



MCPOLIN OFFICE UPDATES – [Apologies for the late distribution](#)  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

The first Wednesday of the new month is music to our ears – going strong and staying open! I am continually looking for new messaging to share as we continue this COVID marathon. In the end, I keep hearing the same two competing voices in my ear. Voice #1 – Inspiration and celebrations for everyone’s collective and selfless efforts to stay open. Voice #2 – How to find safe, authentic, and sincere ways to release the never-ending pressure and fatigue created by this COVID pandemic?

To be sure, Voice #1 is a lot more fun and easier to message. We simply need to spotlight the amazing collective efforts and sacrifices being made by our entire McPolin Community. Like never before, we must rely, even trust, on one another’s contributions. Regardless of who you are, WE ALL MATTER when it comes to staying open. Imagine the school we can create if we use that same trusting mindset in all we do once this part of our COVID journey is over and a vaccine becomes a reality. Learning is best when it is a community of like-minded learners. Having differences of opinions and beliefs is a benefit that offers real world experiences demanding empathy, patience, problem-solving, and the ability to compromise. Sounds like real life to me. As I suggested, Voice #1 is a much easier message, and all I share comes from the heart.

Voice #2 is not so easy. The additional physical and emotional stress being added to everyone’s days and nights is our reality for now. As much as I love a good roller coaster ride, I could go for a relaxing merry-go-round pause now and then. Finding strategies, opportunities, and just merry-go-round moments to ease the press is easier written than done. In the end, like never before, we have each other. Our priorities will continue to put self-care and the care of others first. What does that look like and sound like?

- Being present and recognizing each other’s well-being. At school that might mean covering a class or duty to give that person a well-earned/deserved break.
- A simple note of encouragement and appreciation
- Patience and no shaming, one perfect day after another. There are no “bad days” or “mistakes” – only support and encouragement.
- [How about a “Virtual” Halloween Parade – details forthcoming. YES – wearing costumes.](#)

With certainty, we can share that your students are managing this situation amazingly well here at school. We all feed on their enthusiasm and their joy of being back to school. Have confidence we are keeping close and present in reference to the students’ social/emotional needs. So much of all we are managing is out of our control. We always have control of how we respond to each day, thus our collective theme for our year, “One for All and All for ONE.” We Got THIS! The students make it look and sound easy.

Continue to be safe and well. Yes, we continue to make learning a priority. All of us are doing our absolute best to make school a place of learning while recognizing safety is the priority in all we do. This day-in and day-out combination of learning during such unpredictable times is where the stress and fatigue is most apparent. We haven’t changed our expectation of Every student, Every day, NO excuses and a servant’s heart. What has changed is how we go about accomplishing the work of supporting our families and students. Regardless, we are confident we will well remember this 2020-21 COVID year with smiles and once allowed – hugs!

Sincerely,  
Bob Edmiston

Important Dates and Information:

- [VIRTUAL PARENT/TEACHER CONFS.](#)
  - [Mon., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>](#)
  - [Look for information from your TEACHERS to schedule the VIRTUAL confs.](#)
- [Fall Break](#)
  - Fri., Oct. 16th