

McCracken Middle School

After School Programs

2025-26 School Year



Note: Students who are in band or the musical should check with Mr. DeStefano and Ms. Keipert before registering for after school activities or enrichment classes so that conflicts do not arise.

Please refer to the brochure for class overview and for specific fees of each class. If you are interested in having your child attend a class and cost is a concern, please contact **the business office** at 847-676-8317. Families who qualify for a fee waiver may receive a full scholarship and should contact the business office for more details.

ENROLLMENT

Complete and sign both sides of the registration form. **Once your student has been enrolled in the club/activity/team an invoice will be sent to families. Fees can be paid online through the [District RevTrak Webstore](#), or with cash/check in the main office. If paid by check, make payable to District 73.5.**

CANCELED CLASSES

There are times when it becomes necessary to cancel a class. We may be unable to notify you in advance, for example, if a teacher is absent or in the instance of severe weather. Pre-arrange a plan with your child so they understand what to do if you are not at home or cannot be reached if the program is canceled without advance notice. This plan may begin with having your child call you before 3:00 pm so that they won't miss the regular bus if you wish for them to go home when a class is canceled.

DISMISSAL

Most classes end at 3:55 p.m. Please reference the class summaries for exact dismissal times. Students riding the activity bus are dismissed to a bus meeting area near the bike rack.

TRANSPORTATION

The activity bus leaves McCracken at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. If children are taking the activity bus home, they must be able to accept the responsibility of getting off at the proper corner. **A \$25 activity bus fee is required to use this service.**

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions contact Marty Behm at mbehm@sd735.org or at 847-676-8234.

After School Instructional Offerings (Free- No cost to families)

B.O.O.S.T. (Big Ollie's Organization, Support, and Tutoring) *no registration necessary

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05 - 3:55 pm - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

BOOST is an opportunity for students to benefit from a positive, focused place to work with adult supervision and academic support to help students meet standards. Teachers may recommend students to BOOST for the purpose of work completion or students may self-refer themselves and attend if seats are available. Teachers will notify parents/guardians when students are recommended to attend BOOST.

Learning Center *no registration necessary

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

Students are welcome to visit the Learning Center after school for a quiet and supervised place to study. Computers are available.

School Clubs (Free - no cost to families)

Book Club

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

3:05-3:55 pm - Once a month on the last Thursday of the month

Members will read books across multiple genres and diverse topics/characters. Students will read the selected book over the course of a month and meet once a month to discuss.

Chess Club

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

3:05-3:55 pm - Second and fourth Wednesday of the month (twice monthly), in the STEAM room 176.

All ability levels are welcome!

Gender/Sexuality Alliance Club

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

3:05-3:55 pm - Twice a month on Wednesdays/Thursdays

The GSA will provide a safe and supportive environment promoting positivity and acceptance for all who participate.

Helping Hornets

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Monday once a month

Helping Hornets is a student volunteer group that helps teachers and staff. From designing bulletin boards to re-shelving books in the Learning Center, join us and give back to your school.

LatinX Club

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Thursdays once a month

Latinx Club is a space to celebrate, share, and learn about Latinx culture. All students are welcome to join Latinx Club!

Garden Club

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Every other Thursday until the end of October and starting again mid-April

Garden Club will meet twice a month in the Fall and Spring. We will weed, harvest, plant a fall and spring garden and learn about insects and healthy soil. No need to sign up, just come when you can.

Knitting and Crocheting Club

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Every other Thursday starting at the end of October until mid-April.

Knitting and Crochet will meet twice a month. No prior experience is necessary. We will be learning the basics of how to start a project and use YouTube videos to explore different patterns. If you have supplies, please bring them! We are always accepting donations of yarn and crochet hooks. No need to sign up, just come when you can.

Social Justice Club

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Once a month on Wednesday

Promote equity, build community, and discover the power of activism with the Social Justice Club! We will explore opportunities to make the world a better place for everyone.

Student Council

Grades: 6th-8th

7:20-7:50 am - Wednesday

Students represent their peers as part of the school's student-led council. Share ideas, plan Hornet Hangouts, and help support McCracken with your creativity! Student council amplifies student voices and addresses needs that are student led. Whether running for president or joining weekly meetings to be a part of change, we would love to have you!

Yearbook

Grade: 8th

Thursdays (Possibly during lunch/recess if it works out better for students)

Attention 8th graders! Would you like to design and create the yearbook for McCracken? As a staff, we meet once a week from September through April to build a book that documents our communities activities for the year. Bring your ideas and creativity to design an excellent book for all McCracken students.

Art Crew

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

3:05-3:55 pm - Wednesdays

Oct 22 - Dec 17

April 8 - May 27

Art Crew for students who enjoy creating art! Sign up for Art Crew if you like to draw, paint, cut, paste, build, sculpt, print and/or work with clay!

Debate Club

Grades- 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - every other Monday beginning 9/29

Do you like discussing complex topics? Do you like persuading others of your ideas using facts and logic? Do you want to gain confidence with public speaking and persuasion skills? Then join Debate Club where you will have the opportunity to research, analyze, and debate a wide variety of interesting topics!

Fall Fitness Club NEW!

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm -TBA (*November 3rd - December 10 = 5 weeks excluding the week of 24th-28th for Thanksgiving*)

Ready to take your fitness to the next level? Join our Fitness Club. We meet twice a week for fun and energizing sessions designed to build lifelong healthy habits! Whether you want to boost your physical and mental well-being or just find a supportive squad to keep you motivated, this club is for you. Workout plans, proper exercise form, circuit workouts, strength training, cardio, flexibility, and challenges & competitions!

Running Club (Spring)

Grades: 6th-8th Grade

3:05-3:55 pm- Mondays and Thursdays, starting right after Spring Break

Here is your chance to challenge yourself physically and mentally. Join us for your chance to exercise, train and even participate in a local 5k run/walk. Remember, every journey starts with a single step!

Fee-Based School Clubs

Orchestra (sponsored by Niles North High School)

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - Thursday afternoons at McCracken in the Band/Orchestra Room.

Instrument rental required

[Click here to register for Orchestra!](#)

Learn how to play a string instrument in Orchestra at McCracken! Students will have the opportunity to learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will learn how to play their instrument of choice and perform at McCracken & Niles North High School several times throughout the year. McCracken Orchestra students will have the opportunity to play in the Niles North freshman orchestra in 9th grade (brand new string players can take the Beginning Orchestra class in high school).

*** The 2025-26 Orchestra Registration Night is at Niles North High School on September 10. Stop by Niles North High School (Orchestra Room 1635) any time between 5:00-7:30 pm. Students will be able to try out the instruments, rent an instrument and register for the class. Please email Mrs. Page with any questions at: jenpag@d219.org.**

Additional Opportunity for Advanced Players: Honors Orchestra (sponsored by Niles North High School)

Grades: 6th-8th

3:45-4:45 - Monday Afternoons at Niles North High School

Join advanced orchestra students from East Prairie, Golf, Old Orchard and Niles North on Monday afternoons to learn challenging orchestra music and meet new friends. Students need at least 2 years of experience on their instrument and should be able to read music. Reach out to Mrs. Page if you are interested (even if you are not in the McCracken Orchestra program) at: jenpag@d219.org.

History Challenge Club NEW!

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - every other Monday

Fee: \$67

Do you like history? Do you like showing off your academic skills? Do you want an opportunity to compete against other middle school students across the country? Then join the History Challenge Club! This club will meet every other week to prepare for round 1 of The Great History Challenge competition where all students who sign up will get the chance to take a history trivia quiz. The top scorer in each grade (6th, 7th, and 8th) will move on to round 2 to compete against other students in the region in a live jeopardy-style history trivia competition. Students who qualify can move on to round 3 where they will compete against all other students from across the nation!

BuzzBot Robotics Team (mid-October-January)

Grades 6th-8th

3:05-3:55 pm - (weekly) Thursdays from October 9th until Spring Break.

Fee: \$67

Calling all students interested in designing, building and programming your very own competition robot! Our teams design, program, and compete with their robots in the Little 9 Competition Robot League. We will teach you everything you need to know to build and program your robot. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to participate and should complete an application to turn in to the main office. **See the application for dates, times, and specifics.** Maximum of 18 students accepted, as a team sport - prepare to work and support each other.

Application - due **Friday, September 19th**

School Musical (August-November)

Grades: 6th-8th

3:05-5:00 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (exact schedule will depend on role), performances November 15-16.

Fee: \$67

The school musical is an exciting performance opportunity for students who like to act, sing, and/or dance! Students participate in auditions during the first full week of school. Interested students are encouraged to come to an audition workshop on Friday, August 23 from 3:00--4:30 pm to learn more. Tech crew students are also needed to work behind-the-scenes for the show: information about how to apply for crew will be released in October.

Hornet Harmony (December-May)

Grades: 7th-8th

3:05-4:30 pm - Monday and 7:10-7:50 am - Wednesday

Fee: \$67

Hornet Harmony is an advanced, competitive singing group performing vocal jazz, a cappella, and other contemporary genres of vocal music. The members of Hornet Harmony are selected by audition. Any student currently enrolled in Concert Choir or Singers class may audition.

Athletics (Fee-Based)

We are pleased to offer a comprehensive athletic program, which is **tryout-based** besides cross country. Tryout dates are shared during morning announcements and published in our online McCracken Weekly. **Remember to check with the nurse to be sure we have a copy of your current physical and athletic permit form, which are required for tryouts.** Students will not be allowed to participate in tryouts without all of the required forms submitted. School nurses will also accept an Illinois state physical form or sports physical form, both of which are available through a physician. Please review the required health forms on our website's [Health Services page](#). Payment should be submitted to school offices after tryouts.

Athletic Fees

Varsity: \$108

Junior Varsity: \$108

6th Grade and Cross Country: \$67

Fall Athletics - August to October

Girls Volleyball - Varsity, Junior Varsity and 6th Grade

Boys Soccer - Varsity and Junior Varsity

Cross Country- **No tryouts for cross country**

Winter Athletics - End of October to December

Girls Basketball - Varsity, Junior Varsity and 6th Grade

Winter Athletics - January to March

Boys Basketball - Varsity, Junior Varsity and 6th Grade

Cheerleading - Varsity (7th & 8th Grade Only)

Spring Athletics - March to May

Girls Soccer - Varsity and Junior Varsity

Boys Volleyball - Varsity, Junior Varsity and 6th Grade

***In accordance with Illinois School Code, McCracken respects the right for students to modify athletic uniforms in accordance with religious beliefs, cultural values, or modesty preferences. Please let McCracken administration or your athletic coach know if any modifications to the uniform are required or desired.**

***Please contact the business office if you are in need of financial assistance. 847-676-8317**



Program Registration

Attach Payment Here- NO CASH

(Checks Payable to Skokie School District 73½)

Student Name:

After School Activity:

Advisory Teacher:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Email Address:

Phone number at which a parent/guardian can always be reached during the time the student is participating in the Program(s):

Emergency Contact Name:

Relationship:

Phone Number:

Registration will not be processed without:

1. A complete/signed registration form including a parent/guardian phone number
2. Separate checks made payable to Skokie School District 73 ½ for each activity your child is interested in (athletics are tryout based **do not** submit fee until after tryouts)
3. A signed Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

If you would like to contribute additional money, these funds would be used to provide students in need with the opportunity to attend enrichment programming. Amount of contribution: _____

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

(Permission to be completed by Parent/Guardian)

My child has permission to participate in the After School Programs that involve physical activity at the school. I realize that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in sports. I acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of protective equipment, and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility.

In consideration of School District 73½ permitting my child to participate in the above sports or activities, I agree to hold the Skokie District 73½, its employees, instructors, coaches, school board members, and volunteers harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with the participation of my child in the above sports or activities.

I assume all responsibility and certify that my child is in good physical health and is capable of participation in the above-mentioned sports or activities. No need exists to limit his/her participation.

I will notify you of any changes in his/her physical condition.

I have read the precautions regarding the Programs.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM
SEND: ONE CHECK PER ACTIVITY CHOICE

DISMISSAL OPTIONS

Please carefully review the dismissal options available for our enrichment activities. Check the option that makes the most sense for your family and return the signed form to your child's Advisory teacher. The instructor of the activity will use the parent/guardian information and identified emergency contact listed in PowerSchool for home communication. Please note you will need to complete a new form each enrichment session.

Athletics

Please adhere to the start and end times communicated by the coach for practices and games. Typically, each game lasts for one hour. For example, if the game is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m., you should plan to arrive at school for pick-up at approximately 5:00 p.m. (away games may require additional time for transportation).

After School Activities

Please adhere to the start and end times listed for each activity in the brochure.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION: (must check one)

_____ My child has permission to walk home after the activity has ended.

_____ My child has permission to wait outside ***unsupervised*** until I am able to pick them up after the activity has ended..

_____ My child will be picked up by a parent or family member after the activity has ended. Please ***supervise*** my child until they have been picked up.*

_____ My child will ride the activity bus. **A \$25 activity bus registration fee is required to use this service.**

Please be aware that instructors have professional and personal responsibilities after our activities have ended. Prompt student pick-up is appreciated. Students may no longer be able to participate in an activity if they are picked up more than 15 minutes late twice during the activity session.

The activity bus leaves at approximately 4:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and approximately 3:00 pm on Tuesday for students who have registered for the activity bus. Students taking the activity bus must be able to accept the responsibility of getting off at the proper corner as we do not have a paraprofessional on the activity bus.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____