



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/>

News for the Week of August 19, 2024

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

IMS News will be sent to student and parent email addresses every Monday throughout the school year. It will provide you with general information and upcoming event details you may need to know. This week's newsletter will focus on answers to questions you may have as the year gets started. We know that there are many things to remember, so please contact us whenever you have questions or concerns. We want to do our part in making this a great year for you and your student.

We will see you Friday for the first day of school!

6TH Grade Orientation Tuesday, August 20th – Sapphire Team

Student Session: 4:00-5:00

Parent Session (parents join their students): 5:00-5:30

Drop-Off: Main Entrance starting at 3:45

For more details, look for email labeled 6th Grade Orientation

6TH Grade Orientation Tuesday, August 20th – Emerald Team

Student Session: 5:30-6:30

Parent Session (parents join their students): 6:30-7:00

Drop-Off: Blake Fieldhouse starting at 5:15

For more details, look for email labeled 6th Grade Orientation

7th & 8th Grade Open House

7th and 8th grade students and parents are invited to Open House this Wednesday, August 21, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Students who are new to IMS are welcome to come at 5:00 to tour the building and meet their counselor.

*Be sure to bring your phone, Chromebook, or a printout so that you have access to your schedule and locker info that night.

Paper copies will not be available.

Students: How to Access PowerSchool

- Log into your Chromebook or other device (not phone app)
- Open Google Chrome
- Click on ICSD Bookmarks
- Click on ClassLink
- Click *Sign in with Google*
- Click on PowerSchool

How to Access Your Schedule & Locker Info

- On the left-hand side of your screen, click on “My Schedule”
- Use Week View – not Matrix View
- On left hand menu, you should also be able to see your Locker Information

SCHEDULES WILL BE RELEASED LATER TODAY IN POWERSCHOOL.

Please keep in mind that changes could still appear between today and Friday.

Schedule Issues/Changes?

Complete this [form](#).

[Link to View the IMS Supply List](#)

[Mrs. Ellis' Welcome Back to School Letter](#)

Parent Schoology Access *Please Read*

This year, parents are able to access Schoology to see student work as well as student mastery scores. Click the link below to access the tutorial to create your Schoology account.

[Schoology Parent Account Tutorial](#)

If you'd like support to create your account, or if you run into issues, we are offering help sessions during orientation times this year!

Tuesday, August 20 - 6th Orientation

4-7 PM in MS Library

Wednesday, August 21 - 7th/8th Orientation

6-7 PM in MS Library

No More A/B/C/D/F's – IMS Moving to Standards-Based Reporting

Standards-Based Reporting is a method of assessment that focuses on students' mastery of specific skills and standards. The presentation and additional info below explain how this system works, how it benefits your child, and what you can expect in terms of feedback and reporting.

Click [here](#) to view the Standards-Based Reporting Presentation.

[Additional Info](#)

***New* IMS Doors will not Unlock until 7:30 Each Morning**

Parents, please note, **students should not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. IMS doors will not unlock until that time.** So, for the safety of our students, please do not drop them off before 7:30 because they will not be able to get into the building.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up for 6th grade: Blake Fieldhouse entrance

Drop-Off/Pick-Up for 7th & 8th grades: Main Office entrance

Students eating breakfast at school may go the cafeteria between 7:30-7:50.

For more details, please refer to the email from Mrs. Ellis that was sent earlier this morning.

IMS 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. **Doors do not open until 7:30.**

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

Late Arrivals, Early Dismissals, Absences

Attendance Line Phone Number: 515.961.9530, press 1
Attendance Line Email: imsattendance@indianola.k12.ia.us

(Please call or email 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 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 them 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 or emailing the office. 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 to meet their child.

Absences: Please notify the office by 8:00 a.m. 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.

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 (x3116)

7th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Lacey Cherniss (x3106)

8th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Haley Finn (x3151)

Office Hours: 7:00am – 4:00 (3:30 on Fridays)

**TIM
McCONNELL
PHOTOGRAPHY
WILL BE
TAKING
STUDENTS'
FALL PICTURES
ON
SEPTEMBER 5.**

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Info

Changes this Year

Drop-Off: 6th graders should be dropped off at the fieldhouse entrance. Both 7th & 8th graders should be dropped off at the main entrance. Students not involved in morning sports or activities should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. **The doors will not unlock until 7:30.**

Pick-Up: The 6th grade pick-up zone after school will be the fieldhouse parking lot. The 7th and 8th grade pick-up zone will be the main entrance parking lot in front of the school. If you have multiple students, you may select the pick-up zone you would like to use.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. High school students will be parking in the west lot (in front of the stadium and the administration building). For safety reasons, we are advising that students not be picked up in that parking lot this year.
2. To avoid and help reduce the congestion that will occur during after school pick-up, especially this year with high school students added, our recommendation is to wait until 3:30 to pick up your child. By that time, most cars and the buses will be gone.
3. An easy solution for traffic difficulties is to have your kids ride the bus. Contact Transportation, 515.961.9500 x1620.

Lunches

6th Grade: 10:55-11:25; 11:10-11:40 (Wed)

7th Grade: 11:42-12:12; 11:50-12:20 (Wed)

8th Grade: 12:29-12:59; 12:30-1:00 (Wed)

*Please label lunch boxes and bags with child's name.

*No food deliveries from outside vendors will be accepted; parents must deliver the food themselves, and it must be labeled with student'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.

Requesting a Bus Pass

If your child needs to ride the bus home with a friend, the Transportation department must receive a parent request **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

wendy.gehringer@indianola.k12.ia.us.

Food Service

For information regarding menus, free/reduced lunches/online payments/account information, please click:

[Food Service](#)

Indianola Schools District Website

You can find information on just about everything school related on the district website, including each school's home page, school year calendars, athletic information, food service details, etc.

Click on the title, and take some time to familiarize yourself with this site.

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

Quick Links:

[District Website](#)
[Information Technology Link](#)
[IMS Link](#)
[Food Service Link](#)
[Transportation Link](#)
[Student Handbook](#)

Dates to Remember:

August 23 - 1st Day of School
September 2 - No school, Labor Day
September 5 – School Pictures
October 14,15 – No School (professional development for teachers)
October 29-31 – Conferences
November 1 – No School

School Activities...

We Want our Students to be Involved!

There are many ways for students to get involved at school. Just a few of the groups and clubs offered are Mock Trial, DAA, Yearbook Staff, Art Club, MathCounts, and many more!

Here is a link to the [IMS Activities Page](#).

Mock Trial

The parent meeting for Mock Trial will be Monday, August 26th at 5:30 PM in Room 303 (enter at the fieldhouse doors). Practices will be Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 beginning August 27th in Room 303. Competition will be November 21st in Marshalltown. Please contact Cami Eslick, ceslick410@gmail.com, if there are any questions.

Here is the link for signups:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgXrEj0Bnh69KNdrO0q6jPjvaX7_ITQfeKVuODEHCEV4yHxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Indianola Athletic Booster Apparel

Here is the link to the IABC apparel shop: <https://indianolaathleticboosters.square.site/>. You can order until the August 28th at noon.

Orders will be ready for the first home football game on September 6th.

7th and 8th Grade Fall Sports & Study Tables

Parents were emailed sign-up information this summer for fall sports. If you have questions, contact the MS Activities Director, Ben Lange – ben.lange@indianola.k12.ia.us.

Cross Country:

Practice will start after school on Monday, August 26th. The parent meeting will take place that evening at 5:00 in the MS Media Center (Library). The head coach is Jeff Janssen – jeff.janssen@indianola.k12.ia.us.

Football:

Practice will start after school on Friday, August 23rd. The parent meeting will take place that evening at 5:30 in the Chris Street Gym. The 8th grade head coach is Ben Metzger – metzgerbn@gmail.com. The 7th grade head coach is Tyler Archer – tyler.archer@indianola.k12.ia.us.

Girls Volleyball:

Practice will start after school on Monday, August 26th. The parent meeting will take place that evening at 5:15 in the Blake Fieldhouse. The 8th grade head coach is Courtney Bethards – Courtney.bethards@indianola.k12.ia.us. The 7th grade head coach is Jana McGraw – jana.mcgraw@indianola.k12.ia.us.

If your child will participate in Study Table after school on Wednesdays before practice time, please complete the [Fall Sports Study Table Sign-Up](#). If you already signed up, please do not complete this form again.

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.

[Events Calendar](#)

Visual Arts Extracurricular Opportunities

There are opportunities for 6th – 8th graders throughout the year to put their creative skills to use and get involved. View the information below, and email Mrs. Smith with any questions you may have – Lisa.smith@indianola.k12.ia.us.

[Overview of all Visual Arts Opportunities open to IMS Students \(Link\)](#)

[Art Club Information Link](#)

- [6th Grade Art Club Sign Up](#)
- [7th Grade Art Club Sign Up](#)

[Emerging Excellence Information Link](#)

- [Emerging Excellence Sign Up](#)



THE ZONE

All IMS students are invited to attend The Zone starting September 19th. The fun, provided by Indianola Parks and Rec, takes place most Mondays and Thursdays after school starting in the cafeteria.

Games, contests, healthy snacks, and much more await you this school year! See the flyer in the [Digital Backpack](#) for sign-up information.

Activity Passes for 2024-2025

The Indianola Community School District would like to bring to your attention an amazing cost saving opportunity for you and your student. ICSD offers Activity Passes that allow your student entry into all High School and Middle School athletic home events, as well as some music events (the offer does not apply to special events and district/state playoffs).

The cost per pass is \$50. (The cost to attend games varies from \$3-\$6 based on the sport and level of competition.) Middle School students will have a sticker placed on their student ID to indicate they have purchased an Activity Pass. Student ID cards are handed out the first day of school.

There are two ways to purchase:

1. Online through Revtrak at this link: <https://indianola.revtrak.net/> OR
2. In person at the Middle School office payable by cash (exact amount if possible, please) or check (made payable to Indianola Middle School).

Did You Already Buy an Activity Pass?

Students will receive an ID card on the first day of school. If you purchased an activity pass for your child before August 19th, there will be an orange "24" 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.

It is the student's responsibility to come to the office and get their sticker.

This and That...

Parent Facebook Groups

Want to know all of the school and community activities for your child's class? Join their Indianola Parent FB group! These pages are designed to be an inclusive catchall for activities, clubs, events, success stories, and opportunities to support IMS.

Class of 2029 (8th grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/o9XPd9oGBR3SPdQi/>

Class of 2030 (7th grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/bCUYkjKtrKmbeTm5/>

Class of 2031 (6th grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/UVdwBvM9YCEoHk3L/>

Associates Needed at IMS

Do you want to earn extra cash? Do you want to be off in the summers? Do you want to make a difference in children's lives? Do you want to work with a fun, supportive team? If so, become a Special Education Associate at Indianola Middle School! We have openings for the upcoming 23-24 school year, and we'd love to have you join us.

Click [Apply](#) for more information.