

July 2020

Dear New Parents and Students,

“Honor is central at McCallie.”

This sentence introduces the section on Honor and the Honor Code in McCallie’s Student Handbook, and it informs everything we do here.

The Honor Code is McCallie’s most treasured tradition. The code is predicated on the assumption that our students are honorable men who have the right to be trusted. Every member of the McCallie community is personally responsible for supporting and furthering this foundational element of the McCallie School culture. The code reminds each young man that . . .

- 1. He will tell the truth and not mislead others. A McCallie man does not lie.**
- 2. He will ensure that the work he submits is his own, that he will neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance in his academic work. A McCallie man does not cheat.**
- 3. He will respect the property of others and ensure that it will remain safe for their use. A McCallie man does not steal.**
- 4. He will do all in his power to support the community of trust embodied in this Honor Code. A McCallie man does not condone dishonesty or the disregard of the Honor Code by other members of the McCallie community.**

We pride ourselves on being an honest environment, but we also realize there are times when not everything may go as we would like, and though rare, there are instances in which folks make decisions that run counter to our community’s tenets. We have a process to help address such times. The Honor Code is administered by the Senate, a group of McCallie men who are elected by their peers and whose responsibility it is to maintain the integrity of the Honor Code and to enforce its policies. Being elected to the Senate is one of the highest honors and obligations a boy can receive at McCallie. The responsibilities of this position are great and are not taken lightly by those whose privilege it is to serve.

Faculty oversight of the Senate is done by veteran teachers whose responsibility it is to guide the Senate in its endeavors throughout the year. These faculty members are present for advice and council, but they do not have a vote in the Senate’s decisions. The Senate does not operate as a court of law. There are no witnesses or legal arguments. Rather, it is a group of young men working to get to the truth. As is customary with other McCallie policies, such as those of a disciplinary or academic nature, boys are almost always given a second chance if they violate the Honor Code. We understand that boys make mistakes. We believe they can recover from these mistakes, learn from them, and continue to make positive contributions to the community.

We are as committed to teaching boys honor as we are to teaching them English, mathematics, science, etc. We expect our students to believe in the Honor Code, to live by the Honor Code, and to take ownership of the Honor Code.

I look forward to the contribution each of you will make toward the McCallie community, and I especially look forward to your individual efforts in maintaining this powerful tradition at McCallie School.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Hopping
Upper School Principal