



INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

403 S 15th Street, Indianola, IA 50125
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<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>

New the Week of
September 18, 2023

Spirit Week! September 18 thru September 22

Monday: Color Day – Dress in your favorite color

Tuesday: Holiday – Dress in your favorite holiday-themed wear

Wednesday: Grill Dad -vs- Soccer Mom

Thursday: Barbie and Ken or Pink Out

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 of the day.)

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.

- 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 the final determination of the appropriateness of the student's appearance.

Upcoming 7th Grade Field Trips
Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge

Dream Team – September 21

Trailblazers – September 22

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be Friday, October 6, from 8:00-8:30.

Midwest Heritage Youth Heifer Program

The goal of the Midwest Heritage Youth Heifer Program is to help young future farmers gain interest and knowledge of the beef cattle industry by awarding bred heifers to the program recipients. Midwest Heritage grants up to five 7th and 8th graders three bred heifers. During the five-year program, recipients are responsible for the management and daily care of their herd. At the conclusion of the five years, recipients are responsible for paying back the initial market value of the three bred heifers.

For more information and to apply:

<https://www.midwestheritage.com/about/community-support/youth-heifer-program/>

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.

TikTok Guide for Parents

[TikTok Guide for Parents](#)

ICSD's Information Technology [page](#)

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
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- 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



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.

After School Tutoring

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](#)

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.

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 or 515-961-9530 #2.

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

Please refer to the [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](#)

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. Lacey Cherniss (x3106)
7th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Haley Finn (x3151)
8th 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:

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 (8th Grade): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386800961472755/>

Indianola Class of 2029 (7th Grade): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509461217003504/>

Indianola Class of 2030 (6th 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 6th 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.

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.

Happy Reading!

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](#)

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.

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.)

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.



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