



# BACK *To School*

## INFORMATION YOU NEED TO START THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

Welcome to our Back-to-School information, your source for the most important information you'll need to start the 2023-2024 academic year! From class schedules and textbook information to Back-to-School Nights for McAuley parents and guardians to health information make sure to review this document in its entirety.

For the Class of 2027, don't miss additional and important information available just for you at the end of the all-school information.

## Outline of Topics

- 1. Class and Book Information**
- 2. Uniform Requirements and Purchasing**
- 3. Calendar Items**
- 4. Dean's Office Information**
- 5. Food Services**
- 6. Parent Involvement**
- 7. Just for First Year Students**

# Information About Class Schedules

## Accessing Class Schedules

Student schedules will be **released on Tuesday, July 25 at noon**. Schedules will be placed in students' eLockers in Plus Portals. If you experience difficulty logging on, please contact McAuley's Technology Department at [technology@mothermcauley.org](mailto:technology@mothermcauley.org). Incoming freshmen schedules will be mailed home early next week. Please contact [schedules@mothermcauley.org](mailto:schedules@mothermcauley.org) if you do not receive your schedule by next weekend.

## Procedures for Dropping and/or Adding a Course

Summer Drop/Add will be accepted from **Tuesday, July 25 through Friday, July 28**. *Summer Drop/Add Request Forms* can be downloaded from Plus Portals at **8:00 a.m. on July 25**. Once complete, they should be sent to [schedules@mothermcauley.org](mailto:schedules@mothermcauley.org).

Adding a course is dependent upon seat availability. All classes have a maximum seating capacity; therefore, in order to be placed into a different course a seat must be available. Additionally, all courses have a minimum seating capacity; therefore, you may not be able to drop a course if your drop will cause the capacity to go below the minimum seating capacity. Your request will be reviewed by Ms. Smycz, the Assistant Principal of Academics. If changes are approved they will be denoted on your schedule within five working days and no other action is necessary. However, if changes are denied, you will receive an email to your Mother McAuley email address.

## Dropping an Eighth Academic Course

Any students who are enrolled in an eighth academic course in lieu of a study hall have the option of dropping their eighth course. All students are required to take seven credits each year. Please note that this option pertains **ONLY** to dropping an eighth course.

If you choose to drop an eighth course, please complete the *Eighth Course Drop Form* available on Plus Portals at **8:00 a.m. on July 25**. Completed forms must be submitted to [schedules@mothermcauley.org](mailto:schedules@mothermcauley.org) between **Tuesday, July 25 and Friday, July 28**. The parameters listed above apply for dropping an eighth class as well.

## Fall Drop/Add Period

The Fall 2023 drop/add period takes place on **Wednesday, August 23; Thursday, August, 24; and Friday, August 25**. The Fall 2023 drop/add forms will be posted on Plus Portals by **8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23**. Fall drop/add forms must be submitted to the Front Office no later than **3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 25**. If the request is approved, the change will appear on the student's schedule within three days. If the drop is denied, the student will be notified via email.

Other scheduling concerns or questions? Send a message to [schedules@mothermcauley.org](mailto:schedules@mothermcauley.org).

## 2023-2024 Textbooks

### Important information about our eCampus Bookstore

All textbooks for the 2023-2024 school year are now available on our eCampus bookstore website, <https://mothermcauley.ecampus.com>. Students will use their schedules to look up classes and course numbers. The website has a “shop by course” section, where you will find the required texts/materials/fees for each individual class. Specific directions on how to purchase textbooks using the website can be downloaded [here](#). If you have issues purchasing textbooks, please send an email to [books@mothermcauley.org](mailto:books@mothermcauley.org)

## Uniform Requirements

### Important information about McAuley’s uniform

We have a dress code because we believe it promotes values that are central to our Mercy mission. As an institution, we aim to be countercultural and encourage modesty and equity among our students. A dress code contributes to a sense of structure, along with a sense of respect for others and for oneself. It establishes an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, and it helps project a positive image of the school. We ask that all students report to school each day well-groomed and in the uniform of McAuley’s dress code. **Our uniform dress code will be enforced starting Wednesday, August 23.**

Over the years, McAuley’s dress code has included a variety of clothing styles specifically with tops, sweatshirts and pants under skirts. The wide range of apparel choices has made it difficult for our teachers to enforce McAuley’s dress code, challenging for our security team to vet students and has often led to inappropriate attire that does not reflect McAuley’s longstanding tradition of excellence. Because of this Mother McAuley is engaging in a two-year plan to implement a more standardized dress code.

### First Year Students and Juniors

The First Year Students (Class of 2027) and Juniors (Class of 2025) are receiving new plaid skirts for the 2023-2024 academic year. Additionally, they will be required to wear red or white polo shirts with the McAuley crest. There are red sweaters (v-neck and cardigan) and navy zip-ups being sold as outerwear. As we grandfather in the standardized dress code, Juniors may wear their gray zip-ups from the past two years as well as their gray polo shirts.

### Sophomore and Senior Uniforms

The Sophomores (Class of 2026) and Seniors (Class of 2024) will wear their skirts from last year - gray for sophomores and blue plaid for seniors - and other approved apparel from last year. All past

shirts must be gray with the embroidered McAuley crest on them. Additionally, these classes may purchase and wear any of the new apparel with their class skirt.

### **Uniform Dress Code Policy**

The information below outlines the acceptable dress code policy for McAuley students and you can find visuals on our [webpage](#).

- **Skirt**: Each class has a specific skirt that they wear for two years. New plaid patterns were selected this year for incoming freshmen and juniors.
- **Golf/Polo Shirts**: McAuley golf/polo shirts are available in short-sleeved styles and may be purchased in red or white.
- **Cardigan or V-Neck Sweaters**: Students are permitted to wear V-neck sweaters or cardigans bearing the McAuley crest. These wardrobe items are available in red only.
- **Stretch Half-Zip Pull-Over**: Students may also wear a navy zipper-front fleece quarter-zip bearing the school logo.
- **Navy Knit Pants**: If a student would prefer to wear pants instead of the skirt, students are allowed to purchase navy knit pants through Macs Ltd. Bookstore. The navy pants stocked in our bookstore are the only pants students are allowed to wear.
- **Navy Shorts**: The bookstore will carry school-approved navy shorts. We will be allowing all students to wear navy shorts on the warmer days in the Fall and Spring, if they choose to do so. In the fall, students can wear these navy shorts from August 23 through October 1. We will set spring dates during the second semester.
- **Performance Leggings and Compression Shorts**: Both of these items are new optional additions to our dress code. We have added navy performance leggings for students to wear under their skirts on the colder days. The performance leggings will be the only school approved pant-like apparel allowed to be worn under the skirt during the school day. In addition, we are offering an optional navy compression short for those who would like to wear something under their skirt on a regular basis.
- **Shoes**: Students may wear Doc Marten Mary Janes, or any solid black gym shoes with a white or black sole. All logos on gym shoes should be black or white. NO colored logos will be permitted.

**Questions?** Contact Macs Ltd. Bookstore Manager Mrs. Nancy Lynch at [nlynch@mothermcauley.org](mailto:nlynch@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6566.

## **Macs Ltd. Bookstore**

### Have you purchased and/or updated your daughter's uniform yet?

If you have not yet purchased your daughter's uniform you will need to do so prior to August 23. Our Macs Ltd. bookstore is stocked with uniform apparel including skirts, polos, sweaters, etc as well as other McAuley gear. The bookstore will be open over the next month on the dates and times listed below.

- Mondays from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. (July 24, 31 & August 7)
- Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m (July 19, 26, August 2 & 9)
- Saturday, August 12 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, August 14 from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 21 from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 22 from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Please visit our website for more detailed information about the uniform/dress code policy as well as store hours. Macs Ltd. bookstore will accept returns and exchanges for uniform merchandise in original condition at any point through September 29. **Questions?** Contact Macs Ltd. Bookstore Manager, Mrs. Nancy Lynch at [nlynch@mothermcauley.org](mailto:nlynch@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6566.

## School Physical and Immunization Requirements

### Please note the following school physical and immunization requirements:

- **All freshmen and transfer students** are required to submit a completed physical with all state-required immunizations prior to the first day of school.
- **Athletes** are annually required to have a recent/up to date physical on file before they participate in sports. Students cannot practice without a current physical is not on file.
- **Seniors** are required to provide proof of meningitis immunization booster (see below) prior to the first day of school,
- **Sophomores, juniors and seniors** who are not participating in sports are not required to submit physicals.
- **Transfer students** are required to submit proof of eye exam (see below).

All student medical forms can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). For more information, please contact our school nurse Mrs. Ann Gruber at [agruber@mothermcauley.org](mailto:agruber@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6524.

### Meningitis Booster Requirement for Senior Students

Illinois State Law (410 ILCS 315/1.10) requires all students entering 12th grade in any public, private or parochial school to show proof of having received either two doses of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine or one dose after age 16.

Seniors must submit proof of immunization compliance by hard copy to the Health Office no later than the first day of school, **August 23, 2023**. By law, if no proof is provided to the school by this date, your child will be excluded from classes until they are able to receive the vaccine and present

the required documentation. Many local health departments, private healthcare providers and clinics offer this vaccine. Please contact your doctor's office for specific instructions regarding your child. For more information about meningococcal disease and immunization, please visit [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#).

### **Vision Exams for Transfer Students**

Illinois State law requires any student enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school to have an eye examination before **October 15, 2023**. The [State of Illinois Vision Exam Form](#) or equivalent forms from other states are acceptable. For more information, please contact the school nurse Mrs. Ann Gruber at [agruber@mothermcauley.org](mailto:agruber@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6524.

## **Class Orientation Meetings**

### **Mandatory Sophomore, Junior & Senior Classes will have individual Orientation Sessions**

To make sure we start the year moving in the right direction and together, each class will have an individual orientation meeting on an assigned date. Students are expected to report to the dining hall where they will interact with administration, deans, counselors, and more. Additionally students will learn about school updates, important changes and key information.

- Seniors, Class of 2024 - Monday, August 21 from 12:30 - 1:45 PM
- Juniors, Class of 2025 - Tuesday, August 22 from 10:00 - 11:15 AM
- Sophomores, Class of 2026 - Tuesday, August 22 from 8:30 - 9:45 AM

## **Key Dates for the 2023-2024 School Year**

### **First Semester**

- August 20 – August 22, 2023 — Class of 2027 First Year Experience: EMPOWER Together
- August 23, 2023 — First Day of Classes for ALL students
- September 4, 2023 — Labor Day Holiday, No Classes
- September 7, 2023 — Back-to-School Parent Night
- September 22, 2023 — Mercy Day, Early Dismissal (12:00 PM)
- October 21, 2023 — Homecoming Dance
- October 26, 2023 — Parent Teacher Conferences, No Classes
- October 27, 2023 — No Classes
- November 2, 2023 — Open House
- November 3, 2023 – eLearning Day
- November 20 to November 24, 2023 — Thanksgiving Break, No Classes
- December 18 to December 21, 2023 — Semester Exams
- December 21, 2023 to January 5, 2023 — Christmas Break, No Classes

## Second Semester

- January 8, 2024 — Classes Resume
- January 15, 2024 — Martin Luther King Day Holiday, No Classes
- February 23 to February 26, 2024 — Winter Holiday, No Classes
- March 11, 2024 — eLearning Day
- March 29 to April 6, 2024 — Easter Break, No Classes
- April 11, 2024 – National Testing for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade; No Classes for Seniors
- April 26, 2024 — Senior Prom, No Classes for Seniors Only
- May 10, 2024 — Time and Eternity Mass
- May 13 to May 15, 2024 — Senior Semester Exams
- May 16, 2024 — Graduation Practice, Senior Picnic, Olympics & Academy Awards
- May 16, 2024 — Baccalaureate Mass and Reception
- May 19, 2024 — Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2024
- May 27, 2024 — Memorial Day Holiday, No Classes
- May 28 to May 31, 2024 — Semester Exams

## Student Yearbook and Photo Days

**Tuesday, August 28 — Freshmen**

**Wednesday, August 29 — Sophomores**

**Thursday, August 30 — Juniors**

Student yearbook and photo ID portraits are taken during the first week of school. Students must have their photos taken at the scheduled times. Families may not submit photos taken by outside photographers for yearbook or student ID use.

Freshman ID photos will be taken on **Sunday, August 20** during the First Year Experience event.

Sophomore and junior yearbook and ID photos will be taken on **Tuesday, August 29 and Wednesday, August 30**. Students will go with their Theology classes to take photos in the Community Room. Order forms will be distributed to all underclassmen on their photo days.

For any student missing the assigned photo days, make-up photos will be taken on **a different date** in the fall. Any questions can be addressed to Ms. Maryrose Sheridan, Student Life Coordinator at [msheridan@mothermcauley.org](mailto:msheridan@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6534.

## Parent Back-to-School Nights

**Thursday, September 7 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Don't miss this opportunity to follow your Mighty Mac's class schedule on **Thursday, September 7 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.** You can meet your daughter's teachers, who will present their courses and

expectations for student performance. More detailed information about our Back-to-School Nights will be emailed home and posted to our website.

## Homecoming Dance

### Saturday, October 21 from 7:00–10:00 p.m. in the Gym

The Homecoming Dance is a dance for all students. This semi formal dance hosted by Student Council culminates our Homecoming Week activities. Tickets for the dance will be available for purchase in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Students must enter the dance by 8:00 p.m. and are not permitted to leave until the end of the dance at 10:00 p.m. More information regarding the Homecoming Dance will be forthcoming in early September. **Questions?** Please contact the Director of Student Life Mr. Mike Leveissaur at [mlevessaur@mothermcauley.org](mailto:mlevessaur@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6525, or Ms. Maryrose Sheridan at [msheridan@mothermcauley.org](mailto:msheridan@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6534.

## Spirit Dress Down Days for 2023-2024

### Show your Mighty Mac Spirit!

All students, faculty and staff are invited to show Mighty Mac spirit on Fridays throughout the year by wearing a McAuley top or sweatshirt with uniform approved skirts or pants. Then in addition we have some special Spirit Dress Down Days throughout the year. Students may wear red and gold on top with jeans, khakis, or loose sweatpants or dress in the noted theme. The dates for these Dress Down Days are listed below. Mark your calendar and wear your Mighty Mac colors!

**October 16 - 20: Homecoming Spirit Week**

**November 9: Fall Pep Rally**

**February 29: Winter Pep Rally**

**March 11 - 15: Spring Spirit Week**

**May 16: Spring Pep Rally**

## Important College Counseling Department Events

### Senior College Parent Night - Wednesday, September 13

Parents and guardians of seniors are invited to join our annual college presentation on **Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.** McAuley's college counselors, Ms. Eileen Lynch and Ms. Kathleen Mixan, will be on hand to share important information about upcoming deadlines and college programs. Some included topics are: application deadlines, FAFSA changes, and maximizing scholarship money.

### College Fair - Wednesday, September 27



All students along with their parents and guardians are invited to attend the annual Mother McAuley-Brother Rice College Fair on **Wednesday, September 27 from 6:30–8:30 p.m.** Join us for this invaluable opportunity to meet with college representatives from myriad colleges and universities across the country. Seniors should use this time to meet face-to-face with college representatives one last time, and all other Mighty Mac students, especially juniors, can spend the evening beginning their college search and learning more about those schools of interest.

### **Presentation for Potential College Athletes (NCAA/NAIA) - Wednesday, September 27**

For students planning to pursue athletics in college, please attend the NCAA/NAIA student-athlete presentation hosted by the Division Head of Counseling, Ms. Kathleen Mixan, at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27th.** This presentation will cover academic admission requirements, how to contact and speak to college coaches, and how to receive the most money.

## **School Hours**

Throughout the school year, Mother McAuley will open at 6:30 a.m. **Students who arrive after 6:30 a.m. will be required to remain in the Student Lounge until 7:15 a.m. when the entire school opens.** While dismissal is at 2:50 p.m. on regular school days, and 1:38 p.m. on Thursday condensed school days, the school will remain open until 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Students who are not participating in a supervised activity or sport and are awaiting a ride may use the Student Lounge as a social learning space until it closes at 5:00 p.m. **Please be aware that all students must be picked up by the close of school (5:00 p.m.).**

## **Student Handbook**

### **The annual school calendar and handbook helps keep students organized.**

All students will receive a Mother McAuley Student Handbook/Daily Calendar. The handbooks will be distributed to students on the first days of school. Besides essential calendar dates, the Student Handbook contains important information about Mother McAuley's policies on student discipline, dress code, academic dishonesty, athletics and academic requirements. Please take the time to review this handbook with your Mighty Mac as the school year gets underway. Parents/guardians and students are expected to sign the handbook, acknowledging receipt and reading of the information included. Additional or replacement student handbooks can be purchased for \$5 in the Main Office. A summary of the school policies can be found on Plus Portals.

## **Please Help Limit Student Absences**

**Regular attendance is critical to your student's success at Mother McAuley**

We ask that you plan family vacations, doctor's visits, etc. with attention to our school calendar so that your daughter will be in class each day. Please keep in mind that more than 10 absences from class for any reason in a semester will result in a mandatory parent meeting and can result in your student being withdrawn from the course with an F. This includes absences and illnesses that are excused as well as field trips, college visits and retreats. Exceptions will be granted for verified extended illnesses. **Questions?** Please contact the Dean's Office at 773.881.6501/6503.

## Locks and Locker Assignments

### Info for first year and transfer students as well as returning students

All first year students will receive locker assignments and locks at their first year experience on Sunday, August 20. Transfer students will receive them on Monday, August 21. Sophomore, junior and senior students should use their lock issued from previous years. If needed, returning students can purchase a new lock in the Main Office for \$5 at any time. All assigned lockers must have locks on them. **Questions?** Please contact the Dean's Office at 773.881.6501/6503.

## School Policy on Electronic Devices

### Important notice about the use of personal electronic devices

All students are required to have an iPad for school use. Cell phones are allowed to be carried during the school day, but they must be off or on silent mode and out of sight. **They cannot be used in the hallways or classrooms during school hours and at no point can students be talking on their cell phone or via FaceTime.** Handheld devices may **ONLY** be used during a student's lunch period in the Dining Hall or Student Lounge. Cell phones used at any other time or place will be confiscated and a \$25.00 reclamation fee and a Saturday Jug will be imposed. Upon a second offense, the fine will be \$50.00, a Saturday Jug and a parent will be required to reclaim the phone from the level Dean. Please reference the *Cellular Phones* section of the Student Handbook for further details.

### iPad User Agreement for Students and Parents

Please be sure to review the iPad User Agreement for Students and Parents on the portal page with your daughter as a reminder that the use of iPads at McAuley is strictly for educational purposes. To optimize the educational benefits, McAuley will continue monitoring student usage to ensure appropriate school use. As a best practice, we strongly encourage students to load only school-related apps, content, and media, including pictures, on their device. If you have any questions about iPads or eBooks, please contact our Director of Technology, Mrs. Lauren Dowden, at [ldowden@mothermcauley.org](mailto:ldowden@mothermcauley.org).

## Student ID Policy

### **All Mighty Macs are required to wear student IDs on school lanyards**

For the safety and security of everyone, all Mighty Mac students are required to wear lanyards with visible identification when on school property. Identification cards will be distributed to students at the start of the school year and replacements can be purchased in the Dean's Office. Students who do not wear their IDs will be assigned detention.

## **Student Parking Permits**

Juniors and seniors are allowed to purchase their Parking Permit in the Main Office Monday, August 14 or Tuesday, August 15 between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students will need the following items to claim their permit: driver's license; the make, the color and license plate number of the car you will be driving; and cash or check (payable to Mother McAuley) for \$220. Permits not claimed by the end of the day on August 15 will be offered to the next student on the waiting list.

## **Ventra Cards**

Ventra Cards for the CTA will be available for purchase in the Main Office. The cost is \$2.00. They can be loaded at station vending machines, online, by phone or at more than 1000 retailers and currency exchanges around town. If you have a Ventra Card from last year, please bring that card to the Main Office to have it reactivated for the current year.

## **Food Service**

### **Country House Kitchen Company**

Mother McAuley partners with Country House as its dining services and hospitality management provider for the McAuley dining hall. Our lunch menu includes fresh salads, signature pizza, hot and cold sandwiches, whole grain wraps, daily pasta bar, restaurant quality specials and more. Beyond lunch, our dining hall offers a daily hot breakfast for purchase. There is a rotating breakfast menu with a variety of choices. In addition, every morning at the Kitty Mac's Cafe students can find made to order specialty coffee drinks, muffins, yogurt parfaits, fresh fruit and smoothies.

This year Country House is offering a pre-order option for sandwiches and wraps to all students, faculty and staff. Anyone looking to pre-order a food item can visit the Dining Hall between 7:15-7:50 a.m. to complete the order forms. All pre-orders will be labeled by name and will be ready to go by the designated lunch period.

### **MyMealtime Cashless System**

Beginning this year, Country House will be cashless. As in the past, they will continue to use the Mealtime point of sale program. If students choose to pay for their purchases in cash they will be

refunded any change directly onto their Mealtime accounts. Refunds will no longer be given in cash. Students will be able to fund their Mealtime accounts in three ways: (1) via cash or check in the cafeteria BEFORE school, (2) during lunch periods they can fund their accounts in the Main Office on designated days, and (3) online using a credit card at [mymealtime.com](http://mymealtime.com). Please note there is a transactional fee incurred when using your credit card. Instructions for setting up an account for mymealtime.com can be found on Plus Portals.

Country House will be available on Thursday, September 7 at Parent Back-to-School Night to help parents with the Mealtime cashless payment system. Should you have any questions regarding Mighty Mac food services, please contact one of our Deans – Ms. Amanda Sullivan at [asullivan@mothermcauley.org](mailto:asullivan@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6548, or Ms. Caitlin Gallagher at [cagallagher@mothermcauley.org](mailto:cagallagher@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6511.

## Ways for Parents to Get Involved

### Connect with the Mother McAuley Mothers' Club

Did you know that all mothers and female legal guardians of McAuley can become members of the Mother McAuley Mothers' Club? Expand your social circle while supporting McAuley's mission. This warm and welcoming parent organization supports our school community through service, social and spiritual events. **Questions?** Please visit the [Parents' Club webpage](#) for more information.

### Connect with the Mother McAuley Fathers' Club

The Mother McAuley Fathers' Club is a social and volunteer organization that hosts social events and supports the school's students, faculty and administration. All McAuley dads and legal male guardians are welcome to become members. Become an active member this fall and enjoy opportunities to meet other McAuley dads, expand your social circle and partner with us to support the McAuley's time-honored tradition of Mercy education.

Please view the [Parents' Club webpage](#) for more information—and discover the wonderful sense of community that makes Mother McAuley so unique. **Questions about either club?** Please contact Mrs. Ellen Navarrete at [enavarrete@mothermcauley.org](mailto:enavarrete@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6527.

# JUST for *First Year Students*

## INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR THE CLASS OF 2027

### First Year Experience | EMPOWER Together

**Mandatory for all McAuley First Year Students**

**Sunday, August 20, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Welcome Mass and Picnic**

**Monday, August 21, 7:55 am – 2:50 pm**

**Tuesday, August 22, 7:55 am – 2:50 pm**

### Welcome Mass and Reception

**Sunday, August 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the McAuley Auditorium**

Celebrate Mass with other new McAuley families in our Auditorium. Following Mass, there will be separate programming for first year students and their parents, concluding with a picnic dinner hosted by the Mother McAuley community. All first year students and their parents or guardians are expected to attend. Students will meet with their companion group for the first time, and receive a lock and locker assignment. Parents will participate in a panel discussion led by administrators, “seasoned” parents, faculty members and upperclassmen. Dress for the evening in casual. No school supplies are needed for Sunday night.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community! Additional information will be available in late July along with registration information. **Questions?** Please contact our Director of Admissions Mrs. Colleen White at [cwhite@mothermcauley.org](mailto:cwhite@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6540.

### EMPOWER Together | My Mighty Orientation

**Monday, August 21 at 7:55 am – 2:50 pm**

**Tuesday, August 22 at 7:55 am – 2:50 pm**

Mother McAuley is expanding the orientation experience for first year students. In addition to Sunday evening’s programming, there will be two full days of preparation for our ninth graders. The goal is to ease the transition to high school, build confidence and create a bond among the Class of 2027. For the first two days, students will report no later than 7:55 a.m. to their assigned companion group classroom. This group and room will be assigned on Sunday.

On Monday, August 21, in addition to ice breakers and academic prep, our newest Mighty Macs will walk through their class schedules, meet their teachers during 10-minute class periods, and have time to explore the school. All students are allowed to wear shorts, sweatpants, pants and a McAuley t-shirt.

On Tuesday, August 22, first year students will participate in iPad training and compete in Sisters on the Run challenge. Students should wear comfortable attire (shorts or sweatpants) and their companion t-shirt. Companion t-shirts will be issued to all ninth graders at the end of school on Monday, August 21.

The only school supplies your daughter will need for Monday and Tuesday is their iPad. Students do not need to bring pens or paper. If students are participating in activities after Orientation Days, it is imperative that they secure the iPad in their locker. **Lunch will be provided both days.** If your student has a food allergy that must be accommodated, please email our Director of Admissions Mrs. Colleen White at [cwhite@mothermcauley.org](mailto:cwhite@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6540.

### Setting up your iPad

**Prior to Monday, August 20 students will need to set-up their iPads** as they will be using their iPads on August 20 and 21. Information on how to set-up your iPad will be sent electronically to all first year students by Tuesday, August 1. The process is student friendly and should not take much time. However, if you do have challenges, we will have tech support available on Monday, August 20 from 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. in our Student Lounge.

**All incoming freshmen are required to attend this orientation session. Questions?** Please contact our Director of Admissions Mrs. Colleen White at [cwhite@mothermcauley.org](mailto:cwhite@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6540.

## Birth Certificate

The State of Illinois requires all first year students to submit a copy of your birth certificate. If you have not sent us a copy of your daughter's birth certificate, please email it to [admissions@mothermcauley.org](mailto:admissions@mothermcauley.org). This needs to be on file prior to the first day of school.

## Student Health Forms

All first year students must complete and submit [first year student medical forms](#) prior to the start of school. If you still have yet to complete and submit all required health forms, please do so ASAP. All health information must be submitted to [healthforms@mothermcauley.org](mailto:healthforms@mothermcauley.org) or they can be dropped off at our Main Office. **Questions?** Please contact our School Nurse Mrs. Ann Gruber at [agruber@mothermcauley.org](mailto:agruber@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6524.

## Summer Reading

### Did you complete your summer reading assignment?

All incoming first year students must complete a summer reading assignment. Students must Choose a book of her choice based on the criteria below.

- Must be fiction
- Must be school appropriate
- Must be at least 200 pages (May be YA, or a graphic novel)
- Must be a book you have not already read

The summer reading information can be found by [clicking here](#). This provides details and descriptions, and a printable assignment sheet with a list of prompts to choose from. **Questions?** Please contact our English Division Head Sr. Nancy Houlihan, RSM at [nhoulihan@mothermcauley.org](mailto:nhoulihan@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6519.

## **iPad Requirements**

### **Purchase, Set-Up and Training**

Families are responsible for purchasing their daughter an iPad. Students will have full ownership of their iPads as it is NOT purchased through Mother McAuley. iPads should be purchased and set up prior to first year student orientation. Information in regards to **how to set-up** will be sent to all incoming first year students by August 1. During first year student orientation there will be a **technology training session** to introduce the students to the programs, apps and tools they will use in their first year. Students will need to bring their iPad to both orientation days - August 21 and August 22 - and every day moving forward. **Questions?** Please contact our Director of Technology Ms. Lauren Dowden at [ldowden@mothermcauley.org](mailto:ldowden@mothermcauley.org) or 773.881.6577.