



August 2021

We see success.

News from the Middle

Pat Brown, Principal

Joe DeLuca, Dean of Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to school! It is always exciting to begin a new school year. Getting back into the routine of school—getting up early, setting up a homework plan, etc.—can be a challenge. Sixth grade students have the biggest adjustment, transitioning from elementary to middle school. Parents can support their student through this change by being positive, allowing time to unwind and listening to their concerns. If you have questions, please contact your child's teachers.

ICMS has a great website for you to visit. Click on www.icschools.us. Click on schools, then the middle school button. Our daily announcements, calendar, sports and educational links are on the site.

Future monthly parent bulletins from the middle school will be mailed out at the beginning of the month. You can also find them on our website. Be sure to visit the ICMS website and Facebook page often! Enclosed in this Welcome Back packet, you will find a student schedule for our traditional Face-to-Face Learners. Virtual Learners will receive their schedule before Monday, August 23.

I am honored to serve as the principal of Imlay City Middle School. It is truly a privilege to be part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Let's make it another great year at ICMS together!

Pat Brown
ICMS Principal

NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

The middle school welcomes a new Dean of Students this year! Mr. Joe DeLuca will take over the position from Mr. Don Gauthier, who is returning back to his Athletic Director position. Mr. Gauthier served in both capacities for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. DeLuca recently retired from the Imlay City Police Department where he faithfully served for 32 years. He has served as our school district liaison officer since 1995. Welcome Mr. DeLuca!

ICMS IS A PEANUT-RESTRICTED BUILDING

We have an important policy that is going into effect for the 2021-22 school year. In an effort to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students, **Imlay City Middle School is a peanut-restricted building.**

Individuals with severe peanut allergies can have life-threatening reactions from even a small amount of peanut or peanut oils/residue left on a surface. Any exposure to peanuts may cause a serious reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we ask that you do not send any peanut or peanut containing products to school with your child. Our peanut restriction will be enforced before, during and after school hours.

While we are aware that this may cause some inconvenience in preparing lunches and snacks, that inconvenience is far outweighed by the potential severe risk for our allergic students. Please carefully read and review all food packaging prior to sending food items to school. In our peanut restriction efforts, our building staff will closely monitor food brought into the building. If a peanut or peanut product item is identified, that

item will be placed in a Ziploc bag, with a reminder of our restriction, and sent back home. If this item is a large part of a child's lunch, we have some peanut-free healthy food items in our cafeteria that will be used as a replacement. We ask that if you are using a peanut alternative (i.e. SunButter, WowButter, etc.), please label the item so that our staff is aware of your child's peanut-free food.

Food labeling can be confusing when deciding if a food or snack is safe to send to school and peanut free. The Federal Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act (FALCPA) requires that packaged food products that contain nuts as an ingredient must list the word "peanut" or "tree nut" on the label. Here are some helpful tips:

It is **OKAY** to bring if the food label says:

- "Processed in a facility that also processes peanuts"
- "Processed on a machine that also processes peanuts"

It is **NOT OKAY** to bring if the food label says:

- "May contain traces of peanuts"
- "Contains peanuts"
- "May contain peanuts"

We greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us keep our students healthy and safe here at school. We encourage you to talk to your child regarding our peanut restriction policy and even include them in label reading and safe food selection. You can also visit snacksafely.com for lunch and snack ideas.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the middle school office with any questions.

IMPORTANT NEWS

Building Hours and Schedule: The middle school front lobby doors will be **locked until 7:00 a.m.** Students may not be in the school building until 7:00 a.m. We have a change in our bell schedule this year. Fifteen instructional minutes have been added to the schedule, which will change all class and lunch times. Classes begin 10-minutes early and end 5-minutes later this year.

Hour	Time
1 st Hour	7:30 - 8:34
2 nd Hour	8:38 - 9:27
3 rd Hour	9:31 - 10:20
4 th Hour – 6 th /7 th Lunch	10:20 - 10:50
4 th Hour	10:24 - 11:13
5 th Hour – 7 th /8 th Lunch	11:13 - 11:43
5 th Hour	10:54 - 11:43
6 th Hour	11:47 - 12:36
7 th Hour	12:40 - 1:28
8 th Hour	1:32 - 2:20

Medication: All medication (including aspirin and cough drops) must be dropped off in the office by a parent. If it is prescription medicine, we will need an order from your doctor giving dosage instructions as well as a completed medication form, which can be located in the office. All medicine will be taken in the office under the supervision of a school employee. Under no circumstance is a student allowed to carry medicine with them. Please remind your students to empty out their pockets, backpacks, etc., at home to make sure medicine is not brought to school accidentally.

Note: The office has a place for students to leave emergency money or medication such as aspirin or cough

drops. If you would like to take advantage of this, please put the money or medicine in an envelope or zip lock bag with the student's name & the completed non-medication form and turn it into the office. Non-medication forms can be picked up in the office.

Cell Phones: Cell phones may not be on the student or turned on during the school day (7:30 a.m. -2:20 p.m.), without permission from a staff member. If a student violates this policy, the phone will be brought to the office and disciplinary action will be taken. Office phones may be used in case of illness or in an emergency. If there is a need to contact your child during the day, please call the middle school office to leave a message for your child.

OPEN HOUSE

An open house for all middle school students is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Sixth grade students and parents are invited from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students and parents are invited from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Students will have time to tour the building, practice opening their lockers and meet their teachers.

6TH GRADE BAND STUDENTS

If you are a 6th grade student and you are interested in Band class this year, the Port Huron Music Company will be at Open House for instrument rental needs. Jump Start Camp will take place in the middle school band room on August 18 & 19, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATION IMPROVES EDUCATION

Both research and common sense tells us that communication between home and school improves student achievement. Our staff is encouraged to keep you informed in a number of ways. There are also many ways for you to keep in touch with them.

Voice Mail: Each teacher has a voice mail extension. If you would like to leave a message, please refer to the extension listed on the school's website and a copy is included in this packet. A return call can be expected within 24 hours.

Email: This is another good way to keep in touch with teachers. Teachers' email addresses are available on the website and a copy is enclosed in this packet.

Progress Reports are sent home midway through each marking period to provide your student's current grade in each class. Teacher comments will give suggestions for improvement. The week in which the reports will be sent home is published in the parent bulletin and on our website. If you don't receive a progress report, please contact the main office.

MYSCHOOLBUCKS!

MySchoolBucks is a new payment system which allows parents/guardians the ability to pay for all their school fees! Parents/guardians will use their student's ID number to make payments for; facility rental fees, field trips, book fines, pay to participate & other athletic fees, donations, and of course hot lunch. To access MySchoolBucks; visit icschools.us, and click the parent tab. There are additional ways to access MySchoolBucks which include; visiting myschoolbucks.com, downloading the mobile app, and a direct link thru PowerSchool. This account is free to all ICMS parents/guardians.

BUS ROUTES FOR 2021-22

The bus routes for Imlay City Schools are available on the school district website by clicking on the Transportation tab. Copies of the bus routes will also be posted at the entrances of each school building. **PLEASE NOTE! Several routes and/or bus numbers have changed this year! Please pay close attention to written route descriptions.**

FOOD SERVICE

Hot breakfast and lunches will be available on the first day of school. Prices are as follows:

Hot Lunch: FREE Breakfast: FREE

The debit system uses a database of all students. Students will enter their ID number to make purchases. Assistance will be provided to students who need help. Parents are encouraged to prepay their child's meal

account. Payment can be made on our school website using a credit card or checks may be made payable to **Imlay City Schools Hot Lunch Fund**. Be sure to indicate your child's name, grade and pin number on the check. Checks are accepted at the cafeteria checkout line.

An application for free and reduced lunches is included with this packet. Those who believe they may qualify, need to complete only one application per family, listing all family members. Families who qualified for free or reduced meals in June 2020 are still eligible when school starts until such time as their new application is reviewed. Please make sure that you sign the bottom of the application or it will need to be returned to you.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Mark **Friday, September 17, 2021** on your calendar as the date to look your best! School pictures will be taken during the school day. All students will have their picture taken for student identification cards, but you are not required to buy a picture package.

STUDENT ABSENCES

When your child is absent, it is very important to notify the office as soon as possible. Please call us at **724-9884** or send a note with your child on the day that he/she returns.

ICMS DRESS CODE REMINDERS

The beginning of the school year can still be quite warm; therefore, please remind your child to follow the dress code policy in the Student/Parent Handbook. **All shorts, skirts, and dresses must be at least finger-tip length.** If they are not, then finger-tip length leggings that are not see-through must be worn underneath. Slits in skirts and dresses must not come up past the fingertip. Holes in jeans must be below finger-tips unless non-see-through leggings are worn underneath. Shirts must cover the shoulder. Shirts that have cut-outs in the shoulder area will not be allowed. Tank tops and spaghetti straps are also not allowed.

Students who are in violation of the dress code will be asked to change. If they do not have extra clothes with them, they will be asked to contact their parents to bring them school-appropriate clothes. Frequent offenders of this policy may receive referrals and disciplinary consequences.

As you shop for clothes this fall and throughout the school year, please keep the dress code in mind. Thank you for your support in advance. If you have any questions about the dress code, please contact our Dean of Students.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 810-724-9811.

UPCOMING DATES

August 17- Middle School Open House

August 23- First Day of School

August 27- No School

September 3 – No School

September 6- No School, Labor Day

September 17- School Picture Day