



# INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

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

## News for the Week of October 7, 2024...

### Parent Schoology Access \*Please Read\*

We understand that navigating Schoology can be new for some families, and we want to ensure you are comfortable using the platform to support your student's learning. To assist with this, we have created three helpful guides:

- 1. How to Sign in to Schoology**  
This walks you through the steps of signing into Schoology, so you can stay updated on your child's academic progress, assignments, and announcements.
- 2. How to Check for Mastery in Schoology**  
Learn how to view your child's mastery progress for individual learning standards in their courses. This feature allows you to track how well your child is performing on key concepts and skills.
- 3. Proficiency Scale Explanation**  
This video walks through an explanation of the levels of proficiency we are using when reporting student progress. It also provides an explanation of how the proficiencies do not align to the traditional A-B-C-D-F.

Watch the videos here:

[How to Sign in to Schoology Link](#)

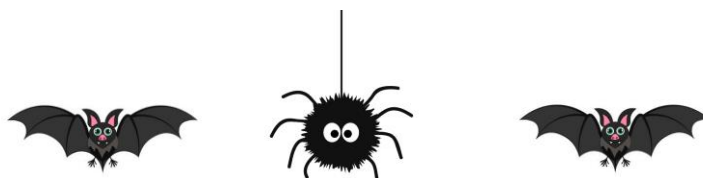
[How to View for Mastery in Schoology](#)

[Proficiency Scale Explanation](#)

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### From the Library

Your October reading challenge is to individually, or with a partner, read a book from the Horror section OR a book with the word *spider* or *bat* in the title OR a book with an orange cover. See Mrs. Hunget or Mrs. Richardson for more information.



## **Fall Conferences**

Conferences will be held October 29-31, and IMS will once again offer 10-minute virtual or in-person appointments with teachers. Parents/guardians, scheduling will open up to you on Friday. Please watch for an email that morning giving you the sign-up link and conference details.

## **Washington D.C. Trip** **June 11-15, 2025**

It's not too late to sign up for next summer's D.C. trip! It's open to current 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Please click the [link](#) for details.

This is not a school sponsored event.

## **No School**

**Monday, October 14**

**Tuesday, October 15**

## **School Info...**

### **Lost ID's**

School ID's:

Students, if you lose your school ID, you may request one replacement per year. First, though, you should check your email; one of the secretaries will send you a message if it has been turned into the office. If you don't receive an email within a day or two of losing it, come to the office to request your one replacement.

Bus ID's:

If you lose your Bus ID, check with your bus driver first. Then, check your email or the office. If you don't find it within a day or two, tell your bus driver so that they can request a new one. We do not make Bus ID's in the main office; those come from the Transportation department.

### **Attention, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys!**

Jordan Jenkins from Employee and Family Resources will be hosting a 6th grade boys group on Thursdays after school. This program will begin on October 10<sup>th</sup>, and it will run weekly for 10 weeks. It will take place in Room 303 near the Blake Fieldhouse from 3:30-4:45. There is no cost to join. Please see the email that was sent to all 6th grade boys and parents for more specific information. Here is the [link](#) to get signed up!

**Parents, please make sure your student brings earbuds/headphones to school.**

### Yearbooks

Time to order yearbooks through [Iostens](#).  
The price is \$25 right now.

### Standards-Based Reporting

A letter was emailed to parents a couple weeks ago with helpful information about our shift to the Standards-Based Reporting (SBR) grading system.

Here is the link to the Parent's Guide:

[K-8 Standards-Based Learning, Scoring and Reporting](#)

### **\*REMINDER\* 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Blake Fieldhouse entrance

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

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

### 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.

### [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.

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

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

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

## **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 **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).

## **Quick Links:**

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

## **Dates to Remember:**

October 14,15 – No School (professional development for teachers)

October 29-31 – Conferences

November 1 – No School

November 28, 29 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)

## 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](#).

### **IMS Winter Sports Season for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

An email titled IMS 2024 Winter Sports Sign Ups was sent on 9/25 to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents. If your child is interested in joining girls' basketball, boys' wrestling, or girls' wrestling, please refer to that email. As a reminder, boys' basketball will not begin until after Winter break, so sign-ups will not be released until sometime in November.

#### **7th/8th Girls Basketball**

-- 8th Grade Girls Basketball Practice starts Thursday, October 17th

-- 7th Grade Girls Basketball Practice starts Monday, October 21st

#### **7th/8th Boys Wrestling**

-- MS Boys Wrestling Practice starts Monday, October 21st

#### **7th/8th Girls Wrestling**

-- MS Girls Wrestling Practice Starts TBD

If you have questions, contact Ben Lange, [ben.lange@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:ben.lange@indianola.k12.ia.us).

### **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](#)

### **Basketball Apparel**

The Indianola basketball apparel store is now open for anyone who is interested in buying new basketball apparel for the 2024-25 season. [Here](#) is the store link. It closes on October 14th at midnight.

## **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.**

## **Indianola Music Boosters**

### **Annual**

### **Craft & Vendor Show**

**All proceeds are used to support Middle School Music!**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Blake Fieldhouse**

**9am – 2pm**

**Admission \$3**

**Concessions available all day!**

**Shop 100+ vendors with handcrafted items and name brand products all while helping us to fulfill our music wish list!**

## Miscellaneous...

### Indianola Trap Team

Anyone still interested in joining the Indianola Trap Team is welcome to join us at a practice on either October 16th or 18th from 6:00-7:30 at the Warren County Isaac Walton. Our coaches will be able to chat with you about our team and get you the sign-up link. Please reach out to our head coach, Aaron Rasko, at [aaronrasko@gmail.com](mailto:aaronrasko@gmail.com), with any questions.

### 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.



All IMS students are invited to attend The Zone. 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.

### 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 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/o9XPd9oGBR3SPdQi/>

Class of 2030 (7<sup>th</sup> grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/bCUYkjKtrKmbTm5/>

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

## **Midwest Heritage Youth Heifer Program**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in gaining experience in the cattle industry are invited to apply for the 2025 Youth Heifer Program. Up to five students will receive three bred heifers. Applicants are chosen based on merit, future goals, and capacity to care for their herd. The deadline to apply is October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please go to the [Digital Backpack](#) and find the Midwest Heritage flyer for all the details.