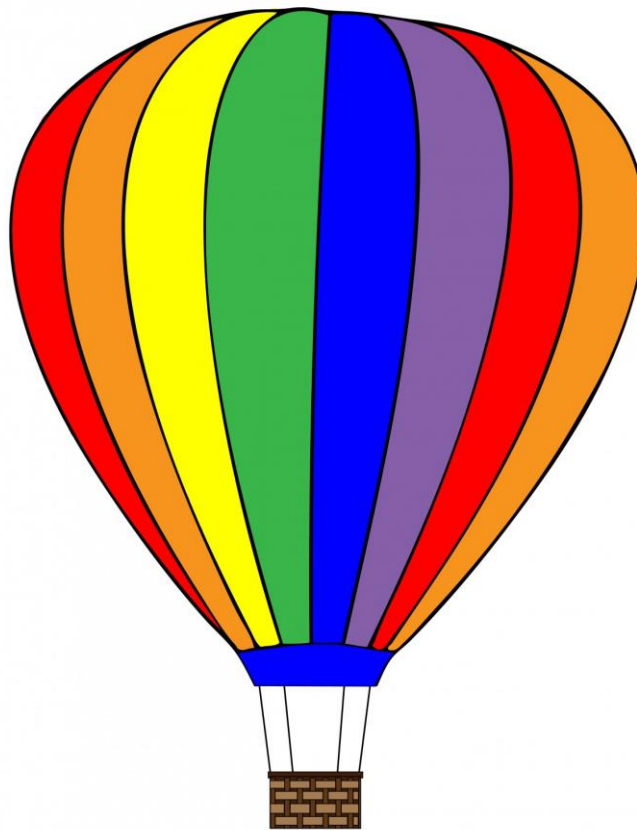


# McLees Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook

**2020-2021**



**SOARING TO SUCCESS!**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to McLees Elementary School! The administration, faculty, and staff appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your child(ren) this school year. McLees is an awesome school! Our mission statement is "Learning to Live as Leaders for a Lifetime!" Our vision statement is "Living to LEARN, Learning to GROW, Growing to LEAD!" Our Motto is: "Soaring to Success!" We chose the hot air balloon as our visual for our motto this year! We strive to create an environment that allows every individual to feel valued for their unique gifts and talents. Our goal is to help students reach their full potential while helping others do the same.

This year is going to look a little different from past years. Some of our students will attend McLees for face to face instruction, while others are attending the district's virtual program. Our goal is to provide quality instruction in the manner that is best for your child's needs. We will strive to provide a safe, healthy, educational environment for our students as we continue to deliver the quality instruction that we have always provided in the past.

We are asking that parents and other guests not visit students during the school day for safety precautions. The school's office hours are 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please feel free to call the office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Janet Mills, Principal

**IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!**

## MISSION STATEMENT

### *Learning to Live as Leaders for a Lifetime*

## SCHOOL GOALS

- Each student will master and apply mathematical skills to analyze and solve problems.
- Each student will master and apply reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills to effectively communicate.
- Each student will master and apply science skills and concepts to analyze and solve problems.
- Each student will master and apply social studies skills and concepts in order to become more active and knowledgeable citizens.
- Each student will become well rounded in academics and interpersonal skills.

### Quality Parent and Community Partnerships

- The school will endeavor to create effective partnerships to assist in the achievement of student goals.

### Instructional Personnel

- The school and district office administrative teams will ensure that all individuals on the faculty and staff meet the stringent requirements of federal and state legislation/certification requirements.

### Safe and Orderly School

- The school and community will work together to provide a safe, caring, positive learning and working environment.
- The school will promote high expectations for appropriate behavior to create a secure, disciplined environment.

## McLEES ELEMENTARY FACULTY & STAFF

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Janet Mills, Principal, Room 106  
Melody Lollis, Assistant Principal, Room 105

### OFFICE STAFF

Ginger Austin, Secretary  
Lizette Shaw, Data Clerk

### KINDERGARTEN

Robin Clark, Room 01  
Merry Burgess-Boyd, Asst., Room 01  
Brandy Wurst, Room 02  
Shannaska Blake, Asst., Room 02  
Melissa Payton (virtual)  
Leisl Heistermann, Floating Assistant  
Andi Buckless, Room 04  
Trish Gresham, Asst., Room 04

### GRADE ONE

Beth Anders, Room 11  
Hannah White, Room 13  
MariBeth Ford, Room 14  
Tara Kelly, Room 15  
Michelle Ulsaker (virtual)

### GRADE TWO

Leslie McCabe, Room 22  
Vonda Cooley (virtual)  
Tracy Harbert, Room 24  
Carmen Elkins, Room 25  
Julie Wertz, Room 26

### GRADE THREE

Leah Bailey, Room 33  
Hallie Canon, Room 34  
Stephanie Eubanks, Room 35  
Emily Cape (virtual)

### GRADE FOUR

Stacie Clark, Room 40  
Molly Skinner, Room 41  
Hailea Ringer, Room 42  
Karleigh Adragna, Room 43  
Ashley Hardwick (virtual)

### GRADE FIVE

Lacy Schmidt, Room 51  
Beth Cheshire, Room 52  
Brian Green (virtual)  
Bonnie Williams, Room 54  
Courtney Page, Room 55

### GUIDANCE

Buffy Jameson, Room 129  
Jackie Roberts, Room 134

### LEARNING LABS

Kelly Jerolamon, TMD /SC, Room 05  
Crystal Bolt, TMD/SC Asst. Room 05  
Missy Stowe, TMD/SC Nurse/Asst. Room 05  
Briana McGaha, MD/SC Room 06  
Chasity Ballon, MD/SC Asst. Room 06  
Andrea Thomason (virtual)  
Susan Coulter, Floating Assistant for L/Labs  
Allyson Bowen, EMD/SC, Room 63  
Everette Adger, EMD/SC Asst., Room 63  
Julius Gambrell, Floating Assistant for L/Labs

### COMPUTER LABS

5<sup>th</sup> Hall Lab-Room 50, Google Expedition  
Main Lab-Room 152

### SENSORY ROOM

Room 12

### SPECIAL SERVICES

Judy Jones, Speech, Room 72  
Amanda Eubanks, (virtual) Speech, Room 73  
Tegan Dutschke, Speech, Room 74  
Elizabeth Dickard, Resource, Room 64  
Dana Bowen, Resource, Room 32  
Jessica Bacchus (virtual)  
Sue Christian, LLI, Room 62  
Jill Bowen, Technology, Room 45

**McLEES ELEMENTARY  
FACULTY & STAFF**

**RELATED ARTS**

Meg Earley, PE, Room 218  
Stewart Uldrick (Itinerant), PE, Room 218  
Wendy Nix, Media Specialist, Room 144  
Amy Janssen, Music, Room 81  
Marianne Norris (Itinerant), Music, Room 82  
Kimberly Barnette, Art, Room 91  
(Itinerant), Art, Room 92

**NURSE**

Rhonda Roland, Room 135

**SCIENCE LIASON**

Beverly Wilson, Room 17/18

**ESOL**

Jean Jones, Room 75

**TEACHER OF THE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING**

Kathy Ann Shillingburg, Room 27

**EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER**

Bridgette Hammond, Room 63

**CUSTODIANS**

Renee' Brown, Head Custodian, Room 193  
Steve Callaham  
Debra Ward  
Bobbie Groves  
Dennis Parker  
Steve McKee

**FOOD SERVICE**

Kristi Richey, Cafeteria Manager  
Lynn Bramlett, Assistant Manager  
Jill McBride  
Lisa Crocker  
Nicholle Hill  
Rita Powell

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

Room 36

**MENTAL HEALTH**

Jan Martin, Room 130

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**

Philip Bergt, Room 133

**PROJECT CHALLENGE**

Michael Kirby, Gifted and Talented, Room 31

**READING COACH**

Meridith Johnson, Room 109

**INTERVENTIONIST**

Danielle Bartal, Room 62

**DIGITAL INTEGRATION SPECIALIST**

Sheri Richey, Room 175

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Ken Thomason

### Important Notes to Remember

1. All visitors must report to the front office and maintain social distancing.
2. We are requiring that all visitors wear a mask when entering the building.
3. We are asking that parents/guests not visit students during the school day for safety precautions and social distancing concerns. Parents also will not be allowed to walk children to the room this year.
4. Students must be in school for at least half of the day in order to be counted as present for the day.
5. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must report to the office accompanied by an adult before they may enter class. The back doors will be locked promptly at 8:00 a.m., and students will not be allowed to enter through these doors. Students must enter at the front office and be signed in by a parent. Students are marked tardy if they arrive after 8:00.
6. Please send a note if there is a change in your child's normal manner of dismissal. We will no longer deliver changes made by phone, because the afternoons are very busy in the front office and due to no longer having phones in the classroom, we cannot guarantee that your child's teacher will receive the message, we cannot interrupt instruction, and for safety reasons.
7. If your child is absent from school, please remember to send an excuse containing the child's name, date when excuse was written, date when child was absent, reason for absence, and parent/guardian signature. Excuses should be turned in the day your child returns to school.
8. Please schedule teacher conferences during planning periods or before or after school. Please be aware that most conferences will be held virtually this year.
9. Please remind students to wear tennis shoes on PE day.
10. District Five is "peanut free" due to an increase in student allergies to peanut products.
11. The district is not allowing for any type of outside food/drink items to be brought or delivered to schools this year.
12. Our schools will no longer accept deliveries of flowers, balloons, and other gifts to students on Valentine's Day. We encourage parents to celebrate this special event privately.
13. Just a reminder that cell phones, pagers, iPods, or any other electronic devices and/or toys are not allowed at school. The school will not be held responsible for any such devices that are brought and lost or stolen.
14. Our PTO Presidents are Rachel Hughes and Kristin Miller. They can be reached at [mcleespto@gmail.com](mailto:mcleespto@gmail.com) or by calling the front office and leaving a message.
15. At this time, we do not plan to have special events such as but not limited to: Field Day, Awards Day, Grandparents' Lunch, dances, assemblies, and Fall Festival in person this year. We will send home information if any changes are made throughout the year.
16. Masks are required for all students and staff. Masks may be removed for short periods of time once students are seated and socially distanced.

17. Students will attend recess with their class only. They will not be able to play on the playground equipment.
18. Students will walk to the cafeteria to pick up their lunch tray. They will return to rooms and eat lunch in their classroom. Breakfast will also be eaten in the classroom. Breakfast is free to all students at McLees.
19. Parents will pay material fees and technology fee online this year. We will send out an email with the link next week. Once fees are paid, the secretary will email school information and your child's homeroom teacher name to you.
20. We will have a drive through Open House on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are offering two times (9:00-10:00 or 1:00-2:00). Kindergarten, second, and fourth grade teachers will greet parents and students at the back of the building on the left side (car rider side). First, third, and fifth grade teachers will greet parents and students at the back of the building on the right side (bus side).
21. For kindergarten and new students only, teachers will contact you to set up an appointment to come in throughout the day on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet teachers and see the building.
22. Students will go to recess with their class only.
23. Related arts teachers will come to classrooms.
24. Car riders can be dropped off in the morning beginning at 7:00AM.
25. Upon entering the building in the morning, students will walk down to their hallways and sit in the hallways until 7:45. Teachers will be on duty throughout the building to supervise.
26. Students will enter classrooms and begin working at 7:45.
27. Parents will be given a car tag to write your child's name on if your child is a car rider.
28. We will use multiple rooms to house students in order to dismiss with distancing. We hope dismissing students at 2:30.
29. Busses will be dismissed separately on the right side of the building. Students are required to wear a mask while on a bus.
30. Water fountains will be turned off, but we will be receiving a fill station soon.
31. We will have an isolation room separate from the nurse's room in case a student or staff member shows any symptoms of COVID-19.
32. Teachers will be provided with hand sanitizer, gloves, and disinfectant supplies.
33. At this time, we are not planning to have any after school clubs.
34. We will not field trips at this time. The district will revisit this after Spring Break.
35. All students in grade K-5 will take MAP testing three times this year.
36. There are decals placed throughout the building to help with social distancing.
37. Students may continue to bring a lunchbox from home.
38. A plexiglass wall will be provided for the front office counter.
39. There will be no classroom parties this year.
40. Snacks and treats cannot be sent in by parents. Children will only eat food prepared by the school cafeteria or food in the lunchbox brought from home.
41. Each homeroom will be considered a cohort. This means each homeroom will stay together as much as possible throughout the day. Social distancing within a cohort may not always be possible, but teachers will do everything within reason to provide social distancing.

42. Students who receive IEP services or attend Gifted and Talented class will continue to do so.
43. Fifth grade will not be departmentalized this year. Students will not change classes.
44. If a teacher is out, a sub will cover the class if available. Classes will not be split. If a sub is not available, the class will be covered by a staff member.
45. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather or COVID-19 for a period of time, teachers will use eLearning with the students attending the traditional school model.
46. If a student is out sick, he/she will not receive eLearning. Teachers will send assignments home as they have in the past.
47. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate until:
  - 10 days have passed since symptoms started AND
  - 3 days fever free without taking medications to reduce fever AND
  - Symptoms have improved
48. If a student or staff member tests positive but have no symptoms, they are required to stay out of work until 10 days after the specimen was collected for testing.
49. If a family member of a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-10, the person will need to quarantine until 7 days after their household member has been cleared from their isolation period. The employee should monitor their temperature and symptoms during this time.
50. There is a likelihood that an entire class would have to quarantine for a period and receive eLearning if a student or teacher tests positive in that room.
51. The cost of lunch for students that are on full pay will be \$2.15. Students on reduced lunch status will pay .40.
52. **Please note that all of this information could be subject to change.**



## **Additional Safety Procedures Due to COVID-19**

### **Transportation**

Parents are encouraged to transport their students by car if at all possible. Bus transportation will be provided. Each bus will have a limited number of students to increase the ability to social distance. All students will be required to wear masks while riding on a state owned school bus. Each bus driver will be provided with a face shield, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to be used between morning and afternoon routes. Students are required to wear face masks when riding the bus. Siblings will be seated together while riding the bus.

### **Social Distancing and Health Information**

The school has marked all hallways with vinyl signs to assist students with knowing how to distance themselves. The markers are placed six feet apart and the students will walk on the right side of the hallway at any point for travel. Transitions will be minimized so that few students are in the hallway at any given time. The goal is for students to enter the school, go to their classroom, and remain there for the school day. This will eliminate the students from intermingling with other students.

Signs are posted throughout the building to remind students of important health habits such as hand washing. The staff will require and remind the students to wash their hands frequently.

Each classroom will provide students with reasonable space for social distancing. Teachers will be required to wear face masks/face shields when in the school building. Students will wear appropriate face masks.

Students will remain in their classroom with their cohort of peers throughout the day. This means that all related arts instruction will be delivered in the homeroom setting. The only exception to this is PE which may utilize the school's track area or other outside areas when weather permits.

Each teacher will be provided with materials such as hand sanitizer, soap and paper towels for frequent hand washing, disinfectant for cleaning within the classroom, and PPE equipment. The classrooms will be thoroughly disinfected

each day after students leave. During the school day, staff members will continuously wipe and disinfect high touch areas.

### **Visitors and Building Use**

Entry into the school building will be limited to staff and students; this includes eating with students, classroom visits, and volunteering. Visitors to the office must wear a face covering. Parents or guardians wishing to speak with staff should contact the school at 864-716-3600 to schedule appointments. Most meetings will be conducted using a virtual platform to ensure the health and safety of staff and guests. Parents and guardians may also utilize email to communicate needs with staff members.

### **eLearning**

eLearning will only apply to students in the traditional school model. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather or COVID-19 for a period of time, teachers will use eLearning, similar to what we have used in the past. Many improvements have been made to this process. Teachers will be physically in our building during eLearning. They will work normal school hours and provide eLearning instruction from their classrooms.

District Administration:  
ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE  
400 PEARMAN DAIRY ROAD  
PO BOX 439, ANDERSON, SC 29622  
TELEPHONE 260-5000 FAX 260-5074

Mr. Tom Wilson	District Superintendent
Mr. Mike Mahaffey	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. Tripp Dukes	Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services
Mr. Kyle Newton	Asst. Superintendent for External Affairs /Chief Communications Officer
Dr. Jerome Hudson	Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Mrs. Amy Heard	Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services/Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Wess Grant	Assistant Superintendent for Operational Services/Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Brenda Harper	Director of Special Education

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Tommy Price, Chairman  
Mrs. Ann Huit  
Rev. Johnny S. Donald, Jr.  
Mr. Paul Zugg  
Mr. Harold Kay  
Mr. Rick Bradshaw  
Mr. John P. Griffith  
Mr. John B. Wright, Jr.  
Dr. Sandy Addis



## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Mrs. Rachel Hughes, Co-President  
Mrs. Kristin Miller, Co-President  
Mrs. Katrina Emirzian, Secretary  
Mrs. Amanda Seawright, Treasurer  
Mrs. Kelli Wilbanks, Classroom Support Coordinator  
Mrs. Danielle Lisi, Staff Appreciation  
Mrs. Brandy Carey, Membership Coordinator  
Mrs. Janet Mills, Principal  
Mrs. Melody Lollis, Assistant Principal

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL:**

The purpose of the McLees Elementary School Improvement Council will be to:

1. Assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of the five-year school improvement plan, also known as the school renewal / strategic plan or Title One plan;
2. Assist in the preparation of yearly plan updates;
3. Assist in writing the school's Annual Report to Parents, which provides information on the school's progress in meeting school and district goals and objectives, for distribution
4. Assist in preparing the annual narrative for the annual S.C. School Report Card, in conjunction with the principal;
5. Provide advice on the use of school incentive award expenditures (if allocated by the State Legislature and awarded to the school);
6. Participate in the revision of the school improvement plan as needed
7. Serve as liaison between the school, school organizations, the community, and the local school board by collecting and disseminating pertinent information; and
8. Provide other assistance that the principal may request as well as carrying out any other duties prescribed by the local school board.

The council will not have the powers and duties reserved by law or regulation for the local school board.

For more information about the SIC, or to request to be a part of the 2014-15 SIC, please contact the school.

## ATTENDANCE

Absenteeism is recognized as the most serious detriment to effective learning. Full day

absentees and partial day absentees (late arrivals and early dismissals) both result in missed classes and breakdowns in the learning process. Absenteeism occurs when a student is not present in class for every learning activity during the school day. ***Therefore, students must be in school for at least a half of the day in order to be counted as present for the day.***

The Education Improvement Act of 1984 amended Section 59-65-90 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina to read:

The State Board of Education shall establish regulations defining lawful and unlawful absences beyond those specifically named in this article and additional regulations as are necessary for the orderly enrollment of pupils to provide for uniform dates of entrance. These regulations shall require: (1) that school officials shall immediately intervene to encourage the student's future attendance when the student has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences, and (2) that the district board of trustees or its designee will promptly approve or disapprove any student absence in excess of ten days. As used in this section, "intervene" means to identify the reasons for the child's continued absence and to develop a plan in conjunction with the student and his parent or guardian to improve his future attendance. Provided, however, that nothing within this section will interfere with the board's authority to at any time refer a child to a truancy prevention program or to the court pursuant to Section 59-65-50.

#### **Lawful Absences:**

- ❖ Students who are ill or whose attendance at school threatens their health or the health of others.
- ❖ Death or serious illness in the immediate family.
- ❖ Students who are absent due to recognized religious holidays.
- ❖ Doctor or Dentist Appointment (Must bring a statement from the doctor's office showing date, time, and dates excused).
- ❖ Principal's emergency discretion.

**All other absences are considered unexcused.**

#### **Intervention:**

- The data clerk shall refer students to the assistant principal and/or principal and notify parents after the following:
  - ✓ three consecutive unlawful absences
  - ✓ a total of five unlawful absences
  - ✓ a total of ten absences
  - ✓ each absence in excess of a total of ten absences
- The assistant principal and/or principal may intervene after the following:
  - ✓ three consecutive unlawful absences
  - ✓ a total of five unlawful absences
- The assistant principal and/or principal shall intervene after the following:
  - ✓ a total of ten absences

The documentation of intervention shall include (but not limited to) reasons for the absences, methods to resolve the cause of the absences, and actions to be taken in the event the absences continue. The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be involved in the intervention process.

Please carefully check the nine weeks grade report cards that are distributed at 45-day intervals during the school year. These reports include days absent and number of tardies. It is vital that you stay in contact with the school in order to keep abreast of your child's attendance and academic standing. Excessive absences may affect a student's progress in school as determined by the district's Promotion and Retention Policy (IKE).

### **Tardiness:**

Students are expected to arrive to school on time. When students enter classrooms late, instruction is interrupted. Habitually tardy students may be referred to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services for intervention action.

**Parents are required to accompany tardy students to the office.**

**STUDENTS WITH FIVE OR MORE TARDIES AND/OR UNEXCUSED EARLY DISMISSALS WITHIN ANY SEMESTER PERIOD WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION ON AWARDS DAY.**

## EXCUSES

When a child is absent from school, parents should send an excuse to the teacher. The excuse should contain the following:

- ❖ Date excuse written.
- ❖ Student's name/teacher's name.
- ❖ Date/dates child is absent.
- ❖ Reason for absence.
- ❖ Parent/guardian signature.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students will enter the building and report to their grade level hallway. Students will sit spaced apart in halls and enter classrooms at 7:45. Breakfast will be served in the classroom. The school day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students should be in their classroom and ready to begin work at this time. **Children transported by parents/guardians should not arrive at school before 7:00 a.m.** Bus students will enter the building on the eastside (auditorium side) and car riders will enter the building on the westside (cafeteria side). . **Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must report to the office accompanied by an adult before they may enter class.**

School is dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Bus riders and day cares will exit on the eastside of the building from each wing. Car riders will be dismissed from back holding areas and exit on the westside of the building. Teachers on duty will assist with dismissal.

This is a hectic time of the day, and we ask that you abide by the following to ensure the safety of our students while dismissing.

- ❖ DO NOT PARK AND ENTER THE BUILDING TO GET YOUR CHILD. THIS CAUSES CONFUSION AND SLOWS DOWN THE DISMISSAL PROCESS.
- ❖ DO NOT SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT FROM THE OFFICE TO AVOID WAITING IN TRAFFIC.
- ❖ IN ORDER TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE, WE MUST BE FIRM AND EXPECT STUDENTS TO LISTEN CAREFULLY AND BEHAVE PROPERLY.
- ❖ PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD. STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS ARE HABITUALLY LATE PICKING THEM UP IN THE AFTERNOON MAY BE REFERRED TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES.
- ❖ PLEASE SEND A NOTE IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN YOUR CHILD'S NORMAL MANNER OF DISMISSAL. WE NO LONGER DELIVER CHANGES MADE BY PHONE, BECAUSE THE AFTERNOONS ARE VERY BUSY IN THE FRONT OFFICE, AND WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE TEACHER WILL RECEIVE THE CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION, WE CANNOT INTERRUPT INSTRUCTION, AND FOR SAFETY REASONS.

**EARLY DISMISSALS**

Parents/parent designees need to come to the office and sign out students for early dismissal. The school has the right to refuse dismissal if we believe the pick-up does not have parental approval. Possible reasons for students leaving school early may include the following:

- ❖ Illness.
- ❖ Medical appointments.
- ❖ Family emergencies.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE LAST 30 MINUTES OF THE DAY IS AN EXTREMELY BUSY TIME IN THE CLASSROOM. PLEASE DO NOT ASK US TO RELEASE YOUR CHILD DURING THIS TIME UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY. PARENTS THAT PICK UP CHILDREN PRIOR TO REGULAR DISMISSAL ON A CONSISTENT BASIS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE SC COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW, SECTION 59-65-10. THE DISTRICT INTERPRETS THIS LAW AS REQUIRING REGULAR ATTENDANCE, ON TIME, ALL DAY. IF A PARENT CONTINUES TO PICK UP A CHILD EARLY, AN ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION PLAN WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED. IF THE PLAN IS CONTINUALLY VIOLATED, A REFERRAL WILL BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT MANAGEMENT, AND A REFERRAL TO FAMILY COURT COULD BE MADE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Students will not be allowed to leave with anyone other than the parent/guardian or whomever is listed on your child's blue Emergency Form, unless prior notification has been made with the office by the parent. This is for the protection and in the best interest of your child.

**STUDENT VOLUNTARY INSURANCE**

Information about accident insurance for students is available on the district's website under the "Parents" heading (<https://www.anderson5.net>). There are two plans



that are available (school-time coverage and 24-hour coverage). While the carrying of insurance is optional, you are urged to take it, as it will help you with expenses in case of an accident. Most injuries that occur at school are unavoidable and not covered through the district's insurance policy.

If a student is injured, he or she may be treated by his or her own private physician, medical clinic or in the hospital emergency room. The parent is responsible for seeking treatment, filing personal insurance and all costs associated with injury accidents.

#### NON - STUDENT ACCIDENT ON CAMPUS

If a visitor is injured on campus, he or she may be treated by his or her own private physician, medical clinic or in the hospital emergency room. The visitor is responsible for seeking treatment, filing personal insurance and all costs associated with injury accidents.

#### MATERIALS FEE

Students are required to pay a fee for materials and technology. The cost for materials fees is \$15.00 full cost and \$2.80 if on reduced lunch. There is no cost for students on free lunch. The district will also be charging a technology fee of \$20.00 to all students from kindergarten through grade 12. This money is used to purchase supplies for staff and students throughout the year. We request this be paid at the beginning of the year if possible. Student fees may be refunded (in whole or partial) to parents when free/reduced lunch eligibility is determined.

#### CARE OF TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Students are responsible for all textbooks and library books issued to them during the school year. All lost or damaged books must be replaced. All monies paid for lost or damaged books are recorded by the secretary for replacement purposes. If a lost book is found, refunds are awarded.

#### LOST AND FOUND

**Please label all jackets, sweatshirts, lunchboxes, etc. with your child's name.** Students are asked to turn in lost and found items to the lost and found room. Students and parents are urged to look for lost items. All items not claimed will be donated to charity twice a year. Items will be donated after winter break and on the last day of the school year.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

It is necessary that we have your current address, phone number, and any emergency information at all times. The address must be a street address, not just a post office box number. This information is important in cases of emergency. **Please notify the school immediately if there are any changes.**

## MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL

Children should not bring money to school except for specific purposes. When money is to be brought to school by your child, please place it in an envelope with the student's name, teacher's name, the amount, and the purpose written on the envelope. Neither the teacher nor the school can be held responsible for money or other items that are lost.

## SCHOOL TELEPHONES

The school telephone number is 716-3600 (FAX: 716-3611). Messages will be taken for students and staff and will be delivered as soon as possible. Neither students nor teachers will be called to the telephone except in an emergency.

Parents wishing to talk with teachers on the phone are requested to call the teacher during his/her planning period or at the end of the day. Teachers cannot leave their classrooms unsupervised for telephone conferences during instructional time.

Students wishing to call parents may use the office phone **for emergencies only**. Arrangements for after school activities of students should be made before the child leaves home. If a child must use the phone, the teacher will provide a telephone pass to the student and send him/her to the office to make the phone call. Students must have a phone pass in order to use the phone. We request that phone calls be brief.

## UNLISTED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Many people now have unlisted telephone numbers. However, the school **must** have a number at which parents can be located. The school will not release any phone numbers.

## STAFF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The school will not furnish the telephone number of any staff member to parents. However, if staff members wish to give their numbers to parents they may do so.

## LUNCH FEES

Well-balanced meals are available to students at the school. We would like for meals to be paid for on the first school day of the week. Free and reduced lunches are provided for those qualifying. Forms may be secured from the cafeteria. Send lunch money in a sealed envelope with the student's name and teacher's name on it. If a student owes for more than a week, a letter will be sent home asking for payment of past due lunch money. Charges greater than \$25.00 and/or returned checks will be subject to being turned over to a collection agency.

**If you prefer for your child to drink water, please send a note to the teacher.**

**FOR SAFETY REASONS, WE ARE NOT ALLOWING PARENTS TO COME TO SCHOOL TO EAT LUNCH WITH THEIR CHILDREN. WE ARE ALSO NOT ACCEPTING ANY OUTSIDE FOOD TO BE DELIVERED OR BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL. THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN IN OUR MAJOR CONCERN.**

### **Breakfast and Lunch Prices:**

Breakfast: All students at McLees may eat free.

Lunch: \$2.15 - students, (.40 reduced price).

You may also go to [www.LunchApplication.com](http://www.LunchApplication.com) and apply for free and reduced lunch rates online for the 2015-2016 school year.

[www.lunchprepay.com](http://www.lunchprepay.com) will take payments online!

## TOYS, GAMES, VALUABLES

Students are not to bring electronic games, toys, or anything of value to school. The school will not assume responsibility for lost items.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

**You can access information about bus routes and delays by calling 260-5000.**

To assure safety on school buses, it is essential that students and parents recognize the necessity for all bus riders to cooperate fully with the bus driver and observe all the rules. The driver shall have the responsibility for supervision of students on the bus. He/She may stop the bus at any time misbehavior constitutes a hazard to safe driving. More detailed information pertaining to bus discipline may be found in the District Five's School Bus Conduct Policy Handbook

### **TRANSPORTATION CHANGE**

Please notify your child's teacher and the office in writing if there is to be a change in the transporting of your child. **All changes involving bus transportation must be cleared through the district transportation office (260-5000) in advance. If written notification is not received, your child will follow his/her regular method of getting home.**

## VISITORS

All visitors are required to request entry into the building at the school's main entrance only. To request entrance into the building, visitors will use the call box, located to the right of the brown entrance door. They will press the buzzer button and identify themselves to office personnel. We ask that visitors stand facing the call box so that school personnel can identify them through the entrance camera. Upon entering the front office, visitors will check in by scanning their photo ID into our security system. This regulation is necessary for the protection of your child and to prevent unauthorized persons from wandering at will through the school building. We use a security system to check in all visitors.

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

An emergency drill will be held at least once each month in accordance with state laws. Each teacher will be responsible for instructing students on the manner and route of exit during each drill. These rehearsals are necessary for helping children react quickly and responsibly in instances of emergency. Instruction and drill will be provided in preparation for tornadoes or severe weather conditions and for the evacuation of buses.

## SCHOOL CLOSING (WEATHER OR EMERGENCY)

The closing of school due to extremely severe weather or other emergencies will be announced on the local television and radio stations. The district web site will also post information. The district will also use a School Messenger system, an automated calling/emailing system, used for making announcements to all district/school staff and parents. In case of an emergency situation during the school day, **parents are asked not to call the school for information.** The school has detailed plans for the evacuation and safety of all students. Information will be provided over radio and television stations. In an emergency, it is vital that the phone be available for use by those who are directing emergency procedures.

### **2-hour delay:**

- Breakfast will not be served at school.
- Students may not be dropped off before 9:00am. School will begin at 10:00am.
- Buses will be at their stops two hours after the normal time. For example, if the bus normally picks your child up at 6:45am, be at your stop by 8:45am.
- Students will be dismissed at the regular time.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment of students by district employees or other students or third parties is prohibited. All employees, students and third parties associated with schools must avoid any action or conduct which could be viewed as sexual harassment. The board directs district and school employees to take prompt, appropriate and responsive action to end sexual harassment and to prevent its reoccurrence. Teachers and school administrators are expected to use judgment and

common sense when responding to a particular allegation of sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment, or the parent/guardian of a student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment, is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with the administrative rule that accompanies this policy. All allegations will be investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially to determine what occurred. In the interim and at the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate steps will be taken to effectively address the situation.

Students who file a complaint of sexual harassment will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form. Any employee or student who is found to have engaged in sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination in the case of an employee or expulsion in the case of a student, and all other appropriate steps will be taken to correct or rectify the situation.

Adopted by Board of Trustees

## **Policy JICFAA Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying**

*Issued 8/16/16*

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for maintaining a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student by students, staff, and third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment whether in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

For purposes of this policy, harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined as a gesture, electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical or sexual act reasonably perceived to have the effect of either of the following.

- harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage
- insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school
- demonstrates motivation by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression or a mental, physical, or sensory disability or by other distinguishing characteristic

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation or bullying is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly and confidentially. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this

policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or employees may be made anonymously.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a complaint or report of harassment, intimidation or **bullying**. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation or **bullying**.

The board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. Students and employees have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and district. Any student or employee who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions as outlined in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion in the case of a student or termination in the case of an employee. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The district will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary actions for conduct initiated and/or created off-campus involving the inappropriate use of the **Internet, web-based, or cellphone or text-based resources, including videoing other students and/or posting such videos on sites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter, if such conduct poses a threat or substantially interferes with or disrupts the work and discipline of the schools, including discipline for student harassment and bullying**.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for ensuring notice of this policy is provided to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and members of the community including its applicability to all areas of the school environment as outlined in this policy.

The superintendent or his/her designee will also ensure that a process is established for discussing the district policy with students.

Cf. [GBEB](#), [JICC](#), [JICDA](#)

Adopted 12/12/06; Revised 1/17/12, 7/17/12; 8/16/16

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## ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

Every effort is made to prevent accidents. However, school personnel, designated and trained as first responders, will administer first aid in the event of an accident.

The school will exercise extreme care and caution if a decision involving the health or safety of a child must be made following an accident or other emergency.

If your child becomes sick or injured at school, we will contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information you have provided.

**Please remember that we cannot keep sick children at school.**

## HEALTH ROOM

McLees has a full-time licensed practical nurse on staff. Children in need of medical attention will be referred to the health room.

The school nurse will record the child's visit to the health room. The nurse will record the child's symptoms, the medical attention provided, and other steps taken.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

According to state law, all students must have an up-to-date South Carolina Immunization Form from their doctor or the health department before entering school. When a student enters from another school, the permanent record will be checked to make sure all immunizations have been completed. If not, the student will be required to get the necessary shots.

## ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

Please read the following information carefully regarding procedures for administration of either prescription or non-prescription medication during the school day.

- ❖ The health room does not stock medication.
- ❖ Written permission is required for any medication to be administered.
- ❖ A parent or legal guardian must deliver all medication to the school. Students may not transport medication on the school bus. Prescription medication must be in a bottle provided by the pharmacy or physician with the student's name, date, medication, dosage, strength and directions for use. It must also include the doctor's name and pharmacy name and address. Non-prescription medication must be in the drug manufacturer's container.
- ❖ For students requiring daily medication on a long-term basis (more than three weeks), parents may supply the school with no more than a month's supply at a given time.
- ❖ For students requiring medication on a short-term basis (no more than two weeks), parents are strongly encouraged to give the medication at home. However, if this is not possible, the school will administer the medication following the above guidelines.
- ❖ If your child should require medication on an emergency basis (allergic reactions, asthma, migraine headaches, etc.), you may leave the appropriate medication with the school. You will also be asked to provide specific instructions for administration of the medication.
- ❖ No aspirin will be administered without a doctor's statement. Studies have shown that using aspirin to treat the symptoms of viral illnesses increases the chances of developing Reye's Syndrome.
- ❖ All medication left after the last day of school will be disposed of properly.

## HEAD LICE

Head lice do not pose a major health hazard, however, any child with head lice or nits will need to be treated and rechecked by the school nurse.

If one person in your family is infested with lice, all members of your household should be checked and treated if needed. It is a must to comb the hair every day until all nits are combed out. No shampoo kills all the nits, and they can hatch out and re-infest the hair.

We encourage you to please notify close friends or playmates that might be either the source or recipient of the lice. Secrecy is unwarranted and counter-productive.

If a student has either live lice or nits, a parent, guardian, or emergency contact person will be notified and asked to pick the child up from school. After being treated, the child must be brought back to school by an adult for a recheck before the child will be allowed to return to class. If live lice are found, the child will be sent back home for further treatment. No students with head lice or nits will be allowed to ride a school bus.

All information concerning head lice is kept strictly confidential.

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

McLees Elementary provides a curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of the students we serve. Academic subject areas include reading, spelling, language, writing, math, science, social studies, and health. All content areas and other areas of learning are required to meet the standards for classroom instruction established by the State Department of Education, the District Five Board of Trustees, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All instruction is implemented and guided by the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards. Best practices, differentiated instruction, small group instruction, individualized instruction, and technology integration is taught across the content areas. Teachers continually assess instruction and student performance through the use of common classroom assessments, district assessments, MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) assessments, classroom assessments, and South Carolina's state assessments.

### **Gifted and Talented**

Special programs are provided for students in third through fifth grades who qualify for gifted and talented education. McLees meets the requirements, as defined by law, for students who qualify for this designation.

### **ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language)**

Students who are limited in English proficiency are provided with instruction to support the development of English language skills.



### **Special Education**

Special Education programs are provided for students who qualify as individuals with disabilities. A team of teachers, administrators, and parents collaborates to write an IEP (Individual Education Plan) for students served by the special education program.

### **Reading Intervention**

McLees provides students who need additional reading support with individualized reading instruction. This additional instruction is provided by staff members with highly effective, research based strategies which support student growth in the area of reading.

### **Math Intervention**

McLees provides students who need additional math support with individualized math instruction. This additional instruction is provided by a staff member with highly effective, research based strategies which support student growth in the area of mathematics.

## GRADING

Progress reports will be issued to students in grades K-5 every nine weeks. Students will receive informal progress reports periodically during the nine weeks grading period. All students will receive interim progress reports at the midpoint of each nine week's grading period.

**Grading for students in first grade and second grade is as follows:**

E	90-100 Excellent
S+	80-89 Satisfactory Plus
S	70-79 Satisfactory Progress
N	60-69 Needs Improvement
U	59 and Below Unsatisfactory

**Grading for students in grades 3-5 is as follows:**

A	90-100 Excellent
B	80-89 Above Average
C	70-79 Average
D	60-69 Below Average
F	59 or Below Failing

## DISCIPLINE PLAN

It is our belief that the home should be the child's first source of discipline. While at school, students are expected to abide by those rules that promote a safe and orderly learning environment. In order for this plan and classroom discipline plans to be successful, we must have the support and cooperation of the home.

The McLees Elementary Code of Conduct is listed below. Also listed are our School-Wide Expectations Voice Levels.

### Classroom Colors of Conduct

- ★ **Green:** Great Day! Followed the rules
- ▲ **Blue:** Rule was broken - loss of privilege
- **Yellow:** Rule was broken - loss of another privilege
- **Orange:** Parent notified of misbehavior
- **Red:** Referral

● **Purple:** Extraordinary Day! This means the student has gone above and beyond any normal expectations and deserves a great honor!

### School Expectations

- L= Listen and follow directions
- E= Enter prepared and ready to learn
- A= Always have a goal
- R= Respect yourself and others
- N= No excuses

### Voice Levels:

- 0 - transition, test taking voice
- 1 - working whisper
- 2 - conversation voice
- 3 - loud, proud, sharing voice
- 4 - outside recess voice

The McLees Elementary Discipline Plan centers on respect and responsibility.

#### 1. RESPECT

- a. Students will demonstrate respect for faculty, staff, and all other adults they come into contact with through appropriate body language and response.
- b. Students will conduct themselves quietly and courteously throughout the building.
- c. Students will not damage or destroy school property or the property of others.

#### 2. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Students will be prepared for school daily with all necessary materials, assignments, and/or written communication (permission forms, excuses for absences, etc.).
- b. Students will not bring candy, gum, or any object to school that may interfere with learning or cause physical harm.
- c. **BRINGING WEAPONS OR LOOK-A-LIKE WEAPONS OF ANY KIND TO SCHOOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY DISTRICT POLICY AND STATE LAW. VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL AND/OR OTHER SERIOUS ACTIONS.**

Policy JICDAA (Toy Gun Draft Policy) states that no student may possess, use, or distribute any object, device, or instrument having the appearance of a gun, including, but not limited to, look-a-like guns, toy guns, water guns, non-functioning replicas of guns, and objects that are a facsimile of a real gun. When determining the appropriate disciplinary action for the possession, use, or distribution of such an item, the following factors will be considered on a case by case basis: age of student, ability of the student to comprehend the requirements

of the policy, intent of the student, effect of the presence of the gun, i.e., was another person threatened or frightened, and past disciplinary record of the student. Although each situation is unique and will require an individualized review of the circumstances, the administration generally will adhere to the following guidelines when determining an appropriate disciplinary consequence for the possession, use, or distribution of the items listed above. The District will discipline students for the possession, use, and distribution of the described items at school, school sponsored events, and on school buses. If the student possesses one of the described items but does not fire or discharge the item, the student may be suspended for at least one day or assigned other disciplinary consequences and the item will be confiscated. If the student displays one of the described items in a nonthreatening manner and with no intent to harm or inflict damage upon someone, the student may be suspended for a minimum of two days, and the item will be confiscated. Additional days of suspension will be imposed based on the circumstances surrounding the discharge and the other factors listed above. If a student displays one of the described items in a threatening manner or uses the item as a weapon, i.e., with the intent to harm or inflict damage upon someone, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the dangerous weapons portion of Policy JICDA.

McLees Elementary will be an orderly, disciplined school where students are responsible and accountable for their actions. Students are expected to act with respect for each other, as well as teachers, staff, and other adults with whom they have contact.

Each classroom teacher has a set of classroom rules and consequences that are uniform throughout the school. Parents receive a copy of the teacher's behavior plan at the beginning of the year or when a child is enrolled during the year. In addition, students receive instruction on bullying prevention throughout the year from teachers and counselors.

Most discipline problems can and should be handled between the teacher and the student. If, however, the offense is serious or if inappropriate behavior continues, the student's parents will be notified.

Prior to a student being referred to the office, it is expected that the teacher will have followed the procedures established in his/her behavior plan; i.e. verbal warning, conferencing with student, parent contact by phone or letter, and parent conferencing. These steps shall be documented.

When it becomes necessary to refer a student to the office, the teacher will complete a discipline referral form and referral is made to the assistant principal. The assistant principal takes action as determined by the school wide discipline plan and documents the disciplinary action taken. A parent copy of the referral form (stating the offense, action taken by the administration, and any necessary parent conferences or phone contacts) will be sent home with the student.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the learning process. It is an extension of classroom activity, and assignments should be challenging and meaningful. It serves a valid purpose and shall be adapted to varying abilities and needs.

Homework is defined as that work assigned to a student to be completed outside the regular classroom. It shall be given only after direct instruction and guided practice.

## ROLES

### **Students:**

Students shall develop independent work study habits and assume responsibility for the completion of homework on time.

### **Parents:**

Parents shall provide an atmosphere at home that is conducive to effective study and encourage the student to study and complete assignments.

### **Teachers:**

Teachers shall assign a reasonable amount of homework that fits within the purposes stated in the district policy (IKB), and that is at the student's performance level. Homework shall be monitored and immediate feedback provided to students to emphasize learning objectives. Teachers shall avoid the use of homework assignments that involve excessive expenditure of funds and shall be sensitive toward students who may not have access to needed materials.

### **Administrative Team:**

The administrative team can communicate the district's homework policy and any additional guidelines to teachers, parents, and students. Adherence to this policy shall be the administrative team's responsibility.

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

Students are honored in many ways for their achievements and accomplishments at McLees Elementary. A (E) honor roll, A/B (E/S+) honor roll, Good Citizen, perfect attendance, Terrific Kid, students' birthdays, writing, and Leadership Awards are some examples of student recognitions. The school administration and leadership team will develop an awards/leadership assembly schedule each year. *(These assemblies have been suspended for this year due to COVID-19),*

## HONOR ROLL (GRADES 1-5)

To be eligible:

- ❖ A student must make all A's to be on the "A" honor roll (E's for first grade).
- ❖ A student may have any combination of A's and B's to be on the "A/B" honor roll, including all B's (E's and S+'s for first grade).
- ❖ Citizenship is not included in determining either "A" "E" or "A/B" "E/S+" honor roll.

## TESTING PROGRAMS

McLees Elementary participates in the district and state testing programs. A norm-referenced achievement test is administered to students in grades two in the fall. A state test is given to all students in grades three through five in the spring of the year.

Other assessments of student progress include: district approved checklists, benchmark writing tests, chapter tests, unit tests, end-of-book tests, teacher-made tests, portfolio entries, anecdotal records, and MAP tests.

## MEDIA CENTER

The school's media center is an important part of McLees Elementary School. The basic function is to help children learn by:

- ❖ providing books and other media for the school's educational programs
- ❖ helping students develop an interest in reading
- ❖ teaching students how to use the media center

The media center is open from 7:30 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. We encourage students to come anytime during these hours not only for reference work, but also for recreational reading and checking out books. Books are checked out for one week and can be renewed. A charge is made for lost or damaged library books.

Book Fairs are held periodically and reading incentive programs encourage students to enjoy reading. (Due to COVID-19 we will implement different procedures for the Media Center ).

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Each elementary school houses certain parts of the district special services program, and students who qualify attend the school where the program they need is located. Federal, state and district guidelines are followed when a referral is made. Federal Law 94-142 prescribes the procedures used. In all cases, written permission from the parents must be secured before a child may be referred for testing by a district psychologist.

Speech services are available to students who qualify for assistance in articulation and/or language development skills. Speech clinicians work with individuals or small groups on a weekly basis.

When a special education student transfers from McLees to a school outside of Anderson School District Five, the Director of Special Education/designee will send a copy of the student's special education information to the receiving school. This procedure will facilitate the exchange of records between school districts and prevent delays in the provision of free and appropriate education.

## PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Students will be promoted to the next grade if they make adequate progress and meet certain reading, math, social studies, and science standards as determined in the district's promotion policy. Mastery will be documented by results on standardized tests, diagnostic tests, additional assessments as determined by the district, classroom performance, and teacher judgment. Students who are not meeting academic standards may be required to participate in a comprehensive remediation program in order to be promoted to the next grade. It is recognized that some students may benefit from continuing in the same grade another year. When this occurs, procedures in the district's retention policy are followed and parents are notified as soon as this need becomes known.

Excessive absences may affect a student's progress in school and result in retention as determined by the district's Promotion and Retention Policy (IKE).

#### PERMANENT RECORDS

A permanent record for each student is maintained in the school office. All information in the permanent record is confidential and is accessible only to the school staff and to the student's parents/guardians upon request. When the student transfers to another school, the record is forwarded to the receiving school upon request.

#### CONFERENCES

Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss students' progress with parents. Please do not wait for problems to arise before making contact. We invite you to get acquainted with your child's teacher(s). Conferences can be arranged by notifying the teacher in writing or by calling the school's office and having the secretary arrange a conference. Most conferences this year will be held virtually.

#### VOLUNTEERS

McLees Elementary desires to have a wonderful volunteer program; we can always use a few more helping hands. Although we'd love to have you come and spend the day helping in the classroom or spending a couple of hours in the copy room, we realize that may not be possible for many parents. So, even if you only have 20 minutes to shelve some books in the Media Center, or you'd rather spend some time at home baking cupcakes, making telephone calls for the PTO, or cutting things out for a teacher, we would really appreciate your help! For more information on how you can become an integral part of your child's school, please contact the school office at 716-3600. (Due to COVID-19, we are not able to allow volunteers in the building at this time).

#### SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 1997

The School Safety Act of 1997 creates a new criminal offense, "assault and battery against school personnel," that is an assault and battery that occurs on school grounds or at a school sponsored event against any person affiliated with the school in an official capacity. It is a misdemeanor.

If charged with assault and battery against school personnel, a child may be detained in a juvenile detention facility.

Magistrates may exceed stated penalties for assault and battery from \$500 and 30 days in jail to \$1000 and one year in jail when offenses are committed against school personnel.

If a student is convicted of assault and battery against school personnel, or a violent crime, the following is required:

- If sentenced to an agency such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, the agency will immediately notify the school where the student was enrolled or plans to enroll.

- If not sentenced to an agency previously mentioned, the judge will order the clerk of court to notify the school within 10 days of conviction.
- The school administrator must notify each of the student's teachers of the conviction, every year the student is in school.
- The conviction must be noted in the student's permanent record, and must be forwarded to the new school if a student transfers.

School officials are provided immunity from civil and criminal prosecution when making a school crime report in good faith.

Furthermore, schools are required to annually include summary of the above law in the school's student handbook.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students should dress neatly and appropriately. Clothing should not be too short or too tight. Shirts advertising alcoholic beverages or cigarettes and shirts or jackets containing profanity or inappropriate slogans may not be worn. Shoes are to be worn at all times. No hats or caps may be worn in the school building with the exception of special activities. Violations of this code may result in the student calling his/her parent to bring a change of clothes or possible suspension. Anderson School District Five's student dress code may be viewed on the district web site or a copy may be obtained from the school. This district dress code states specific items that can and cannot be worn by students. This code is designed as a guide and is by no means all-inclusive. An item of dress, article of clothing or accessory should not be deemed "approved" simply because it is not listed on the district dress code. The student dress code does not apply to students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. However, pajamas and bedroom shoes will not be allowed in these early grades, nor will they be permitted in grades four through twelve. In addition, the administration reserves the right to address inappropriate clothing on an individual basis in all grades. **Due to COVID-19, all students and staff will be required to wear a mask.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read your Parent/Student Handbook! We are glad that you are at McLees Elementary and look forward to working with you and your child this school year!**

Contact Information:

McLees Elementary ([www.anderson5.net](http://www.anderson5.net))

4900 Dobbins Bridge Road

Anderson, SC 29626

Phone: (864) 716-3600 Fax: (864) 716-3611

