



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/>

**News for the Week of
September 16, 2024...**



All IMS students are invited to attend The Zone starting this Thursday, September 19th. 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.

Reminders for Parents Picking Up Students Early

Parents, please remember that you have to come into the building when you are picking up your child before normal dismissal time.

We also ask that you call 515.961.9530, email imsattendance@indianola.k12.ia.us, or write a note if your child needs to leave early. That way, we can write a pass that the student will quietly give to the teacher at their designated time. When we have to call students out of class to leave early, it interrupts teachers' instruction time.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Picture Retake Day
Friday, October 4
8:30 a.m.**

An email was sent to parents Thursday, September 12, with a note from Tim McConnell about school picture ordering. Please look back at that email if you have questions. tim@tim-mcconnell.com

SPIRIT WEEK!

September 16th - September 20th

Here are the Spirit Days for Indianola Middle School:

Monday- Minion Day! Dress up as one of your favorite Minion characters.

Tuesday- Senior Citizen Day!

Wednesday- USA Theme Day! Red, White, and Blue.

Thursday- Jersey/Favorite Sport/Team/Activity Day!

Friday- Purple/Gold Day! Dress in your Indianola wear and show your PRIDE!!!!
(Students can paint a portion of their faces at home but not at school or on the bus.)

*Hats, headbands, head coverings, etc. are acceptable during spirit week if appropriate for the theme day.

Rules below:

Appropriate School Attire (Ref. School Board Policy 502.1)

Appropriate school attire does not draw attention to the student, does not disrupt the concentration of other students, nor disrupts the educational environment. It is expected that students' clothing will ensure adequate coverage and **undergarments should not be visible**. Garments may not be backless or without straps, if applicable.

- Students are expected to dress for the day recognized during Spirit Week. Students may not stray from the recognized theme, but are not required to dress up.
- Pants and shorts are to be worn at an appropriate level at or above the hips.
- Students may be asked to remove any item covering their face or head as staff need to be able to recognize the individual in school or in the classroom.
- Shoes with wheels are prohibited.
- Hats, other head coverings, and sunglasses are to be taken off and left in lockers during the school day with all bags and purses.
- Students are not to wear items that are considered potentially dangerous.
- All students will be expected to change into appropriate clothes for physical education classes.
- Students are expected to refrain from wearing clothing or other apparel with actual or implied profanity, sexual innuendos, and tobacco/alcohol/drug endorsements, promotion of weapons or known gang related insignias.
- The building principals will make

Backpacks 4 Hunger Donations Needed

Local Girl Scout troops will be collecting donations for Backpacks 4 Hunger at the Indianola Homecoming Parade this Thursday. Some of the items needed are: instant oatmeal, pop tarts, shelf stable milk, mac & cheese cups, cans of tomato or chicken noodle soup, and ravioli. Please click on this link to see the flyer with a full list of needs: <https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/digital-backpack/>

School Info...

From the Library September Book Challenge

The September book challenge is ready. On your own, or with a partner, read a book about school, the Constitution (Constitution Day, September 17), or pirates (Talk Like a Pirate Day, September 19). Use the online catalog to look for books (*school, Constitution, pirate*). When finished reading, you will answer a question about the book and then pick something from the Prize Box.

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 Friday 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](#)

SmartPass Reminder

Students, be sure to check SmartPass throughout the day. Music lesson passes and various other passes are sent this way.

Parent Schoology Access *Please Read*

This year, parents are able to access Schoology to see student work as well as student mastery scores. Click the link below to access the tutorial to create your Schoology account.

[Schoology Parent Account Tutorial](#)

***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 6th grade: Blake Fieldhouse entrance

Drop-Off/Pick-Up for 7th & 8th 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.

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 (x3116)

7th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Lacey Cherniss (x3106)

8th 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.

Late Arrivals, Early Dismissals, Absences

Attendance Line Phone Number: 515.961.9530, press 1
Attendance Line Email: 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

6th Grade: 10:55-11:25; 11:10-11:40 (Wed)

7th Grade: 11:42-12:12; 11:50-12:20 (Wed)

8th 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.

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.

Food Service

For information regarding menus, free/reduced lunches/online payments/account information, please click: [Food Service](#)

[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.

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

School Activities...

Distinguished Achievement Award **All Students are Eligible to Participate**

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, Secure Academic Report, 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 either on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 7:15 am or 3:25 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 discuss DAA. To learn more about this program or to help you decide whether you want to participate, view [this presentation](#).

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](#).

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](#)

Visual Arts Extracurricular Opportunities

There are opportunities for 6th – 8th graders throughout the year to put their creative skills to use and get involved. View the information below, and email Mrs. Smith with any questions you may have – Lisa.smith@indianola.k12.ia.us.

[Overview of all Visual Arts Opportunities open to IMS Students \(Link\)](#)

[Art Club Information Link](#)

- [6th Grade Art Club Sign Up](#)
- [7th Grade Art Club Sign Up](#)

[Emerging Excellence Information Link](#)

- [Emerging Excellence Sign Up](#)

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.

Miscellaneous...

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.

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

Class of 2030 (7th grade)- <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/bCUIYkjKtrKmbeTm5/>

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