

August 9, 2020

Good evening Charger Families,

This is Melissa Baird, Principal of Inverness Middle School, sharing important information with you in our Weekly News Flash!

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.

Sixth grade orientation is August 13th from 9am-12pm, and this is an in-person orientation. You should have received a dial-out from Mrs. Story last Thursday regarding your time slot for orientation. If you do not know your child's time slot for orientation, contact IMS on Monday between 7am and 3pm. Additionally, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers will be calling their homeroom students starting on Tuesday to introduce themselves and remind students about orientation. 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 wear a face-covering/mask. We ask that you drop your child off for orientation at the bus ramp near the IMS gym starting at 8:45am for the 9:00am group and 10:45am for the 11am group. You will then return to pick up your child using the Ella Street entrance near the IMS media center.

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 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. We are almost finished with student schedules and families will be able to view student schedules on Skyward later this week.

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.

Please make sure your student has a clear, refillable water bottle for school. Our water fountains will remain covered, for everyone's safety, for at least the first nine weeks. We are in the process of installing water bottle fill stations in our cafeteria and in our gym. Student refillable water bottles can be a tinted color, but the bottle must be clear and contain minimal pictures of graphics so that the contents of the bottle are visible.

We are excited to welcome our teachers back on August 11<sup>th</sup> for pre-planning for our school 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 16th.

Thank you,

Mrs. Baird

BairdM@citruschools.org \* (352) 726-1471 Ext. 5505