



# 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  
September 11, 2023

**CHEESE!**



**CHEESE!**



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**Picture Day for IMS is this Thursday, September 14. We will start at 8:00 a.m. and be done around 9:00 a.m., so you may want to avoid early morning appointments Thursday.**

Tim McConnell Photography will once again be taking student pictures this year. However, the process for ordering is a little different. Your student was given an information sheet last week and they were instructed to take it home. There is a QR code at the top of the sheet that you will need to scan to pre-register your child. You will then follow the directions for ordering. Pictures will not be sent to the school; everything will be handled directly through the studio and email, so it is important that you follow the steps provided.

If your child brought home a second page with a large QR code, your child will need to bring this back on picture day. If there is not a second page with a large QR code, your child's 1st period teacher has kept it and will give it to them on picture day.

If you have questions, please email [tim@timmccconnell.com](mailto:tim@timmccconnell.com).



**The Zone is Returning Today!**

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.

### Florida Trip Reminder

Any 7th or 8th grader interested in the opportunity to explore Florida wildlife and manatees with Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Strable, please visit the following link to learn more. The deadline for registration is September 30.

<https://worldstrides.com/custom/2024-indianola-ms-h2o-207274/>

(This is not a school-sponsored activity.)

### Big Shout-Out

Thank you to these folks who volunteered at Friday's football game for Middle School Night!

Mallory Wells, Jessica Flatt, Kris Birkland, Jolene Crouse, Hannah Swedberg, Nicki Westcott, Joel McDonald, Maranda Ewurs, Michelle Bradford, Raegan Burrows, Emma Hackett, Ava Hackett, Rachel Dean, Maegen Leach, Amanda Selby, Lindsay Armstrong, Laura Richardson, Kristi Hartford, Elizabeth Hoskins, Darcie Sherwood, Megan Gute, Abby Ohnemus, Maxine Irish.

### After School Tutoring Starts Tomorrow

Free tutoring is being offered once again at IMS on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Parents must sign their child up before they attend. Please see the registration form for details.

[23-24 Tutoring Sign-Up](#)

## Tech News...

### Tips for Smart Social Media Usage

The website [Smart Social](#) is helping parents direct conversations with their children when it comes to the use of smart devices and social media accounts. The site also gives tips on developing a family social media agreement. Find out more by clicking the link.

### PowerSchool

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

ICSD's Information Technology [page](#)

# TikTok Guide for Parents

[TikTok Guide for Parents](#)

## GoGuardian Parent

GoGuardian Parent is a companion to the classroom management and internet filtering tools that the district uses for Chromebooks issued to students. GoGuardian Parent was created to help provide additional educational support to administrators and teachers by allowing parents to see what sites and documents their children are browsing and providing parents with additional internet controls at home. The app gives parents a bird's eye view of the apps and websites that their kids are on most often and control over school-issued devices during out-of-school hours. With this perspective, parents can be made aware of browsing behaviors, so they can encourage more effective internet browsing habits at home and at school.

### What is included in this app:

- Top 5 summary of student browsing (apps, extensions, documents, and websites visited)
    - Teacher interventions
    - 30-day view of websites, videos, documents, apps, and extensions
    - Ability to block websites on school-issued devices during out-of-school hours
  - Ability to pause internet access on school-issued devices during out-of-school hours, either on-demand or at a scheduled time
- 
- To access the app, please follow the instructions below:
    - Download the app
      - iPhone: Visit App Store, search for GoGuardian Parent, and tap the download button.
      - Android: Visit Google Play Store, search for GoGuardian Parent, and tap the download button.
    - After the app is successfully downloaded and installed:
      - Open it up and enter the email address registered with the school. Note: Only contacts listed in PowerSchool as "has custody" or "receives mail", with a primary email address, are eligible for a GoGuardian Parent account.
      - Login/Check Email: Check your email on your mobile device / phone for a link to log in to the app.
      - Tap the "Verify your email", and it will take you straight to the app. Note: If you don't have access to your email through the device you used to log in, tap on "Login with verification code", and copy and paste the verification code from the email into the app.

### What are my parental/guardian and child's responsibilities?

We ask that students use their school-managed Google accounts and school-managed devices for educational purposes within the boundaries of ICSD's DLE Handbook & Agreement, as well as board approved appropriate use policies linked on our district's DLE webpage. When a student is off campus, parents are responsible for supervising internet access and usage. The new GoGuardian Parent app can help with this!

We encourage you to discuss rules for appropriate internet usage with your child, and reinforce lessons of digital citizenship and safety with him or her. For a quick overview of the GoGuardian Parent app, please view [this video](#). If you have questions after trying to use the app on your own, please feel free to reach out to our I.T. support team at 515-961-9500 x2503 or via our online support portal.

## School Info

### Updates from the School Nurse

Allergy season is headed our way (if it hasn't already hit!), please note that the Middle School Health Office does not supply over the counter allergy medication. Please plan accordingly if your student struggles with seasonal allergies.

Middle School is also a great time to teach and practice swallowing pills. There are lots of tips and tricks available but if you need help getting started, check out this [article](#).

If there is ever anything you or your child may need, don't hesitate to ask. I can be reached at [cadi.williams@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:cadi.williams@indianola.k12.ia.us) or 515-961-9530 #2.

Thank you!  
Cadi Williams, MSN, RN  
Middle School Nurse

### Yearbooks

IMS yearbooks are now on sale! The cost is \$25. You can order online at [Jostens](#), or you can bring a check (made payable to IMS) or exact cash to Mr. Damman in room 507. Parents, there was not an option to pay online with your school fees, so if you believe you purchased one then, you did not.

### 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.

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

### 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).

### Food Service

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

[Food Service](#)

### 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)

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

### Dates to Remember:

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](#)

## 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>

## 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 Webpage](#).

### A Group for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls

Sixth grade girls are invited to join Girls Circle. This group meets after school on Tuesdays until 5:00 p.m. in room 303. It's a great way for girls to make new friends, participate in fun activities, do crafts, volunteer, and discuss issues that are important to them.

### Distinguished Achievement Award

The Distinguished Achievement Award (DAA) was developed to recognize students who strive to take advantage of the opportunities, activities, and resources available to them. Participating students collect evidence of and write reflections about their involvement in opportunities chosen in four of six possible categories: Citizenship, 3.0 or Higher GPA, Arts, STEM, Career Exploration, and Service Learning.

Interested students should read and complete the [Intent to Participate Form](#). Copies of this form are available at the Communications Center by the main office. Students should also attend one of two informational meetings being offered on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7:15 am or 3:30 pm in room 601. If you can't attend either meeting, see Mrs. Ellis or Mrs. Asell. Don't hesitate to visit Mrs. Ellis in front of the library each morning before school. To learn more about this program to help you decide whether you want to participate, view [this presentation](#).

## **6-8th Graders can sign up for Art Club!**

Art Club is a time after school where students who are interested in art can do individual or collaborative art projects, learn new techniques and be social.

After signing up, members and parents will receive more information about Studio Time activities and dates.

[6th Grade Art Club Sign up Link](#) (semester 1)

[7th-8th Grade Art Club Sign up Link](#) (semester 2)

[Click HERE to read general info about IMS Art Club](#)

## **Do You Like to Read?**

The Battle of the Books (BOB) 2023-24 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 students will be chosen for two teams of six students 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!

## **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>

## **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>

## 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](#)

## 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).

## 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.

**This and That...**

## Backpacks 4 Hunger

Backpacks 4 Hunger feeds Indianola kids over the weekend by providing a sack of individually packaged non-perishable food items. The food is placed discreetly in students' lockers on every Friday.

Call 515.961.5755 or Text 515.808.3498. Leave your name and number, and you will be contacted regarding food allergies and school details.



## 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.



### 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)

