

Illahee Family Newsletter 8/30/24

Brianna Ward • 14 days ago • Friday, Aug 30 at 12:00 PM • Illahee Middle School

Illahee Middle School Newsletter

August 30, 2024



Hello, Illahee Families

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! The first day of school is almost here and we are so excited to see students next Tuesday, September 3rd! I had the opportunity to see many of you earlier this week at our Back to School Night. If you didn't get to attend, please know that the first day of school is set up to onboard all of our students to the new school year. All students will pick up new copies of their schedules when they arrive and the day is built to teach students, new and returning, about Illahee's expectations, traditions, and more. 6th

Speaking of the first day of school, our new 6th grade Royals will spend most of their day in 6th Grade Orientation with our incredible student WEB leaders. Our WEB leaders are 7th and 8th graders that have been selected to be peer mentors to our 6th graders. When 6th graders get off the bus or are dropped off, they will be escorted to our special "VIP" entrance. Watch for our WEB leaders in red t-shirts as students enter school!

I want to draw your attention to the information below outlining Illahee's policy and procedures regarding students cell phones, personal electronic devices, and headphones/earbuds. We are committed to creating an environment that prioritizes students' academic success and their physical and emotional safety. Please take a few minutes to read through our expectations for students and help reinforce the expectations with your child.

On behalf of the staff at Illahee, we are SO EXCITED to start the 2024-25 school year! Great things are ahead!

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

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. All students need to bring with them is a backpack! Reusable water bottles are welcome, too.

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.

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

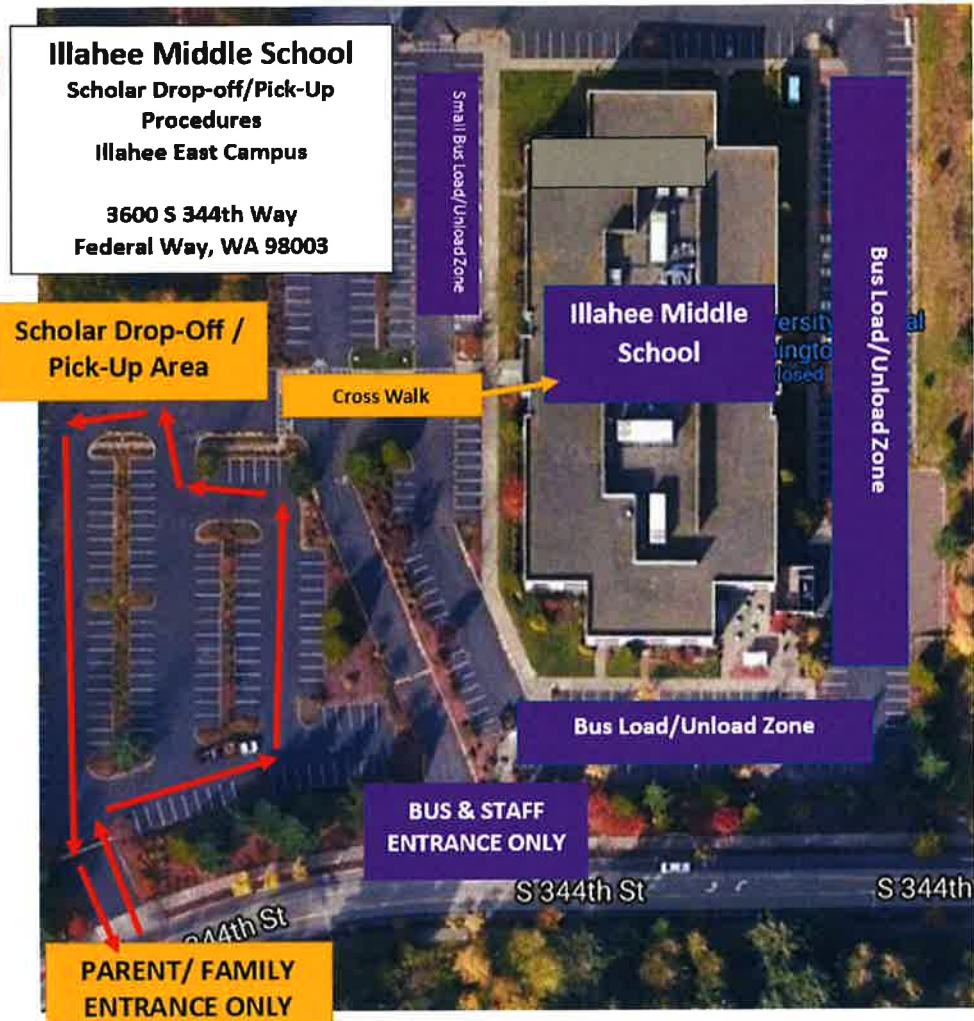
Pencils
Highlighters (5 colors)
Colored pencils
Spiral notebooks (1 per class)
3-ring binder
Pencil pouch
Dividers

Provided in all classrooms

Scissors
Rulers
Erasers
Glue sticks
Pencil sharpener
Extra pencils
Extra highlighters

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Area

Please review the student drop off/pick up area for students who are transported by car to and from school. We know the first day of school is an important milestone and that many families like to drive their child to school. I want to encourage you to have your child ride the bus on the first day because of our limited space here at our temporary school location. The drop off/pick up loop has limited space and cars that back up on to the main road will cause significant traffic delays for our buses and the community around us. We appreciate your patience and pre-planning so we can help all 670 of our students arrive to school safely!



Bus Transportation to and from our temporary location is provided for all students that live in our service area. Students on Choice enrollment must provide their own transportation.

Important information for parents that choose to drop off/pick up their child:

- Enter the parent/family loop area only. Follow the red arrows on the map above
- Follow the cones to join the pick up/drop off line
- Remain in your car. Scholars will exit/enter cars at the designated pick up/drop off location
- In the morning, students can exit cars & enter the building after 7:35 AM. School begins at 8:00 AM
- School is dismissed at 2:30 PM on regular school days and at 1:15 PM on Early Release Fridays

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.

For Football and Cross Country, students will be bused after school to our original Illahee field that is located next to our building that is under construction. Families will need to pick up their child from this location.

Coaches will provide more specific details to families.

For Fastpitch, students will be bused to Todd Beamer High School's fastpitch field for practice and home games. Families will need to pick up their child from this location. Coaches will provide more specific details to families.

Bus Routes

Bus routes are now updated and posted in ParentVue. If your student is a bus rider, you should have received an email or text from Transportation Wednesday evening with your most current bus route information. If you did not receive a notification, please check ParentVue where you can find your child's route information under the "student info" tab. Please make sure to have your child at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the pick up time. For all transportation-related questions, please call the transportation office at 253-945-5960.

Student Cell Phone and Earbuds/Headphones

Personal Electronics/Technology (cell phone) use at Illahee

This year, in order to maintain a focus on learning, we want to remind families about our student expectations regarding personal electronics/technology while at school. We know that a large number of students have cell phones and other electronic devices however, cell phones and electronics cause distractions, interrupt classroom instruction, and can impact the safety of our students. **Students at Illahee are expected to keep cell phones put away at all times during the school day except during lunchtime.** Other types of electronic devices (earbuds, headphones, etc.) should be kept at home. Students who do not follow this expectation will be subject to school discipline.

Recommendations for families:

- Review this information with your student at home
- We urge families to communicate with students before (7:30) or after school (2:30).
- If families need to contact their student(s) while at school, call the main office at (253)-945-4600
- For non-emergencies such as transportation changes, our staff will deliver messages to students when it does not disrupt class time
- Students have access to school phones if they need to contact you
- Review this resource from the Washington's Office of Public Instruction:

<https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2024-08/cell-phone-and-smart-device-use-schools.pdf>

Students are responsible for the devices that they bring to school and doing so is at their own risk. Staff are not responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto school property or to school-sponsored events.

Friday Early Release Begins September 20

Starting Friday, September 20, students will be released from school at 1:15 PM so teachers can engage in professional learning and collaboration. For the first two Fridays of the school year, we will dismiss at our regular 2:30 PM time.

Important Dates

Tuesday, 9/3: First day of school, First day of Fall Sports

Wednesday, 9/18: Open House, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Friday, 9/20: Early Release, students dismiss at 1:15 pm