



# INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

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

## News for the Week of September 23, 2024...

### **Grief Support for IMS Students**

Beginning October 2024, EveryStep Grief & Loss Services, Home of Amanda the Panda, will be providing a **grief support group to students at Indianola Middle School** during the school day.

This group supports students who have experienced the loss of a loved one or friend (death, guardianship removal, divorce, incarceration, immigration, deportation, or other forms of loss). Students will meet once a week for 6 weeks to talk, create, and learn about ways to heal after a loss. Sessions will be scheduled during non-core class time.

**If you would like your student to participate in this group, please email your grade-level school counselor. You will receive a follow-up email from the counselor after your request is sent containing a registration form to complete:**

- 6th Grade: [tiffany.cochran@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:tiffany.cochran@indianola.k12.ia.us)
- 7th Grade: [lacey.cherniss@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:lacey.cherniss@indianola.k12.ia.us)
- 8th Grade: [haley.finn@indianola.k12.ia.us](mailto:haley.finn@indianola.k12.ia.us)

### **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.

## **Attention, 6th Grade Girls!**

Are you interested in learning more about navigating peer pressure, social media, and friendships? Would you like to develop caring relationships and participate in community outreach? If so, the Girls Circle Group is for you! Girls Circle will begin this Tuesday, September 24. It will take place after school from 3:30-4:45 in room 303, by the Blake Fieldhouse. It is free to participate. If you would like a flyer, you can pick it up in the main office. The link to the flyer is also below.

[Flyer](#)

## **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!**



## School Info...

### 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](mailto: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.

### School Pictures

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](mailto:tim@tim-mcconnell.com)

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

### 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 [lostens](#). 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](#)

## 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 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.

## 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.

## **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.

## **Lunches**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10:55-11:25; 11:10-11:40 (Wed)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 11:42-12:12; 11:50-12:20 (Wed)

8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



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/bCUYkjKtrKmbeTm5/>

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