



**MCPOLIN OFFICE UPDATES**  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Dear caregivers and parents,

Welcome to the first week of school for the 2019-20 school year. Everyone is excited and working hard from teachers and custodians to students and home. With all that is going on, we thought sharing “survival tips” for a successful school year made sense. Here are some ideas in no particular order to help this year be the best school year yet:

- **Make early and frequent contact with your child’s teacher.**
  - Don’t be afraid to send an email if you have a question or concern, or just send a note to say ‘hi’ and introduce yourself. Ask how you can support classroom learning at home, and ask how you can help the teacher–by classroom volunteering or doing what you can at home.
- **Become a familiar face at school.**
  - If you walk to school, introduce yourself to the administrators (and don’t be afraid!) while they’re out on bus duty and say hello each time you see him or her. **Say hello to the secretaries and be extra nice to them because their job is not easy, either.** Don’t expect these busy people to remember your name right away, but use their names when addressing them if you can.
  - **If you are able, join the PTA or SCC,** but don’t sweat it if you can’t–you can still help in other ways. Consider asking the PTO President or School Director how you can help–from home. I’m sure she’ll come up with something.
- **Ask your child questions and listen to the answers.**
  - *“Yes: Hi, Honey, so happy to see you! What did you do in P.E. today? OR What book did you read in Reading Group? OR What was your favorite part of your lunch? OR Did you like about the assembly today?”*
  - **“No: Hi, Honey! Did you have a good day?”**
  - Shoot for specific, open-ended questions and go with whatever he wants to talk about. Close-ended questions (that result in a yes or no answer) stop conversation before it begins. And rapid-fire questions about what you want to know but what he’s not ready to share are enough.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT IS TOMORROW, THURSDAY AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 5:30-7:00PM**

Moving forward, communication is primary to our success – do not hesitate to contact the school through the appropriate staff member as needed. When it comes to learning and student success, the more we work together the better.

Sincerely,

Bob Edmiston