



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
September 10, 2018

Reader of the Week



This week's winner:
Carson West



Tim McConnell Photography will be taking school pictures this Wednesday morning starting at 8:10. Picture packets were distributed to students during their Language Arts class last week. If you would like to order, your student should return the packet with payment on Wednesday.



The Zone, a free after school program for middle school students, **will start today, September 10.** It runs from 3:20 to 5:00 Mondays and Thursdays during the school year.

Please contact Becky Lane, Recreation Coordinator at Indianola Parks & Recreation, for details: 961-9420 or blane@indianolaiowa.gov.



SCHOOL NEWS...

Office Information

School Hours: 8:10 – 3:20
8:10 – 2:20 (Wednesdays)

Phone Numbers: 515.961.9530 Main Office
515.961.9535 Fax

Attendance Line: 515.961.9530 x3162

Principal: Mrs. Annette Jauron
Asst. Principal: Mr. Mike O'Meara

6th Grade Counselor: Miss Anna Wernimont
7th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Lacey Cherniss
8th Grade Counselor: Ms. Tina Chaplin

School District Website

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/>

Middle School Page

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

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/>

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria between 7:30 and 8:05 each morning.

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 8:10 will enter through the main entrance and check in to the office. If possible, please call to notify the office before 8:10 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 8:10, or by calling 515.961.9530 by 8:10, 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 office and sign their student out when leaving early.

Absences: Please call the attendance line by 8:10 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 2:30 and 4:00.

Attendance Policy—Please Read

Dear Parent/Guardians:

Welcome to the Indianola Community School District. Regular attendance is essential for students to obtain maximum benefits from the educational opportunities provided at school. Every day at school is important. Written assignments and reading selections are only a portion of the “work” and classroom activities that take place during the school day. Iowa Code Chapter 299 requires compulsory daily school attendance for students 6-16 years of age. Our District staff continues the commitment to seeing our school’s academic programs improve. Maximizing children’s achievement must begin with daily attendance and we feel it is everyone’s responsibility. Daily school attendance must start at home with the importance and value of education being stressed. It is vital for the Indianola Community School District to build on this value, maintaining the essential partnership between school and home to ensure daily attendance. If your child is absent, Iowa Code 299 and District board policy 501.9 allows excused absences for the following reasons:

1. Illness
2. Family emergencies
3. Recognized religious observances and funeral services
4. Medical appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day and school-sponsored or approved activities

The parent/guardian of the student must send a note and/or notify the middle school main office to clear any of these excused absences. Failure to notify the office of the absence will result in a recorded unexcused absence on the student’s permanent record. Be advised that our District Board policy 501.3 requires the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school

Unexcused attendance includes, but is not limited to, the following conditions:

- A student is absent from school or assigned area without the knowledge and consent of school personnel or parent. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse. These absences will include, but not be limited to: tardiness, shopping, hunting, concerts, preparation or participation in parties and other celebrations, and employment.
- A student leaves the school building, grounds, or any assigned area without first obtaining permission from the nurse, office personnel, teacher or administrator.
- A student does not report to a class or other assigned area as required.

We understand that being absent from school is sometimes necessary. However, Indianola Middle School staff believes that students missing school no matter what the reason jeopardizes their ability to effectively use the school program. Effective communication and notification are first steps toward improving student attendance. School staff may request your attendance at a conference when your child is absent from school for reasons that are not excused. Please review the attendance information located on page 7-10 of the Indianola Middle School Handbook with your child and take the necessary measures to correct any potential attendance problems. We appreciate your assistance in making school attendance a priority.

Thank you for your support.

Indianola Middle School

Internet Safety—IOWA and Beyond!

The Internet has drastically changed the way we all interact, socialize and define the world. Youth today have access to in-depth knowledge, tools to express their creativity, and the ability to interact with people all over the world, yet, along with offering a fascinating way to connect with the world, the Internet also offers many risks. Some of those risks are:

- Cyberbullying
- Exposure to inappropriate material
 - Sexting
 - Identity Theft
- Online predators/Online Sexploitation
- Revealing too much personal information

Learning to recognize the warning signs of these risks will allow trusted adults to intervene and lessen potential negative impacts. By acting as a resource, parents, teachers, librarians, coaches, etc., can help make the Internet a safer place. Staying well-informed about current issues, in order to understand what children/youth are experiencing on and off the Internet, will also help to safeguard kids. Youth today “live” through social networking. They use instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, KIK, and many other apps, webcams, or blogging, to define their lives. You can help them use these tools safely by learning how to use them yourself and be aware of what happens here in Iowa. Youth, who get up-to-date, real world information and education, are more likely to exhibit responsible behavior and make safer choices while on-line.

Karen Gale, FBI Victim Specialist, will speak to students and adults on October 4, regarding the dangers of the internet, social media, online bullying, and other issues related to online activity. IMS will have a school assembly in the morning for students. The parent meeting will be at the high school auditorium from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. that evening.

Yearbooks

Middle School yearbooks are now on sale at www.jostensyearbooks.com. Books are \$25 until December 21, 2018, and then the price will go up to \$30. **Sales will end February 28.** You can buy them online or at fall and winter conferences.

Please note--there was NO OPTION to buy a book when you paid your school fees online. If you thought you bought one then, you need to contact Bill Damman x3155 for verification.

Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school.

Student Accident Insurance

A brochure from Student Assurance Services was given to every student the first day of school. This company provides accident insurance to students and athletes. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call the office at 961.9530.

Iowa Youth Survey

Between October 1 and November 9, your child will be invited to join their 6th, 8th, and 11th grade classmates in completing the 2018 Iowa Youth Survey. The middle school will administer the survey the week of October 8. Since 1975, students in Iowa have been filling out this questionnaire to provide information about their values, beliefs, attitudes, and activities. Participation in this survey is anonymous and strictly voluntary. No student is required to fill out the questionnaire. The survey will take one class period, approximately 40 minutes, to complete.

Please follow this link to find information regarding the survey: <https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/digital-backpack/>. If you choose to not have your child participate in the survey, see page 3 of the document for refusal of consent. Refusal forms need to be turned into the office prior to the survey.

If you have questions, feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor.



ACTIVITY INFO...

Distinguished Achievement Award

Students who would like to take their learning experience to the next level and explore things that interest them may want to pursue the Distinguished Achievement Award. Working toward DAA takes commitment and work, so students and parents should click [here](#) and read the material carefully before applying to participate.

Applications can be found on the Communication Center wall near the office or on the web page link above. **These must be turned in to the front office by this Friday, September 14.**

Battle of the Books

All students who wish to participate in the 2019 Battle of the Books: It's time to start reading!! There will be a test in February to see who will make the IMS traveling squad. You have four months to read all 30 books! You can find a printed list of the books on the Communication Center wall near the office, or you can access the list here:

<https://sites.google.com/aea267.k12.ia.us/bob/middle-school-bob/middle-school-book-list?authuser=0>

See Mrs. Bauer in room 702 if you have any questions.

Watch School Events Online!

If you missed your child's concert, game, etc., and wish there was a way to see it, you may be in luck!

The following link will take you to the High School Sports Network-Indianola page. You will find several events listed for all grades in the Indianola district.

<http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/indianola-high-school-indianola-ia>

Boy's Lunch Bunch

Starting Tuesday, October 2, IMS will be offering an opportunity for boys similar to Girl's Circle. The boy's group will meet on Tuesdays during lunch outside the library. The mentor/supervisor is Alex Irwin, a local youth minister. The goal of the group is to focus on helping students to make good decisions, as well as helping kids gain access to academic, emotional, and behavioral supports.

Below is a link that we are requesting that parents/guardians complete. The electronic signature allows the student the opportunity to participate.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkPnhY92YLIyqZ7R0wJbbPfM_4LgKgnRz3Z8URuGuk8fg_lg/viewform

The new Harry Potter Fan Club meets Friday mornings at 7:40 in the library.

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, MathCounts, plus many more! When an activity is set to begin, students will be given sign-up information or other details during morning announcements or here in the newsletter. To see a description of each group, click on the link to the Activities page below:

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

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/>

Homecoming Week Spirit Days September 24 – 28

Students are encouraged to join in on the fun during Spirit Week! Here is what the middle school has planned each day:

Monday: Activity Day—Wear your favorite sport, club, or activity shirt.

Tuesday: Twin Day Tuesday

Wednesday: Country/Country Club Wednesday—Wear either western gear or preppy wear. (Please note—Country and Character Day costumes should not include look-alike weapons.)

Thursday: Character Day Thursday—Dress as your favorite movie, tv, book, or comic book character. (Please note—Country and Character Day costumes should not include look-alike weapons.)

Friday: Purple & Gold Day: Embrace your inner Indian! Dress in your Indianola wear and show your PRIDE! Students can paint a portion of their faces at home but not at school or on the bus. Hats, headbands, head coverings, etc. are acceptable during Spirit Week if appropriate for the theme of the day.

The Indianola Indians football team will be playing Mason City for the Homecoming Game.

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.

Shoes with wheels are prohibited.

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.

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 red "18" 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 (cash or check only) or click [here](#) and select Middle School.

IHS Pride of Indianola Marching Band and Orchestra Uniform Fund Drive

Gather your friends and family members and enjoy the dinner buffet at Indianola's Pizza Ranch on Monday, September 10, from 5-8 p.m. Members of the high school band and orchestra will be there working for your support. Tips and a donation from the Pizza Ranch will help with the purchase of new marching band and orchestra uniforms! They are working to raise \$80,000, and your support at this event will be greatly appreciated. You can also donate online at <https://squareup.com/store/indianola-music-boosters> or mail a check to the Indianola Music Boosters, PO Box 9, Indianola, IA 50125. Please put Uniform Drive in the memo.

If you have questions, please contact Anita Christensen at 515.778.0371.

Indianola Basketball Association 2018 Tryout Dates for 6th thru 8th Grade Boys

This year, Indianola Basketball Association will be hosting tryouts for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys basketball teams. These teams will compete through the IBA League.

Who: Any middle school boy interested in playing competitive basketball

Where: Blake Field House

When: Sunday, September 30 and Sunday, October 7

For all the details, click [here](#) and select Digital Backpack toward the middle of the page. You will find IBA Tryouts in the Athletics section of the backpack.



Autograph Night



Tuesday, September 11 – after the varsity volleyball match against Pella Christian (game starts at 7:15)

Meet the players, take a photo with your favorite player plus receive a team poster signed by each girl!

Don't miss out on this first-time event!



GENERAL INFORMATION...

2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Are you a student who's making a difference through volunteering? If so, apply for the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and you could win \$1,000 and a trip to Washington D.C. in May!

Access the application at www.nassp.org/spirit.

Complete the application and the student/parent agreement; then, on the "certification" page, email or print and deliver instructions to your certifier—Mrs. Jauron, IMS Principal. Deadline is November 6, 2018.

Washington D.C. Trip

Mr. Dubczak will be hosting an informational meeting in room 501 on Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. for 8th grade students and their parents to talk about next summer's D.C. trip. The trip will take place June 7-11, 2019. No commitment is required at this time

This is not a school-sponsored trip.

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.