



ISLANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear 5th Grade Families,

Believe it or not, 2023 is the year your 5th grader goes to middle school! ☺ The transition process for students and parents begins this March and runs through the first day of school next year on August 30, 2023. In anticipation of how quickly spring will be upon us, we want to ask you to please **SAVE the DATE** for all the following important 5th to 6th transition activities. We have indicated which events are for **families**, for **parents** or specifically for **students**.

5th Grade Registration Information (Google Form to be sent to all 5th grade families):

Registration information will be sent via Google Form to 5th grade families on **March 20th**. Families will need to complete the online registration process by **April 3rd**.

Gator for a Night . . . Incoming 6th Grade Family Night (for parents and incoming 6th graders):

This event is on **Wednesday, March 22 at IMS**. The purpose of this night is to give **families** an opportunity to get familiar with the layout of Islander Middle School. This informal event will give you and your child a chance to participate in a scavenger hunt as you tour around the school and experience fun opportunities that IMS has to offer. Counselors will be available to answer questions about the registration process. This event will be open from 5:00 - 6:30 pm and is a drop-in situation. We anticipate the experience to last about 40 minutes. There will be no formal presentation on this night.

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information Night (for parents only):

This event is scheduled for **Thursday, May 11 and will be either asynchronous or in person**. The purpose of this night is to give **parents** a sense of the middle school experience. There will be several informational videos including:

- **WEB** - Focus on 6th Grade WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program which connects 6th grade students to the Islander Middle School community.
- **Student Panel** - Panel discussion composed of current 6th grade students who will reflect on their first year at IMS. They will share their perceptions around transition, fitting in, lunches, homework, and extracurricular activities. (This is often the most valuable session for parents)

- *MIYFS* – Facilitated discussion by IMS Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Counselor and IMS Technology Specialist. Our MIYFS Counselor will share information about what to expect from your child as he/she enters the middle school years.
- *Technology* - A Technology Specialist will discuss Schoology - our main communication platform for students and parents.
- *Administration* - IMS Administrators and PTSA members will share information about the rules and expectations at Islander and the overall student program.
- *PTSA* – PTSA members will share information about the overall student program and how parents can stay involved.

5th Grade Classroom Visits from WEB Leaders (for incoming 6th grade students only):

These visits will take place during the late-Spring. IMS 8th grade WEB Leaders along with our academic students leaders will meet with 5th grade classrooms to share information about IMS and answer student questions.

IMS “Back2School” Day (for incoming 6th grade students and parents):

The *anticipated* date for this event is **Wednesday, August 22, 2023**, but the date won’t be finalized until Spring of 2023. IMS Back2School is the day all students and parents come to IMS in order to take school photos, sign-up for PTSA volunteer opportunities, and walk the student class schedule.

IMS Open for informal visitations (for incoming 6th grade students and parents):

August 28 and 29, IMS will be open to kids and families. Students can come through the school, walk their schedule and get comfortable with their new surroundings.

6th Grade WEB Experience (for incoming 6th grade students only):

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 is the first day of school. IMS runs on a special schedule that day where only 6th grade students and their 8th grade WEB Leaders attend school in the morning. The new 6th graders will have a welcome assembly and then will break into small groups where there will be team building experiences for students, followed by tours and lunch. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders will then run through a shortened schedule of their 6 classes beginning at 11:20 am and ending at 1:20pm.

There will be lots of reminders as we get closer to the date for each event, but we wanted to be sure families are aware of the myriad of transition activities and that the dates get a priority spot on your busy calendars. If modifications arise due to any COVID conditions, we will be sure to update families as soon as we are aware.

Sincerely,

Weston Lucas, Aaron Miller and Mary Jo Budzius
IMS Administration