



# 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/>



## NEW THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2022...

### Volleyball Advantage Indianola Training for All Indianola Girls in Grades 3rd thru 12th!

What: Indianola Volleyball Coaching Staff to host practices on the dates below for girls in grades 3rd thru 8th

Location: North gym of high school

#### Grades 3-6:

Thursday, Sept 1st 6:00 to 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Sept 8th 6:00 to 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Sept. 22nd 6:00 to 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 6th 6:00 to 7:00 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 27th 6:00 to 7:00 pm

#### Grades 7-8:

Thursday, Sept 1st 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
Thursday, Sept 8th 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
Thursday, Sept. 22nd 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 6th 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 27th 7:00 to 8:15 pm

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council

6<sup>th</sup> graders, as a reminder, you were emailed a ballot to vote for council members for this year. Please check your email if you haven't voted.

You have until the end of the school day **Today** to vote.

## Dress Code (from the IMS handbook)

Student Appearance: (Ref: School Board Policy 502.1)

The board believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting. The board expects students to be clean and well-groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place, and occasion.

- Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors and clothing displaying obscene material, profanity, or reference to prohibited conduct are disallowed.
- While the primary responsibility for appearance lies with the students and their parents, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated.

When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications. It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principals, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. Indianola Middle School respects students' rights to express themselves in the way they dress. All students who attend Indianola Community School District are also expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Student attire should facilitate participation in learning as well as the health and safety of students and the adults that supervise them. This policy is intended to provide guidance for students, staff, and parents. Minimum Requirements:

1. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs (see images below). Shorts with less than a 4 inch inseam are discouraged (see images below). Tops must have shoulder straps.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the principal).
3. See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code.
4. Headgear including hats, hoodies, and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reasons by school administration.
5. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

## **Additional Requirements:**

1. Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
2. Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
3. Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification. Symbols that are divisive and have the potential to disrupt the school environment, such as the Confederate flag, will also not be permitted unless part of an approved educational activity.
4. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
5. Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.
6. Apparel, jewelry, accessories, tattoos, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior is prohibited.
7. Costumes, masks, or painted faces are not allowed unless previously approved by administration for special events.
8. Students are not allowed to draw, or write on themselves or other students. This is a distraction to the learning environment.
9. Small backpacks will be allowed during the school day. They must be small enough to go on the back of the chairs and not be wider than the chair. No backpacks with wheels will be allowed.
10. All students will be expected to change into appropriate clothes for physical education classes.

The administration at the middle school reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not be allowed to attend class. Parents will be called if appropriate clothing is not available or the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing. Additional consequences may be assigned. Appropriate school attire does not draw attention to the student, does not disrupt the concentration of other students, nor disrupts the educational environment.

## Homecoming Spirit Week

**September 26 - September 30**

**Details will be shared in the weeks to come.**

## 10 Attendance Facts

The goal of the website Attendance Works is to advance student success by reducing chronic absences. Below, are 10 attendance facts. You can click on [this link](#) to read more about each fact.

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Over 8 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
3. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
4. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
5. By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
6. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
7. Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
8. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
9. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
10. Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused and unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.

## Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books (BOB) 2022-23 competition will be online this spring. All interested IMS students are encouraged to read as many BOB books as possible from [this list](#). The books on this list are the Iowa Teen Awards books. This year's competition guest author has yet to be announced, but an extra book will be added to the BOB reading list once this is determined. Further announcements will be made when the guest author's book title is released.

A test will be held this winter to determine which six students will be chosen to represent IMS at the regional Battle of the Books online competition. Feel free to visit the [BOB website](#). Contact Mrs. Asell with any questions at [stacy.asell@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:stacy.asell@indianola.k12.ia.us).

**Happy Reading!**



## POSTED PREVIOUSLY...

### 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, 7<sup>th</sup> grade—Street Gym, 6<sup>th</sup> grade—fieldhouse (revised).

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

Please refer to the [22-23 IMS Handbook](#) for all procedures, policies, and guidelines.

### 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:** Ms. Tina Chaplin (x3151)  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor:** Mrs. Tiffany Cochran (x3116)  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor:** Mrs. Lacey Cherniss (x3106)

**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 on the link below:

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

### 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.

## Lunches

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 11:42-12:12; 11:50-12:20 Wed

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10:55-11:25; 11:10-11:40 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.

### 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/>

## 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).

## 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 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 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 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.

## TIM McCONNELL PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE TAKING STUDENTS' FALL PICTURES ON SEPTEMBER 15.

### 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.

**Please Note: There is an important notice posted on the site regarding a change to the parent portal. You will see it highlighted in gold.**

### Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 5: No School, Labor Day

Thursday, September 15: Fall pictures

October 11-13: Conferences

Friday, October 14: No School

Monday, October 17: No School

Tuesday, November 22: One Hour Early Dismissal (2:20 for IMS)

November 23-25: No School, Thanksgiving Break

December 22: One Hour Early Dismissal (2:20 for IMS)

December 23 – January 3: No School, Winter Break

### 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.

2027 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308102234349293/>

2028 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386800961472755/>

2029 (6<sup>th</sup> Grade): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509461217003504/>

## 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 accepted until midnight on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be ready within 2-3 weeks of the end date pending product availability. Due to the custom nature of our orders, all sales are final.

You can choose to have the items shipped directly to your home for an additional cost, or you can pick them up at Embark Inc. (103 W Salem). Anything that does not get picked up will be brought to IMS at an undetermined date.

**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.**

**\*\*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.**

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 cannot 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).

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

### 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/>

### 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 Activities section of the IMS webpage:

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

## 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).



The Zone is returning! The first day will be Monday, September 19. 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.

## Mock Trial

It's so much more than a play! Mock Trial students are expected to thoroughly learn a court case, immersing themselves in a role on each of the plaintiff's and defendant's sides. Local attorneys and/or judges volunteer their time to coach each team of 8-10 students.

Parent meeting was held August 25, 2022 at 5:30 PM in room 303. **The first practice will be August 30, 2022, at 5:30 PM in Room 303.** Here is the schedule link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VOVjle2ZLTelyXlIdijAEpTG42-3A6mytXAlgiwMgc/edit?usp=sharing>

Here is the link to sign up:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-4-GDNpcAFYL\\_TOaPtguuk45I0z0aU\\_n0KvRfg-UoP6bdkg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-4-GDNpcAFYL_TOaPtguuk45I0z0aU_n0KvRfg-UoP6bdkg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Did You Buy an Activity Pass for Your Student?

Students will receive an ID card on the first day of school. If you purchased an activity pass for your child before August 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a peach "22" 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 their responsibility to come to the office and get their sticker.

## If You Want to Buy an Activity Pass...

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. **Your student will then need to come to the office to get the sticker for their ID.**



### **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 22-23 school year, and we'd love to have you join us.

Click [Apply](#) for more information.

### **Thinking of Substitute Teaching?**

Schools everywhere are in need of substitute teachers. Here is a way to get authorized through AEA Learning Online. Indianola's current sub pay is \$140 per day. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested.

<https://training.aealearningonline.org/course/2204419999/catalog>

### **If You'd Like an Indianola Logo at Your House...**

Indianola Whittier Elementary PTO is excited to announce Whittier's first fundraising opportunity of the year. Anyone in Indianola is able to purchase a slot to have the Indianola Logo painted on your driveway or back patio. Please follow the link below to sign up below (paper copies will be available at the Whittier office starting August 8th.) Sign up quick as spots will fill quickly! You won't want to miss out of supporting the students of Whittier! Payment can be sent via Venmo @WhittierPTO or you can drop off cash or check (Whittier PTO) to Whittier starting on August 8th.

<https://forms.gle/KE7PYRGMjLSyc4uF8>