

Bryant Bulletin

August 15, 2018



Staff Spotlight—Ms. Maggie McCauley

Ms. McCauley is a new addition to our 5th grade Math and Science Team, but not new to Katy ISD. Ms. McCauley graduated from the University of Texas in 2012, and is currently working on her Master's degree in Mathematics Education at the University of Houston. This is Ms. McCauley's 6th year teaching. She taught 5th grade math for four years in Katy ISD, and 4th grade self-contained for one year in Round Rock ISD. Ms. McCauley loves working with children and teaching them to love math and learning! She became a teacher to help show kids that learning can be fun! Ms. McCauley loves learning from her students because they are always creative and she gets great ideas from them. She also loves to see a student

master a concept that has been difficult because as she states, "seeing the lightbulb go off for a student is an amazing moment!" Hobbies include reading, taking naps, watching movies, and spending time with her family (especially her new nephew) and friends. Ms. McCauley loves to create a classroom family in which all students respect and care for one another, value each other for who they are, and respect differences. In the classroom, her class decides together how they want to treat people, and they uphold expectations to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable in their learning environment.

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

Thank you to everyone who has helped in the start-up of year two! Our PTA amazes me with the amount of time and energy they devote to our school, even in the summer. They have been planning and working in order to help supplement student learning this year with additional experiences as well as help provide support to the front office team and all staff members. While planning for the year ahead, our PTA also helped copy, stuff envelopes, laminate, cut out, decorate, and design/sell spirit wear, to name a few things!! Whether you can volunteer during the day or at home, multiple scientific studies have linked parent volunteering to student success. Whether big or small, any way to volunteer for all of our kids is huge. Thank you in advance for helping our PTA and modeling the importance of volunteering to your student.

You have probably received an email communication from Katy ISD discussing how school safety is currently being enhanced at each campus. This includes the use of our access controlled doors during the school day. Our access control (doorbell and camera) has been relocated to the vestibule of our school. In order to request access to the front office, you will need to press the button on the unit. You will be greeted and asked the nature of your visit. After explanation you will then hold your state issued identification or passport up to the camera so your identity can be double checked (if multiple adults—each person will display their Identification). If you do not have the proper identification you will not be granted access to the school and all communication will be through the access control unit. Even if the person answering personally knows you, she is required to ask the nature of your visit and see your identification. There will be no exceptions. If you are visiting or have an appointment you will present your identification again at the front desk where your identification will be scanned through the Raptor system. While this process may seem cumbersome to some, this is the safest manner to allow public access in our schools. Student

safety is our number one priority. Instructions with pictures will be on display in our vestibule in order to help with this new process.

Additionally, 4th and 5th grade students will be required to wear their student identification/badge while at school. We supply each student with an ID/badge and clip and there is a fee for replacement. 4th and 5th graders may bring a lanyard to wear if they wish but the lanyard must have a break-away connection. For physical safety, identification will be removed when entering the gym for PE or going outside for recess. Students will place their identification badge back on before leaving the gym or coming inside from recess. Students will remove their ID/badge before leaving at the end of the day so that each student has his or her ID/badge the next morning.

Other security measures will be enhanced this year and I will communicate these with you ahead of time. Again, safety is our number one priority. Please contact me if you have any questions about these new procedures.

As we begin a new school year, here are a few important reminders for everyone:

- Firearms are not permitted on campus unless you are a uniformed police officer wearing proper credentials.
- Please do not use roads such as Willowmoor to drop off or pick up students. Also, do not turn around using the intersection at Ash Creek. Both create dangerous hazards. Please use the car rider line for dropping off and picking up students. The side and front parking lots will now be blocked and monitored in the morning and afternoon. To drop off students, please use the car rider line. If you need to enter the building for school business, please let our front drive teacher on duty know and she will let you in. If your student is in a specialized program, please discuss your entrance and exit plan with your teacher, as not all students enter/exit through the car rider line. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Please remember it is law that you not be on your cell phone while driving in a school zone. This includes the student drop off/pick up lane.
- Lunch visitors will begin September 3rd. Lunch visitors are allowed to visit in the cafeteria. Visitors are not allowed to follow a student back to their classroom or to recess. A parent/guardian can be a lunch visitor once per week.
- Changes of transportation must be in writing with parent/guardian signature and received in the office by 2:30pm.
- Students may be picked up from school through 3:15pm. After 3:15pm, students will go home via their normal mode of transportation. This is for the safety of all students. End of day transitions can become hectic for teachers. The cut off time is to ensure each teacher knows exactly how each student is getting home for the day.

Announcements: Our student/parent handbooks with district and campus specific pages was delayed and just received late this afternoon. We will get these handbooks sent home with a confirmation of receipt form tomorrow. In the meantime, you can read the digital version of the handbook by [clicking here](#).

We inadvertently forgot to include Nurse Osbourne's letter in the First Day Envelope. Her yearly letter can be read by [clicking here](#).

Finally, if for some reason you have not received a First Day Envelope, please [click here](#) for a digital version.

Congratulations: Nurse Osbourne has completed her Masters in Science of Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Administration. Congratulations on this achievement!

Congratulations: Mrs. Casillas, our Librarian, interviewed and was selected as the Lead Elementary Librarian for Katy ISD. We are excited that our own Librarian will help all Elementary Librarians in the district!!

Thank You: Summer time is the time for teachers and staff to learn and become better at the craft of teaching. Many workshops and conferences were attended by our staff in order to stay abreast of the most up-to-date teaching and learning research and practices in the field. Some of our teachers were presenters during conferences, such as Mrs. Kosel, Mrs. Colton, Mrs. Foreman, Mrs. LaRocca, and Mrs. Hindt. We also had teachers who studied for additional certification exams, such as the ESL add-on certification. Thank you to all teachers who spent parts of their summer learning in order to bring the best to Bryant Elementary.

FYI: With the length of my message this week I will wait until our next newsletter to begin discussing our Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for this school year.

Website / Event Calendar

Wednesday, August 15- Friday, August 17

Parents may walk students to class

Monday, August 20- Friday August 24

Katy ISD Police Week

Tuesday, August 21

PTA Spirit Night, Chuck-E-Cheese, 4-9:00pm

Thursday, August 23

Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 5:30pm

5th Grade Curriculum Night, 6:30pm

Tuesday, August 28

1st Grade Curriculum Night, 5:30pm

4th Grade Curriculum Night, 6:30pm

Thursday, August 30

2nd Grade Curriculum Night, 5:30pm

3rd Grade Curriculum Night, 6:30pm

Monday, September 3

Labor Day- School Holiday

Tuesday, September 4

Lunch visitors begin, once per week

Monday, September 10- Friday, September 14

Grandparents Week. Grandparents are invited to visit one day during the week and sit with their grand child(ren) at their *class lunchroom table*. Grandparents must be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the First Day Envelope.

Thursday, September 6

PTA VIPS Kickoff, 9-10:00am in the cafeteria

Tuesday, September 18- Thursday, September 27

PTA Boosterthon Fundraising Program

Thursday, September 27

Boosterthon Obstacle Course during specials times

Office and Other Information

- Click [HERE](#) for the Bryant Website
- Click [HERE](#) for Katy ISD Home Access Center (HAC). Register to gain access to grades, e-news, etc.

Follow us via social media:

Facebook= [Bryant Elementary](#)

Twitter= [@BryantElem](#) [#bengalpride](#)

Website= <http://www.katyisd.org/campus/bes/Pages/default.aspx>

Home to School Connection

Excited about school

A new teacher, new classmates, new books... each school year is full of changes for your youngster. Try these suggestions to boost his enthusiasm and encourage learning at home all year long.

Enjoy privileges

What will your child be allowed to do this year that he wasn't old enough for last year? Maybe he gets to eat lunch in the cafeteria or use bigger playground equipment. Or perhaps he can join the band or be a reading buddy for a younger student. Talk about his "big kid" privileges to help him look forward to new experiences.

Explore topics

Give your youngster regular opportunities to learn more about subjects he's studying in school. You might have him practice what he has learned about recycling by sorting paper, plastic, and aluminum at home. Or if he studies U.S.



presidents, start a dinner conversation about the candidates in this year's election.

Share knowledge

Your child would probably love to be the family "expert" on a topic. Let him teach everyone about something he is working on. A younger child could pretend to be a teacher and give your family an alphabet lesson or explain addition. An older one might demonstrate the earth's rotation or explain different kinds of poetry.♥

Information from the PTA

Spirit Night

Join the PTA and Bryant staff members for the very first Spirit Night of the year next Tuesday, August 21st from 4:00-9:00pm at Chuck-E-Cheese. It will be a fun time for all!!

VIPS Kickoff

Join us on September 6th for our Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) kickoff. Meet other parents and PTA members and learn about how you can be involved at Bryant Elementary. We look forward to seeing you! We will meet from 9:00-10:00 in the cafeteria.

Website

Visit the PTA website for up to date information by [clicking here](#).

Facebook

Check out the [Bryant PTA Facebook page](#) for information, pictures, and other great information.