

Dr. Thomas
McCulloch School



Dr. Thomas McCulloch School

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2016•2017

DR. THOMAS MCCULLOCH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Starr Pettipas

VICE-PRINCIPAL

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

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STUDENT NO. _____ HOMEROOM _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Principal's Message	1
Mission Statement	1
History of Pictou	2
History of Dr. Thomas McCulloch	3
Staff List	4
Daily Schedule	4
Discipline Policy and Procedure	4
Absences	7
Student Evaluation	7
Learning Centre	7
Guidance Services	7
Dress Code	8
Computer Usage – Internet Policy	9
Students' Council	9
School Dances	9
Hand Held Devices (Cell Phones)	9
Sports Teams	10
Expressions Utiles	11
Parts of Speech	12
What is Plagiarism?	12
Hot Tips for Study	13
How to Write a Report	13

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Dr. Thomas McCulloch. Please read this book carefully as it provides information that will give you a better understanding of our school. I hope, as you read the introductory pages, you will get a sense of invitation for students to get involved in their school life and a sense of community involvement in the direction of education at Dr. Thomas McCulloch.

I encourage each student to use the handbook to organize his/her day-to-day work; planning ahead making sure things are completed on time. Parents, please encourage your son/daughter to use this booklet to help them have a successful and fun filled year.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Pictou Academy/Dr. Thomas McCulloch, a community rich in educational heritage, is committed to challenge each individual to reach his/her highest potential in academic and personal growth by providing a caring environment responsive to the needs of the learner.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Our learners will become proficient in using advanced technology in all areas of the curriculum.

1. We will provide in-servicing for teachers so they will become comfortable with the technology.
2. We will provide additional technology through various financial resources.
3. We will access computer networks.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Our learners will have an education that is more community-centered.

1. We will utilize volunteers in the community to work with students in the classroom who do not qualify for existing support.
2. We will incorporate the history of the school and community in our curriculum.
3. We will use resource people from our community to make the curriculum more applicable.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Our learners will develop self-esteem and responsibility.

1. We will develop a program that identifies the learner's personal strengths.
2. We will establish a mentoring program with the community:
 - career
 - personal
 - community group or individual
3. We will involve the learner in an extra-curricular activity.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Our learners will continue to benefit from our unique historical educational setting.

1. We will establish a school advisory council.
2. We will establish a creative educational structure.
3. We will celebrate and promote our uniqueness.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Our learners will demonstrate accountability.

1. We will establish academic and social accountability for all learners.
2. We will continue to develop innovative teaching strategies.
3. We will communicate standards of student learning.

HISTORY OF PICTOU

The town of Pictou is renowned as the "Birthplace of New Scotland". It was here that the first Scottish settlers landed in 1773. There were 189 passengers who boarded the Hector at Loch Broom in Scotland and dared to make the journey toward a new life in Nova Scotia. Following a three-month ordeal at sea, the Hector dropped anchor in Pictou Harbour on September 15, 1773. Without delay the hardy Scots disembarked, eager to begin their new lives in New Scotland. The arrival of the Hector marked the strengthening of Nova Scotia's ties to the heritage and culture of Scotland, a connection that would continue to grow and contribute greatly to the development of Nova Scotia over the next two centuries.

HISTORY OF DR. THOMAS MCCULLOCH



In November 1803, a ship arrived at Pictou from Scotland. Among its passengers were Reverend Thomas McCulloch D.D., his wife and their children, all bound for Prince Edward Island where McCulloch was to minister a Presbyterian congregation. Their arrival stirred some excitement; the supply of books in McCulloch's possession impressed the Pictonians with the fact that he was a learned man. They convinced him that he and his family should winter in Pictou, since it was already late in the season and a voyage to Prince Edward Island would be difficult. Their aim was to secure him permanently as a minister for a Pictou Congregation. On June 6, 1804, he was inducted as minister of the "Harbour" congregation of Prince St. Church, thus committing himself to remaining in Pictou for a while.

By 1805, McCulloch, depressed by the general lack of education and religion among his people, had developed a dream of a college, which would be open to students of all creeds. This desire of non-sectarian Pictou College thrust him deeply into a religious and political controversy, which was to strain relations between Pictou and the Provincial Government for years to come.

Finally in 1816, his dream became a reality. Pictou Academy was incorporated and McCulloch was named its Principal. The first students met in 1817, and a regular academic curriculum was combined with training for selected divinity students.

Thomas McCulloch is remembered primarily as the father of a liberalized education system in Nova Scotia. In 1838, McCulloch became the first President of Dalhousie College, a position that he held until his death in 1843. In his honor, Dr. Thomas McCulloch Junior High was officially opened on December 14, 1970. (Source: www.townofpictou.com)

STAFF

Blair MacDonald – Principal Starr Pettipas– Vice-Principal

Rick Cyr	Cathy Hill	Troy Reid
Jillian English	David MacDonald	Caralei White
Tara Fanning	Brooke Miller	
Beverly Hall	Doug Read	

Educational Assistants - Tina Johnston Laura MacDougall
Administrative Assistant – Charlene Thompson

DAILY SCHEDULE

First Period	8:45 - 9:45	Lunch	11:55 - 12:55
Second Period	9:45 - 10:45	Fourth Period	12:55 - 1:55
Break	10:45 - 10:55	Homeroom	1:55 – 2:00
Third Period	10:55 - 11:55	Fifth Period	2:00 – 3:00

DISCIPLINE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. EXPECTATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISCIPLINE POLICY.

In accordance with the mission statement of Pictou Academy/Dr. Thomas McCulloch Schools, we are committed to challenge each individual to reach his/her ultimate potential in academic learning and personal growth. Discipline is a collection of skills which enhances self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence and helps generate an environment conducive to academic learning and personal growth. The goal of a discipline policy is not to punish but to improve behavior and reinforce the need for a learning, stable environment.

We, the school community, believe that each person has the responsibility to control his/her behavior and be accountable for his/her actions. We believe that discipline should be based on rights, responsibility, consistency and respect for others, accomplished in part through a prescribed set of rules and regulations.

a. What Can Students Expect From Teachers?

The Students of Pictou Academy/McCulloch School expect their teachers to show respect and act as positive role models. The staff will provide the students with recognition of positive efforts in all areas. Students need clear explanation of rules

and consequences. The teachers are expected to apply rules and regulations fairly and consistently. Students appreciate teachers providing a safe and healthy atmosphere as well as reinforcing appropriate behavior.

b. What Can Teachers Expect From Students?

Students are expected to adhere to set rules. As well, students will be required to attend classes, be prepared ahead of time, and be attentive within the classroom setting. They must show respect and tolerance for peers and teachers. Teachers should emphasize the appropriate behavior with necessary praise thus creating a positive awareness both inside and outside the school.

c. What Can Teachers Expect From Parent/Guardians?

Teachers expect active support of parents/guardians in developing discipline skills. Teachers expect parents to make themselves familiar with the discipline policy and procedures of the school, and support the school's attempts to help children become responsible members of the school community.

d. What Can Parents/Guardians Expect Of Teachers?

Parents expect teachers to treat all students with dignity and respect. The goal is to model this type of behavior in school and within the community. Teachers are expected to follow established procedures fairly and consistently to all students and to ensure that parent/guardians are informed and encouraged to become involved.

As much as possible, teachers should provide positive reinforcement in verbal, non-verbal and written forms. All students who show progress deserve recognitions.

2. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Our educational objective at Pictou Academy/Dr. Thomas McCulloch School is to help all students develop their full potential thus becoming valued members of the community.

3. APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

- No drinking or drugs at school or at school functions
- No vandalism
- Respect for school property and property of others
- No smoking
- Abide by cell phone rules

Dr. Thomas McCulloch School – Behavior Expectations				
Settings	Respect for Self	Respect for Others	Respect for Environment	Respect for Learning
All Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress, speak, act appropriately • Always try your best • Be responsible for your actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be considerate and cooperative • Respect personal space • Use good manners and appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle • Return materials to the proper space • Keep the school clean and organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared with homework and supplies • Respect others' efforts and contributions • Be a good listener • Be on task and actively involved
Learning Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know and respect rules of each classroom • Always try your best • Be prepared with appropriate materials • Be on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the property of others • Keeps desks clean • Respect the ability of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care of all equipment and material • Help keep classroom neat • Return materials to the proper place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant • Follow rules and instructions • Ask questions when appropriate • Wait for your turn to speak • Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum • Obey posted signs
Outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think "Safety" • Dress for the weather • Enter and leave the building at appropriate time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay away from vehicles in parking lot • Remain in designated area • Respect our neighborhood and community • Practice sportsmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep recreational areas clean • Respect school property • Think safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter and exit building in a quiet and orderly fashion • Use appropriate exits • Enter building when bell rings
Halls & Stairwells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use hallways in a safe manner • Keep moving toward your next class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to the right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate and respect hallway displays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate voice levels • Do not hang around when classes are in session

ABSENCES

Should a student be absent from any class or classes, they are required to bring in a note from their parents/guardians. Parents are asked to call the school at 485-7200 or 485-7211 to inform them of any absences.

STUDENT EVALUATION – GENERAL GUIDE

Marks for each course in the junior high are based on day-to-day evaluations, which may include tests, assignments, projects, journals, portfolios, oral presentations, class contributions, and group work. The school year is divided into three terms; September to November, December to February, and March to June. Reports are sent home at the end of each term. The report card format provides parents and students with a clear and accurate picture of the student's progress. Parents and guardians are able to see attendance, grades, assignments, and teacher's comments on a web based Parent Portal. Please contact the school for your log in information.

LEARNING CENTRE

The Learning Centre at McCulloch Junior High serves students from grades six to eight. It also assists in the programming of special needs students at the High School.

The Learning Centre believes that all students are valued members of the school community and that they have several needs in common- to be challenged, to participate, to contribute, to be supported and to be respected for who they are. Our goal is to meet the needs of every student in our school, from the challenged to the gifted, using available resources as effectively as possible.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Students can receive assistance with decision-making with regard to:

1. Personal-Social Concerns
2. Academic Difficulties
3. Liaison with outside agencies

The following Supportive Services are also available to students:

1. The School Psychologists provides testing for students who are referred by teachers or parents. In addition, counseling services are also available.
2. The Community Health Nurse is available to students and helps with any questions or problems concerning physical and mental health.
3. Social Services will also provide assistance from social workers for those students needing their help.

The following is a list of numbers that may be of help to you:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Addiction Services | 902-485-4335 |
| 2. Community Services | 1-888-919-4326 |
| 3. Family Services | 902-752-7562 |
| 4. Help Line | 902-752-5952(12pm-12am) |

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress properly in a way that does not distract others. Strapless tops should not be worn unless it is layered under another top. Pants are to be worn pulled up to the waist. Shorts should be an appropriate length. Making the decision of what to wear and exercising good judgment are learning experiences. Good common sense should prevail. Students should not wear heavy coats or jackets in their classroom; however, when students must go outside or are in cold rooms, teachers may make allowances. Hats are to be removed when entering the building and to remain off during the school day.

Please note, that certain types of clothing could be unsafe in shop areas. As well, proper footwear is essential at all times. The final decision on matters of taste in clothing rests with the administration.

Required dress for Physical Education classes:

- sneakers
- shorts – loose fitting, exercise pants
- T-shirt – appropriate for school
- socks

It is policy that students bring their gym gear and change for Physical Education classes.

COMPUTERS

Internet Policy – All students, staff and other users, agree to internet policies as part of their Novell login each day. If anyone abuses the internet policy, they may have access to the internet removed or limited.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

In the fall, McCulloch students elect a grade eight president, and a grade eight secretary and a grade seven vice-president. There is also two class representative for each homeroom class. This group of representatives is responsible for planning special events, dances, fundraising, and school spirit. Students nominated for Council must have an acceptable attendance, behavioural and academic history.

SCHOOL DANCES

Junior High dances are open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8 with an invitation extended to grade 9 PA students. Students may invite a guest to the dance provided that they are signed at the office before the dance. Guests must be in Grade 6, 7, or 8 at their school. Students inviting a guest are responsible for the guest's behavior and will be held accountable. When a student leaves a dance they will not be readmitted.

CELL PHONES, CAMERAS AND AUDIO PLAYERS

To avoid distractions and interruptions, cell phones, MP3 players, cameras and hand held devices must be turned off and out of sight during school. Individual teachers may request cell phones be left at front of classroom. Failure to follow this directive could lead to the confiscation of the items by teachers or school administration.

ENRICHMENT / EXPLORATORY

The major goal of school wide enrichment is to develop talents and promote higher-end learning for our students. Enrichment learning involves four principles:

1. Each learner is unique.
2. Learning is more effective when students enjoy what they are doing.
3. Learning is more meaningful when content and process are learned in the context of a real problem.
4. Enrichment learning focuses on enhancing knowledge and acquiring thinking skills.

"Every child is special if we create conditions in which that child can be a specialist in a specialized group". ~Joseph S. Renzulli

SPORTS TEAMS

Students attending McCulloch School have the opportunity to participate in the extra-curricular sports teams provided that they are in good academic standing:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Softball
- Run Club
- Cross Country Team



EXPRESSIONS UTILES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Je ne comprends pas. | I don't understand. |
| ▪ Je ne sais pas. | I don't know. |
| ▪ Je ne peux pas entendre. | I can't hear. |
| ▪ J'ai oublié. | I forgot. |
| ▪ Répétez s'il vous plaît. | Repeat, please. |
| ▪ Comment dit-on ___ en français? | How do you say ___ in French? |
| ▪ Parlez plus fort, s'il vous plaît. | Speak louder, please. |
| ▪ Je n'ai pas encore fini. | I haven't finished. |
| ▪ J'ai fini | I am finished. |
| ▪ Parlez plus lentement. | Speak slower, please. |
| ▪ J'ai besoin d'aide. | I need help. |

Est-ce que je peux...

- tailler mon crayon?
- distribuer les livres?

Can I...

- sharpen my pencil?
- distribute the books?

Est-ce que je peux...

- fermer les fenêtres?
- ramasser les papiers?
- aller aux toilettes?
- aller boire de l'eau?
- aller à mon casier?
- distribuer les jetons?
- piger les batons?
- emprunter le dictionnaire?

Can I...

- close the windows?
- pick up the papers?
- go to the washroom?
- get a drink of water?
- go to my locker?
- distribute the jetons?
- pick the sticks?
- borrow the dictionary?

PARTS OF SPEECH

- ❖ Noun – person, place or thing.
- ❖ Pronoun – a sub for nouns.
- ❖ Adjective – describes a noun.
- ❖ Verb – an action or being.
- ❖ Adverb – answers how, when, where and why?
- ❖ Prepositions – shows a logical relationship between two words.
- ❖ Conjunction – connect words, phrases or clauses.
- ❖ Interjections – strong feelings.

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work. In other words, ripping off someone else's words without proper permission or credit and calling them your own.

To avoid any possibility of plagiarism, document all quotes with the source, including the author, title of work, and page number. Also, if you use an idea that you found in a source somewhere, make sure to include a footnote and bibliography. Ask your English teacher for help.

HOT TIPS FOR STUDY

- ✓ Be comfortable (but not too). Sit up straight.
- ✓ Clear the top of your desk or worktable.
- ✓ Assemble needed materials-assignment, books, notebooks, pencil, and paper.
- ✓ Keep regular study hours.
- ✓ Face away from windows or other visual interruptions.
- ✓ Eliminate noise: radio, TV, phone, conversation, etc.

HOW TO WRITE A REPORT

- Do your research and reading in order to know your subject.
- Make notes.
- Think of your main points.
- Make an outline by subjects that answer: Why? What? How? So what? Include any attachments, exhibits, drawings, etc.
- Arrange your notes (or cards) by subject, according to your outline.
- Do a quick first draft using your outline for subheadings.
- Be sure to give sources.
- Re-read, re-think, and re-write.
- Edit final draft. Check: spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, sentence structure, style, vocabulary, sentence rhythm, sound pattern.
- Be self-critical. Ask yourself: "Is this my best work?"