

# Illahee Middle School Newsletter

August 14, 2024



Hello, Illahee Families

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! Although we have a few more weeks of summer break, our staff is working hard to prepare for another incredible school year! I hope the below information helps to answer your questions as we approach the first day of school. The most common question we are receiving right now is regarding school bus stops and transportation. This information is not yet available and will come directly from our Transportation department in the coming weeks. If you have additional questions, please give our Main Office a call.

Our first back to school event is our Back to School Night on Monday, August 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Please check out more details below to see what time we'd like your child to attend our event. This is a great opportunity to pick up a paper copy of your child's schedule, connect with your child's counselor and additional staff, tour our temporary building, purchase Illahee spirit gear, learn about sports and activities, and more.

As always, please reach out to our Main Office with questions or support needed.

Proud to be a Royal,

Brianna Ward  
Proud Principal  
Illahee Middle School

## Back to School Night

Join us for **Back to School Night on Monday, August 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm!** Pick up a paper copy of your student's schedule, purchase Illahee spirit gear, tour our temporary building, learn about Illahee sports and clubs, connect with your child's counselor and Illahee staff, and more! We ask that families come during the assigned time frames outlined below. If you have more than 1 child that attends our school, please select one of the time frames that aligns with your children's last name and grade.

### 7th and 8th Graders

Last names A - L: 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Last names M - Z: 4:45 - 5:30 pm

### 6th Graders

Last names A - L: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Last names M - Z: 6:15 - 7:00 pm

## School Supplies

**We provide all scholars with school supplies to ensure that all students have the supplies they need** at school to be successful. Below is a list of what will be provided to each student and in every classroom. Families will need to provide their student with a backpack that is brought to school every day to carry their supplies and belongings. Families are welcome to purchase additional supplies for their scholar if desired.

### Provided to all students

Pencils  
Highlighters (5 colors)  
Colored pencils  
Spiral notebooks (1 per class)  
3-ring binder  
Pencil pouch  
Dividers

### Provided in all classrooms

Scissors  
Rulers  
Erasers  
Glue sticks  
Pencil sharpener  
Extra pencils  
Extra highlighters

## First Day of School

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, September 3. Students will be welcomed into the building starting at 7:35 am for our 8:00 am start time.

We are excited to provide our newest Royals a VIP experience on their first day of 6th grade! 6th Graders will be greeted by our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) student leaders and escorted into a VIP entrance to help ensure their first day of middle school is a success. More details to come soon!

## Online Verification

Enrollment for new families is back online and our annual verification process for returning families is now open!

- **Current FWPS Families:** It's time to complete annual verification! If you have already enrolled your child for the 2024-25 school year or your child attended an FWPS school in the 2023-24 school year and will continue to attend FWPS in the 2024-25 school year, please complete the annual verification process before the first day of school!

Visit <http://grades.fwps.org> and log in to verify your child's information and complete important new-year tasks, like reviewing the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, available at [www.fwps.org/RightsandResponsibilities](http://www.fwps.org/RightsandResponsibilities).

- **New to FWPS Families:** If your child is new to Federal Way Public Schools or returning after time away from the district, enroll them now.

More information and support details are available at [www.fwps.org/enrollment](http://www.fwps.org/enrollment).

## Fall Sports Begin Tuesday, 9/3

Our fall sports teams will begin practice on the first day of school on Tuesday, 9/3. The fall season includes Football for 7th and 8th graders, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Fastpitch. All scholar-athletes must be cleared for practice in order to participate. Athletic clearance includes having an updated sports physical in the last 2 years that's on file with our Main Office and all the necessary forms completed in Final Forms. Please reach out to our Main Office with questions - 253-945-4600.

Our fall sports teams will practice in various locations since our school is located in our temporary location for one more school year. Football and Fastpitch athletes will be bused to our actual Illahee fields at our home location that is under construction. Cross Country athletes will remain at our temporary location for practices and will travel by bus to other schools for competition. More information will be shared by coaches and our Athletic Director.

## August Main Office Hours

Our Office is open to the public Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 3:00 pm. We have limited support staff on site until late August when we welcome back more of our school staff.

## Bus Routes: Coming Soon

Our Transportation department is working hard to finalize bus routes for students that live in bus riding areas. Since our school is located at our temporary location, all of our scholars are considered bus riders unless you are a choice enrollment student. Please watch for email communication directly from our Transportation department in the coming weeks.

## Save the Date - 2024-25 School Year

Important dates

- WEB Leader Training: Tues, August 20 - Wed, August 21
- Back to School Night: Monday, August 26
- First Day of School: Tuesday, September 3
- First Day of Fall Sports: Tuesday, September 3

## Counselor Corner: Summer Activities and Resources

### Self-Care Activities

**Physical:** Go for a walk – Play a sport – Ride a bike – Yoga – Play with a pet

**Mental:** Write in a journal – Track your mood – Take a Digital Detox – Listen to music – Talk to a friend

**Emotional:** Practice gratitude – Deep breathing – Positive thinking – Laugh out loud – Connect with others

**Creative:** Draw/paint pictures – Make a playlist – Cook a new recipe – Write a poem/story – Make a funny video

### Things to Do

#### **King County Library:**

Visit your local library to learn about:

- “Summer Reading Program” – You can win prizes too!  
<https://kcls.org/summer/>

#### **Continuous Learning Opportunities:**

- Summer Learning Packets available for every grade level!  
<https://shorturl.at/DaA94>

#### **Fun and Games (and Food!):**

- FRED Bus (& Summer Meals)  
To view the schedule and locations: <https://shorturl.at/b0pgX>

### **Supportive Resources**

- “SunBucks” - \$ for Food Benefits ◦ [www.dshs.wa.gov/sunbucks](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/sunbucks)
- Talkspace ◦ log into FWPS Launchpad
- Clayful ◦ [www.ChatWithClayful.com](http://www.ChatWithClayful.com)
- Teen Link - Help Line ◦ 866-833-6546 ◦ [www.Teenlink.org](http://www.Teenlink.org)
- The Trevor Project: 866-488-7386
- Trans Lifeline: 866-833-6546
- For *immediate* safety concerns call 866-4CRISIS if in King County 800-576-7764 if Pierce County or Text “HEAL” to 741741

In case of Emergency, dial 911!

### **Your Royal Counseling Team,**

Melissa Smith, 6th Grade

Phil Villanueva, 7th Grade

Nolita Bentley, 8th Grade