



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/>

New the Week of
September 25, 2023

Students Invited to Help Simpson Celebrate George Washington Carver

Simpson College enjoys celebrating the life and accomplishments of George Washington Carver because he was a student there in 1890-1891. Students in our district are invited to create and submit a work of art that will be publicly displayed at Simpson's celebration of him on February 1, 2024.

[See additional details here.](#)

Conference Sign-Ups Start This Week

Parents/guardians, you will be emailed conference sign-up information later this afternoon. We will use SignUp.com to schedule 10-minute Zoom appointments. Please watch for the email so that you can register as soon as possible.

Conferences will be held Tuesday, October 10 thru Thursday, October 12.

CogAT Testing for 6th Graders

This week, all 6th grade students will participate in CogAT testing during their Language Arts class on September 27, 28 and 29.

The CogAT is the Cognitive Abilities Test, which measures both general and specific cognitive abilities. The general reasoning abilities measured by the test show the cognitive process and strategies that help a student learn new tasks or solve problems. This test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. The CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The verbal section has three subtests, which focus on reasoning skills, flexibility and fluency. The quantitative section tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. The non-verbal section uses geometric shapes and figures. This section helps us see how students look for shapes and patterns. A separate score is reported for each of these three areas. A composite, or total, abstract reasoning score is also reported.

Reasoning abilities measured by this test have substantial correlations with learning and problem solving, both in and out of school.

From the Counselors Second Step Lessons

Second Step lessons are taught on Wednesdays during Advisory. Please see the flyer on the next page for details.

To get you caught up, here is information for the first two weeks of SS:

6th Grade:

- **Lesson 1: Starting Middle School**
 - This week's lesson will introduce your child to Second Step® Middle School. Your child will identify challenges they might face when starting middle school and identify resources in their school where they can get help.
- **Question**
 - Tell your child about something that made you nervous when you started middle school. Ask what makes them nervous and who they can go to for help at school.
- **Lesson 2: How to Grow Your Brain**
 - In this week's lesson, your child will learn about the brain's ability to grow and change when they practice challenging things. Having a growth mindset supports your child's success in school and in life.
- **Question**
 - Tell your child about a time you had to learn something new. Explain whether it was hard to learn and how you learned it. Ask your child if there's anything they would like to learn to do this year.

7th Grade:

- **Lesson 1: Starting Middle School**
 - This week's lesson will introduce your child to Second Step® Middle School. Your child will identify challenges they might face when starting middle school and identify resources in their school where they can get help.
- **Question**
 - Tell your child about something that made you nervous when you started middle school. Ask what makes them nervous and who they can go to for help at school.
- **Lesson 2: Creating New Pathways in Your Brain**
 - In this week's lesson, your child will learn that intelligence is not fixed; their brain actually makes new connections and their skills and abilities develop when they practice difficult things.
- **Question**
 - Tell your child about a time you had to learn something challenging and explain how you persisted in learning it. Ask your child if there's anything they would like to learn to do this year.

8th Grade:

- **Lesson 1: Welcome!**
 - This week's lesson will show your child how Second Step® Middle School can help them navigate physical, social, and emotional changes in adolescence.
- **Question**
 - Have a conversation with your child about what you felt was the most difficult part of being an adolescent. Ask your child about any changes they've noticed in friends and what they think about these changes.
- **Lesson 2: Who Am I? My Identity**
 - In this week's lesson, your child will learn that their identity is complex. They will create an identity map that names unique and important aspects of their identity.
- **Question**
 - Share your response to the following questions with your child. Then have your child and any additional family members share their responses.
 - Who am I?
 - What are the most important aspects of my identity and why?



What Is Second Step® Middle School?

Second Step Middle School is a research-based social-emotional learning (SEL) program designed to improve students' social-emotional skills, such as **emotion management**, **impulse control**, **problem solving**, and **empathy**.

Studies show that these skills can help improve academic performance, reduce negative social behaviors like bullying, and create positive classroom and school climates.

Emotion management

Impulse control

Problem solving

Empathy

How do students and schools benefit from SEL?



Do the benefits of SEL last beyond school?

Yes. SEL is helping instill crucial workplace skills in the next generation of employees.

WORKFORCE READINESS SKILLS

- Complex problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- People management
- Coordinating with others
- Emotional intelligence
- Judgment and decision-making
- Service orientation
- Negotiation
- Cognitive flexibility



Visit ParentTeenConnect.org for expert advice on hot-button topics for teens and the adults in their lives.



Interested in Joining the Indianola Youth Trap Team this Spring?

Informational meetings will take place at the Warren County Izaak Walton Clubhouse on October 18th and October 20th at 6:30 pm. Parents are required to attend, and the registration link will be provided following the meeting.

If you have any questions, please email Coach Aaron
Rasko: aaronrasko@gmail.com

This is not a school-sponsored activity.

Students, you must have your ID with the "23" activity sticker on it when you attend activities to be able to get in free. If you don't have it with you, or you don't have a picture of it on your phone, you will have to pay to get into the event.

School Info

Picture Retakes

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

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.

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



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.

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)

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](#)

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

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](#)

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](#)

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>

This and That...

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/>

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.)

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.