

Welcome 2026-2027

JOHN S MCCAIN III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



From the Principal

Hello Maverick Families,

We are very excited to welcome back our students for the 2026-2027 school year! Please be sure to view the materials in this newsletter to ease the transition to the new school year. We want to bring to your attention the new state legislation, we will no longer bring food in for celebrations (including birthday parties). We understand this will be a significant change for us, however, not following this legislation could jeopardize our Federal funding used for our school lunches. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Finally, please remember we will be having our Meet the Teacher Night from 5:00 to 6:30. This is a great opportunity to meet our staff, arrange bussing, and put money on your lunch account. Feel free to bring in any classroom supplies at this time. For our kindergarten families, we will be hosting our BooHoo Breakfast on August 5th at 8:15 in the morning sponsored by our PTA. At that time we can share breakfast together and share curriculum information. Looking forward to a great start of the school year!

Jim Swetter
Principal

Hello JSM Families,

Our 26-27 school year is coming up quickly. I hope you all had a wonderful, safe, and rejuvenating summer break. The quiet hallways of our school have been missing the laughter, curiosity, and energy of our students, and we cannot wait to fill them again.

As the Assistant Principal of JSM, my mission is to ensure that every student who walks through our doors feels safe, valued, and empowered to learn. School is about academic excellence, but it is also about building community, discovering new passions, and learning how to navigate the world with kindness and respect.

One of the greatest predictors of student success is regular, on-time school attendance. When students miss school, they don't just miss a lesson—they miss out on critical social interactions, hands-on activities, and the rhythm of the classroom community.

My door is always open to you. If you ever face hurdles that make it difficult to get your child to school on time, please reach out to me or our counseling team. We are here to help problem-solve and support your family in any way we can.

Let's work together to make this a year of incredible growth, kindness, and excellent attendance. Welcome back!

Erin Sims
Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

Meet the Teacher Night
August 3, 2026
5:00-6:30pm

First Day of School
August 5, 2026
Early Release 12:00pm

September 7th
No School : Labor Day

September 21st
Staff Professional
Development : No
School

Fall Break
October
12th-16th

November 11th
No School: Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving (Holiday)
November 25th-27th



MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

August 3rd, 2026 Time : 5:00pm-6:30pm

Maverick Families!

You and your student are warmly invited to join us for Meet the Teacher Night! This is the perfect opportunity to see your child's classroom, meet their teacher, and check the homeroom lists posted outside the Administrative Office. We are making it easy to navigate campus resources by hosting several information booths in one convenient location! Be sure to stop by and visit with our teams from ParentVUE, the PTA, Cafeteria, Transportation, and the Health Office.

Don't miss this great opportunity to ask questions, gather resources, and connect with our wonderful school community. We look forward to welcoming you!



Getting Ready for the School Year: Required Forms
Help us get a head start on a great year by completing your annual student updates! The following forms must be submitted for each student every school year:

Parent Handbook Verification

Digital Technology (IT) Agreement

Media Release Consent

Cell Phone Policy Agreement

Ready to submit? click the **ParentVUE** portal link to finish them in minutes. You are also welcome to drop by and complete them on-site during **Meet the Teacher Night**

ParentVue

Anonymous Reporting Tool

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety and well-being, we want to remind families that our school utilizes an Anonymous Tips Reporting Website. This secure platform allows students, parents, and community members to confidentially report concerns such as:

- Bullying or harassment
- Safety threats
- Any other issues affecting our school environment

Reports can be submitted at any time and are directly monitored by school administration. We encourage everyone to speak up—because creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive school starts with all of us.

Anonymous Tips

Athletic News

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year, our school district will continue to share essential guidelines and updates with families. We will provide everything you need to know about schedules, procedures, and activities as soon as it becomes available. Please note that participation in these specific athletic and extracurricular opportunities is limited by grade level. Only students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are eligible to join. Thank you for your cooperation and for your dedication to helping our students succeed

Becoming a Volunteer

We love welcoming volunteers to our campus! Please note that fingerprinting for the Buckeye Elementary School District (BESD #33) is conducted on a quarterly basis during the months of May, August, and November. All fingerprinting sessions take place at the District Office, located at 25555 West Durango Street, Buckeye, AZ 85326.

- **Summer Update:** Please be advised that fingerprinting appointments are currently paused for the summer break. Sessions will resume promptly at the start of the new school year.
- **Requirement:** To ensure student safety, all prospective volunteers must attend a mandatory Volunteer Orientation before helping on campus.

Have questions or want to sign up?

Phone: (623) 925-3464

Email: volunteer@besd33.org

Food & Nutrition

Buckeye Elementary School District (BESD) will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. BESD schools will offer healthy meals every school day.

All families are encouraged to apply even if they feel they will not qualify. You may find the link to the online application below.

If you do not have access to the online application you may stop by our central office (25555 W Durango St. Buckeye AZ, 85326) and receive a paper copy.

- Breakfast meal price will be \$1.90
- Lunch price will be \$3.35 for paid students

Reduced meals will continue to be at zero cost until further notice.

Family Resource Center

At the Buckeye Family Resource Center, we work alongside parents to support children in their learning and growth journey. We offer parent/child interaction classes designed for children aged five and under, as well as parenting classes to equip parents with the necessary skills. Our goal is to provide all the resources and support your family needs to thrive together. At our center, we offer information and referral services to everyone in the community. You can use a laptop for up to 30 minutes, makeup to 20 copies, send faxes, and use the phone for 30 minutes.

- All our programs and services are free of charge.
- We are open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. For more information, please call (623) 925-3911 or select the link below to visit our website [Buckeye Family Resource Center](#)



NEW GUIDELINES NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Dear BESD Parents and Guardians,

To align with Arizona House Bill 2164 and ensure continued compliance with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), our district is updating food guidelines regarding school celebrations and events.

We are announcing this change now to provide families ample time to prepare before the new procedure takes effect.

What's Changing?

Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, outside food will no longer be allowed on campus for celebrations and events, such as birthdays, rewards, holiday parties, or classroom milestones.

What's NOT Changing?

This procedure does NOT affect students bringing lunch or snacks from home for their personal, daily consumption. Students may continue to bring their own food as part of their regular daily meals.

Why the Change?

This update is necessary for several important reasons:

- To support the health and safety of all students.
- To meet state and federal nutrition guidelines.
- To create an inclusive environment for students with allergies and dietary restrictions.
- To maintain compliance with HB 2164 and National School Lunch Program regulations.

Our Commitment to Celebrations

We recognize the importance of birthdays and milestones. Schools will continue to celebrate these events—just in new and creative ways that do not involve food. Please see the attached document for ideas and suggestions for non food celebration favors.

Thank you for your support as we continue our efforts to build a safe, inclusive, and healthy school environment.

If you have any questions, please contact the BESD Child Nutrition Department at (623) 925-3401 or your School Administration.

Non-Food Party Favor & Celebration Alternatives Ideas

- Stickers or sticker sheets
- Pencils, pens, or fun erasers
- Mini notepads or bookmarks
- Glow sticks or light-up bracelets
- Bubbles
- Mini puzzles or activity books
- Stamps or stampers
- DIY craft kits (paper crowns, foam crafts, bracelets)
- Coloring pages with crayons
- "Birthday banner" students can sign
- Class-made birthday card or poster
- Special birthday hat, sash, or badge



ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

CAR DROP OFF

This option is for parents who are Dropping off their child and staying in their vehicle.

- Arrive to the back parking lot located by the gym.
- Pull All the way around to the open gate - Parent will stay in car
- Students will exit Car and enter through gate to go to their classroom
- Parent will drive off
- CAR DROP OFF - Parent Looking to Get out of their vehicle
- Park Car in the Parking lot located directly in front of the School Office
- Walk your child up to the building door using the designated crosswalk.
- Bring students to lobby and someone will be there to support your child getting to their classroom.
- The first few days of school we will have extra staff available at all locations to support students getting to their classrooms!

BUS DROP OFF

Arrival: (For Students in the JSM Boundaries) The bus will drop students off at the campus bus loop, and students will proceed directly inside the building to their designated morning area.

BASE/BIKE RIDERS/WALKERS MORNING

- If your child is attending the BASE program it will be located in the cafeteria. They will be communicating to you where you will drop off and pick up. At 7:30 AM students will be released from the BASE room and able to go to the playground for recess or eat breakfast in the cafeteria.
- **If your child is riding a bike/walking to school please use EXTREME caution as we DO NOT have crossing guards on the main roads MILLER, LOWER BUCKEYE or WATSON.**

BLUE SIDE PICK UP

This is for any student at JSM that is a SINGLE RIDER. They have NO SIBLINGS AT JSM.

- Arrive to the front of the school where the front office is.
- Pull all the way around in the line and stay in your vehicle.
- Teacher will be there to get your child's name and will radio to have them sent over to the car in line.
- Once your child is safely in the car, you can drive off.

GOLD SIDE PICK UP

This is for any students that HAVE JSM SIBLINGS.

- Arrive to the back of the school building by the gym.
- Pull up until you see a staff member with a radio.
- Give the staff member your children's name and grade level.
- Teacher will radio for your student to be brought up to the line of cars.
- Once your car is close enough for the child to safely get in, your child will walk to the car and enter the car.

BASE/BIKERIDERS/ WALKERS DISMISSAL

- **Students who choose to walk or ride a bike to school will need to have a signed letter on file in the office.**
- If your child is attending the BASE program it will be located in the cafeteria. **They will be communicating to you where you will drop off and pick up.** At 2:45pm students will be walked to this location where the BASE program will check them in..
- **If your child is riding a bike/walking home from school please use EXTREME caution as we DO NOT have crossing guards on the main roads MILLER, LOWER BUCKEYE or WATSON.**

Parent Guide: Attendance & Tardies

Regular attendance is essential for your child's success! To help us keep accurate records and ensure student safety, please review our quick attendance guidelines below:

What to Do If Your Child Is Absent

State law requires the school to record the reason for all absences. Any unverified absence will remain unexcused.

Please report the absence on or before the day your child is missing school using one of these options:

- Call the school attendance line.
- Email the front office.
- Submit the absence through ParentVUE.
- Send a written note with your child (either before the absence or the morning they return).

 **Note:** For absences lasting more than one day, please notify the school each day your child is out. If your child is absent for 10 or more consecutive days due to illness, a doctor's note is required

Tardy Policy

Arriving at school on time and ready to learn is a team effort!

- Students arriving after the final morning bell are considered tardy and must report to the front office for a pass to class.
- Tardies will only be marked "Excused" if parent/guardian sign in the student in. All other tardies will be marked "Unexcused."

Student Sign-Out & Sign-In Procedures

To ensure the safety and security of all our Mavericks, please follow these district-mandated guidelines if you need to pick up your child during school hours:

Checking a Student Out (Sign Out)

- **Authorized Adults Only:** Only adults who are explicitly listed on your student's registration form with "permission to release" will be allowed to sign a student out of school.
- **Photo ID Required:** All adults will be required to show a valid photo ID to front office staff before a student can be released. No exceptions can be made.
- **Dismissal Buffer Window:** Check out the guidelines in the document below - [Updated School & Sign Out Procedures](#)

Returning or Arriving Late (Sign In)

- **Office Check-In:** Any student arriving late to campus or returning after an appointment during school hours must be signed in by an adult through the front office before heading to class.

Thank you for your partnership.

PTA NEWS

Welcome to a brand new school year,

My name is Angelica Reyes, one of JSM's Kindergarten teachers. I am so excited to be your PTA President this year. I am lucky to be working alongside an amazing team: Linzie Noble and Sara Salazar (Vice Presidents), Ragina Reyes (Secretary), and Carmen Lopez (Treasurer). Our big mission this year is to make John S. McCain III Elementary an incredibly fun, happy, and positive place for our kiddos to learn and grow. We are already planning some awesome events to bring our school community together, and we would love for you to join in on the fun. Keep an eye out for details on our first get together. We cannot wait to meet you and make this a fantastic year together.

From:
Angelica Reyes



JSM SUPPLY WISHLIST

Kindergrader

3-24 pack crayola crayons
2-24 pack of Ticonderoga pencils
2 packs of BLACK expo markers
2 packs of Black SHARPIES
1 (1 inch) White Binder w/ clear front pocket
1 pair of scissors
3 packs of Elmer's glue sticks
1 pack of ziploc bags (gallon or sandwich)
3 boxes of Kleenex
1 pack of baby wipes
4 Lysol/Clorox wipes
Pair of plug in headphones

1st Grader

3- 24 pack crayons
3 Boxes of Colored Pencils
3 packs of BLACK Expo Markers
2 packs of large pink erasers
2 packs markers - 1 pack thin/ 1 Thick
3 packs of Elmer's glue sticks
4 colored plastic pocket folders with prongs
2 Primary Composition Notebooks
4 boxes of tissues
2- 24 pack of Sharpened Ticonderoga pencils
2 pack of yellow highlighters
3 Containers of Lysol/ Clorox Wipes
1 pair of plug in headphones with a mic

2nd Grader

2-24 pack of Ticonderoga Pencils
4 pack of BLACK Expo markers
2- 24 pack of Crayola crayons
12 pack of Elmer's glue sticks
1 ream of white copy paper
2 pack of Black Sharpies
3 solid colored pocket folder
1 pair of plug in headphones
Assorted color highlighters
Lysol/clorox wipes
1 box of tissues
1 box of ziploc bags (sandwich or gallon)
1 pack of baby wipes

3rd Grader

Scissors
1 Box of colored pencils
1- 24 Pack of crayons
2 Boxes of pencils
2 Pocket poly folder
2 Composition notebooks (not spiral)
8 Expo Markers
1 Hand Sanitizer
2 Boxes of tissue
2 Disinfecting wipes
2 Glue Sticks
Wired headphones or earbuds (per student)

4th Grader

Scissors
2 Boxes of colored pencils (for classroom)
2 Boxes Crayola Markers (for classroom)
2- 24 pack of Sharpened Ticonderoga pencils (for classroom)
16 Expo Markers Any Color (for classroom)
2 composition books (one black, one any color)
2 PLASTIC pocket folders with prongs, any color
4 Boxes of tissue / 1 hand sanitizer (for classroom)
3 Lysol/Clorox wipes (for classroom)
Wired headphones or earbuds
1 pack of multicolored highlighters
OPTIONAL Pencil supplies (eraser toppers, 1 pack pink erasers, pencil sharpener, pencil pouch/box)
OPTIONAL 1 box of Ziploc bags (sandwich or gallon)

5th Grader

4 Composition Notebooks (per student)
2 boxes of colored pencils (for classroom)
8 Black expo markers (for classroom)
3 glue sticks (for classroom)
2 boxes of pencils (Ticonderoga preferred)
1 pack of multicolored highlighters (per student)
2 reams lined loose leaf paper (for classroom)
1 ream of copy paper
4 boxes of tissues / 1 hand sanitizer (for classroom)
2 containers of disinfecting wipes (for classroom)
Wired headphones or earbuds (per student)
1 box of ziploc bags (sandwich or gallon)

6th Grader

3 composition Notebooks (1 each subject)
3 Three-prong folders (1 each subject)
6 packs of sharpened pencils
2 glue sticks
scissors
4 whiteboard markers
1 pack of multicolored highlighters (per student)
1 hand held sharpener
2 packs of big pink erasers
3 Disinfecting wipes
3 Boxes of tissue
3 hand sanitizer

7th Grader

4 Composition Notebooks
36 Pencils minimum
4 three-prong plastic folders
6 Expo Markers
6 Boxes of Tissues
6 containers Disinfecting wipes
4 colored highlighters
1-12 pack of colored pencils
2 pack Glue Stick

8th Grader

4 Spiral Notebooks
4 composition books
6 boxes of tissue
12 expo markers
12 pencils
6 Three-prong folders
TI-30X Texas Instruments Calculator
1 Graphing Notebook
2 Disinfecting wipes
1 hand held sharpener

John S McJannet Elementary School



MAVERICKS