
COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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THANK GOODNESS FOR THE SUNSHINE

Spring has certainly sprung, and it looks like we are going to get a taste of summer weather this weekend! We hope this week's newsletter finds you well and feeling like you're falling into a rhythm with your child's online schooling. Now that we are three solid weeks into the new trimester, we wanted to make sure to highlight some important realities of our current situation. As a counseling team, we are starting to hear from more and more students and families who are overwhelmed and are in need of social/emotional support. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about that. We are accessible by email, and we are maintaining weekly office hours if your students want to check in with us.



Additionally, we want to make sure all parents are aware of our requirement for students regarding the video function on Zoom class calls. We also wanted to revisit the attendance and grading policies for our current situation. Lastly, but certainly not least, we wanted to offer up some fresh ideas for fun things to do as a family during "shelter in place." While the road into our new reality has surely been a bumpy ride, the sunshine sure does help! We encourage all of you to get outside and enjoy the weather, with your family, on this lovely weekend! As always, remember that we are here to help you and/or your students.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING REVISTED

As we wrap up week three of the current learning plan, we wanted to remind you of how our teachers have been instructed to track "attendance" and what the grading policy is during this unprecedented time in our lives and in education.

Attendance is tracked by your student's teachers through a 1-3 scale and is entered into Skyward every Friday.

Below is an explanation of what the numbers represent from a student's perspective. If you have time please review this with your student.

- **1** = I may or may not have logged into Schoology or an office hour, but did not engage in the learning activity or participate in the tasks.
- **2** = I participate in activities or complete learning activities when reminded. I participate in learning activities in a minimal way, or don't engage with either the teacher or the materials.
- **3** = I log in to the required office hours to check in with my teacher. I email/ message my teacher when I have questions or ideas. I engage with both the teacher, and the materials.

Teachers are grading work in order to give student's feedback on their work. At the end of the trimester, the grades will be converted to a "Pass" or "No Credit".

Please encourage your student to engage with their teachers during office hours as well as with the learning materials.

Remember: Teachers can only help when they know that a student is struggling, so please don't hesitate to reach out and include your Counselor on the communication to ensure support for you and your student.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE VIDEO FUNCTION ON ZOOM

Some students and families have reached out to us to inquire why students need to have their video cameras on for Zoom meetings. It's a simple answer really; We require video cameras to be on for our students to protect their safety. It's really important that every student has their camera on before the teacher lets them into the "class" from the waiting rooms so we can ensure that students are who they say they are, and that only IMS students are permitted to enter our class meetings. Plus, we really want to see everyone's faces, as we miss our students dearly. We understand there may be technology challenges or other barriers to overcome related to this requirement. If that is the case, please reach out to your student's Teacher or Counselor. We are here to help problem solve with you.

FRESH IDEAS FOR FUN!

Scavenger hunts:

- ✦ Alphabet scavenger hunt: Locate objects from all over the house for each letter in the alphabet.
- ✦ Calming scavenger hunt: find an object that makes you feel calm and relaxed.
- ✦ Joy scavenger hunt: find an object in your house that brings you joy.
- ✦ Indoor scavenger hunts ([Link included in the email](#))

Treasure hunt: Create a treasure hunt with clues that your whole family has to find.

Charades: The first person tells the others the category, and then they act it out without using words or making sounds. The other players try and guess the category.

Draw a shared picture: Each person has 1 minute to draw and then trade and draw on the other person's paper for 1 minute.

Play Quingo (Quarantine Bingo): Try to get a bingo by completing as many quarantine activities as possible ([Link included in the email.](#) credit: Sources of Strength)

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

How many of these items can you find around the house?

<input type="checkbox"/> stuffed bear 	<input type="checkbox"/> flashlight 
<input type="checkbox"/> paper airplane 	<input type="checkbox"/> mug or cup 
<input type="checkbox"/> random sock 	<input type="checkbox"/> keys 
<input type="checkbox"/> sunglasses 	<input type="checkbox"/> alarm clock 
<input type="checkbox"/> book 	<input type="checkbox"/> measuring tape 
<input type="checkbox"/> crayon 	<input type="checkbox"/> ball of any sort 
<input type="checkbox"/> toy truck 	<input type="checkbox"/> scarf 
<input type="checkbox"/> potted plant 	<input type="checkbox"/> building blocks 
<input type="checkbox"/> ruler 	<input type="checkbox"/> baby doll 
<input type="checkbox"/> toothpaste 	<input type="checkbox"/> salt and pepper 

REMINDER: COUNSELOR OFFICE HOURS

The IMS Counselors are offering an **OPTIONAL** opportunity for **STUDENTS** to check in. We will each be on a Zoom call, partnered with an Administrator, again next week. Dru Klein will be online **Tuesday** from 10-10:30 (students with last names A-G), Janet Goldstein will be online **Wednesday** from 10-10:30 (last names H-O) and Jayna Dash will be online **Thursday** from 10-10:30 (last names P-Z). Students are encouraged to log on to ask questions, to say hello or to simply come for additional adult connection.

*****Zoom links are posted in the Schoology calendar.*****