



MMJH principal Dr. Susan Rice (pictured, third from left) with assistant principals David Paz, Melanie Thomas, and Gary McHatton



McMeans was recently named a No Place for Hate school by the Anti-Defamation League in Houston



Celebrating Red Ribbon Week and drug prevention by wearing camouflage



Theater arts students enjoy performing in a major production, as well as one-act plays



McMeans Junior High School

Bobcats believing in commitment, unity, and success

Written by Mary Hogan
Photos Courtesy of McMeans Junior High School



Making memories during the eighth-grade dance, with a theme of New York, New York



Students designed a T-shirt for No Name-Calling Week



The Bobcats are proud to honor U.S. military personnel and veterans each year with performances by the band, choir, orchestra, and theater arts groups



Shawn and his dad during a Veterans Day ceremony at MMJH

Backed by a caring community, the students and staff at McMeans Junior High have an enthusiasm and love of learning that can't be beat. With a variety of unique programs and ways for students to shine, Bobcats are proud of their rich legacy of excellence. "We give 100% to everything we do, and it shows in everything from our Exemplary state ratings, to our state-recognized band and orchestra programs to our accomplishments in athletics," shares principal Dr. Susan Rice.

A Spirit of Success

At McMeans, teachers and staff believe wholeheartedly in the future and potential of each student. "We do not want any child to be lacking or missing out in any part of their educational experience," says Dr. Rice. "The teachers devote a great amount of time planning, tutoring, practicing, and rehearsing after school in every endeavor. We want our kids to be successful at whatever they try!"

This commitment from teachers is coupled with students' eagerness to learn new things, participate in school activities, and excel at new challenges. "The teachers regularly go the extra mile by preparing special tutoring programs designed to help struggling students," explains Dr. Rice. "The teachers don't just go over the recent work; they actually spend a huge amount of time preparing new lessons just for targeted tutoring time in order to engage our students."

MMJH is a very diverse campus with a variety of talents, which shows in academics and beyond. The school's fine arts programs, including band, orchestra, and choir, have garnered sweepstakes awards at their competitions, and through the art program, many students have been honored for their individual works. Each year, theater arts students shine in a major production and one-act plays.

Partnering with Parents

Along with amazing teachers and students, MMJH is also supported by dedicated parent volunteers who take an active role in their students' learning. "The parents are involved in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities," says Dr. Rice, adding, "If we need something, they have never hesitated to help us out. McMeans parents are very invested in their students' success, so involvement is a way of life for them. We love it!"

An active PTA supports school initiatives and volunteers in a variety of ways. "We could not be as successful as we are if it were not for our PTA," explains Dr. Rice.

Bobcat Pride

McMeans students and teachers are a spirited bunch who love to show off their campus pride. During spirit days, the halls are adorned with navy and gold Bobcat shirts. Each organization has its own unique design to help students really feel like they're part of something special. "We also have many pep rallies and a special town pep rally in the fall to showcase our student athletes and our fine arts students, as well as our cheerleaders and our pep squad," Dr. Rice shares.

Reaching out to the Community

Bobcats take pride in giving back to the Katy community through a variety of programs and service projects. Each fall, they celebrate Veterans Day, inviting the community to help honor those who have served with performances by the band, orchestra, choir, and theater groups. "It is a very touching program," says Dr. Rice.

Throughout the year, students in National Junior Honor Society and student council participate in many projects that help the needy, soldiers stationed in Iraq, the food bank, and many other worthy causes. Dr. Rice shares, "We have many venues for our students to showcase their many talents!" **KM**



MARY HOGAN enjoys being associate editor of Katy Magazine and is inspired by all of the ways Katy students and teachers go above and beyond every day.



MMJH Fast Facts

Principal: Dr. Susan Rice

Assistant principals: Gary McHatton, David Paz, and Melanie Thomas

Location: 21000 Westheimer Pkwy.

Phone: 281-644-1660

Mascot: Bobcat

Colors: Navy and gold

Enrollment: 1,180 students

High school it feeds into: Taylor High School

Opened in: 2000

School motto: We are McMeans - commitment and unity equal success.