Vision Statement
A love of learning builds the wisest nest!

Mission Statement
Peter McElwain Elementary, together with the staff, students, and community is dedicated to:

• Obtaining a passion for life-long learning.
• Working together to build positive relationships.
• Learning by example to promote a safe and inclusive environment.
• Soaring to success.

Core Values
Student Achievement
Everyone Matters
Developing the Whole Child
Peter Hugh McElwain was born on October 3, 1954 in Philadelphia, PA. He was the first child to Hugh and Suzanne [McKensen] McElwain. Peter’s father was a Canadian Airforce Wellington bomber pilot in World War II. His mother Sue grew up in Pittsburgh, where they met and were married in 1948.

During his early school years, Peter was highly involved as a cub and boy scout. He was active in sports, while at the same time, expressed his love and talent for the arts. In high school, Peter pursued the arts, that included working on the set design and construction for various high school musicals.

In September 1973, he embarked for Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the nation’s capital, to study architecture at Carleton University. While there, Peter was selected to serve as a residence advisor helping to guide and support other students. In May 1978, he graduated with honors from the Architecture program.

A highlight of Peter’s life was meeting Darlene Hamilton in 1979, who at the time, was also studying there. They fell in love and moved to London, Ontario in 1981 where they were then married. After a stint living in an apartment, they bought their first heritage home and renovated a century old farmhouse.

Peter’s desire to devote his architectural career towards the support of children and their learning came to fruition when he was offered the position of Assistant Superintendent of Facility Services at the London Board of Education in January 1988. There, he led the facilities organization in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations of several school district facilities across the city of London.

In August 1988, Peter and Darlene welcomed their beautiful daughter, Kristen, into the world. While searching for a new challenge and an even greater opportunity to support students through facility development in 1998, Peter was selected by Dr. Leonard Merrell, to serve as the District Architect/Planner at the rapidly growing Katy Independent School District.

In January 2001, Peter was selected by Dr. Leonard Merrell, to serve as the District Architect/Planner at the rapidly growing Katy ISD. After 19 years of service, Peter retired in January 2017.

Peter served as District Architect/Planner at Katy ISD for 19 years before retiring in January 2017. During his tenure, he led a talented team in the development and operations of countless award winning designs for school district facilities. This included 40 new schools, comprehensive campus additions and renovations, and several student support facilities - including the Gerald D. Young Agricultural Sciences Center, the Education Support Complex (ESC), the Leonard Merrell Center, the Robert Shaw Center for STEAM, performing arts centers and Legacy Stadium. He also mentored two students and contributed to the community through his leadership and involvement on several boards and committees which included the boards of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA, and several committees of the Katy Area Economic Development Council. Peter’s efforts were recognized by being named a 2016 Person of the Year by a local magazine and being named the 2017 Citizen of the Year by the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce. He has remarked that his time in Katy ISD has been the most rewarding in his career.
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

Order of Events

Welcome .............................................................................................................................................. Euberta Lucas, Principal
McElwain Elementary

Pledges of Allegiance ............................................................................................................ Lily McCrary, Fifth Grade Student
McElwain Elementary

On Behalf of the Board .......................................................................................................................... Ashley Vann, President
Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees

Introductions .................................................................................................................. Ken Gregorski, Ed.D., Superintendent
Katy Independent School District

Special Presentations ......................................................................................................................... Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst
Texas State Senate, District 18

Mission Statement .................................................................................................................. Carly Perez, Fifth Grade Student
McElwain Elementary

Reflections from our Namesake ......................................................................................................................... Peter McElwain

Student Performance: 6 Houses 1 Family .................................................................................... Led by Mary Rice, Counselor
Mia Bella Roman & Prodigie Knounkou, Kindergarten
Rylan Tijerina & Ethan Bierschwale, First Grade
Bailey Jones & Skylar Kim, Second Grade
Victor Ferguson & Victoria Moya, Third Grade
Kacie McClanahan & Emmaleigh Royse, Fourth Grade
Angus Anderson & Victoria Gonzalez, Fifth Grade

Dedication .............................................................................................................................................. Ashley Vann, President
Katy Independent School District Board of Trustees

Closing Remarks .............................................................................................................................................. Euberta Lucas, Principal
McElwain Elementary
Katy ISD Mission Statement:
Katy Independent School District, the leader in educational excellence, together with family and community, provides unparalleled learning experiences designed to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life … to create the future.

Katy ISD Vision Statement:
Be the legacy.

2020-2021 Board of Trustees
Ashley Vann, President; Lance Redmon, Vice President; Susan Gesoff, Secretary; Dawn Champagne, Member; Donald T. (“Duke”) Keller, Jr., Member; Greg Schulte, Member; Leah Wilson, Member

2020-2021 Katy ISD Administration
Ken Gregorski, Ed.D., Superintendent; Leslie Haack, Deputy Superintendent; Justin Graham, General Counsel; Christine Caskey, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer; Andrea M. Grooms, Ph.D., Chief Communications Officer; Christopher J. Smith, Chief Financial Officer; Brian Schuss, Chief Human Resources Officer; John Alawneh, Ph.D., Chief Information Officer; Ted Vierling, Chief Operations Officer

McElwain Elementary School Administration
Principal
Euberta Lucas
Assistant Principal
Miranda Cummings
Assistant Principal
Kallie Roman

Katy ISD Facilities, Planning, & Construction
Executive Director
Lisa Kassman
Construction Project Manager
Megan Connell Davis
Associate Project Manager
Trey Barnett
Architect
VLK Architects
General Contractor
Drymalla Construction

It is the policy of Katy ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, gender, age, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities, including career and technology programs, nor in its employment practices and to provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
McElwain Elementary is a kindergarten through fifth grade campus that also houses an early childhood special education program (ECIS) for 3-4 year olds and a Childhood Autism Program classroom for students in kindergarten-5th grade. In the general education classrooms, teachers use the workshop model to teach reading, writing and math. This gives them a chance to meet with students in small groups based on their needs.

McElwain Elementary is a large school with a family atmosphere that is tucked inside the Elyson community.

This campus continues the educational excellence that embodies the Katy Independent School District. Learning opportunities are maximized not only through the quality of staff and community support, but also by the intentional and thoughtful spaces of the building design.

The campus boasts an enriched and meaningful learning environment and promotes connectivity and community.

Resources for students and staff are reflective of today’s digital age with spaces that are both traditional and innovative. Students receive a variety of tools to enhance the learning experience, from the latest SMART Panels that allow teachers flexibility, to the use of laptops, Chromebooks and iPads for engaging and interactive lessons.

The school has been designed to support 21st century learning, with all spaces created to stimulate the young learner. There is flexibility throughout the design to allow for a wide range of educational spaces, from the learning stairs to collaborative spaces. The classroom hallways are configured to allow for individual and small group learning, while each cluster of classrooms is equipped with a large group instructional area.

Connection to the outdoors is evident throughout, including the art and sciences rooms. The learning resource center, previously called the library, is filled with natural light. It has an open and welcoming environment with multi-use spaces contained within. The materials and colors within the school are both warm and visually exciting.

In keeping with the school’s family feel, McElwain utilizes the “House System.” All students and staff are divided into houses. Each house represents a characteristic of an owl: Impegno = Commitment, Comunidad = Community, Arbitrium = Determination, Azim = Perseverance, Saviesa = Wisdom, and Udomo = Honor. This system ensures that everyone has a place to call home at the campus and reminds students to be WISE to earn points for their house.

McElwain is also the first campus with a floorplan that involves a “Mother’s Room,” making the transition back to work easier for new moms.

Keeping with the District’s century-long history of providing unparalleled learning experiences to students in Katy, McElwain staff members are always finding unique ways to engage students. Teachers model respect for each other and their students every day.
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