

August 2, 2020

Good evening Charger Families,

This is Melissa Baird, Principal of Inverness Middle School, sharing important information with you in our first Weekly News Flash for the 2020-2021 school year.

First, as a reminder, the first day for students is August 20th. This is a change from the original start date, and the 2020-2021 school calendar is currently being revised. I will post the updated calendar as soon as it is finalized.

The Citrus Cares: School Reopening Plan 2020-2021 is available at citruschools.org. I encourage families to review the plan, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone if you have questions. The window to enroll your child in Citrus Virtual was extended to allow time for families to make the decision to choose to return to brick-and-mortar, or to enroll in Citrus Virtual School; however, the very last day to enroll in Citrus Virtual is Wednesday, August 5. Please contact IMS if you have any questions.

Sixth grade orientation is August 13th from 9am-12pm, and this is an in-person orientation. Students will be assigned a one hour window during that time for their orientation time-slot. We will assign time-slots based on your child's homeroom, and we will share the specific homeroom/times as soon as we are finished finalizing schedules. This is a student-only event, and students will be working with our teachers and student leaders in small groups to learn more about IMS and tour the school. Students will be practicing social distancing and will need to have a face-covering/mask.

This year our open house will be a "virtual" open house. This will also take place on August 13th. We will share the link with our families so that you can view our open house information for all grade levels. If your 7th or 8th grade student is brand new to IMS, we will be reaching out to those families to provide a time during which your student can come to campus for a tour of the school. Again, this will be for students only because for the first nine weeks, at minimum, only teachers, staff, and students will be allowed on campus. Additionally, we are working diligently to finalize student schedules. I will let you know as soon as schedules are ready to view on Skyward.

Also, don't forget that face-coverings/masks will be required by both students and staff for ninety days, and the policy will be reviewed after that time. The face-coverings/masks must be school appropriate and free from any inappropriate pictures or language. The masks must fit securely around the nose and mouth; therefore, neck-gaitors and regular masks are acceptable, but face shields and bandanas are not. Masks must be worn during transitions, on the bus, or any time that social distancing is not possible.

I know that this has been a stressful time for our families as they choose what is the best option for their student. While the start of this school year will be different than what we are all used to, please know that all decisions and policies that are in place are there for the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. This is a time that we must join as one to support each other because Chargers, we are in this together. We all share similar feelings of fear and frustration with the unknown, but we also share the same absolute love for our students. I ask for your patience, positivity, and understanding as we move forward together into this unique start of the year. Please know that I am available via phone or email, and I am so very excited to meet our Chargers! Have a fantastic week and stay tuned for your next Weekly News Flash on Sunday, August 9th.

Thank you,

Mrs. Baird

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