



August 2022, Volume 22, Issue 8

# BULLETIN

Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary

## Message from the PTA President

Welcome back Bobcats! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer break. My family had a busy summer! For those of you who know me personally, you will know our family welcomed a baby girl this summer. My 2 older boys, Ty and Cash, are adjusting well and are absolutely in love with her. I joke our PTA just got a new member... aka my sidekick.

As some of you may have noticed, McKitrick turned groovy over the summer. Our 2022/2023 school theme this year is "Peace, Love & Learning". McKitrick is focusing on the attitude of caring and kindness toward others this school year. Our school themed shirt for this year reflects this theme with a few shirt options that we feel reflect the fun, groovy nature of this theme. Make sure to check out the spirit wear shirt sale and get your hands on the school theme shirt for this year before sales close August 12th. A percentage of the sales goes back to our PTA.

As we all gear up for another McKitrick year, we would like to welcome all the new committee members to our PTA! Our PTA is growing and parents are seeing the value of being in an organization that focuses on our school and children. As our school reopens and events are once again welcome on campus, volunteers are now more important than ever! To get involved with our PTA and learn about volunteer opportunities on campus, please make sure to sign up on memberhub your volunteer status as well as complete a YES form. This is detailed more in the newsletter below.

Our PTA welcomed a new committee this year, McKitrick Serves. This committee will advertise volunteer opportunities not only at McKitrick but also in our local community. This summer McKitrick Serves oversaw the goat pen renovation as well as the first official McKitrick beautification day. Please watch for more volunteer opportunities from this committee.

Teachers were welcomed back from the summer with a renovated teachers lounge! A small army of PTA got together over the summer and painted, built chairs, recovered cabinets & tables and decorated the space to give our teachers a nice area to relax. Thank you to all who were involved!

Coming off a busy summer, we gear up for a busy school year! I hope you have a great start!

Lindsay Jimison  
PTA President 2022-2023

### McKitrick Elementary

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

**813.558.5427**

Principal/Administrator:

**Allison Cline**

# STAY INFORMED and GET INVOLVED!

## BE IN-THE-KNOW!! Scan the QR Codes and GO!



### STEP 1: JOIN THE PTA AT MCKITRICKPTA.COM

For only \$6, you can join the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation! No time commitment required! Your membership includes:

- Access to a monthly newsletter full of information about school programs/events.
- Optional volunteer opportunities.
- The ability to vote on how PTA funds are used.
- Participation in our annual elections.
- Discounts provided for multiple memberships (sign up your children and family!)



For Memberships,  
Scan Here!

### STEP 2: COMPLETE THE HCPS VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Anyone who wishes to volunteer in person on school property must complete a HCPS volunteer application biannually. To complete an application, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3BjAijr> to check your renewal status.



For Volunteers,  
Scan Here!

### STEP 3: FOLLOW US

Like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for real-time updates!  
Visit [www.mckitrickpta.com](http://www.mckitrickpta.com) to learn more.



For our Website,  
Scan Here!

Issues with the QR Codes? Visit <https://mckitrickpta.com> directly to complete these easy steps!



# Join the McKitrick PTA

and become a better  
advocate for your  
children and our school!

**Joining the PTA only costs \$6 and does NOT  
require a volunteer time commitment!**

But it IS the best way to stay in-the-know about what's happening at  
McKitrick and support your child's school community!

Visit [mckitrickpta.com](http://mckitrickpta.com) today to learn more about all that we have  
planned for the year ahead and purchase your membership.

Bundle discounts for multiple family members (including free car  
magnets!) are available.

**The class with the most  
memberships by Oct. 31st  
wins a party!**

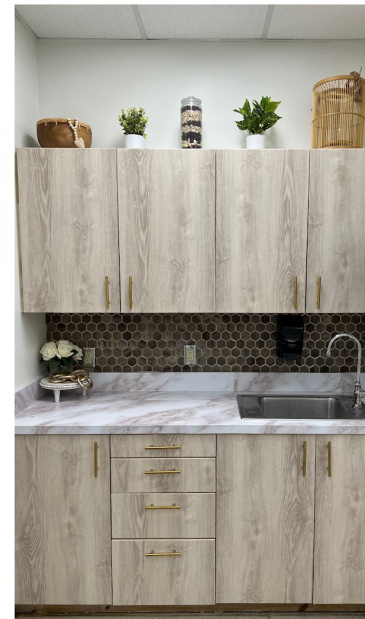
# TEACHER LOUNGE GOT AN UPGRADE!!

Our McKitrick PTA this summer was able to give back to our school's teachers and staff in a tremendous way by completely surprising them with a totally renovated teacher's lounge!

The images below show the tremendous thought and exquisite care taken by the individuals who volunteered to make this renovation happen in LESS THAN A WEEK. The change could not be more amazing!

THANK YOU to fellow PTA Secretary and interior designer & owner of **Align & Design LLC**, Tanya Kayani, for the thoughtfulness you put into this design creating a calming and refreshed space for the teachers to breakaway. IT LOOKS AMAZING!!!

Also BIG SHOUT OUT to **Allure Dental Boutique** for sponsoring the chairs & decor in the sitting corner area.



## Quick Links

[McKitrick PTA Website](#)

[McKitrick PTA Store](#)

[McKitrick PTA Facebook](#)

[McKitrick PTA Twitter](#)

[McKitrick Elementary Website](#)

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

[McKitrick Lunch Menus](#)

[Meal Pre-Pay](#)

# A Note From Our Principal

**WELCOME BOBCAT FAMILIES TO OUR  
2022-2023**

## Peace, Love and Learning

We are thrilled to be welcoming you back soon to our Open Houses for our students and to spend time catching up with our returning families and meeting those who have joined our school family this school year.

Our PTA is busy setting the year up for success and are ready to share opportunities for you to be involved in a variety of ways. There are even ways to help and be a volunteer from home. Please be sure to become members and connect to their website for information and school happenings.

The teachers and staff have been busy this summer with training for new curriculum and standards. We also will continue to be a part of the grant with the 7 Mindsets program. This is especially critical for our students and families following the many challenges in the previous years. Helping students become resilient, confident and problem solvers will assist with their success and connection to learning and school. We are excited to have some new faces joining our staff and they all bring a variety of experiences and knowledge to our teaching teams. Please join me in welcoming them as you meet during Open House and other school activities. Finally, joining me as my Assistant Principal and school-wide support is Kimberly (Kim) Stone. She has a wide base of experiences and background knowledge from district schools such as Tampa Palms, Temple Terrace and Alonzo High School. We share the same child-centered philosophy for our school, and she is excited to get to know our families and students. I am looking forward to seeing you all and capturing the fun and excitement in peace, love and learning!

With optimism, pride and excitement,  
Allison Cline, Principal

## CALENDAR

### August

8th Open House  
Grades 1st, 3rd, 5th

9th Open House  
Grades K, 2nd, 4th

10th First Day of School

19th All Pro Dad Meeting

23th Back to School Ice  
Cream Social

27th McKittrick Family Spirit  
Night at Chick-Fil-A

29th Homeroom Parents and  
Volunteers Training

### September

1st PTA Virtual General  
Membership Meeting

5th Labor Day - No School





# FUNdraising Corner



## amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Sign up for an Amazon smile account and assign McKitrick Elementary School to receive 0.5% of all purchases!

## MCKITRICK FAMILY SPIRIT NIGHT AT CHICK-FIL-A Saturday, August 27th, 4pm-8pm

# CANCELLED



Chick-fil-A®

- Cotton candy
- And of course, Chick-Fil-A chicken!

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and frolic at Chick-Fil-A on N. Dale Mabry in Carrollwood!

**\*Make sure to mention "McKitrick Elementary" for a percentage of your sale to go to our McKitrick PTA\***

If you have or know of a business that would like to support McKitrick,  
Please contact Emily Draper at [businesspartners@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:businesspartners@mckitrickpta.com)

# BACK TO SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Bobcats, we are kicking off the school year with an ice cream social!! We invite you to join us on the McKitrick campus on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm to enjoy ice cream with students, families, and teachers, plus the Cheval Athletic Club will host fun kids games in the courtyard.



Ice cream will be free with proof of PTA membership, so we encourage you to sign up in advance. Just visit <https://mckitrick.memberhub.com/store> to purchase your membership online today! Hope to see everyone on August 23<sup>rd</sup>!

## JOIN THE MCKITRICK *Parents Club*

Have you joined the McKitrick Parents Club Facebook group? It's a great place to connect with other families, ask questions, and share information relevant to McKitrick Elementary.



SCAN the QR code here to join our online community today!



**MCKITRICK PTA**  
**SPIRIT WEAR ONLINE SALE**  
 GET YOUR HANDS ON OUR BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR DESIGNS!!

**SCAN HERE**



**ORDER NOW!**  
 Our online store closes on Friday, August 12th @ 11:59pm

All orders will be delivered in bulk to the school for distribution by end of August.

**Portion of sales go back to our school!!**

**\*\*Please refer to size charts before making your final sections\*\***

# Calling All Volunteers!

Want to be more involved in your child's education and make a difference to our school and community!?!? **WE NEED YOU!!** As you might already know, McKitrick PTA is a non-profit organization funded and operated entirely by volunteers! Our PTA and school can always use a helping hand from YOU! Your effort and dedication are always appreciated and the difference you make is contributed directly to our school and community.



PTA volunteer opportunities will be communicated to account holders in [MemberHub](#). By creating an account in MemberHub, PTA will be notified that you are interested in volunteering opportunities the upcoming school year. Finally, to perform in-person volunteering, the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) requires **all** volunteers and community partners to complete the [HCPS Volunteer Application](#) or have a current active application on file prior to any volunteer engagement. If you were an active volunteer in 2021-2022, check your email, your volunteer expiration date should have been extended by two years. You can check the expiration date of your volunteer status, update your information and school selection through the [HCPS Volunteer Portal](#).

There will be numerous opportunities to participate in volunteering and PTA will be holding a Homeroom Parents and Volunteers Training on Tuesday, August 29th at 8:30am - 9:30a. We cannot wait to see you there!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2022 McKitrick**  
**Open House**

This years school theme...  
**Peace, Love, and Learning**

<b>Grades 1st, 3rd, 5th</b>	<b>Grades K, 2nd, 4th</b>
<b>Monday, August 8th</b>	<b>Tuesday, August 9th</b>
<b>8:30am-10:30am</b>	<b>8:30am-10:30am</b>

**Rock your favorite tie dye and come find your classroom. Meet your teachers, administration, and our PTA Welcome Squad!!**



# STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER HILLSBOROUGH



## What?

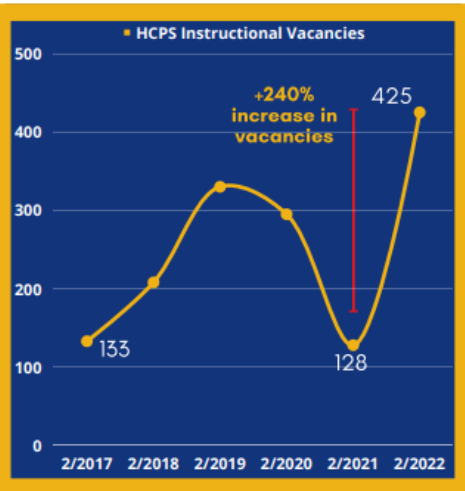
On August 23, 2022, voters will be asked to approve a one (1.0) mil increase in ad valorem tax that will increase school funding by approximately \$146 million annually for a four (4) year period that will begin July 1, 2023, and end on June 30, 2027.

## Why?

The national teacher and support staff shortage is alarming. Over the last two years, our district has experienced an increase in resignations and retirements which have created more than 1,000 unfilled positions in the district. Experienced, successful teachers earn salaries only slightly higher than early career teachers. Because of this, many teachers are moving on to higher-paying surrounding counties or changing careers completely. The one mil increase is primarily designed to retain experienced teachers, compensate support staff (such as bus drivers, maintenance workers, food service staff, custodial staff, and other non-instructional staff), and meet operational needs in art, music, PE, and workforce education.

## District Challenges

- Hillsborough County ranks 45th among 67 Florida districts in state and local per-pupil funding and last among Florida's large districts.
- Inflation has significantly outpaced the increases in education funding over the last 15 years.
- Florida has 4,000 instructional vacancies, and 9,000 vacancies are anticipated by the end of the year.
- There has been an average of 400 instructional and 575 support staff vacancies in Hillsborough County Public Schools throughout this school year.
- The cost of living in Tampa has risen over 10% since 2019, making recruiting and retaining staff more difficult.
- Local employers are paying higher, and teachers have a broad range of attractive skills to private industries.
- Increased student enrollment is creating demand for additional teachers and support staff when it is already challenging to fill vacancies.

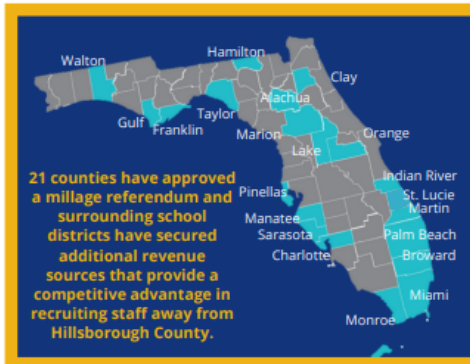


Hillsborough County has been experiencing a bus driver shortage with over 150 vacancies, leaving students at stops for hours and late to school daily.



Hillsborough is the only district without a voter approved millage among the five largest Florida school districts.

## Referendum Details



Average increase for a homeowner:



\$246,808 median market value of an average home in Hillsborough

The cost of one latte per week



The \$146 million would be explicitly used in the following manner:

- About 16% of the total revenue would be shared with charter schools proportionate to enrollment.
- Assuming a 96% collection rate and subtracting the charter share, this would provide the district with about \$116 million annually.
- 80% of the district share of funds would be used to increase compensation for instructional positions (teachers, counselors, media specialists, etc.), bus drivers and transportation assistants, classroom assistants, and other non-instructional support staff.
- This could enhance the average instructional salary by \$4,000 and the average non-instructional salary by \$2,000.
- About 20% of the district's share of funds would be used to protect and expand art, music, PE, and workforce education as follows:
  1. Add 45 art teachers, 67 music teachers, and 37 PE teachers to Elementary schools to ensure all grade levels, including Kindergarten, receive exceptional learning experiences.
  2. Dedicate funds to repairing and replacing art supplies, art equipment, music instruments, band uniforms, audio/visual equipment, expanding health courses in middle school, and PE equipment.
  3. Dedicate funds to expanding workforce education programs, including A/C Refrigeration, HVAC, plumbing, building construction, electricity, nursing, physical therapy, and more.



Florida school districts have not received discretionary lottery funding since 2020.



FAQs on the back!

Learn More at

[hillsboroughschools.org/strongschools](https://hillsboroughschools.org/strongschools)

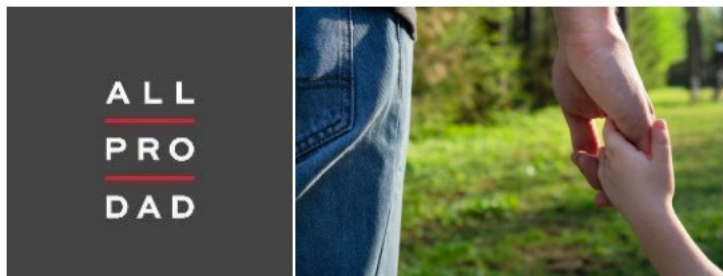


JULY 25 - VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

AUGUST 8-21 - EARLY VOTING

AUGUST 23 - ELECTION DAY

**VOTE**  
AUGUST 23



Hello and welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! My name is Clint Swigart and I am the Team Captain for our McKitrick Elementary All Pro Dad chapter. All Pro Dad is a group of fathers dedicated to strengthening their relationship with their children. We do this by having a monthly breakfast with our kids and

other families. We also have several events throughout the school year. Our breakfasts are typically held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from 7-7:30AM. The breakfasts will take place at the McKitrick cafeteria or via a Zoom meeting. During this time, Dads and kids connect through fun activities and interactive discussions. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding our first scheduled meeting on August 19th.

If you are interested in joining the McKitrick chapter of All Pro Dad, reach out to me at [allprodads@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:allprodads@mckitrickpta.com).

You can also receive guidance and practical tips about communicating with and raising your kids and locate regional activities: [www.allprodad.com](http://www.allprodad.com).

Let's join together to help make 2022-2023 a great school year!  
-Clint

## McKitrick Cares

We are so excited to start a brand new school year! McKitrick Cares is looking to continue to help students and families in our community. This year we hope to support McKitrick and other Hillsborough County students through events like the school supply drive, coat drive and toy drive.


Through your generous donations last year, we provided jackets so students kept warm during the colder months, frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving, toys to spread holiday cheer, and year-round support to McKitrick students. We plan to partner with McKitrick Serves to give back to our community in the form of service projects this school year. Be on the lookout for more information on ways you can help.

Our first event is the School Supply Drive to get students ready for a new groovy school year. If you are able to grab a few extra supplies, please bring them to McKitrick's Open House on August 8th & 9th from 8:30am - 10:30am. Donation boxes will remain outside the front office August 10th-12th. You can find McKitrick's supply list at [updated2223supplylist.pdf](https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/updated2223supplylist.pdf) ([hillsboroughschools.org](https://www.hillsboroughschools.org)).

Thank you for supporting students!

MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY

# SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE






McKitrick Cares needs your help getting students ready for a groovy year of learning. Please bring any school supply donations to campus.

- **August 8 & 9, 2022 | 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM**  
Donation Boxes at Open House Entrance
- **August 10-12, 2022**  
Donation Boxes outside of Front Office

Ideas: pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, water bottles (daily use), paper (wide ruled), pencil holders, notebooks, dry erase markers, headphones, scissors, pencil pouches, rulers, and any other supplies listed on grade supply lists.

All donations will go to McKitrick Elementary students.

## Be Ready for those **BACK-TO-SCHOOL** Balanced Breakfasts!



After being out all summer, it can feel like a chore to come up with a variety of lunch ideas for your child that are nutritious. Here are some easy quick healthy lunch ideas to help you get school started on the right foot.

### **10 Quick and Balanced Lunch Ideas**

- ◆ Yogurt Parfait (granola, berries, and a small amount of chocolate chips), cucumber, protein bar (kid friendly ideas: Lara bar, z-bar, whole grain fig bar, whole grain fruit bar)
- ◆ Nut butter sandwich with jelly, fruit, potato chips, carrots with ranch dressing, cheese stick
- ◆ Turkey roll up, string cheese, fruit, vegetable, crackers (homemade lunchable)
- ◆ Black bean or meat burrito with cheese, tomatoes, chips, fruit
- ◆ Grilled chicken, snap peas, fruit, pretzels
- ◆ Pasta with meatballs, bell pepper, fruit
- ◆ Bagel with cream cheese, fruit, protein bar, cucumber
- ◆ Turkey sandwich with cheese on whole wheat bread, Pirates Booty or popcorn, fruit, vegetable
- ◆ Pita, hummus, carrots and tomatoes, hard-boiled egg
- ◆ Pizza bagel, baked snap peas, berries, carrots and ranch dressing

**Of course, leftovers are always an option too!**

Have your child help make lunch to get them involved in learning about well-balanced meals and making good decisions. Aim to provide a protein, carb, vegetable, and fruit. Try to prep for the week to decrease stress. Adding a little something sweet to your child's lunch as a surprise is always fun.

## **Kindergarten Parents**

Help set your child up for success at lunch time by working with them at home on opening their lunch box and any snack bags by themselves.



# Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

## 2022-2023 PTA COMMITTEE

**President: Lindsay Jimison**

**Vice President: Jessica Campbell**

**Treasurer: Erin Circelli**

**Recording Secretary: Tanya Kayani**

**Parent Outreach: Yasamine Vieland**

**Fundraising: Megan Wilson**

**Special Events: Lindsay Whitney & Kelly Lynn Shultz**

**Student/School Support: Brandi Kenny**

**Programs: Jessica Diefenderfer**

**Communications: Lauren Constantine**

**Parents Club: Chryssa Samhoury**

**All Pro Dads: Clint Swigart**

**Homeroom Parents: Brittany Harake**

**Volunteer Coordinator: Viviana Lit**

**Memberships: Yasamine Viehland**

**Spirit Wear: Jennifer Ptack**

**Boosterthon: Darbie Wilder, Gina Willemin, Consuelo Benassi & Erin Circelli**

**Bobcat Bash: Darbie Wilder, Gina Willemin, Barrie Vause, Lacey Ranucci**

**Holiday Shop: Jessica Diefenderfer & Lisa Peluso**

**Business Partners: Emily Draper**

**Family Dine Outs: Kristin Swenson & Melissa Chevalier**

**Open House: Tanya Kayani**

**Fifth Grade Activities: Jessica Diefenderfer**

**McKitrick Cares: Heather Foster & Katie Metz**

**School-Wide Hospitality/Decorating: Cheryl Rodriguez & Jessica Williams**

**Sweetheart Event: Lisa Peluso, Tanya Kayani & Jessica Diefenderfer**

**Sons & Stars Event: Evan Walker & Adam Grier**

**Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Donna Ticker, Lacey Ranucci, & Barrie Vause**

**Teacher Appreciation: Lauren Borio, Jennifer Ptack, Cassandra Johnson, Viviana Lit, Melissa Weitzenfeld**

**Health & Safety: Jessica Greene & Katalin Vinci -Sierra**

**McKitrick Serves: Katie Stahl, Heather Foster & Michelle Dacanay**

**Reflections: Katie Stahl, Michelle Dacanay & Meredith Renuart**

**Junior Achievement: Rick Coleman & Loren Mednick**

**Tutoring: Paula Hamadani**

**IT- Website: Steve Attard**

**Memberhub: Holly Montgomery & Steve Clark**

**Yearbook: Robert Hudson & Cassandra Johnson**

**Social Media: Chryssa Samhoury**

**Newsletter: Cristine Whitman**

**Front Marquee: Erin Circelli**

**Concessions: Louise Johnstone & Iris Sims**

**Family Nights: Amy Sweeney, Melissa Chevalier & Punit Shah**

**Family Dine Outs: Kristin Swenson & Melissa Chevalier**

**Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up: Chryssa Samhoury & Farheen Aldeen**