



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

February 8, 2021...

Transition to Full-Day Onsite Learning Next Monday, February 15

Next Monday, February 15th, we will transition to full-day onsite learning. If you are currently a remote learner but would like to transition to full-day onsite learning, you may choose to return next Monday. If you choose to return to onsite, you must let the middle school office know by February 11th. The expectation is that you will commit to this for the remainder of the 3rd quarter. The 4th quarter starts on March 31st. You must verify if your student will be remote for the 4th quarter no later than March 26th. The choice you make by the 26th will remain in effect until the end of the school year.

For **onsite learners** starting February 15th, we will no longer have a 90-minute early release each day. We will be going back to our traditional schedule with alternating odd/even days. The IMS dismissal time will be 3:20. You can see the schedule by clicking [HERE](#). On Wednesdays, we will have a 2:20 early dismissal.

For **remote learners** starting February 15th, we will no longer be zooming with students from 1:50-3:30. Students will be expected to zoom into their classes as scheduled in order to obtain direct instruction. Grade level counselors will share the zoom links at a later date. The links will also be shared in the Remote Newsletter which is emailed on Tuesdays. Teachers will also provide students with the zoom links through Class Pages, and they will continue to provide daily instruction to be successful in the classroom. Students will continue to utilize Class Pages in order to access materials. It is important that students with questions or needs reach out to their instructors for support. We will continue to have two middle school remote advocates, as well. They have been working with remote students and families this year to assist with their needs.

Attendance **will** be taken during zooms, and remote learners will need to structure their day accordingly. Remote learners will continue to be graded on their educational progress in the class. We understand that zooming into class may provide some students with challenges, so it will be extremely important to communicate with teachers in the event that something is not working correctly. Keep in mind that students may not be zooming for the entire period; however, their opportunity to connect with the classroom teacher will be during the regular daily schedule provided while we are fully onsite.

If you have any questions, or would like to change your child's status as mentioned in paragraph one, please call the office at 515.961.9530.

Spring Conferences Next Week

Indianola Middle School will once again be utilizing the PTC online conference scheduler so that you can set up 10-minute Zoom appointments with your child's teachers. Below, you will find important details that you'll want to be aware of before scheduling and attending the virtual conferences.

We use a student-led conference format at IMS. Therefore, students need to be present and have their Chromebooks charged and ready so that they can share samples of their work. Again, it will be virtual through Zoom. Once you sign in to Zoom at your appointed time, you will be placed in a "waiting room" until the teacher begins the conference.

Teachers will add their conference Zoom links to their Class Pages as we get closer to conference time. Please watch for further details through emails, the weekly office newsletter (on Mondays), and on those above-mentioned Class Pages.

The UPDATED IMS conference schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, February 16: 4:00 - 8:00

Wednesday, February 17: 2:30 - 3:50

Thursday, February 18: 1:00 - 8:00

TO REGISTER FOR YOUR CHILD'S CONFERENCE, PLEASE SEE THE LINK AND DIRECTIONS BELOW.

Link: <http://www.ptcscheduling.com/app/login.asp?HID=98565623>

1. Complete the information requested on the right hand side of the screen under "REGISTRATION", then hit Register.
2. Upon completion of registration, click on the link again to log in to PTC.
3. Under the LOGIN section, enter your email address and password. Click Sign In.
4. Add/Edit your child's information. Indianola Middle School should be indicated.
5. Click on the Add Child button to save your changes.
6. If you have additional children attending IMS, repeat steps 4 & 5.
7. If you have used PTC in the past at a different school, but with the same email/password, all children you've added will be listed. You will need to edit their information, including school name.
8. Once all your children have been added or edited, click on the Schedule button for the first child.
9. Select the conference date.
10. Choose your student's teachers, and click Submit at the bottom.
11. Pick your student's conference time (ONE per teacher). The time you select will automatically be saved.
12. Click Home.
13. Click Schedule Conferences to view your child's information.
14. Click on the Print/Email button to view, print, or email yourself the conference times.
15. Click the Log Off button at the top of the page to end your session.

If you have questions when signing up for conferences, please contact Janet Robbins, Secretary, at 515.961.9530 x3156, or janet.robbins@indianola.k12.ia.us.

NO SCHOOL THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Attention 8th Graders/Parents: High School Course Registration Info

Packets for high school registration will be coming home next week. Parents and students will receive a Bright Arrow message with a link to the high school orientation presentation. Please review the presentation with your student as it will help you begin the high school registration process. Students will be shown the orientation presentation on February 8th in class, as well. We understand that there will be questions, so please write down your questions to be collected on February 8th in class. The questions will be reviewed by the high school counselors, and a follow-up presentation will be distributed.

On February 22nd thru 25th from 3:30-6:30, the high school counselors will host a drop-in work session in the high school library. During this time, parents/students can drop in and ask questions or receive help to complete the high school registration form. The GT (gifted and talented) teacher Ms. Darr will be present to answer questions on the 24th and 25th. Registration packets can also be turned in at this time.

All high school registration packets are due no later than March 5, 2021. Packets can be turned in to Mrs. Cochran at the middle school or to any of the high school counselors.

7th and 8th Grade Art Club

If you are a 7th or 8th grader and you're interested in Art Club, [Sign up HERE](#). To find out more about the Art Club you can read this [Art Club Member Informational document](#).

Yearbook Orders Taken thru February 26

The last day to purchase a yearbook is Friday, February 26! Yearbooks are \$25. Go to [Jostens](#) to order. Or, you can bring exact cash or a check (made payable to IMS) to Mr. Damman, room 507.

Once again, the deadline is February 26th. No Exceptions.



SCHOOL NEWS...

Homework Hotline

The United Way Homework Helpers Hotline is a volunteer-based hotline aiming to support students with homework questions outside of the school day.

Operating hours are from 3:00-8:00 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday. Call 211 for FREE homework help for students k-12. Then, select #7 to speak with a Homework Hotline Helper. Interpreters are also available.

Covid-19 Clarifications:

Remote Learning: Students who have elected to learn remotely must make a long-term commitment in doing so (at least 9 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 considered an onsite learner even though they'll be learning from home. They can check Class Pages and contact teachers for work.

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 at home.

All Parents, Please Check your Child's Account for 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 and turn it in to the main office. Be sure to note the student's name and what the fine is that is being paid. Please call 961.9530 x3156 if you have questions.

***Please Note* that middle school fines will stay with a student through high school and must be paid before they graduate. It's a much easier process to either find the lost item or pay for it while your child is still in middle school.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

Middle School Website Page

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

School District Website

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

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](#)

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 Announcement

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

Dates to Remember:

February 12: No School
February 18 & 19: No School
March 15-19: Spring Break



**ACTIVITY
INFO...**

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.