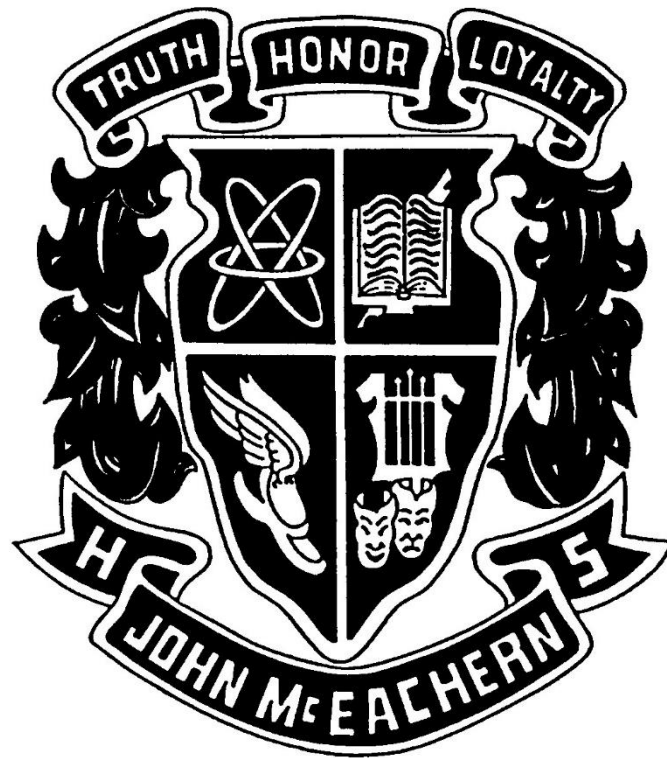


McEachern High School



Rising Freshman Class Registration Handbook (Class of 2029)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to McEachern High School — Home of the Indians! We look forward to your arrival in August 2025. We know that you will continue working hard during the second semester of middle school to prepare yourself for the transition to high school. The following information will be helpful to you and your parents in making course selections for the 2025-2026 school year. Please read this handbook carefully.

McEachern High School uses a 4x4 Block schedule, which allows you to take eight classes each year. 4x4 means that you will take four classes during the first semester and four different classes during the second semester. During each semester, the four blocks of instruction will be about 90 minutes long. A typical high school schedule includes two core and two elective classes each semester; however, depending on the courses selected, some schedules may have 3 cores during a semester (see sample schedules on page 7).

During registration, your 8th grade teachers will work with High School teachers to determine your core classes based upon performance criteria and your academic achievement. You, with your parents' assistance, will select your elective courses. It is important for you to consider which college and/or career pathway you will complete in high school and choose courses in which you are interested. Your 8th grade counselor can answer registration questions.

McEachern High
School
2400 New Macland Rd
Powder Springs, GA 30127
(770) 222-3710

Administration

Principal.....	Regina Montgomery
Assistant Principal	Myra Camese
Assistant Principal	James Lockhart
Assistant Principal	Brenda Rich
Assistant Principal	Kyle Adkins
Assistant Principal	Dan Torrenti
Assistant Principal	Krystal Wattley
Assistant Principal	Dr. Michael Sawyer
Services Administrator	Jackie Turner

School Counseling Office
(based on student last name)

A - CChyna Washington
 D - IKristy Royer
 J - NBerenice Flores
 O - SReginald Hurns
 T - Z(Dept Chair) Melissa Lynch
 Counselor/Graduation CoachJacqueline Joubert

Department Chairs

English.....Melissa Worthy
 MathematicsNakia Salam
 Science.....Gretchen Davis
 Social Studies.....Kimberly Blaine
 Modern LanguagesSandra Padilla
 Fine ArtsMichelle Clupper
 Career Tech/Business.....Jasmin Douglas
 Health/PEAssamee Asad
 Special Education..... Ben Hamburg

Important Dates

Month	Dates/Times - TBA	Event	Location
November	November 21, 2024 / 6:30pm	McEachern's Electives Fair (rising 9 th graders)	Face to Face
January	Week of January 27 / During school day	Middle school visit Q & A 8 th Graders	Face to Face
January	Week of January 27 / 6:30pm	Parent Q & A 8 th Grade Parents at Middle school in evening	Face to Face
Mid-January	Week of January 13	Middle School Core Registration with middle school teachers	High School and Middle School staff
February	Week of February 4	Middle School Electives Registration at middle school	Face to Face at Middle School
April	Week of April 14	Course Request Verification forms (includes all core & elective requests) delivered	Sent to Feeder Programs
April	April 14-25	Drop/Add Period -Course change requests/waivers submitted	Online

April 25		LAST DAY FOR DROP/ADD & WAIVERS!	
July/Aug 2025	TBA	Freshman Orientation	TBA

Making the Transition from Middle School to High School

An important part of your freshman year is learning the culture, traditions, and expectations of McEachern High School. High school is very different from middle school. You will have greater freedom in high school as well as greater responsibility. (For example, you'll get to sit wherever you want at lunch and talk to your friends as you move from class to class.) Your most important responsibility as a high school student is successfully completing courses to earn credits. To be successful, you must complete all assignments (homework, projects, etc.) when they are due. You must actively participate in class, asking questions if something is unclear. And you must be a responsible learner, advocating for yourself by asking your teacher for extra help if you begin to fall behind.

The Academic Program: Credits, Promotion, and GPA

Our 4x4 block schedule enables you to take eight courses each academic year. Course credit is earned in Carnegie units by earning a minimum grade of 70 in the course. Each earned unit of credit counts toward the total needed for graduation. To be promoted to the 10th grade, you must earn credit in Math, Science, and English and earn at least 5 total units. If you fail 9th grade Math, Science, or English, then you will be retained in 9th grade, and you will have to retake the course that you failed. Be a responsible learner and get help before you fall behind! Every course you take (whether you pass or fail the course) is used to calculate your Grade Point Average (GPA). Performing well in a class affects your GPA positively, while performing poorly in a class affects your GPA negatively. It is important for you to know that 9th grade is not a "practice year" when it comes to grades. In other words, your freshman grades count just as much as the grades you earn as a junior or senior, and college admissions' officers will see all of your grades. All high school grades are used to calculate your Cumulative GPA, and all academic courses count toward eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship program.

Athletic Eligibility

In the fall semester, all first-year freshmen are eligible to participate in all sports. However, in order to maintain athletic eligibility for the spring semester sports, students must pass 3 out of 4 courses in the fall.

Future Plans

It is McEachern's hope that our students become life-long learners with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to compete successfully as honorable and productive citizens in a global society. We expect our students to continue their education after high school graduation and throughout adulthood. Post-secondary education for some students might be a traditional four-year college or university, a two-year (community) college, a technical college or institute, or a vocational program. Other students may choose to join the United States Armed Forces or enter the workforce after high school. As you begin your high school career, please keep your post-secondary plans in mind. Students can graduate by meeting the minimum state requirements; however, many colleges have admissions criteria that exceed these minimum requirements. NCAA Clearinghouse has its own requirements for athletes. Our professional school counselors are always here to assist with any post-secondary plans; however, it is your

responsibility to become familiar with the requirements and criteria of whatever post-secondary option you choose. Do your homework early! Requirements can differ from college to college and between programs of study. Requirements may also change from year to year.

The best place to find college admissions' information is directly from the college's website, and it's never too early to begin looking.

High School Graduation Requirements (for students entering the 9th grade for the first time in 2012-2013 and subsequent years) The State Board of Education offers one common set of requirements for all students to earn a regular diploma. In order to receive a diploma, students must satisfy these requirements.

Subjects	Georgia High School Diploma
English	4 Units Including: 1 Unit 9 th Grade Literature/Composition 1 Unit American Literature/Composition 2 additional English units
Mathematics	4 Units Including: GSE Algebra 1 GSE Geometry GSE Algebra 2 1 additional math unit
Science	4 Units Including: 1 Unit Biology 1 Unit Chemistry or Earth Systems or Environmental Science or AP Science 1 Unit Physics or Physical Science 1 additional science unit
Social Studies	3 Units including: 1 Unit World History 1 Unit United States History ½ Unit American Government/Civics ½ Unit Economics
CTAE Foreign Language Fine Arts	3 Units from any of these areas Though there is no foreign language requirement for the Georgia High School diploma, students planning to enroll in ANY post-secondary institution are strongly encouraged to earn two units of credit in the same modern language/Latin. NOTE: Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution MUST take two units of the same modern language/Latin. All students are expected to complete a college and/or career pathway by earning 3 units of credit in a coherent series of courses leading to college readiness and/or a career readiness certificate endorsed by related industries. Students may choose from any of the CTAE pathways, a fine arts pathway, a world language pathway, or an advanced academic pathway. See your professional school counselor for specific pathway courses.
Health and Physical Education	1 Unit Including: (Normally taken 11 th grade year) ½ Unit Health ½ Unit Personal Fitness Note: 3 Units of JROTC satisfies the Health and Personal Fitness requirement.
Electives	4 Units
TOTAL UNITS MINIMUM	23 Units

REGISTRATION DIRECTIONS

Your eighth-grade teachers will work with high school teachers to evaluate your achievement level, work habits, and current grades to recommend the academic core classes for which you should be registered. Scores on the GA Milestone EOG assessments and placement tests may also be used to determine correct course placement.

YOU must select your elective courses. You will need to select eight. Follow the steps listed below to complete the registration process:

1. Read this registration handbook completely including course descriptions. This information will provide you with descriptions of the courses and help you make good elective choices. Review and discuss elective choices with your parents.
 - Students who enroll in “Combo Courses” (band, chorus, orchestra, ROTC) must use TWO ELECTIVES for these courses and choose both course numbers on their registration worksheet.
 - Foreign language courses are elective courses; teachers do NOT recommend these courses. You must use one of your electives to select a foreign language. There are minimum Lexile scores required to take a foreign language in the 9th grade (1010 min.).
2. Select eight (4) elective courses and (4) alternates from the elective courses listed in the course section of this handbook. Using the Elective Course Registration form.

Although students make selections for their preferred courses, electives are never guaranteed. Scheduling priority is placed on core/graduation requirements and due to course availability and block offerings, students may be placed in an elective they did not select. Parents should review these courses and sign the completed registration worksheet in the space provided.

*Students who do not register for electives will forfeit their opportunity to select their own electives.

3. **WAIVER PROCEDURES:** We will send a Course Request Verification form to you in April showing all the courses (both academic core and electives) that have been requested. If any of the courses listed on the form are incorrect or you disagree with a core course recommendation, then follow the directions on the form to change the course(s). Be sure to check the “important dates” section on page 3 for due dates during drop/add period
***By changing the academic recommended course, you assume responsibility for the placement and accept the level of rigor that the new course presents. Once a course change has been fulfilled, it will not be reversed.

Sample student schedules: 4x4 block

Sample 4x4 Block Schedule: Core & Elective courses – This is a typical schedule that includes the 4 core classes and electives.

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester:
1 st Block:	9 th Grade Lit/Composition	Algebra 1
2 nd Block:	Marketing (elective 1)	Visual Art: Comprehensive (elective 3)
3 rd Block:	Intro Business & Tech (elective 2)	General PE (elective 4)
4 th Block:	Biology	World Geography

Sample 4x4 Block Schedule: Band, Chorus, or Orchestra– Students who enroll in performing arts classes must enter both course numbers on their registration form.

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester:
1 st Block:	Band 1 (elective 2)	Band 2 (elective 3)
2 nd Block:	French I (elective 4)	Honors Biology
3 rd Block:	Honors Algebra 1	Intro to Culinary Arts (elective 1)
4 th Block:	Honors 9 th Grade Lit/Comp	Honors World Geography
(Performing arts classes are taken both semesters on a block schedule)		

Sample 4x4 Block Schedule: Foundations of Algebra – Students who are not ready for Algebra 1 will be recommended for Foundations of Algebra before entering Algebra 1.

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester:
1 st Block:	Read 180	French I (elective 3)
2 nd Block:	Foundations of Algebra (elective 2)	GSE-Algebra 1
3 rd Block:	Team Sports (elective 1)	9 th Grade Lit/Composition
4 th Block:	Biology	Intro to Graphics & Design (elective 4)
(Students take Foundations of Algebra during semester 1 and Algebra 1 during semester 2)		

Sample 4x4 Block Schedule: Navy JROTC– Students choosing NJROTC must enroll in both Cadet Field Manual & Intro to NJROTC.

	<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Spring Semester:</u>
1 st Block:	Honors Geometry	Theatre Fundamentals (elective 3)
2 nd Block:	Honors Spanish II (elective 2)	Honors Biology
3 rd Block:	NJROTC__Cadet Manual (elective 1)	NJROTC__Intro NJROTC (elective 4)
4 th Block:	AP Human Geography	Honors 9 th Grade Lit/Comp

2025-2026 Course Offerings for Incoming Freshmen

Core Subjects:

English: 9th Grade Literature/Composition (on level)
 Honors 9th Grade Literature/Composition (advanced)
 Communication Skills (support for 9th Lit)

Mathematics: Foundations of Algebra (support for Alg 1)
 Algebra 1 (on level)
 Geometry (on level)
 Honors Algebra I (advanced)
 Honors Geometry (advanced)
 Algebra II
 Honors Algebra II

Science: Environmental Science (support for Biology)
 Biology (on level)
 Honors Biology (advanced)

Social Studies: World Geography (on level)
 AP Human Geography
 (advanced)

Electives:

World Languages: French I
 Spanish I / Spanish II / Spanish for Native Speakers

Fine Arts: Band
Chorus
Orchestra
Theatre Fundamentals
Visual Arts: Comprehensive
Music Appreciation

Career Technical: Audio & Video Technology & Film 1
Introduction to Culinary Arts
Introduction to Law & Justice
**Introduction to Graphics & Design (Industry Certified)
JROTC – Navy 1 A & B
Marketing Principles
**Introduction to Health Science
**Introduction to Personal Care Services (cosmetology)
Foundations of Engineering
Auto Mechanics
Business & Technology
**Nursing Pathway Program
**Pathways leads to certifications or licensure

Phys Education: General PE
Health and Personal Fitness
Weight training classes will be assigned through recommendation process

McEachern Cobb STEM Certified Program (Biomedical Science)

Link to visit website: <https://mhsstem.weebly.com/>

Link to apply to McEachern STEM program:

<https://forms.office.com/r/kETvNAatZs>

Remedial Education

Students who do not meet expectations on the math and/or reading portions of the eighth-grade end-of-grade Georgia Milestone assessments will be placed in skills-building math (Foundations of Algebra) and/or reading (Communication Skills) classes in the ninth grade. These skills-building classes are in place of a student's chosen elective(s). These classes will count as academic electives on the student's transcript and play an integral part in preparing your student for success in both Algebra I and 9th Grade Literature.

Special Education

Students receiving services through the special education department have had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed to meet their educational needs. Each student should complete the registration form with the help of his or her IEP team (parent, case manager, and regular education teacher) to ensure that the requirements in the IEP are met.