

# MERLIN MESSENGER

Parent Newsletter - First Day of School



## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – MONDAY, AUGUST 12TH

Monday, August 12th is the first day of the 2024-2025 school year! We are so excited to see all of our Merlins. Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing for the school year. Just a few reminders:

- The building will open promptly at 7:15 am Monday morning.
- Parents are able to walk their Merlins to class **on the first day only**.
- Please be patient during afternoon car rider dismissal while students adjust to the routine. The car rider line will move more smoothly as the week progresses.
- Ensure that you have communicated with your child's teacher how they will be going home for the first day and the remainder of the school year.

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR A HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



## IMPORTANT: BUS TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

### THE GOLD STANDARD

# BUS TRANSPORTATION

If you did not complete a Transportation Form by August 4th, you must provide transportation for your child to/from school until August 26th

- Monday, August 5th - Wednesday, August 21st: During this time, if families fill out the Transportation Form requesting bus transportation for a student, the student will start receiving bus transportation on Monday, August 26th.
- Thursday, August 22nd and beyond: During this time, if families fill out the Transportation Form requesting, bus transportation for a student, the student will start receiving bus transportation five school days after the form is submitted.

[www.lcisid.org/transportation](http://www.lcisid.org/transportation)



## IMPORTANT: ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

# THE GOLD STANDARD

## ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, iPads, earbuds, and tablets **MUST** be turned off and in backpacks for the duration of the instructional day

- 1st Offense - Parent contact, phone confiscated and returned at the end of the day
- 2nd Offense - Parent contact, phone confiscated, and parent must retrieve phone with a \$15 fee
- 3rd Offense - Parent contact, phone confiscated, and parent must retrieve phone with a \$15 fee, and student is assigned ISS
- 4th Offense - Parent contact, phone confiscated, and parent must retrieve phone with a \$15 fee, and student is suspended
- 5th Offense - Parent contact, phone confiscated, and parent must retrieve phone with a \$15 fee, and student is recommended to attend ALC
- 6th Offense and beyond - Recommended ALC Placement



## 2024–25 BEGINNING OF YEAR FORMS

For the 2024-25 school year, all required Lamar Consolidated ISD beginning-of-year forms must be completed online through the Skyward Family Access Center.

Online forms are available through the Family Access Center starting July 29th and all forms need to be submitted no later than Sept. 13th. Your student's schedule will not be available online through the Family Access Center until all of the beginning-of-year forms are completed for your student and after the campus has released schedules. **Student schedules will be available online on Wednesday, Aug. 7th, if all online forms have been completed.**

Instructions, important dates, a username/password reset button, and technical assistance regarding the online forms can be found by clicking the link below.

<https://www.lcisd.org/students-parents/family-access/beginning-of-year-forms>.

For those who need access to a computer or the Internet, computers will be available on campus Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. starting August 1, 2024.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact the school front office at 832-223-2800.

## AFTERSCHOOL DISMISSAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

We need your help to ensure that we know how your child will go home this school year. If you were unable to attend Meet the Teacher or complete the QR code for your child, please do so now. A form will need to be completed for EACH child that attends McNeill. We appreciate your help in ensuring that we know how your child goes home.

Please click the link or scan the QR code below to access the form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/S8Dg9vkBR8>

### Dismissal Transportation Information

## McNeill Transportation 2024-2025



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### FRONT OFFICE

**\*\*We anticipate a very BUSY front office during the first week! \*\***

If you need in person assistance during the first week, please park in our visitor's lot and come inside the foyer. We will have a sign-in sheet at the table when you walk in. Please have a seat. To

preserve the privacy of families, we will serve one family at a time in the office area. Please be patient.

In order to make sure all students are safely in class and our morning car rider line has ended; we will begin assisting parents promptly at 8:30 am each day. If you do not want to wait in the foyer for a long period of time, please consider arriving after 8:30am for assistance.

If you need to complete registration, please complete the online pre-registration application **before** coming to the school. Be sure you have in your possession the following when you come to the school: your child's birth certificate, shot record, social security card, your ID, and your proof of residence (executed lease, light bill, gas bill, or water bill) in your name.

# MCNEILL ELEMENTARY SPIRITWEAR

<https://gogandy.com/mcneilles-sp24>

SALE ENDS: **August 30th!!**



1. Go online    2. Select your items    3. Securely check out



## ARRIVAL

Our doors open at 7:15 am. **Parents will be allowed to walk their children to class on the first day of school ONLY.** Please park in designated parking spots or along the street. We are asking that parents not block other cars in preventing them from leaving. Please use the front doors when walking your child into the building on the first day. Bring your child's supplies if you did not do so at Meet the Teacher.

Students will be required to wear their student ID badges daily. They should wear them with their lanyards to school. Students will be issued new ID badges for the 24-25 school year. Replacement ID badges can be purchased for \$5 in the front office.

**Please place a label on the front of your child's shirt with their name, grade level, and the teacher's name on it. This is especially helpful for Pre-K/K students who are hesitant to speak. We will have plenty of staff available to help students get to class.**

Car riders – Our doors open at 7:15 am. Please do not drop your child off before this time. There is no adult supervision before 7:15 am. Drop off is at the back of the school. Please do not wait for 7:40 to drop off your child. The line will be long, and your child will be late to school.

**Remember, everyone being dropped off must go through the carpool line after the first day of school. For everyone's safety, we are no longer allowing parents to park and walk students across the busy bus lane. Parents who attempt this will be asked to return to your car and enter the car rider line.**

Bus riders – Everyone riding the bus must complete a Transportation form in Skyward.

Walkers/Bike riders- These students will walk/ride their bikes using the sidewalks in front of the school.

**Students will go straight to their classrooms at 7:15 am on the first day of school ONLY unless they are eating breakfast.**

After the first day, students will sit in their grade level hallways until they are released to go to class at 7:30 am.

PK – 5th students will be able to eat breakfast in the cafeteria daily until 7:30 am. Remember, student ID badges are also students' "lunch cards".

We recommend you using the online system, School Café, to add money to lunch accounts. The cafeteria will not provide change when students make cash transactions. The additional funds will be added to the student's lunch account.



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## DISMISSAL

**IMPORTANT:** Please be sure your child's teacher knows how your child will be getting home on the first day of school. We will be calling on the first day to confirm transportation. Please give us a number that someone will answer.

Transportation changes- Transportation changes **MUST** be made before 2:15 PM. Please call the office or send a note with your child to indicate a change for the way your child normally goes home. Transportation change notifications are delivered to the classrooms at 2:00pm. Therefore, we cannot accept changes after 2:15 PM. If you want to check your child out early for appointments, that must be done by 2:15 PM as well. We will not release students for early pick up after 2:15 PM. This information is in the LCISD Student Handbook. Please try and keep the way your child goes home as consistent as possible. This decreases the likelihood of a mistake occurring.

**Bus**-LCISD Transportation is highly recommended for all students who are eligible. The buses are the first mode of transportation to leave each day. The buses will load and leave early the first 3 days of school. Parents are advised to arrive at the bus stops early on these days. Give your child's bus a 15-minute window before and after the published time as drivers work to ensure everyone is accounted for and dropped off at the correct stop. PK and K students will only be released to an authorized adult listed in the My Stop App. Please bring your ID to the bus stop on the first day for

verification. ID badges will be scanned each time your child gets on and off the bus, for lunch meals in the cafeteria, and in the library for checking out books.

**Daycare-** Daycare vans will line up behind LCISD Transportation. Students will be loaded in the daycare vans after the school buses have been loaded and have left. Please let your child's teacher know the name of the daycare your child will attend as well as the branch if it is a chain daycare, i.e. Kids R Kids Bella Terra.

**Car-**We anticipate a large number of car riders this year, so we are asking you to please be patient while we dismiss students safely. Please place your **ORANGE** car rider tag on the passenger side dashboard, so that the person calling the names of the car riders can see it. The drop-off/pick-up line is at the back of the school right passed the playground.

**Walkers/Bikers** – They will be dismissed by grade level. PK/K students will be released to a parent/guardian only. Parents are not allowed to walk up to the school to meet your children. Please meet them at the edge of the front parking lot entry (for those who live in the direction of the park) and all others at the 4- way stop (Mason and Lakemont Bend). Please do not park your car in the street and wave for your child to run across traffic. This is very dangerous. If your child is a walker, you are saying that they are responsible enough to get home on their own without adult assistance. **If you do not want your child to walk home without an adult, please make sure to communicate that with the teacher prior to the first day of school. If they have older/younger siblings that they will walk home with, please communicate that information to the teachers as well.**

We know it might take a few days to develop a routine that works for your family. **It is very important that students' transportation is consistently set as soon as possible.**

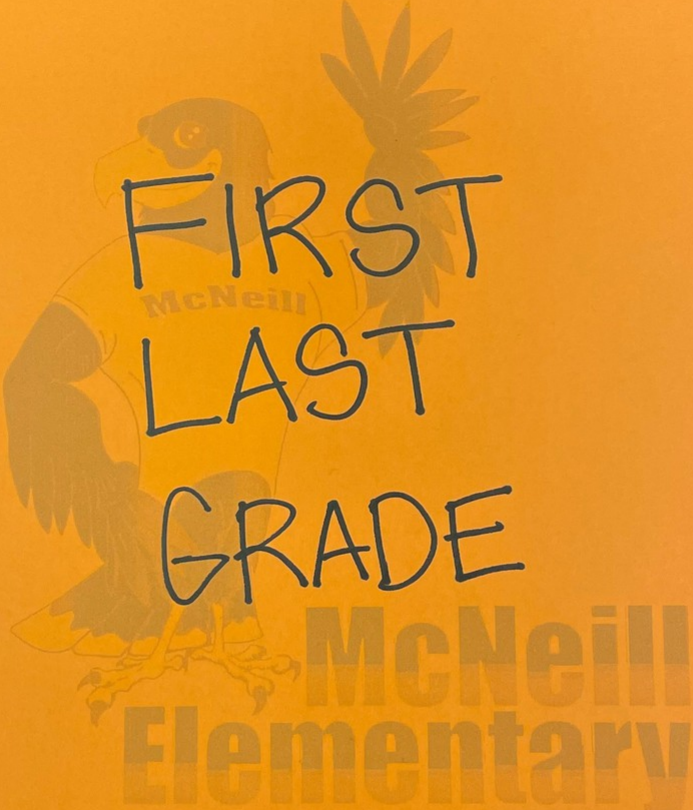
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## **CAR RIDER TAGS**

To facilitate an efficient car rider dismissal, we ask that you adhere to the following.

- Display the **ORANGE** car tag that was provided at Meet the Teacher on the passenger side dashboard, so that the person calling the names of the car riders can see it. The drop-off/pick-up line is at the back of the school right passed the playground. (picture below)
- If you need a replacement and/or additional car tags, please stop by the front office.





# FIRST LAST GRADE

McNeill  
Elementary

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## MCNEILL STUDENTS EAT FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH

McNeill Elementary was added as a CEP campus during the 2023-24 school year. Due to this all McNeill students will eat free breakfast and lunch. Students will still be required to pay for A la Carte (snack) items sold by the cafeteria. For more information please see the flyer below or visit the Child Nutrition website.



**2024-2025-important-notice-english.pdf**

[Download](#)

124.3 KB



**2024-2025-important-notice-spanish.pdf**

[Download](#)

96.4 KB

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## LUNCH VISITORS

**Beginning September 3rd**, we will begin welcoming lunch visitors back on campus. Please see the reminders below regarding our lunch visitors and procedures.

Lunch visitors will be welcomed daily during. Lunchroom visitors are limited to **TWO visitors** per child per day.

As a large campus, our space is very limited, and we must be creative with how we safely accommodate lunch visitors for parents who would like to eat with their children. There will be one lunch table and the lounge area designated for visitors. Please be sure to sit in these areas only.

Visitors may eat **ONLY** with their child. Visitors may not provide food for children who are not their own or interact with them.

Visitors must sign in at the front office with a government issued identification card or a passport to receive a pass. After the scheduled lunch time, parents must leave the building.

**Parents are highly discouraged from dropping off lunches or having lunch delivery services at school. The constant deliveries are a disruption to the instructional environment. Students should bring easy to open items with them daily for lunch and snacks to minimize contact. No nut-based snacks for the classrooms.**



**mcneill lunch schedule\_parent.pdf**

[Download](#)

88.5 KB

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## **EARLY PICK UP AND TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

If you take your child out of school before dismissal time, you will need to report to the office to sign him/her out. Your child will stay in the classroom until you arrive. If it necessary for someone other than the parent/guardian pick up your child, that person must be signed, dated note with the child. The person picking up your child must show photo identification to the office staff. Accumulated time of early pick-ups is calculated by minutes in lost instruction time. Request to check out your child must be done prior to 2:15 pm.

Any changes in the normal transportation of your child must be stated in writing with a parent/guardian signature. We ask for everyone's help in not making changes frequently. However, we understand that in rare cases, unexpected changes will need to happen. These can be called in to the front office by 2:15 pm. **We are not able to process changes after 2:15 pm.** This includes parents that come to the campus without prior notice to pick up their child. Any change in transportation arrangements for any student requires a note to the teacher. Make sure you write your child's first and last name, teacher's name and indicate the date(s) for the change and how the child is going to go home. We ask that the parents not email the change since there maybe times that a teacher is not in attendance or does not have a chance to read their email.

Please note on early release days the latest you can pick up is 11:00 am!

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## **NEW BUS SYSTEM – VERSATRANS MY STOP APP INFORMATION**

Starting the 2024-2025 school year, Lamar CISD is moving from Smart Tag to Versatrans My Stop. You can access your student's bus route through the MyStop e-link to view:

- Route number
- Bus stops
- Estimated arrival/drop-off times

Click here to login: <https://mystop.lcisd.org/elinkrp/Login.aspx>

All you need is your student(s) ID number and date of birth to login. To view instructions on accessing the e-link: [https://youtu.be/nmd\\_284gp9U](https://youtu.be/nmd_284gp9U).

You can also download the Versatrans My Stop App to view your student(s) active bus route's arrival time to the designated bus stop. Guardians can register one student. If they have more students within the district, they will be added to the same account. To login, you need your student(s) ID number and date of birth.

For more information, please visit <https://www.lcisd.org/transportation>.



Versatrans  
**My Stop  
App™**

**LAMAR**CISD  
A PROUD TRADITION | A BRIGHT FUTURE

Versatrans My Stop is a new transportation system Lamar CISD is implementing for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents and guardians will be able to access their student(s) bus route information using the e-link and by downloading the mobile app.

### VERSATRANS E-LINK

The Versatrans My Stop E-Link provides access to your student's bus route including:

- Route number
- Bus stops
- Estimated arrival/drop-off times

1. Login: <https://mystop.lcisid.org/elinkrp/Login.aspx>
2. Enter Username: **Student ID #**
3. Enter Password: **Student DOB (MMDDYYYY)**
4. Select **Students**
5. Select **View My Students**
6. Select **Student Name**

To follow instructions on accessing the e-link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmd\\_284gp9U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmd_284gp9U)



### DOWNLOAD MY STOP APP

Download the My Stop App to view your student(s) bus route when it is active. Versatrans My Stop can be downloaded to IOS devices from iTunes or Apple store and Android devices from Google Play.

1. Download the **Versatrans My Stop App**
2. Select **Lamar Consolidated Independent School District TX**
3. Enter Username: **Student ID #**
4. Enter Password: **Student DOB (MMDDYYYY)**
5. Select **Students**

For more information, please visit: [www.LCISD.org/transportation](http://www.LCISD.org/transportation).



**MyStop App Flyer\_English.pdf**

**Download**  
351.0 KB



**MyStop App Flyer\_Spanish.pdf**

**Download**  
352.5 KB

## STUDENT ID REMINDERS

- Student IDs will be distributed on the first day of school.
- New enrollees will have their ID picture taken and cards made on day enrollment.
- Students will be required to wear their student IDs daily. They should wear them with their lanyards to school. No items should be attached to lanyards.
- Any student who misplaces their student ID will need to purchase a replacement one. Replacement ID tags can be purchased for \$5 in the front office.

## RAINY DAY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

On inclement weather days, we will implement our Rainy Day Dismissal procedures to ensure all students get home safely. All dismissal procedures will remain the same for car riders, bus riders, daycare, and YMCA students. Please note the changes below for walkers and bikers in the event of a Rainy Day Dismissal.

### Walkers & Bikers

- Students will report to the library and sit by grade level.
- After the bus and day car buses have departed, parents of walkers/bikers may make their way to the front of the school.
- Parents will be asked to sign their child out with one of the staff members in the front foyers.
- Students will be released from the library to the parent after they have been signed out.

In the event you would like to change your child's transportation method, please contact the front office before 2:15 pm. Thank you in advance for your understanding as student safety is our top priority.

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## 2024-25 MCNEILL'S STANDARD DRESS CODE

Parents,

Please help to ensure that your child is in dress code everyday. Outside of dress down days, students are expected to adhere to our campus dress code. Thank you in advance for your help.

*Collared (polo style, no logo) solid color tops in red, white, navy blue and yellow. Bottoms may be in solid color khaki, navy blue or blue denim jeans, slacks shorts, skirts, or jumpers. McNeill spirit shirts may also be worn.*

Clarifications:

- Students are required to wear their ID's daily.
- On PTO Free and Pay dress down days students must follow the LCISD dress code policy.

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## VISITOR/VOLUNTEERS

**Visitors**-All visitors will need to sign in at the front office with a state issued ID. Visitors must wear their raptor name badge and report to the area that is indicated on their badge. For the safety of all school community members, visitors should enter/exit through the front area of the building only.

**Volunteers**- We will have volunteers through the building during the school day. We will communicate with the PTO and community when we will begin allowing workroom volunteers to come on campus. That volunteer time will be coordinated by the PTO. Those volunteers will only be allowed to work in the workroom. They will not be allowed in any other area of the building. Each person will have to be cleared through a background check with LCISD in order to volunteer in the workroom.

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## SNACKS

Students are allowed to bring a snack to school daily if they choose. Please keep in mind that snacks need to be a healthy choice. Please do not send chips, candy, or anything that requires a utensil. A healthy snack will give your child the nutritional boost he/she needs during the day. Please keep in mind that snack time will be 10-15 minutes long. Students should be able to continue working in class while consuming their snack. Do not send in anything that needs to be refrigerated. Below is a list of good snacks to consider. **DO NOT SEND ANYTHING WITH PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER.**

Students will be allowed to get drinks from the water fountain.

If you choose to send in a drink, please **Do Not** send in any glass bottles, soda or sport drinks.

Please note that if students bring an unapproved snack, they will lose the privilege of having snack.

- |             |                   |                       |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ★ Pretzels  | ★ Animal crackers | ★ Goldfish crackers   |
| ★ Muffins   | ★ Crackers        | ★ Granola/cereal bars |
| ★ Apples    | ★ Carrot sticks   | ★ Graham Crackers     |
| ★ Pop tarts | ★ Banana          | ★ Cereal              |

# YEARBOOK INFORMATION

## Yearbook News

August-October 2024

**Back to school yearbook sale!  
For a limited time only!**

**3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER:**

1. Order online at [www.jostens.com/buyyearbk](http://www.jostens.com/buyyearbk)
2. Make a payment using VENMO to [@McNeill-PTO](#)
3. Send cash or check to the front office, checks made payable to: [McNeill Elementary PTO](#)

**Order today for just \$30**  
Sale ends Friday 10/25/24



**Share your photos!**

Go to <https://photos.jostens.com/3ZYFVG> or scan the QR code below



**Yearbooks available for \$5**

2018-2019  
2019-2020



For questions or concerns, please contact  
Delores Williams at [merlinyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:merlinyearbook@gmail.com)

**2025  
Yearbook  
\$30**



**Back to school Yearbook sale!  
3 easy ways to order yours today!**

1. Go to [JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](http://JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK) type in our school name HF McNeill Elementary School
2. Make a Venmo payment to McNeill Elementary PTO [@McNeill-PTO](#)
3. Complete the form below in a marked envelope "Yearbook" with your cash or check made payable to: [McNeill Elementary PTO](#)

For questions or concerns, please email  
Delores Williams at [merlinyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:merlinyearbook@gmail.com)



\*While supplies last. Scan now to preorder. Sale ends Fri. 10/25/24\*

Cost: \$30

Student Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Grade : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

# of Yearbooks \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Venmo \_\_\_\_\_  
(check one)

# YMCA AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM INFORMATION



**discover** ◆

After School programs are better with the Y.

 EARLY CARE | 
  AFTER SCHOOL | 
  YOUTH SPORTS | 
  AQUATICS | 
  CAMP | 
  Y TEEN L.I.F.E.

YMCA After School programs are more than child care. They offer structured activities that are age appropriate while encouraging a fun and active way to extend learning from the classroom. Housed in local Lamar Consolidated ISD schools, children learn skills for their future like building confidence and social awareness with a comprehensive curriculum that covers STEM, literacy, arts & humanities, social and emotional well-being, physical fitness, empathy, service learning and more.

**GRADES:** PK - 5th grade

**DAYS/ TIMES:** Monday–Friday, school dismissal–6:30 pm

**MONTHLY FEES\*:** After School Care: \$325  
\$45 Registration Fee  
Financial assistance is available from the YMCA and other subsidies

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

- AUSTIN
- CULVER
- MELTON
- MCNEILL
- MORGAN
- RANDLE
- TAMARRON
- VELASQUEZ

**Need more information?**  
Contact Tylan Blades at [Tylan.Blades@ymcahouston.org](mailto:Tylan.Blades@ymcahouston.org) or Tamara Garcia-Ramirez at [Tamara.Garcia@ymcahouston.org](mailto:Tamara.Garcia@ymcahouston.org)

**T.W. DAVIS FAMILY YMCA**  
911 Thompson Hwy, Richmond, TX 77469  
281-341-0791  
[ymcahouston.org](http://ymcahouston.org)



[ymcahouston.org](http://ymcahouston.org) **SCAN AND ENROLL NOW**

United Way  
YMCA Mission: To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Everyone is welcome.  
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## HELPFUL DOCUMENTS



**2024-2025-student-instructional-calendar.pdf**

**Download**  
188.3 KB



**2024-25-school-supply-list.pdf**

**Download**  
163.0 KB

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### AUGUST

- August 8 - Meet the Teacher (5 PM - 7 PM)
- August 12 - First Day of Instruction



- August 20 - MAP Testing (Gr. 1-2 Reading)
- August 21 - House Slide In/MAP Testing (Gr. 1-2 Math)
- August 27 - MAP Testing (Gr. 3-5 Reading)
- August 28 - MAP Testing (Gr. 3-5 Math)
- August 31 - Early Release @ 11:45 AM

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## McNeill Elementary

Email: [jeanine.jordan@lcisd.org](mailto:jeanine.jordan@lcisd.org)

Website: <https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home>

Location: 7300 S. Mason Rd., Richmond, TX 77407

Phone: (832) 223-2800

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins>



**Jearine Jordan**

Jearine is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters