



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 October 5, 2020...

Fall Conferences this Week

Indianola Middle School will once again be utilizing the PTC online conference scheduler so that you can set up 10-minute virtual Zoom appointments with your child's teachers. ***We will not be doing in-person conferences this fall.*** 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 their report card and samples of their work. Again, it will be virtual through Zoom.

Teachers will add their conference Zoom links to their Class Pages as we get closer to conference time.

SCHEDULER CLOSING BY 10:00 A.M. EACH DAY OF CONFERENCES, SO YOU MUST SIGN UP BEFORE THAT TIME TO MEET WITH A TEACHER THAT DAY.

The IMS conference schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, October 6: (Onsite and Remote Learning both in session this day)

- 3:20 - 7:30

Wednesday, October 7: Onsite Learning in session / No Remote afternoon instruction this day)

- 2:00 - 3:20

Thursday, October 8: No school for Onsite or Remote Learners this day)

- 1:00 - 8:00

****NO SCHOOL THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, OR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9****

To register for your child's conference, please see the link and directions on the next page.

*Before you get started, you will want to know the names of the teachers you want to meet. *

****Step-by-Step Directions on Next Page****

Parents: Link to PTC Scheduling for Conferences

<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.

Indianola Music Boosters 9th Annual Craft and Vendor Show

Date: Saturday, October 31

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Place: Blake Fieldhouse

Cost: \$3

Click [here](#) to see the flyer and more details.

Change by the Iowa Department of Public Health Regarding Masks

"If a positive COVID student or teacher was wearing a mask over their mouth and nose at all times, those people who were also wearing a mask over their mouth and nose at all times would no longer be considered a close contact and would NOT be recommended to quarantine."

For more details, click [here](#).

Lunch Delivery to Students & Alternative to Outside Treats

Part of IMS's return to learn plan limits what outside food and drink can be delivered to students. Parents may drop off a student lunch when necessary. We will not accept, however, lunches that are being delivered straight from a vendor, such as Jimmy Johns; parents will need to bring the food to the school themselves.

As far as treats—no treats, such as cupcakes or cookies for a birthday, can be brought in and shared at the school this year. You can use the Classroom Catering provided by the district's food service department as an alternative. Click [catering](#) for more details and the order form.

No School on Thursday or Friday!

Wrestling and 7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball

Last week, parents/guardians were emailed the link to the sign-up form for Wrestling, 7th Grade Girls Basketball, and 8th Grade Girls Basketball. Students, if you are interested in participating, please remind your parent to complete the sign-up form and indicate whether you will be attending Study Table each day before practice.

Practice begins Monday, October 19. Parent meetings will take place Wednesday, October 14: 6:30 p.m. for Basketball and 7:00 for Wrestling. More details will be sent to parents as we get closer to the start of the season.

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



SCHOOL NEWS...

Looking for Return to Learn or General District Information?

School District Website

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

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.

Picture Retake Day

Friday, October 30

Onsite Learners: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

**Remote Learners: 2:00-2:30 p.m.
(Use the fieldhouse entrance.)**

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.

Student ID Cards

We are not replacing lost student ID cards at this time. Students will need to give their name and student number when going through the lunch line if they don't have their ID. If they had an activity sticker on their card, they will need to notify the office.

Food Service Announcement

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

Bringing Items into the School for Students

Many forgotten items are being dropped off by parents for their children every day. We are trying to reduce traffic in the building, so we are asking for your help. Students, please make sure you have water bottles, Chromebooks, lunches, masks, etc. with you before leaving home each morning.

We appreciate your cooperation.

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

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.

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 7:45-7:50 as possible. We'll be better able to practice social distancing if students can go directly to their first class instead of arriving earlier and waiting with others in designated spots. There is no Open Gym before school at this time. 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.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, Oct. 6: Conferences after school
Wednesday, Oct. 7: Conferences after school
Thursday, Oct. 8: No School
Conferences in the afternoon/evening
Friday, Oct. 9: No School
November 25-27: No School
Thanksgiving Break

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.

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.

From the Library

Hi from the library! I wanted to let you know about a new way to check out books--especially for our *remote learners*.

1. Go to the MS Library Catalog (<https://tinyurl.com/indmslc>) or (<https://icscatalog.indianola.k12.ia.us/>)
2. Click Log In
3. Sign in with Google
4. Search for a book
5. Click *Hold*
6. If you are a remote learner, you can pick up your book in the office. If you think of it, please email and let me know you are a remote learner. sara.richardson@indianola.k12.ia.us

Thanks!

Mrs. Richardson



**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/>

Students should be wearing a face covering when attending any district activities or games!

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.

Attention Kids who Love to Read!

The Battle of the Books (BOB) 2020-21 competition, hosted by Great Prairie AEA, will be online this spring rather than in-person. All interested IMS students are encouraged to read as many BOB books as possible from [this list](#). Copies of the list can also be found in the Information Center outside the IMS office. The books on the BOB list are the Iowa Teen Awards books.

This year's guest author is Terry Lynn Johnson and the extra book to add to the BOB reading list is her title *Ice Dogs*. All of the Iowa Teen Award books will be available electronically for free on MackinVIA, but student accounts are not yet set up. (Especially if your student is a remote learner, contact me and I can get this MackinVIA account set up right away.) A test will be held this winter to determine which students will be chosen to represent IMS at the regional Battle of the Books competition.

Feel free to visit the [BOB website](#). Contact Mrs. Asell with any questions at stacy.asell@indianola.k12.ia.us. Happy Reading!



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/>



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.

2021 Youth Heifer Program

Midwest Heritage 2021 Youth Heifer Program helps youth get a start in the beef cattle business by awarding bred heifers to recipients who are chosen based on merit, future goals, and the ability to care of the heifers.

Midwest Heritage will grant up to five 7th and 8th graders three bred heifers each. Students from Adair, Lucas, Madison, Wayne, and Warren counties are invited to apply. Applications can be picked up at the Communication Center (wall near the health office). Click [here](#) for details.

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.