



INDIANOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

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<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us/school/indianola-middle-school/>

New the Week of
September 4, 2023

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.

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!

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.

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](#).

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.

The first meeting is tomorrow, September 5, after school in 303 (by the fieldhouse).

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

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](#)

Tech News...

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.

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](#)

School Info

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 open at 7:00.

There are designated waiting areas for students who arrive before 7:50: 8th grade—fieldhouse (east wall), 7th grade—fieldhouse (by bleachers), 6th grade—Street gym.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30. Students should go directly to the cafeteria if they will be eating.

Where to Drop Off and Pick Up Your Students

Students are to be dropped off at the main entrance or fieldhouse entrance in the mornings. Students not involved in morning sports or activities should not arrive before 7:30 a.m.

The 6th grade pick-up zone after school is the fieldhouse parking lot. The 7th grade pick-up zone is the west parking lot in front of the stadium. The 8th grade pick-up zone is the main entrance parking lot. If you have multiple students, you may select the pick-up zone you would like to use.

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.

Need a Schedule Change?

All schedule change requests need to be entered using the [Change Request Form](#). We are asking that you don't call or email the counselors for changes. Use the form so that requests can be handled more efficiently and fairly for everyone.

Please be patient; requests will be addressed as soon as possible.

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.

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.

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:

Monday, September 4: No School, Labor Day
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](#)

**TIM McCONNELL
PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE
TAKING STUDENTS' FALL
PICTURES
ON SEPTEMBER 14.**

Parents: Here are Opportunities to Help at IMS

Please join the IMS VIP/Parent Partner's group in working at the concession stand for the September 8th high school football game at Indianola Stadium. This is also Middle School Recognition Night.

<https://signup.com/go/HPriDsJ>

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>

Spirit Wear Orders Due by Noon on September 5th!

Embark Inc. is joining with IMS to help spread spirit throughout the district. You'll find t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, joggers, caps, and bags.

Orders will be ready for homecoming pending product availability.

Due to the custom nature of our orders, all sales are final.

**No changes/edits can be made to orders once they are placed. Requesting a change/edit will result in a cancellation of the original order and you will have to resubmit the entire order with the corrected information.

Indianola Middle School would like to thank you for your support in spreading school spirit! The fundraiser will help support student and staff recognition, rewards, and activities throughout the school year. Thank you in advance.

<https://indianola-middle-school-105185.square.site/>

DISCLAIMER: Prices are only valid when ordered as a team or group. Prices are subject to change from print cycle to print cycle. When items are not in stock and we can not control shipment from our distributors, we reserve the right to substitute an equal quality product for a discontinued item from our distributor without notice to the purchaser. Colors and print size depicted in product images are estimated and are for mock up purposes only. Final product imprint size, color of garment, and inks may differ from pictures.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT A PRODUCT, PLEASE EMAIL US AT embarkink@gmail.com.

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](#).

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>

Study Tables for Athletes During Wednesday Early-Outs

Study Tables will be available again this fall. These sessions will be on Wednesday early-outs immediately after school, which will include the first day of school. Athletes signed up for study tables should go directly to their designated location following school. These locations will be shared during morning announcements. The sign-up sheet for fall study tables is linked below. Parents, not students, should sign their student up to participate.

[Fall Sports Study Table Sign Ups](#)



The Zone is returning! The first day will be Monday, September 11. 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.

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](#)

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.

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>

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.

This and That...

Florida Trip Meeting for 7th and 8th Graders

There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, September 7, at 6:00 PM in the library for any current 7th or 8th grader interested in travelling to Florida on the science trip in June of 2024. Those already signed up do not need to attend. For more information: <https://worldstrides.com/custom/2024-indianola-ms-h2o-207274/>

Please see Mrs. Fitzpatrick in room 101B if you have any questions.

This is not a school sponsored activity.

Clay Target Shooting

Warren County Shotgun Sports is excited to bring the youth of Warren County a new opportunity in the growing sport of clay target shooting. Registration for our Fall 2023 Season is open August 21st-September 1st.

The youth team of Warren County Shotgun Sports (WCSS) will consist primarily of students who live within Warren County. The students most likely to participate will be in 5th-12th grades, but younger students may join as long as they meet certain criteria. WCSS will participate in the Scholastic Clay Target Program with the Iowa DNR, and provide opportunities to shoot competitively singles trap, with doubles and handicaps trap, skeet, sporting clays and five stand events available.

Please check out our Facebook Page for more information!

For questions, please reach out: info@warrencountyss.org, or call/text 515-497-4050.

This is not a school sponsored activity.

INDIANOLA TRAP TEAM REGISTRATION MEETING

Returning IYTT members and parent registration meetings will be held at the Warren County Ikes on August 23rd and August 30th from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. These registration sessions are for RETURNING athletes for the Fall 2023 AND the Spring 2024 seasons. You are only required to attend one session.

Registration information and volunteer opportunities/needs of the team will be presented. We are a large team, and we need volunteers like you in areas such as Coaching, Communications, Concessions, Fundraising, Finance & Awards.

All returning athletes and at least one Parent/Guardian must attend one of these meetings. Please RSVP in the calendar on TeamApp.

Any questions may be directed to your grade representative on TeamApp.

For those interested in joining the Indianola Trap Team, be watching for informational meetings to come later this Fall.

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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Complete the course in 15 hours

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