



# McLoughlin Middle School

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*The following FAQs assume regular school operation and provide general guidelines. These FAQs are subject to modification based on current health and safety guidelines. Pasco School District and McLoughlin Middle School will follow federal, state, and local requirements and guidelines, including those issued by the CDC, Governor's Office, OSPI, and Department of Health.*

## MAC Frequently Asked Questions

[Athletics & Extra Curricular Activities](#)

[Dress Code](#)

[General Bell and Class Schedule Questions](#)

[Hallways, Bathrooms, Backpacks, and Lockers](#)

[Library, Laptops, and Student Textbooks/Materials](#)

[Lunch Time Procedures](#)

[Music Programs at MAC](#)

[Parent/Guardian Involvement Tips](#)

[School Counseling Services](#)

[Special Courses at MAC](#)

[Student Busing](#)

### **General Bell and Class Schedule Questions:**

#### **What time does the school open?**

Regular school office hours are 7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Students enter through the “breakfast doors” on the playground in the back of the school beginning at 7:15 a.m.

#### **What time can I go to my first class?**

Hallways are closed until 7:35 a.m. Students should remain in the cafeteria or outside on the playground until the 7:35 a.m. bell sounds. Students then have 5 minutes passing time to arrive on time to 1<sup>st</sup> period.

**What time does school start and end?**

7:40 a.m. – 2:22 p.m. The first class of the day begins at 7:40 a.m. The last class of the day ends at 2:22 p.m. For your convenience, MAC daily bell schedules are posted on our website.

**How long is each class period?**

Length of class periods vary slightly by grade level, content, and day of the week. Generally, core content classes average 52 minutes, while PE/Health and Related Arts/Music average 70 minutes.

**How much time do I have between classes?**

Passing time between classes is approximately 4 minutes.

**How many classes will I take every day?**

Generally, students will be enrolled in six or seven periods per day. Each student will take a Math, Science, Language Arts, History, and a rotation through PE/Health & Related Arts courses. In addition, students will be enrolled in an Advisory/RTI and an Enhancement class.

**How much homework will I have?**

Homework varies from day to day. Generally, students should expect 30-90 minutes of homework per day.

**What if I am absent?**

If you are sick, your parent/guardian needs to call the school's attendance secretary at 509-547-4542 to report your absence. When you return to school you will need to check in at the front office with a parent or doctor note. If a note is not presented, the absence(s) will be recorded as unexcused.

[Click here to return to top of page](#)

**Special Courses at MAC****What is Advisory/RTI?**

During Advisory/RTI, students work on organization skills, monitor their academic progress, and receive extra academic support from teachers. This class also leads students through *Character Strong™* and *College and Career Readiness* lessons.

**What is Character Strong?**

*Character Strong™* is a program MAC runs during its Advisory period that develops students' character education and provides Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). Students will cover topics such as empathy, healthy habit development, growth mindset, resilience, mindfulness, and kindness.

### **What is Enhancement class?**

Enhancement is either an academic support course designed to aid students in attaining maximum academic progress or an enrichment opportunity for students who do not qualify for one of the academic support courses. The course students are enrolled in varies based on individual academic or social support needs.

### **What are Related Arts classes?**

Related Arts is a category of classes that includes Art, Computer Applications, Guitar, Industrial Technology (Wood Shop), Family and Consumer Sciences (Home-Econ), and World Languages. Students automatically rotate through these courses during their time at MAC. By the end of middle school, students will take most – or all – of the Related Arts courses.

### **What is AVID?**

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is offered in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Students must apply for AVID and will receive notice from MAC's AVID Coordinator if accepted into the program. Students apply each Spring, or during the first 2-3 weeks of school, as space permits. Applications are available from your school counselor and MAC's website. Is AVID right for you? Typically, AVID students are those that have good attendance and behavior in and out of the classroom; get excited thinking about college and future careers; strive to succeed, especially when academically challenged; may be the first in their family to apply for college; and earn a 2.0 - 3.5 GPA (an average student). Click the link to explore more about AVID. [AVID.org](http://AVID.org)

*[Click here to return to top of page](#)*

## **Music Programs at MAC**

### **What music opportunities are offered?**

Students can enroll in Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra. Each music ensemble is divided by grade level. For example, there will be separate band ensembles for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

### **How do I audition for advanced music programs?**

Audition procedures and schedule for Jazz Band, Treble Choir, and Chamber Orchestra can be obtained by contacting the appropriate music ensemble instructor.

Jazz Band – Mr. James Bennett ([jbennett@psd1.org](mailto:jbennett@psd1.org))  
Treble Choir – Mr. Kurtis McFadden ([kmcfadden@psd1.org](mailto:kmcfadden@psd1.org))  
Chamber Orchestra – Ms. Sandra Parsons ([sparsons@psd1.org](mailto:sparsons@psd1.org))

### **How do I enroll in guitar?**

Guitar is in the regular Related Arts courses rotation. Most students will take guitar at least one time during middle school.

[\*Click here to return to top of page\*](#)

## **Lunch Time Procedures**

### **COVID19 Disclaimer**

Lunch time procedures will follow all PSD and public health guidelines and are subject to change based on those recommendations.

### **When do I eat lunch and how much time do I have to eat?**

There are 3 lunch periods during the day. A 6th grade lunch, a 7th grade lunch, and an 8th grade lunch. Lunch times vary depending on the day of the week, but all students will eat lunch with their grade level peers every day. Each lunch period is 30 minutes.

### **What are the cafeteria/lunch time rules?**

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria and must be seated at a table. When students are finished eating, they are to clean up all garbage in their area, raise their hand, and wait to be dismissed by an adult. Students then put their garbage in a garbage can and return their lunch tray to the kitchen. After cleaning up, students can return to sit at a table, but are encouraged to head outside to the playground for some fresh air.

### **Can I eat outside?**

No. Students are not allowed to eat lunch outside. Keeping all food and garbage inside helps us keep our campus clean.

### **Can I go in the hallways during lunch time?**

No. Hallways are closed during lunch time. Students at lunch can be in the cafeteria or outside on the playground. All other areas of the school are off-limits for students at lunch.

### **What if a student wants to eat lunch with a teacher to finish a quiz, test, or get extra help with an assignment?**

Students must pre-plan to use this privilege. Students must use a Styrofoam lunch tray for this procedure. No plastic lunch trays can leave the cafeteria. Students must have a "hallway lunch time pass" from that specific teacher to enter their classroom during lunch time. After getting their lunch, students must report directly to the teacher's classroom. Students are not allowed to eat lunch, finish tests, or complete assignments in hallways.

[\*Click here to return to top of page\*](#)

## **Student Busing**

### **What bus do I ride and what time does my bus pick me up in the morning?**

Each August, PSD posts BUS ROUTE #'s and morning BUS PICK-UP times on the PSD website and local newspapers. Please check those resources in the middle of August to confirm your bus pick-up location and bus route #.

### **How do I remember where my school bus picks me up after school?**

This is an annual learning for each student. Your bus will pick you up from school in the same general area it dropped you off at school. For example, if your bus dropped you off on Road 88 near the McLoughlin Middle School Reader Board, it will be in that same spot after school. It is important to pay attention to your BUS ROUTE # listed near the bus door. Make sure you are boarding the bus with your correct ROUTE #. Buses generally arrive at MAC around 7:10 a.m. and depart at 2:28 p.m.

### **What are the rules for riding Pasco School District buses?**

All regular school rules apply on all PSD buses. Misbehavior or a violation of a school rule on the bus can result in suspension from the bus and/or school. Click the link to view "*Student Transportation and Busing*" section (page 13) in the [MAC Student Handbook](#) for a complete list of busing rules and regulations.

[\*Click here to return to top of page\*](#)

## **Dress Code:**

### **Is there a dress code?**

Yes. MAC follows a similar dress code as the other middle and high schools in the district. A complete description of the dress code can be found [HERE](#).

### **What will I wear for my Physical Education class?**

You will need a pair of tennis shoes, a gray shirt and navy-blue shorts for P.E. Students can also purchase a PE uniform in the main office.

[\*Click here to return to top of page\*](#)

## **Hallways, Bathrooms, Backpacks, and Lockers**

### **May I carry a backpack to class?**

Yes. Your teacher will inform you about their classroom backpack storage policy during the first week of school.

**Are students required to have a locker?**

No. Most students choose to not check out a locker, but they are available to any student who wishes to do so. During the first few weeks of school, your teachers will explain the locker check out process. For your safety, please do not share your locker combination with other students.

**How do I help keep student bathrooms safe and clean?**

By being courteous, quiet, and clean up after yourself. We have 1000+ students using the restrooms, so it is important to report any damage, graffiti, clogged toilets or sinks, or anything else out of the ordinary to an adult right away. We want everyone to be safe.

**How do I help keep the hallways safe during passing time?**

Keep moving to my next class, do not stop or gather in groups in the hallways, as this causes hallways to clog up and may result in students being late for their next class. MAC will use a STOPLIGHT system to indicate the areas of the school cellphones/headphones can be used. Students will learn more about this STOPLIGHT system during the first few weeks of school.

**What are MAC Hallway Passes?**

Each classroom has a Hallway Pass “vest” students must wear whenever they leave a classroom to use the bathroom, go to the nurse, access the library, etc. Only one student can leave a teacher’s classroom at a time. Students must also sign out of class and sign in upon return. Teachers will have “Sign Out – Sign In” sheet near their classroom door. Students must have permission from the teacher prior to leaving class for any reason.

[\*Click here to return to top of page\*](#)

**School Counseling Services:****Who is my school counselor?**

Each student will be assigned a school counselor. The name of your counselor will be printed on your class schedule. You can also view your assigned counselor by accessing your class schedule information through PowerSchool.

**What does my school counselor do?**

Our counseling department is here to help with scheduling concerns, friendship issues, peer mediation, and crisis intervention support. Your counselor will help you navigate middle school, provide a safe space to communicate your concerns, and encourage you to get involved with school activities. Mac counselors are here to help all students in the areas of academic achievement, career and social/emotional development.

**How do I schedule a time to talk with my school counselor?**

Counselors can be contacted by email using your PSD student email account, signing up for an appointment using the sheet posted outside their office doors, or by dropping them a note in one of anonymous drop boxes located throughout the school. Many times, your counselor can be found in the cafeteria during your lunch period.

**How do parents/guardians contact their child's school counselor?**

Parents are free to contact their child's school counselor at any time to ask questions or report information helpful to ensuring their child's social or academic success. Please call ahead to schedule your appointment with our outstanding counseling staff. School counselor contact information can be found in PowerSchool or by clicking [Here: MAC Counselors' Website](#).

*[Click here to return to top of page](#)*

**Athletics & Extra Curricular Activities:****What athletic activities or sports can I participate in?**

MAC offers a wide range of athletic activities. View a complete list [HERE](#).

**Do any athletic seasons begin before the first day of school?**

Yes. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football begins about 1 week prior to the first day of school. Please check the MAC Athletic website for the most up to date registration deadlines and practice information [HERE](#).

**Who is eligible to participate in athletics?**

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that meet eligibility requirements can participate in athletics. [Click Here for MAC Athletic Eligibility Requirements](#).

**How do I sign up to participate in sports?**

Please visit the [MAC Athletics website](#) and click on the REGISTER NOW button. You will be redirected to Family ID, MACs online athletic registration system. Create an account and register for the sport(s) you wish to participate in. Return to your Family ID account to register for additional sports as those seasons approach. It's good to register for sports you are interested in at least two weeks ahead of time. Please contact the Athletic Director or Athletics Secretary if you need assistance with Family ID.

**How often do I need a Sports Physical?**

Each athlete will need a current sports physical on file with MAC Athletic Department. Sports physicals are good for 24 months from date of exam.

**What are the rules for staying after school to watch a sporting event?**

Students are welcome to watch sporting events, but they must leave campus or go home after school. Student spectators can return at 3:45 p.m. to watch sporting events. All games/contests start at 4:00 p.m.

**Who is eligible to participate in ASB clubs or activities?**

All students can participate in ASB clubs or activities. Pay close attention to announcements during the first month of school to learn how to get involved with your favorite club or activity. Each club has a set of guidelines that must be followed to remain eligible. See your club or activity advisor for more information.

**What types of ASB clubs and activities are available for me to join?**

A few examples are MAC Players (Drama Club), Buddy Club, Natural Helpers, and Chess Club.

*[Click here to return to top of page](#)*

**Library, Laptops, and Student Textbooks/Materials:**

**When, and how do I access the library during the school day?**

Most days, students can use the library before school from 7:15 – 7:35 a.m., at their lunch time, and for a few minutes after school to return a book, etc. To access the library at lunch, students must plan by visiting the library prior to their lunch to receive a “Library Lunch Pass.” Students must first eat their lunch in the cafeteria as food is not allowed in the library. Students will visit the library, with their Language Arts teacher, every two weeks. This is when students can check out the books.

**What is the procedure for being issued a student laptop?**

MAC usually issues student laptops during the first few weeks of school. Students/Parents can complete all necessary paperwork online through PowerSchool. Families should watch the 1:1 informational video and select an optional protection plan (insurance). After necessary paperwork has been completed, students will be eligible to check out a laptop in the library, like the process used to check out a library book. This procedure may change due to COVID19 related stipulations. We will continue to update this FAQ as needed. Please click on the following links to learn more about 1:1 devices in PSD and MAC: [MAC 1:1 Info Website](#), [1:1 Student/Parent Handbook](#), [Manual 1:1 para Estudiantes y Padres](#)

**When do I get my textbooks?**

Students will be issued textbooks during the first few weeks of school. They will be checked out through the library. Students are responsible for bringing their textbooks to class every day. Teachers will explain their textbook policies and procedures during the first week of school.

[Click here to return to top of page](#)

## **Parent/Guardian Involvement Tips:**

### **How can I help my child stay organized in middle school?**

Planners are extremely important once your child starts middle school. Keeping track of 6 or 7 different classes sometimes overwhelms students. A planner helps students organize their time. Checking your child's planner on a regular basis is one way to know what they should be working on at school, or home. Backpacks can get messy. Please remind your child to keep their back pack clean and organized. This will help them know where their work is at all times.

### **What is ATP?**

Our Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) meets once a month and works to help facilitate activities that will help our students to meet the goals necessary to be successful students. We are always looking for parents and community members to be a part of this team. Please feel free to contact us any time to discuss ATP, and what we do to help make McLoughlin a great place for students. Contact Ms. Melissa Abel at 509-547-4542 for more information on joining ATP!

### **How do I contact my student's teachers?**

There are several ways to contact your child's teachers. A few of the easiest are by using email through PowerSchool's Parent Portal, by calling MAC's main office at 509-547-4542, and attending Parent Conferences in the fall and spring. Many teachers will send students home with more specific contact information at the beginning of the school year. Please put that contact information in a safe spot so you know where to access it when you need it.

### **I ask my student what they did at school and they reply, "Nothing."**

This is a common answer given by middle school age students. Don't be alarmed. Accept that answer, then ask some follow up questions such as: Did anything silly happen at school today? What was one serious thing that happened at school today? If you could have done one thing different at school today what would it be? How'd lunch go? Ask them pretty much anything, just get them talking about their day. They may play hard to get, but they will appreciate your interest in their day.

### **My student left their laptop/charger at home. Now what?**

It's okay. We all forget things from time to time. We ask parents to help remind students to bring their laptop and charger to school every day. It is also important to help them remember to charge their laptop every night. Your help is much appreciated.

[Click here to return to top of page](#)