



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/>



NEW THIS WEEK December 14, 2020...

Winter Break

December 21 thru January 1



This Friday's dismissal will be the usual time – 1:50 for IMS.

School resumes on January 4.

Enjoy your break!

SPIRIT WEEK

Monday: PJ day

Tuesday: SWINTER Day (Summer & Winter clothes)

Wednesday: WHITE OUT Day (Wear white clothing)

Thursday: SANTA HAT & SOCK Day

Friday: UGLY SWEATER Day

Rules below:

- ❖ Appropriate School Attire (Ref. School Board Policy 502.1)
- ❖ Appropriate school attire does not draw attention to the student, does not disrupt the concentration of other students, nor disrupts the educational environment.
- ❖ It is expected that students' clothing will ensure adequate coverage and undergarments should not be visible. Garments may not be backless or without straps, if applicable. Shorts with less than a 4 inch inseam are discouraged.
- ❖ Pants and shorts are to be worn at an appropriate level at or above the hips.
- ❖ Students may be asked to remove any item covering their face or head as staff need to be able to recognize the individual in school or in the classroom.
- ❖ Shoes with wheels are prohibited.
- ❖ Hats, other head coverings, and sunglasses are to be taken off and left in lockers during the school day with all bags and purses.
- ❖ Students are not to wear items that are considered potentially dangerous.
- ❖ All students will be expected to change into appropriate clothes for physical education classes.
- ❖ Students are expected to refrain from wearing clothing or other apparel with actual or implied profanity, sexual innuendos, and tobacco/alcohol/drug endorsements, promotion of weapons or known gang related insignias.
- ❖ The building principals will make the final determination of the appropriateness of the student's appearance.

School Fines

School fines are viewable on PowerSchool . These fines are for overdue books, textbooks not returned, band supplies, uniforms, etc. Directions for viewing fines can be found [here](#). Please note—fees/fines cannot be paid using the PowerSchool mobile app. If you prefer to pay with check instead of online, please make check payable to IMS. Be sure to note the student's name and what the fine is that is being paid.

Are you Missing Something?

Students, please be sure to check the Lost & Found closet (near the recess doors) if you have lost a sweatshirt, book, water bottle, etc. Smaller items, such as glasses or watches, are in the office.

Unclaimed items will be donated during Winter break.

Students, bring a mask to school each day. It is your responsibility!



SCHOOL NEWS...

Covid-19 Clarifications:

Remote Learning: Students who have elected to learn remotely must make a long-term commitment in doing so (at least 2 weeks). Students who have tested positive for Covid-19, or have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus and are in quarantine, will be expected to remote learn.

Absence Due to Illness NOT Related to Covid-19: Students who are absent from school because of an illness *unrelated* to Covid-19 will continue to be onsite learners and will follow the makeup policies in the student handbook. Students are encouraged to view PowerSchool class pages to see what they have missed and may begin to complete assignments before returning. However, they will not become remote learners during the time of their illness.

Direct Contact/Positive Test: Students who have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or have tested positive themselves need to contact the middle school health office ASAP (515.961.9530 x3124). Once notified, the administrative office will contact teachers and let them know that the student will be learning remotely.

Returning to Onsite Learning: Parents, you must contact the main office at least 2 days prior to your student returning to school in person. Teachers and staff need this time to prepare for the change.

From the Band Department

Parents, please be sure to check your emails about Band concerts.

We won't be doing any live concerts this winter. We will be recording students next week during class and posting the videos on our PS Band pages for you to enjoy from home.

If You Forget an Item at Home

Before you leave your home each day, please make sure you have everything you need: binder, Chromebook, water bottle, MASK, school project, ID, etc. Many items are being dropped off, but we would like to reduce the traffic coming into the building.

If you do forget something and your parent brings it to school after the day has begun, an email will be sent to you to let you know it's in the office. It will not be delivered to you; it is your responsibility to check your email throughout the day. Other important information is emailed as well, including announcements and early dismissal pass notifications. Please make it a habit to check your email during the school day.

Thank you.

Remote Advocates Added to IMS Staff

Madelynn Gibney: Hello! I am excited to be joining Indianola Middle School as a Remote Advocate for 8th grade and half of 7th grade. My primary purpose is to help remote students navigate the virtual learning environment, communicate with remote families and to provide support to IMS remote students via Zoom. If you need any assistance do not hesitate to reach out (madelynn.gibney@indianola.k12.ia.us).

Pat Avitt: Do you feel like you are on a roller coaster this year? It has been a wild ride for many people and things keep changing! My name is Pat Avitt, and I'm one of the new changes that your school has initiated. My job title is Remote Advocate for 6th grade and half of 7th grade. It is a very exciting, positive change designed to help students while they are learning virtually. I will be available to encourage and help students to get organized, complete and turn in assignments, and/or set goals to be a self-directed learner. Throughout the week, I will check in with students and families. If you have questions/concerns, please feel free to email me (patricia.avitt@indianola.k12.ia.us).

Student and Parent App Tutorials

Click [here](#) to find valuable information on how to maneuver through many of the apps that are being used this school year.

Looking for Return to Learn or General District Information?

School District Website

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

Dates to Remember:

December 21-Jan 1: Winter Break

January 18 & 19: No School

Food Service Announcement

ALL MEALS (Breakfast and lunch) are FREE to ALL students this school year. Please click [here](#) for more details.

Yearbooks are \$25 this year. Go to [Jostens](#) to order.

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.

Parents, please take a look at the two sets of directions linked below for managing your email subscriptions.

Note: these directions do not allow parents to unsubscribe from all district emails—only the automated PowerSchool emails.

- [Managing Grades & Attendance Summary, Assignment Scores, and Balance Alert Notifications](#)
- [Managing PowerSchool Class Pages \(PowerSchool Learning\) Email Digests & Notifications](#)

Updated Guidance on Face Coverings Effective November 2, 2020

The Indianola School District has amended its current policy regarding face coverings **effective November 2**. The policy will now require all K-12 students and staff to wear face masks, with provisions for mask breaks and instructional use of face shields, within physical distancing and per public health guidelines. Also note that **Gaiters are not acceptable face masks**. Thank you for your attention to this change as we continue to work through this pandemic and do our best to provide a safe learning environment for our staff and students.

Friendly Reminder: Please Wash Facemasks

For tips on how to store and wash face coverings, click [here](#).

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

Chromebook Covers Students, Please Read

Your Chromebook must remain in the provided case at all times. If your Chromebook is damaged while it is not in the case, you will be held responsible for the cost of the repair. Also, you should not have anything underneath the top cover of your Chromebook. This includes schedules, pictures, and stickers. If you have anything underneath your cover, please do not remove the case yourself. Take your Chromebook to the tech office in the library and someone will remove it for you.

How to Check for Missing Assignments

Click [here](#) for a tutorial on how to check for missing assignments.

Thanks, Mr. Dubczak, for putting this together.



ACTIVITY INFO...

7th and 8th Boys Basketball Sign-Ups

An email was sent to parents last Monday with information for 7th and 8th Grade Boys Basketball. Practice will start on the Monday we return from break, January 4.

Click [here](#) for the sign-up link.

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/>



GENERAL INFORMATION...

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.