

# McCall Cats College Connections

\*A unique way to provide college and career awareness to all students



Presented by Shannon Reynolds

McCall Elementary Counselor/Student Council Advisor

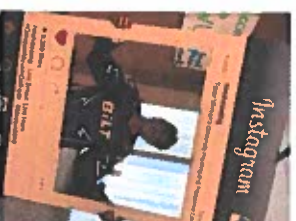
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# McCall Cats College Connections

A Student Council Sponsored Activity to Increase College and Career Awareness



## We started this in May of 2018

We invited all former McCall Cats from the graduating class of 2018 to attend our end of year assembly to be recognized and sign up to partner with us the next year.

We send the college student a care package in the fall and in return, they send us a letter about their college experience that we can share with students and staff.

We had over 36 seniors attend!

## McCall Class of 2018



## McCall Class of 2019

This year's group of McCall Cat College Connections



## How the program works...

We changed our process this year and think we now have a plan that would work best for those of you on secondary campuses:



Our 1st Student Council service project for the year is this program! We have asked each homeroom class of students to donate a specific item for the care packages. These items are due by Sept. 30

Things we have classes donating this month: chapstick, hand sanitizer, tic tacs, beef jerky, goldfish, M&M's, Skittles, peppermints, cup-o-soups, microwave popcorn, hot cocoa, stress balls, playing cards, post-it note pads, etc.

4. We have also assigned a college student to each homeroom. In addition to the one item the class is donating, they are writing letters or making cards for their college pal that Stu Co will include in their care package.
5. We have asked each college student to send us a picture for our college bulletin board. We will also be posting the picture of each college student outside their adopted class with a few details about the college they are attending.
6. As we get letters back, we will share them with classes via staff email and post the letters outside their adopted class with their picture.
7. Stu Co members are donating \$2-\$5 each to help cover mailing costs. We will use our Student Council budget money to cover the rest. We are mailing 30 care packages this year.

## Care Package Instructions



1. We are using medium sized flat rate boxes. You can pick them up for free at your local post office. They cost right at \$15 each to ship 2 day priority.
2. Student Council will be placing a self addressed, stamped envelope in each care package WITH paper inside for the college student to quickly and easily write us back with no excuse to not mail it! The note we include in their box also gives them the option to email us a letter.
3. We have an after school Student Council meeting planned the 1st week in October that will simply be a "care package filling party."

## Our Bulletin Board in the Main Hallway for all to see



Class of 2018



Class of 2019

## Why do this project?

1. In addition to counting as a Pride & Patriotism activity, it also counts as an "inter school" activity on your TASC Outstanding form.
2. Great way to increase College & Career Awareness school-wide.
3. Great PR/community relations building activity!
4. Also creates opportunities to invite the college students back to your campus to visit classes in Dec. to talk in person about their college experience.



### \*Bonus Ideas!

## #1 BREAKFAST BUDDIES

Create a BREAKFAST BUDDIES PROGRAM where your high school leaders go mentor students at a local elementary once a week before school!

We have had a program like this at McCall for the past 3 years and currently have 16 high school leaders who mentor 16 of our students every Tuesday morning. The kids (elementary and high school age) love this activity!



2017-18



2018-19



2019-20

## #2 Making Math Fun on Wed. Mornings with NJHS Tutors

We have NJHS members working with teacher selected 3rd-5th graders before school on Wednesdays. They focus on Math activities that are fun and focus on practicing Math facts... flash cards, multiplication bingo, etc. Elementary staff signs off for NJHS service hours



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**Feel free to contact me for more information on any of these activities!**

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**Shannon Reynolds**

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## Leader of the Month Recognition

Our teachers nominate a Student Council boy and girl each month and we surprise them with a yard sign in honor of the recognition! They get to keep the sign.



McCall Student Council presents



## McCall Cats College Connections

This year we have approximately 30 past McCall Cats who will be college freshmen that we are sending McCall Care Packages to.

We have decided to approach this a little different this year and make it a school-wide service project. We will be asking each class to bring in donations of one particular item. Student Council will collect all the items and then have a "Care Package PACKING PARTY" after school one day to fill all 30 boxes with the donated goodies. Student Council leaders will be mailing all the packages in October. Individual classes will be invited to make cards or write notes to a specific former McCall Cat to be included in their package.

We will still be asking the college students to write us back when they get their package to tell us all about their college experience to help us become college smart!

**Your child's homeroom class is being asked to bring in the following item. Remember these are individual and/or single serve items so each student only needs to bring one if they are able to do so:**

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Please bring any donations to the Counseling Office no later than this date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for helping us learn about colleges this year by supporting this project.

What begins here changes the world!

Thank you!

McCall Student Council



Enjoy a Treat from Your Friends at McCall Elementary!

We hope you are having a great semester at college. We are so blessed at McCall that we had over 28 past McCall Cats who are now college freshman be "adopted" by classroom teachers or Student Council families!

They will be sending you a care package in the fall! How fun is that!? Here is all we ask in return please:

**EMAIL MRS. REYNOLDS**, our Stu Co Sponsor/Counselor, and tell her a bit about your college experience so to share with our McCall students to help them learn about college.

Tell us about your classes, dorm life, clubs you have joined etc! Her email is [sreynolds@aledoisd.org](mailto:sreynolds@aledoisd.org) Or you can text her if you have her cell #! Just don't forget please!

Once a McCall Cat Always a McCall Cat!  
Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

McCall Student Council

A Note from your class/family sponsor: