



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
December 20, 2021...



Winter Break!



Dismissal: IMS will dismiss at 2:20 tomorrow, December 21st.

Winter Break: 12-22 thru 1-4, classes resume on 1-5

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent tomorrow, or that they need to be dismissed before 2:20, please call or email the attendance line between now and 8:00 a.m. Students may be scattered throughout the building for various activities, so telling us ahead of time will make it much easier to get notes and passes to where they need to go.

Please notify us using only ONE of these methods:

*Attendance Line: 515.961.9530 x3162

*Email, imsattendance@indianola.k12.ia.us

Thank you.

Winter Spirit Days This Week

Monday, 12-20: Winter-themed pajamas

Tuesday, 12-21: Christmas sweaters/Santa hats

FAST Assessments

Screening is an assessment process that helps Indianola Middle School teachers identify students who are at risk for not meeting their grade-level's learning benchmarks. The results of the upcoming FAST Winter reading and math screeners will help our building make decisions regarding reading and math interventions, including those provided during WIN, Math Support and Project Read.

It is important that our middle school students give their best effort on the upcoming FASTBridge reading and math assessments. The FAST reading fluency assessments will begin the week of **January 17**, with the FASTtrack Reading assessment scheduled for **January 20**. The FASTtrack Math assessment is scheduled for **January 27, 2022**.

Here is a summary of these assessments:

AUTOreading is an assessment of a student's automaticity with specific reading skills, including recognizing letter names and sounds, decoding words, identifying the correct spelling of words, word synonyms, and detecting differences in word meanings. AUTOreading is a computer-based test.

aReading is an assessment that screens a student's broad reading abilities. The assessment is based on research and each question is aligned with the National Common Core State Standards (2010). aReading is a computer-adaptive test and students respond to between 30 and 60 questions.

FASTtrack Math combines automaticity of basic math facts and the **aMath** assessment. aMath is an assessment that screens a student's broad math abilities. Each question in the assessment is aligned with the National Common Core State Standards (2010). aMath is a computer-adaptive test and students respond to between 30 and 60 questions.

Please discuss the importance of your child(ren) giving their best efforts on these upcoming screenings. Thank you!

Dates to Remember:

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

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

Friday, January 14: No School

Monday, January 17: No School (No Zone)

Tuesday, February 15 thru Thursday, February 17: Conferences (School IS in session)

Friday, February 18: No School

Monday, March 14 thru Friday, March 18: Spring Break

Monday, April 11: No School

Friday, May 27: Last Day of School (1:50 Dismissal for IMS)

Battle of the Books

If you are participating in Battle of the Books, this is just a reminder to keep reading books from [this list](#). Testing to determine our team of six students will occur in early February, and the online competition will be held on April 8. This year's guest author will be Sharon Draper. Her book *Blended* is the extra book that all BOB participants should read for the competition. Winter break will be a great time to read some of these books!

Gift Idea for Students

If your student is in need of headphones to use at school, here are links to a few reasonably-priced suggestions:

[WalMart](#)

[Amazon-Maxell](#)

[Amazon-Panasonic](#)

Yearbooks on Sale Now

Price Goes UP in a Couple Weeks!

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...

Have You Moved Recently? Will You be Moving?

Please click [here](#), and go to the Change of Address section. A form must be completed, and you will need to provide proof of residence documentation. All info can be returned to Denise Moss at the district office, emailed to enrollment@indianola.k12.ia.us, or faxed to 515.961.9505.

Please allow at least three business days for transportation changes.

Call Denise at 515.961.9500 x1506 if you have questions.

Parents of 8th Graders:
NAEP Assessment Letter Emailed to You on December 14th

Indianola Middle School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 8th. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The assessment is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Your child may take a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to subject-area questions, students voluntarily complete NAEP survey questions. These questions provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and outside of the classroom. More information about NAEP survey questions is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents> under the section "What Questions Are on the Test?"

The assessment takes approximately 2 hours for most students, which includes transition time, directions, and completion of survey questions.

The information collected is used for statistical purposes only.

- Your child's grades will not be affected.
- Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.
- While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by January 5th.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Contact Kristy Ellis at 1-515-961-9530 or at kristy.ellis@indianola.k12.ia.us if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that Indianola Middle School's students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Kristy Ellis

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct NAEP by the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. §9622) and to collect students' education records from education agencies or institutions for the purposes of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). All of the information provided by participants may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). By law, every NCES employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about participants. Electronic submission of participant's information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

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/>

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)

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 3:40-4:30 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 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/>

Phone Use While at School/Students Calling Home When Sick

If students are not feeling well at school, they should not text or call parents to go home until they have checked in with the health office first. If there is a need to call home, they will do it at that time.

It is school policy that students are not to be using cell phones from 7:50 a.m. until the end of the day. If you need to talk with your child, please call the office at 515.961.9530, and we will get a message to them.

Cell phone usage can be quite a distraction when teachers are in the middle of instruction time. Your cooperation in the matter is appreciated.

Thank you.



ACTIVITY INFO...

Middle School Play

7th & 8th Graders Needed for Crew

If you are interested in being part of the theater crew working behind the scenes (set, costumes, sound, lights, makeup, props, etc.), sign up to attend a meeting after break on January 6th, from 3:30-4:00 in room 803.

[Crew Sign-Up](#)



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

For details, click [here](#).

The Zone will resume on Monday, January 10th.

7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball

Please complete the form linked below to sign up for 7th or 8th grade boys' basketball. Practice will start on Wednesday, January 5th (the day we get back from winter break). More information about practice and a parent meeting will be sent in the coming weeks.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgTta84IGluItNFqfnbjlvV2tQeNKKDowTw78I3Z151hsZA/viewform>

Simpson Men's Basketball Holiday Hoops Camp for Boys in Grades 3rd – 8th

Please go to the [Digital Backpack](#) on the district website for all the details.

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...**

Live Online Homework Help

The community libraries in Iowa are providing access to a live online homework help site called Brainfuse HelpNow. Through the website, students can access live tutors for help, upload writing assignments to be analyzed and to obtain helpful comments, ask a quick question, and more. Live help is available from 2pm-11pm every day. Brainfuse also offers a "skills surfer" to reinforce concepts, as well as targeted lessons, quizzes, and online tutoring for ACT, SAT, and GED tests. Go to the public library website at https://www.brainfuse.com/highed/helpNow.asp?a_id=DAE9AC12&ss=&r=. Click Brainfuse HelpNow, Login, then Sign up.

For more information, see <https://www.brainfuse.com/jsp/company/faq.jsp>, or ask your local or school librarian.

Like a Flexible Schedule? Want to Make a Difference in Kids' Lives?
Substitute Teaching May be for You!

Click on this Heartland AEA link to see just how easy it is to obtain your Substitute Authorization:
<https://www.heartlandaea.org/professional-learning/licensure-info/sub-auth/>