



INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

403 S 15th Street, Indianola, IA 50125
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<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>



WEEK OF
September 20, 2021...

SPIRIT WEEK!

At the Middle School our SPIRIT DAYS are as follows:

Tuesday- Activities/Jersey day

Wednesday- Back to the Barnyard--Iowa farm-style, if you have to ask, you're not an Iowan.

Thursday- Welcome to the Jungle--Jungle Safari attire, Jumanji clothing

Friday- PURPLE/GOLD DAY: Purple and Gold Day! 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 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.

Conference sign-ups will start tomorrow.

An email will be sent to parents with directions in the morning.

Free Tutoring Available on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Parents, if your middle school child is in need of some extra help, you can sign them up for tutoring. IMS teachers are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-4:40 in the library.

Please email or call your child's teacher in the subject where assistance is needed. Let them know that you would like your child to attend tutoring. Include the day(s) that your child will attend, and the date that they'll be starting. Also, include a phone number where you can be reached.

Our teachers are ready to help!

From the Library

6th Grade Chat & Chew

Join Ms. Brown--the Teen Services Librarian at the Indianola Public Library and Mrs. Richardson--IMS Teacher Librarian to discuss and share all things books! Grab your lunch and join us in the library on the 4th Wednesday of every month. We will start on September 29. All are welcome! If you have questions, please see Mrs. Richardson.

Distinguished Achievement Award

The Distinguished Achievement Award (DAA) was developed to recognize students who strive to take advantage of the opportunities, activities, and resources available to them. Participating students collect evidence of and write reflections about their involvement in these opportunities in four of six possible criteria categories: Citizenship, 3.0 or Higher GPA, Arts, STEM, Career Exploration, and Service Learning. Interested students should read and complete the [Intent to Participate Form](#). Copies of this form are available at the Communications Center by the main office.

In May, students who have completed the program will be recognized by staff and family members during a reception held in their honor.

If you couldn't attend the informational meetings last week, see Mrs. Ellis or Mrs. Asell (room 412). To learn a bit more about this program to help you decide whether you want to participate, view [this presentation](#).

6th Grade Art Club

6th graders who REALLY like art should consider being in Art Club! 6th grade Art Club is offered Semester 1 only. Click on this [Art Club Information](#) doc to find out more.

[Click HERE to sign up for Art Club!](#) (a parent should be present while filling out this form). There is no deadline for signing up.

Let Mrs. Smith know if you have any questions!

lisa.smith@indianola.k12.ia.us

Does Your Child Know Important Phone Numbers and Their Home Address?

Believe it or not, many middle school students have no idea what their parents' phone numbers are or what their home address is. Please confirm that your child knows this important information.

From the ICSD Food Service Department:

As schools across the country work diligently to finish last minute preparations for the new school year, we are being faced with unprecedented supply chain challenges. These issues are forcing us to alter our posted menus, at times with little to no notice. While our intention is to serve the posted menu each day at every building throughout the district, supply concerns will not make this possible throughout the year. We will attempt to substitute the original menu item with an item that is similar in nature, and still meets State and Federal requirements.

We appreciate your patience and understanding!

Please continue to check our online menus often at: <https://indianola.nutrislice.com/menu/>

And, Reminder:

Meals are free to all students again this year!

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

Leaving Attendance Messages

We ask that parents call our attendance line, 515.961.9530 x3162, to report absences. Early dismissals can also be reported on that line, as long as we have a minimum 2-hour notice before the dismissal.

When you leave a message on that line, you do not need to call the main line or send an email to check if it has been received. The attendance line is checked frequently throughout the day, and attendance is updated in PowerSchool accordingly. Thanks for your cooperation.

Yearbooks on Sale Now!

Yearbooks are now on sale at [Jostens Yearbooks](#).

Buying online thru Jostens is the only option for buying a book!!

Books will be \$25 thru December 31st. On January 1st thru February 28th, they will be \$30.
Books will arrive in May.

BE AWARE: YEARBOOK SALES WERE NOT OFFERED WITH REGISTRATION FEES. Ordering through the Jostens website or paying in person during conferences are the only ways to order.



SCHOOL NEWS...

Please refer to the [21-22 Student Handbook](#) for all procedures, policies, and guidelines.

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, September 29: School pictures

Tuesday-Thursday, October 5 thru 7: School Conferences (details will be coming soon)

Friday, October 8: No School

Monday, October 11: No School

Wednesday, October 27: End of 1st quarter

Thursday-Friday, November 25 & 26: No School, Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, December 21: 1 Hour Early Dismissal (2:20 for IMS)

Wednesday, December 22 thru Tuesday, January 4: No School, Winter Break

Items Brought in from Home

Students, the secretaries email you when an item is brought into the office from home (lunchbox, shoes, water bottles, etc.). It is your responsibility to check your email throughout the day. Items not picked up after two days will be put in to the lost & found closet. If a Chromebook is brought in, we will either have it delivered to your classroom or email your teacher.

Please try your hardest to remember to bring everything for the day. The office is getting quite a few items delivered that have to be distributed.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are to be powered off and out of sight from 7:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Students have a few options on where to store their phones during the day: lockers, backpacks, or pocket charts in the classrooms.

If a student is not feeling well, they should not use their cell phone to call a parent. They need to check in with the health office first, and then call from there.

Students are not allowed to take pictures or videos of other students.

Students and parents, please take time to read the Cell Phone policy on page 21 of the [Student Handbook](#).

Requesting a Bus Pass: New Procedure!

Starting this school year, BUS PASSES will now be approved by the Transportation department—not the school. The request will need to be submitted **no fewer than 3 business days before the day of the trip** to allow proper planning. Passes normally will be approved as long as there is room on the bus and the request is submitted on time. To contact the

Transportation department, please call
515.961.9592 or email

ryan.whitesitt@indianola.k12.ia.us.

District Website:

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

Information Technology Department:

<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/departments/information-technology/>

Middle School Website Page

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

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. Students may request homework directly from their teachers via email when they are absent two or more days. They can also check Powerschool class pages.

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.

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. Tiffany Cochran	
7th Grade Counselor:	Mrs. Lacey Cherniss	
8th Grade Counselor:	Ms. Tina Chaplin	
Office Hours:	7:00am – 4:00 (3:30 on Fridays)	

School Hours

7:50: Students report to first class

8:00: School begins

3:20: School ends (2:20 on Wednesdays)

Parents, we are encouraging you to drop your child off as close to 7:50 as possible. Students should not arrive at school before 7:30, unless they are in a supervised activity.

There are designated waiting areas for students who arrive before 7:50: 8th grade—fieldhouse, 7th grade—hallway across from Street Gym, 6th grade—tables in front of library.

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



ACTIVITY INFO...

Thursday Night Live Volleyball Practices

*Open to girls in grades 3 - 8

*North gym at high school

*September 23, 30, and October 7

*6:15 - 7:30

*No pre-registration required. Just come and join the fun!

Contact Kent Halstead if you have questions - kent.halstead@indianola.k12.ia.us

Join the New *Wings of Fire* Book Club!

If you are a 6th grader and a fan of this children's fantasy book series about young dragons, or you want to learn more, you are invited to this new club. It will be held every Tuesday during lunch in the Cactus Room (#604).

See Mrs. Lumsden if you have questions.

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/>



All IMS students are invited to join the fun after school on Mondays and Thursdays during the school year.

For details, click [here](#).

Activity Pass

If you purchased an activity pass for your child, there should be a “21” sticker attached to his/her student ID. If you purchased one but there is not a sticker, remind your child to stop in to the main office to get it. It is their responsibility to make sure their ID has the sticker.

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...

7th & 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

This year's Washington DC trip is open to both 7th AND 8th graders! Any 7th grader interested in going should go this year because the trip will not be offered in 2023.

See the DC trip website at [imsdc.weebly.com](https://www.imsdc.weebly.com), or email Mr. Dubczak with any questions (David.dubczak@indianola.k12.ia.us).

(This is not a school sponsored activity.)

7th & 8th Grade Florida Trip

This year's Florida trip is open to both 7th AND 8th graders! This trip will have a different itinerary than last year's trip. If you missed the informational meeting, see Mrs. Fitzpatrick in room 101, or email her at chris.fitzpatrick@indianola.k12.ia.us.

<https://worldstrides.com/custom/indianola-middle-school-florida-science-in-motion-194299/>

(This is not a school sponsored activity.)