



May 27, 2025

Dear Parents and Students,

All students attending McKinley Middle Magnet School during the 2025-2026 school year are required to complete summer reading. Each grade level has a mandated novel to read over the summer break. All McKinley Middle Magnet students will be tested on the assigned text **during the first week of school**. This will be a recorded test grade....**NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Required readings:

Incoming Sixth Graders:

6th Grade Summer Reading: Select ONE of the TWO.

Option 1: Character Journal – *One for the Murphys*

Your student has been assigned a creative writing project tied to our novel “*One for the Murphys*” by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

Assignment Summary:

Students will write five diary entries from the perspective of Carley Connors, the main character. Each entry should reflect Carley’s feelings and thoughts as she experiences major events in the story, such as entering foster care, meeting the Murphys, and thinking about her mother. Students are expected to write in first person, as if they are Carley, using emotional insight and reflection.

Option 2: Langston’s Poetry Journal – *Finding Langston*

Your student has been assigned a creative poetry journal based on the novel “*Finding Langston*” by Lesa Cline-Ransome.

Assignment Summary:

Students will write three original poems from the point of view of Langston, the main character. These poems should express his experiences with grief, moving to Chicago, and discovering the work of poet Langston Hughes. After each poem, students will write a short paragraph explaining its meaning and how it connects to Langston’s journey.

Due Date: Aug. 7th, 2025

Total Points: 50

Seventh Graders:

Read and take a test on one of the following novels

- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne,
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *Ruined* by Paula Morris

OR

- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Eighth Graders:

Eighth grade students MUST read *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Before reading this novel, research the following topics:

- Emancipation Proclamation
- Sharecropper
- Landrush
- Iron Brigade

Please see our website for detailed information concerning summer reading **REQUIREMENTS!!!!**

As always, we thank you for your continued support and hope that our students have a wonderful and productive summer.

Additional Information:

Backpacks:

MANDATORY!!!!!! ALL students will be required to have a mesh or clear backpack **ONLY!!!!**
Backpacks can be purchased at the school at a cost of \$20.00 beginning Thursday, June 3rd.

Supply Lists:

School supply lists can be found on our website.

School Uniforms:

Shorts and skirts are not permitted!!!! Pants only!

Approved school uniform shirts, hoodies, and sweatshirts may only be ordered and purchased online (www.mckinleymiddlemagnet.com). **THE ONLY UNIFORM SHIRT WITH A LOGO or SWEATSHIRT MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.** School uniforms will be sold at the school on **Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, July 15th, through Thursday, July 31st.** Please stop by the front office between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. to purchase your child's uniform tops, jackets, and/or sweatshirts. **Uniforms will not be able to be purchased online, you must come to the school.**

No refunds or exchanges will be given for uniforms.

School Fee:

School Supply lists for each grade level will be available on the school website and app. Our **school fee** is **\$90.00** and may be paid either online or through your child's first period teacher. This fee covers a spirit t-shirt, that may be worn on Fridays, hall locker fee, Chromebook cover, Chromebook wear and tear repairs, school planner, ID badge, cover, a lanyard, and two ELA novels. School fees can be paid online beginning **Monday, June 9th** or in person in the front office by cash or money order only.

Orientation/Open House

Orientation/Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**. Student schedules for the 2024-2025 school year will be mailed by the end of July 2025. **(Schedule changes will not occur until the first full week of school.)**

As always, we appreciate your support in helping us make McKinley Middle Magnet the best that it can be! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school at (225)388-0089. We look forward to the 2025-2026 school year and hope that you have a safe and restful summer!

Contact information:

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Sincerely,

Dr. Tongelia D. McCray

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Principal

McKinley Middle Academic Magnet