school for three weeks and once again the school is a bustle of activity. Fall sports have begun and many of the afterschool clubs have already started or will be starting up in the next few weeks. For more information about upcoming events, please check the McKinley webpages (HS- <http://www.slps.org/Domain/2997> and MS--<http://www.slps.org/mckinleycja>). The calendar can be found by scrolling down to the lower left of the webpage. We will make every effort to keep this updated, but please also make sure your child listens to the daily announcements for updates.

You may have noticed a few changes this year at McKinley. One, teachers will be assigning less homework. Based on the research of John Hattie, who completed a meta-analysis of over one hundred educational studies, homework has a minimal impact on student achievement, especially for middle school students (<http://visible-learning.org/hattie-ranking-influences-effect-sizes-learning-achievement/> and <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/research-trends-is-homework-effective-youki-terada>). We have reduced homework to be 5% of the grade and teachers will be intentional about the homework they assign. This by no means will reduce the rigorous lessons your students experience. In fact, teachers will specifically be looking at ways to increase more complex, abstract thinking in their lessons and providing students with frequent feedback and opportunities for enriched and accelerated curriculum. The rest of our changes primarily deal with student expectations. Students will continue to be allowed to use their phones in the cafeteria for any purpose and in classrooms for instructional purposes, but the hallways will be

“RED ZONES.” Students should NOT be on their headphones or using their phones in the hallway and risk having their phone confiscated and held for pickup. Dress code will be more thoroughly enforced this year. During middle school lunch, students will be expected to take a seat and then dismissed to line up. Students are encouraged to invite others to seat at their table as full tables get dismissed first. We are also reinstating student government in the middle school and high school and are optimistic that this group of students will lead the school toward an increase in school pride and stewardship.

We have quite a few new faces at McKinley. In the 6th grade, we have Brian Miller as our new Social Studies teacher and Brock Fierge as the new math teacher. Mr. Fierge also teaches a group of 7th grade math students. In 7th grade, Gerry Glenn brings several years of teaching experience to the team and Scott Deppong is also teaching a high school course (Personal Finance). No changes with our 8th grade team, but our high school team has added three new teachers. Matthew Rosado is teaching Freshman Physics and Advanced Algebra. Kathryn Beckman is teaching Freshman Language Arts, World Literature, and ACT Prep. Finally, Ellis Smith has joined the Social Studies Department. Our new dance teacher, Nicole Thomas, will be working primarily with the middle school students this year.

Lastly, I would like to encourage your involvement in our school community. The Parent Teacher Organization is a great way to become involved. Meetings are the second Monday of every month with an upcoming meeting on September 12th and 6:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Stephen Warmack, Sr.

Stephen Warmack, Sr.

Open House
Thursday, 9/22/16, 6-8p.m.
Student MAP Data will be
available.