

# Indiantown Middle School



## *Home of the Thunderbirds*

### **Principal's Bulletin**

**March 11, 2022**

Greetings Thunderbirds!

I hope that this message finds all of our students, staff, and families doing very well! I wanted to take a few moments to share some timely updates for your review:

#### **Springing Ahead - Spring Break Awaits!**

There is certainly a great sense of excitement in the air, as Spring Break is now upon our doorstep! On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to wish everyone a great week away from the NEST, wherever it may take you! Please be safe, rest, have fun, and enjoy this time with family and friends. Don't forget, we push the clocks forward on Saturday night/early morning, by 1 hour! Classes will resume on Monday, March 21st.

#### **FOCUS Parent Portal**

In late February, I shared a message that over 500 IMS parents had yet to activate an account using FOCUS, the on-line Gradebook Portal. Thank you to those of you that have already activated an account! Within FOCUS, parents can see grades, attendance, referrals, state assessment results, and report cards. The link below provides directions for activating accounts and we strongly recommend each parent visits FOCUS on a regular basis.

<https://www.martinschools.org/page/focus-parent-portal-student-grades-and-attendance>

#### **Satisfactory and Engagement Survey - Deadline April 7th**

If/when you have 5 minutes to spare, please consider submitting the annual MCSD Satisfaction and Engagement Survey for IMS. All feedback is reviewed and utilized to enhance the Thunderbird experience for students, staff, families and community members. If we are doing something great, we would certainly appreciate hearing that too! Links below:

[Student 3-12](#)

[Parent](#)

[Padre](#)

## **Creating the Conversations about Drugs and Bullying**

Earlier this week, I sent out a text message to all families, along with posting to the IMS Facebook page, making a plea to join us in having conversations with our children about the dangers of “Edible Gummies”. For those that may not be aware of these items, they are gummies that look like candy, yet they contain marijuana. Companies are manufacturing these products to look nearly identical to popular brands of candy that you may see at the store, yet they are illegal and often go unnoticed to the average eye. With that said, items that make their way to school, make it here from within our community, with the emphasis on the word “our”. We must work together to win this battle and it can start with conversations aimed at educating our children.

As the Principal, I am asking for help and am making a plea to avoid the blame game. If the conversations related to drugs or bullying are centered around who is at fault, we will not be successful in bettering our community and this school. My plea is for all stakeholders to engage in having critical conversations with our children, about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and the implications of bullying.

When it comes to reporting any bullying/harassing concerns, please know that we have a support team in place that consists of mentors, counselors, administration and a school resource officer, all of whom will investigate allegations of bullying and harassment. Please keep in mind that much like outside of school, we too are tasked with the burden of proof, when attempting to hold individuals accountable for their actions. We strongly encourage students and parents to report all cases to a trusted adult, so that we can investigate immediately. Initial bullying/harassment reports shall be directed to Mr. Smith, Mrs. Norman or Ms. Rivera.

I firmly believe that when we work together to battle these critical areas, our children will be the ones who reap the greatest rewards from our efforts. I greatly appreciate your support in working with us and having the opportunity to work with the community!

## **6th Grade Family Engagement Night - April 7th - Save the Date!**

**Who:** Students, parents, guardians, and 6th Grade Team

**What:** Have fun and review science concepts using real life connections using soccer.

**Where:** Indiantown Middle School. We will begin in the cafeteria and end on the track field.

**When:** April 7th, 2022 from 5:30-6:30 PM

**Why:** Review science concepts while having fun as a family.

**How:**

- Review science concepts using a soccer ball.
- Friendly competition seeing “force and action in motion” with four teams- 6 vs 6.
- Free popcorn while watching

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uyZvX3md7bhkuAPn3JlOWQ8efEahJ8MwpBFfYIHqaE/edit?usp=sharing>

## **End of Year Field Trip Update**

As we shared a couple of weeks ago, our 8th Grade students and families received quite the surprise when the Indiantown Chamber of Commerce raised enough funds to pay for all interested/eligible students to attend Universal's Gradventure event! All families that had already paid for the trip will be receiving a refund for \$140.00. The paperwork for this process began immediately, yet it's not as efficient as a return at your local store, thus the delay. As soon as the checks are available (anticipated to occur prior to the end of March), families will receive a phone call to come pick them up at the front office. Please be sure to have a photo ID when receiving the refund check.

Please note that after Spring Break, we will share information on ticket sales for the remaining trips. Today, I can share the anticipated price-point (final pricing will be detailed in parent letter) for these trips, which include transportation, ticket, meal voucher, and t-shirt:

### **2022 Field Trip Line-up:**

Grade 5 - Legoland ( 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM - May 24th) - \$50.00 \*\$2000 donated by community members led by Anglina Perez

Grade 6 - SeaWorld (7:45 AM - 7:45 PM - May 25th) - \$80.00 \*\$1000 fundraised dollars by 6th Grade Team

Grade 7 - Busch Gardens (May 23rd - 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM) - \$130.00

Grade 8 - \* Universal's Gradventure (2 PM - 2:30 AM May 13th/14th) \*CLOSED OUT - DEADLINE PASSED - completed funded by the Indiantown Chamber of Commerce.

Questions about any of our upcoming trips shall be directed to Tiffany Fitzhugh, our Field Trip Coordinator. Tiffany can be reached at 772-597-2146 ext. 56242 or at [fitzhut@martinschools.org](mailto:fitzhut@martinschools.org).

### **Upcoming Dates!**

Mar. 14 - 18 - Spring Break (No Classes)

Mar. 21 - 1st Day of the 4th 9-weeks

Mar. 22 - Home Soccer Game vs AMS - 5:15 PM

Mar. 24 - Away Soccer Game vs SMS - 5:15 PM

Mar. 24 - Music In Our Schools @ MCHS - 7 PM

Mar. 28 - Q3 Report Cards on-line in FOCUS - Call for hardcopies

Mar. 30 - Early Release Day

## **Help (STILL) Wanted in the NEST!**

We are seeking talented and highly motivated individuals to join our team! The following positions are currently available: School Counselor, ELL Paraprofessional, and ESE Teacher. Please visit the MCSD website to apply:

<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsfinmartincofl/rapplmnu03.w>

Note: The School Crossing Guard position is still vacant, yet that search is being conducted via the Sheriff's Department. The rate of pay for this position is \$15.32/hr. and each shift is assigned for a minimum of one (1) hour. The advertised times for our school is expected to be from 8:20 am-9:15am (1 hr. of pay) and 3:45pm- 4:15pm (1 hr. of pay). The Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) requires School Crossing Guards to complete classroom training for 2-3 hours and then field training for 1-2 hours per day for five days. The hiring process requires an interview, background check and polygraph examination which are all paid for by MCSO. Visit the MCSO website below for more information!

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/martinsheriff>

## **The Village Voice - "The Thunderbird Experience" Survey! How are we doing?**

I continue to share our plea to gather valued feedback from students, parents, staff, and community members. Here is the link to "The Village Voice" - A survey designed to enhance "The Thunderbird Experience" for all in our NEST! <https://forms.gle/zziTregEFZz5YTe58>

**Connecting with IMS-** Please remember that in addition to sending out text messages, we are on Facebook @IMSThunderbirds (Indiantown Middle School), have a school webpage at <https://www.martinschools.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=11> and have a general email inbox of [imshelp@martinschools.org](mailto:imshelp@martinschools.org). Of course, the traditional method of giving us a call is always an option as well (772-597-2146).

On behalf of all of our teammates in the NEST, it remains an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to empower, inspire and educate your children! Wishing all in our NEST, the best ALWAYS!

~ Mr. Raimann

**#AllRise**