



# INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

403 S 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianola, IA 50125  
PHONE 515.961.9530 FAX 515.961.9535  
<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>

**Week Of August 21, 2023**

**Students, we will see you Wednesday for the first day of school! It will be an Odd Day on your schedule.**

## Welcome to the 2023-2024 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.

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House

- Tuesday, August 22, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Use main entrance or fieldhouse doors.
- Paper schedules will not be available. Bring your Chromebook, or take a picture with your phone to view your schedule.

### For Students New to Indianola:

You are invited to a tour and question/answer session at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Technology pick-up for new students will take place in the library starting at 6:00 p.m.

## Need a Schedule Change?

All schedule change requests need to be entered using the [Change Request Form](#). We are asking that you don't call or email the counselors for changes. Use the form so that requests can be handled more efficiently and fairly for everyone.

Please be patient; requests will be addressed as soon as possible.

Click [Supply List](#) to see what items your student will need this year.

**THANK YOU to all the parents who brought treats in for the staff to start the year. Your generosity is appreciated!**

## 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 open at 7:00.

There are designated waiting areas for students who arrive before 7:50: 8<sup>th</sup> grade—fieldhouse (east wall), 7<sup>th</sup> grade—fieldhouse (by bleachers), 6<sup>th</sup> grade—Street gym.

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

## Where to Drop Off and Pick Up Your Students

Students are to be dropped off at the main entrance or fieldhouse entrance in the mornings. Students not involved in morning sports or activities should not arrive before 7:30 a.m.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade pick-up zone after school is the fieldhouse parking lot. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade pick-up zone is the west parking lot in front of the stadium. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade pick-up zone is the main entrance parking lot. If you have multiple students, you may select the pick-up zone you would like to use.

## Late Arrivals, Early Dismissals, Absences

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

## Lunches

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10:55-11:25; 11:10-11:40 (Wed)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 11:42-12:12; 11:50-12:20 (Wed)

8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor:** Mrs. Lacey Cherniss (x3106)

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor:** Mrs. Haley Finn (x3151)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor:** Mrs. Tiffany Cochran (x3116)

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

## Food Service

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

[Food Service](#)

## Requesting a Bus Pass

If your child needs to ride the bus home with a friend, the Transportation department must receive a parent request ***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 [wendy.gehringer@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:wendy.gehringer@indianola.k12.ia.us).

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

## PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the district's student information system. [Here](#) is a link to all things PowerSchool.

[District Calendar Link](#) for 23-24

### Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, August 23: First day of school  
Monday, September 4: No School, Labor Day  
Thursday, September 14: Fall pictures  
October 10-12: Conferences  
Friday, October 13: No School  
Monday, October 16: No School  
Tuesday, October 17: No School  
Tuesday, November 21: One Hour Early Dismissal (2:20 for IMS)  
November 22-24: No School, Thanksgiving Break  
December 21: One Hour Early Dismissal (2:20 for IMS)  
December 22 – January 2: No School, Winter Break

[District Website Link](#)

[Information Technology Link](#)

[IMS Link](#)

[Food Service Link](#)

[Transportation Link](#)

**TIM McCONNELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE  
TAKING STUDENTS' FALL  
PICTURES  
ON SEPTEMBER 14.**

### Parents: Here are Opportunities to Help at IMS

For all parents: Please join the IMS VIP/Parent Partner's group in working at the concession stand for the September 8th high school football game at Indianola Stadium. This is also Middle School Recognition Night. <https://signup.com/go/HPriDsJ>

For 6th grade parents: During the first three days, we have volunteer opportunities for parents to come in before school and help 6th grade students with their lockers and getting to their first classes. Additionally, during lunch we have the opportunity for parents to come in and help students in the cafeteria. **Please bring your driver's license so you can get checked into the Raptor security system.** Please follow the below link to view details and sign up: <https://signup.com/go/yLJgQGd>

### 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.

**Indianola Class of 2028 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386800961472755/>

**Indianola Class of 2029 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade):** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509461217003504/>

**Indianola Class of 2030 (6<sup>th</sup> Grade):** <https://m.facebook.com/groups/238233144858449>

## You Know You Really Want Some New Spirit Wear!

Embark Inc. is joining with IMS to help spread spirit throughout the district. You'll find t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, joggers, caps, and bags.

Orders will be ready for homecoming pending product availability.  
Due to the custom nature of our orders, all sales are final.

\*\*No changes/edits can be made to orders once they are placed. Requesting a change/edit will result in a cancellation of the original order and you will have to resubmit the entire order with the corrected information.

**Indianola Middle School would like to thank you for your support in spreading school spirit! The fundraiser will help support student and staff recognition, rewards, and activities throughout the school year. Thank you in advance.**

<https://indianola-middle-school-105185.square.site/>

DISCLAIMER: Prices are only valid when ordered as a team or group. Prices are subject to change from print cycle to print cycle. When items are not in stock and we can not control shipment from our distributors, we reserve the right to substitute an equal quality product for a discontinued item from our distributor without notice to the purchaser. Colors and print size depicted in product images are estimated and are for mock up purposes only. Final product imprint size, color of garment, and inks may differ from pictures.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT A PRODUCT, PLEASE EMAIL US AT [embarkink@gmail.com](mailto:embarkink@gmail.com).

## Activity News

### 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 Webpage](#).

### Mock Trial

Mock Trial is equal parts legal and acting. Join in the fun of preparing to "perform" a case in front of judges. Practices are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in room 303 beginning September 5 until we are done with competition.

The parent meeting will be held Monday, August 28, at 5:30 PM in room 303.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Q4FcW7pmdQvmnWPw7>

## Fall Sports for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Practices for fall sports (Football, Cross Country, and Volleyball) will begin on the first day of school, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students must turn in these three forms before they can practice or participate: physical, insurance waiver, and concussion form. The [forms](#) can be found on the MS Athletics page.

If you missed the sign-up that was emailed to parents during the summer, students can still join. Please email the student's name, grade, and sport they would like to join to [ben.lange@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:ben.lange@indianola.k12.ia.us).

## Study Tables for Athletes During Wednesday Early-Outs

Study Tables will be available again this fall. These sessions will be on Wednesday early-outs immediately after school, which will include the first day of school. Athletes signed up for study tables should go directly to their designated location following school. These locations will be shared during morning announcements. The sign-up sheet for fall study tables is linked below. Parents, not students, should sign their student up to participate.

[Fall Sports Study Table Sign Ups](#)



The Zone is returning! The first day will be Monday, September 11. All IMS students are invited to join the fun after school on Mondays and Thursdays during the school year from 3:20 to 5:00. Click [here](#) for more information.

## 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.

[Event Calendar](#)

## Activity Passes for 2023-2024

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 18th, there will be a purple "23" 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.

## Other News

### Girls Cross Country Apparel

The Girls XC apparel order is now open. Here is the link: <https://indygirlsc23.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

The deadline to order is TODAY, August 21, at midnight.

Don't forget to wear your gear to support us at Pickard Park on September 21st for our home meet! :)

Thanks for supporting Indianola XC!! Coach Singleton

### Indianola Music Boosters

Stay up to date on all the district's music events by joining the Indianola Music Boosters Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianolaMusicBoosters?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

### Boys and Girls Rugby Store

If you want to show your support for Indianola Rugby, check out the apparel store.

<https://www.worldrugbyshop.com/pages/Indianola-rugby-club>

For questions, email [greg.rodrique@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:greg.rodrique@indianola.k12.ia.us).

### INDIANOLA TRAP TEAM REGISTRATION MEETING

Returning IYTT members and parent registration meetings will be held at the Warren County Ikes on August 23rd and August 30th from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. These registration sessions are for RETURNING athletes for the Fall 2023 AND the Spring 2024 seasons. You are only required to attend one session.

Registration information and volunteer opportunities/needs of the team will be presented. We are a large team, and we need volunteers like you in areas such as Coaching, Communications, Concessions, Fundraising, Finance & Awards.

All returning athletes and at least one Parent/Guardian must attend one of these meetings. Please RSVP in the calendar on TeamApp.

Any questions may be directed to your grade representative on TeamApp.

For those interested in joining the Indianola Trap Team, be watching for informational meetings to come later this Fall.

*This is not a school sponsored activity.*

## TikTok Guide for Parents

[TikTok Guide for Parents](#)



### Iowa Substitute Teaching Authorization Self-Paced Course

**Complete the course in 15 hours**

- \$150 course cost
- Work on the authorization course **whenever it works for you**
- **Flexible work schedule** - work when you want to
- IPERS Retirement Benefits Available

[iowasubstitute.com](http://iowasubstitute.com)



## 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.