



INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

403 S 15th Street, Indianola, IA 50125

PHONE 515.961.9530 FAX 515.961.9535

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>



**WEEK OF
AUGUST 24, 2020...**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! IMS News will be sent to student and parent email addresses every Monday throughout the school year. It will provide you with general information and upcoming event details that you may need to know. This week's newsletter will focus on answers to questions you may have as the year gets started. We know that there are many things to remember, so please contact us whenever you have questions or concerns. We want to do our part in making this a great year for you and your student.



SCHOOL NEWS...

School Hours

7:50: Students report to first class

8:00: School begins

1:50: School ends

Parents, we are encouraging you to drop your child off as close to 7:50 as possible. We'll be better able to practice social distancing if students can go directly to their first class instead of having to wait with others in designated spots. There is no Open Gym before school at this time. Students should not arrive at school before 7:30, unless they are in a supervised activity.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30. Students should go directly to the cafeteria if they will be eating.

Please remember to bring your mask to school each day.

Looking for Return to Learn or General District Information?

School District Website

<http://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/index.php>

Middle School Website Page

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>

Office Information

Phone Numbers: 515.961.9530 Main Office 515.961.9535 Fax
Attendance Line: 515.961.9530 x3162
Principal: Mrs. Kristy Ellis
Asst. Principal: Mr. Mike O'Meara
6th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Lacey Cherniss
7th Grade Counselor: Ms. Tina Chaplin
8th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Tiffany Cochran
Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:30pm

Food Service

For information regarding menus, free/reduced lunches/online payments/account information, please click on the link below:

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/departments/food-service/>

Lunches

6th Grade: 10:50-11:20 M-Th; 10:47-11:17 Fri
7th Grade: 12:10-12:40 M-Th; 12:01-12:31 Fri
8th Grade: 11:30-12:00 M-Th; 11:23-11:53 Fri

*Please label lunch boxes and bags with child's name.

*No caffeinated drinks

*Parents/guardians may only sign *their* child out for lunch; your child's friend may not leave with you unless his/her parent is also with you.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the district's student information system. [Here](#) is a link to the PowerSchool Parent & Guardian Success site. You will find helpful information to log in, set up notifications, check fines/fees, use the mobile app, and much more.

Where to Drop Off and Pick Up Your Students

Students are to be dropped off at the main entrance or fieldhouse entrance in the mornings. Students not involved in morning sports or activities should not arrive before 7:30 a.m.

The 6th grade pick-up zone after school is the fieldhouse parking lot. The 7th grade pick-up zone is the west parking lot in front of the stadium. The 8th grade pick-up zone is the main entrance parking lot. All students, including siblings, must use their designated exit this year.

Student Council

Ballots to elect our next IMS Student Council members will be emailed to students on August 25. If you did not vote in the spring, please do so between August 25 and September 4.

Good luck, candidates!

Late Arrivals, Early Dismissals, Absences

Attendance Line Phone Number: 515.961.9530 x3162. (Please call this extension to report Absences and Late Arrivals.)

Late Arrivals: All students arriving to school after 8:00 will enter through the main entrance and check in to the office. If possible, please call to notify the office before 8:00 or send a note with student stating the reason for the tardy. You do not need to accompany your child into the school for late arrivals.

Early Dismissals: Please notify a secretary in advance if you will be picking your student up early. That way, we can give him a pass to leave the room quietly when it's time. You can do this by having your student bring a note to the office before 8:00, or by calling 515.961.9530 by 8:00, if possible. We ask that you give us notice so that we can avoid disrupting classrooms with phone calls requesting that a child leave the room. A parent/guardian must come into the building foyer to meet their child.

Absences: Please call the attendance line by 8:00 when your student will be absent. Clearly state the child's name, grade, date of absence, and reason for absence. Homework may be requested when a student is absent for two or more days. Please make those requests before 9:00 to have the work ready for a pick-up time between 2:15-3:15.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, August 25: First day of school
Monday, Sept. 7: No School, Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 14: Teacher Professional Development, IMS dismissal is 11:50
Tuesday, Sept. 15: Fall pictures

TIM McCONNELL
PHOTOGRAPHY WILL
BE TAKING
STUDENTS' FALL
PICTURES ON
SEPTEMBER 15.

Yearbook News

Save \$5 by ordering your 20-21 yearbook now! Go to [Jostens](#) by October 23rd. Be sure to select Indianola, IA Middle School. The cost is \$25 right now.



**ACTIVITY
INFO...**

We Want our Students to be Involved!

There are many ways for students to get involved at school. Just a few of the groups or clubs offered are Geography Club, Mock Trial, DAA, Yearbook Staff, Art Club, MathCounts, and many more.

Here is a link to the Activities section of the IMS webpage:

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/activities/>

Mock Trial

It's so much more than a play! Mock Trial students are expected to thoroughly learn a court case, immersing themselves in a role on each of the plaintiff's and defendant's sides. Local attorneys and/or judges volunteer their time to coach each team of 8-10 students. Teams meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM with weekend or extra evening practices/scrimmages starting in October. The regional competition is near the end of October/beginning of November with State competition typically occurring right after Thanksgiving. For an example mock trial, view the national champion teams compete at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJP450bH1zk>.

Due to Covid issues the 2020 Middle School Mock Trial season is still a go, however competition will most likely be held virtually. More information on that will come later.

For more information on the Iowa Middle School Mock Trial program please use this link. <https://www.iowabar.org/page/MSMockTrial>

To sign up for the 2020 Indianola Middle School Mock Trial season, please use this link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDeSbxYRF5TOWUZmUCiHf_VwE3is5F8cck51CiGfjdRtJC1Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

IMS Athletics

Football, Girls & Boys Cross Country, and Volleyball for 7th and 8th graders will begin on Tuesday, August 25. Click [here](#) to get to the IMS Athletics page.

If you have questions, please contact Jon Fitzpatrick, jonathan.fitzpatrick@indianola.k12.ia.us.

No Study Table for athletes on Monday, September 14.



The Zone is temporarily on hold.

For details, click [here](#).

Check Out the District Event Calendar

Below is a link to the district's event calendar. You'll find dates, times, and locations for sports, music, and various other events in which our students are participating on this site.

<https://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/public/genie/206/school/645/>

Activity Passes

Students will receive an ID card on the first day of school. If you purchased an activity pass for your child, there will be a "20" sticker attached to the ID. If you purchased one but there is not a sticker, remind your child to stop in to the main office to get it. Students will be reminded of this during daily announcements, as well.

If you haven't purchased an activity pass, there is still time. The cost is \$50 and it allows your student entry into home high school and middle school athletic events and some music events. You may purchase this pass in the front office (check or exact cash only) or click [here](#) and select Activity Tickets.



GENERAL INFORMATION...

Social Emotional Behavioral Health of Students

Welcome back to school. We are excited to work with the students either onsite or remotely. This year, one of our focuses will be on the SEBH (Social-Emotional Behavioral Health) of your student. The School Board has approved more school based mental health therapists for the district to better serve the students.

The Wellness Committee has developed a site on the District Website that provides resources for staff, students and families. Please take time to take a look at what is available. <https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/district/wellness/>

Counselors will present strategies to teachers to work with students onsite as well as remotely. If you are in need of SEBH support, please contact one of the building counselors. Thank you, parents, for all that you are doing. We look forward to the new school year.

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip Virtual Meeting

This year's 8th Grade Washington DC trip will be June 9-13, 2021. It includes a full money back guarantee if it is still unsafe to travel or your student is unable to travel!

We are holding a virtual information meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 3, at 6:30 pm.

<https://tinyurl.com/IMSDC2021>

Meeting ID: 824 3995 5799

Passcode: 5uNyEC

Contact Mr. Dubczak with any questions - david.dubczak@indianola.k12.ia.us

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Indianola Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of age (except students), race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, creed or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities.

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of age (except students), race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, creed or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment in, its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 is directed to contact:

504 Coordinator
Indianola Community School District
1304 East 2nd Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125
515 961-9500

who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, § 504 and Iowa Code 280.3 (2007).

Anti-Bullying/Harassment (Ref. School Board Policy 104) Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state and local policy, and are not tolerated by the board. The board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. To that end, the board has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment as well as processes and procedures to deal with incidents of bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment of students by other students, by school employees, and by volunteers who have direct contact with students will not be tolerated in the school or school district. Concerns can be reported to the building administration by phone, email, or in person. Board Policy forms 04E1 and 104E2, along with additional bullying and harassment policy information can be obtained from the district website or from the main office.