

Welcome Families



Introductions

IMS School Counselors:

Dru Klein (A - G), Janet Goldstein (H - O), Jayna Dash (P - Z)

Administrators:

Mary Jo Budzius, Katie Gallagher, and Vicki Sherwood
(Subbing while Becky Mullvain is on a LOA)

Director of Technology:

Andreeves Ronser

IMS ADMIN - 25/26

Mary Jo Budzius

½ time Principal at IMS

At IMS - All day Mondays &
Thursdays;
Student day on Wednesdays;
Afternoon on Fridays

½ time Director of Teaching and Learning

At District Office - All day on
Tuesdays, Wednesday
afternoons, and Friday
mornings

Katie Gallagher - Full time
Associate Principal

Vicki Sherwood - Full time
Associate Principal (serving as
a leave replacement while
Becky Mullvain in out)

Doug Davis
.4 Dean of Students
.6 Science Teacher

Denise Thomas
.2 Dean of Gator Time
.8 Language Arts Teacher

Thank You to Our Partners

Islander Middle School PTSA

Mercer Island Schools Foundation

Mercer Island Youth and Family Services

GATOR GIVING

Where Your Dollar Goes

IMS Students Support

66.8%

- Learning Support
- Grants
- Field Trips
- WEB Teacher Stipends
- Bridge the Gap
- Reflections



IMS Faculty & Staff Support

17.6%

- Classroom & Student Funds
- Staff Appreciation
- Poster Maker Supplies
- Staff Hospitality



PTSA Operating Budget

4.6%

- PTSA Website
- Tax Accountant
- Discretionary Fund
- Volunteer Awards
- Insurance
- Conventions
- PayPal
- General



IMS Community Support

11%

- Graduation Ceremonies
- Parent Education
- Youth & Family Services
- Family Events
- Advocacy
- Welcome Events
- DE&I



imsptsa.org



The IMS PTSA's annual

Gator Give

campaign plays a crucial role in funding and enhancing the programs, events, and grants that the school cannot fully support through the district budget alone.

Every contribution goes directly supports IMS throughout this school year.

Every family that donates at least **\$275** to the Gator Give campaign will be entered into a drawing to **win a reserved parking spot at IMS!**



Show Your Gator Pride



<https://imsgators.snap.store/>



Staff Amazon Wishlists

<https://islanderptsa.membershiptoolkit.com/staffwishlists>



Islander Middle School PTSA

[Home](#) [Get Connected](#) [Get Involved](#) [Fundraising](#) [For Students](#) [About Us](#) [Belonging & Voice](#) [My Account](#)

Staff Wish Lists

Click on the teacher's names to see their classroom supply wish lists for the 2025-2026 school year.

[Jing An](#)

[Jordan Balhorn](#)

[Rachel Bendik](#)

[Janna Call](#)

[Doug Davis](#)

[Renee De Bock](#)

[Maria Fontana](#)

[Melissa Gaffney](#)

[Linda Geffen](#)

[DONATE](#)

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Mercer Island Schools Foundation



MERCER ISLAND
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



Who We Are

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the fundraising arm of the Mercer Island School District. Together, with generous community support, the Foundation raises vital funds to keep our schools some of the best in the state. With Foundation dollars the District is able to provide an exceptional education for our students.

Community dollars fuel -

- **Inspire Learning**
- **Enrich Teaching**
- **Promote Innovation**
- **Spark Academic Excellence**

Why It Matters

State funding alone does not cover a **basic** education for Mercer Island students. Without community contributions, our schools wouldn't have the resources to deliver the quality education we expect. **Your support bridges the gap** and ensures every student has the chance to succeed at the highest level.



How We Help

With the Mercer Island community's generous support, the Foundation raises funds for district-wide programs that keep our schools among the **BEST in the STATE**. As the **strategic fundraising partner** of the Mercer Island School District, we empower teachers and support students by funding:

- World-Class Curricula & Materials
- Teacher Enrichment Grants
- STEM Programs
- Differentiated Learning
- Special Education Support
- Fine Arts
- Professional Development
- Social, Emotional & Academic Support
- Safe & Supportive Learning Environments

**Your dollars impact
EVERY STUDENT, IN EVERY CLASSROOM, EVERY DAY!**

MISF fundraiser
Denim & Diamonds on October 4th at
the Mercer Island Funny Farm!

ALL IN FOR KIDS

Fall Fundraiser



MERCER ISLAND SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

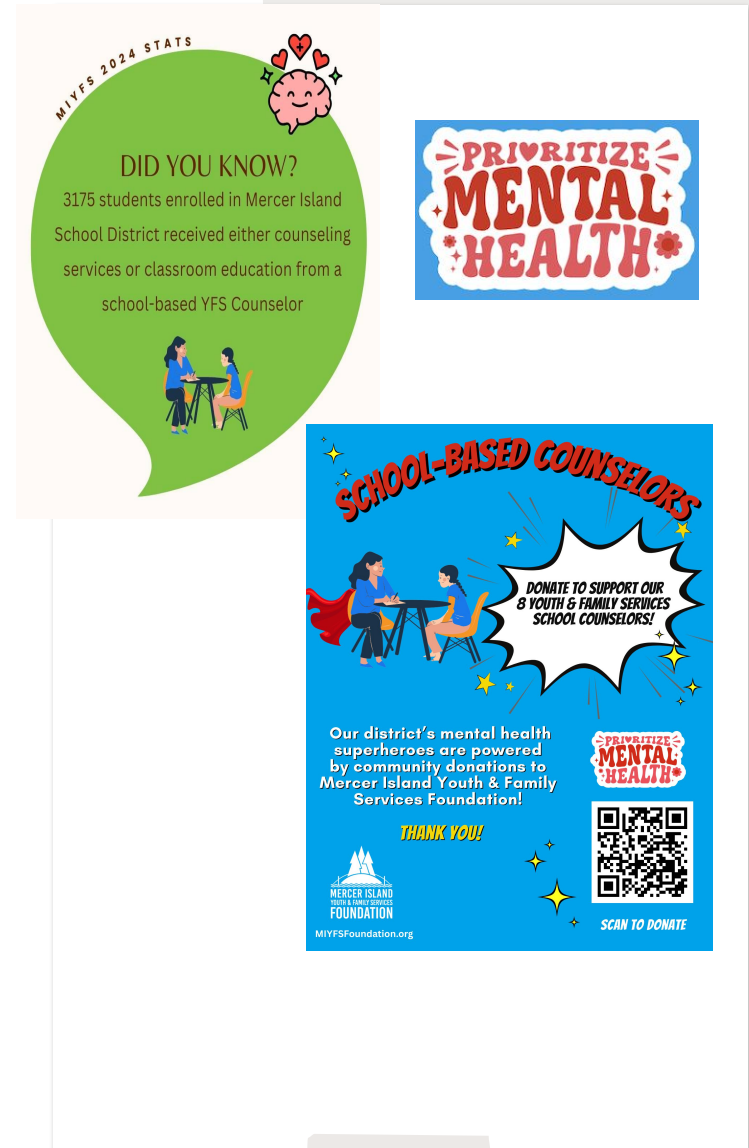


Why Support MIYFS Foundation?

- Youth & Family Services & school-based counselors are funded by MIYFS Foundation, Mercer Island Thrift Store & City of Mercer Island.
- MIYFS Foundation collects funds to help sustain the level of services needed in the district's schools while also expanding to meet the evolving needs for youth mental health support.
- We encourage students and parents to reach out to get to know your YFS school-based counselor!



Learn More & Donate:
MIYFSFoundation.org



Wise Words from Ted Lasso

‘Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse, isn’t it? If you’re comfortable while you’re doing it, you’re probably doing it wrong.’

‘I hope that either all of us or none of us are judged by the actions of our weakest moments, but rather by the strength we show when and if we’re given a second chance.’

Pair & Share

Which quote do you think connects most with middle school?

Why?

MISD Mission, Vision and Values

Core Values Students are the priority. We believe in: supporting the whole child, inclusive and equitable learning settings, ensuring our school community is safe and supportive and providing a rigorous and challenging learning.

Vision Inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

Mission Mercer Island School District will foster learning by engaging students to think critically, solve problems creatively, and work collaboratively.

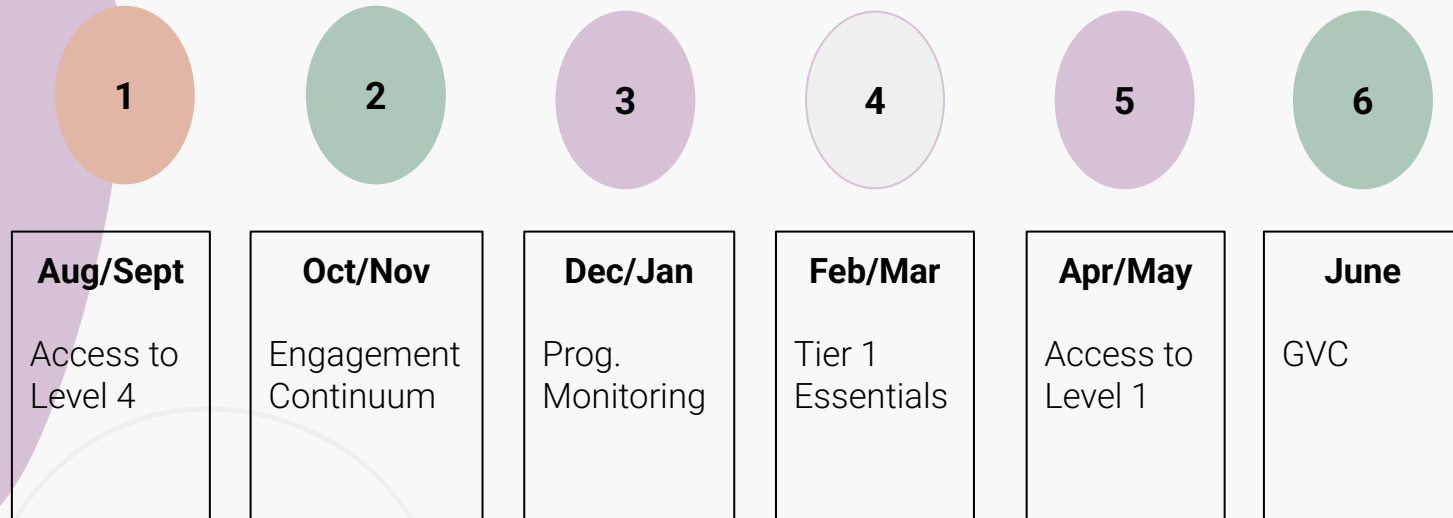


Parent Data – EES Survey

Essential Characteristic	EES Survey	Data Point	Year/ Percentage	Trend
High Standards and Expectations	Family Survey	My student is challenged with a rigorous course of study at this school	2022 47% 2023 45% 2024 47% 2025 55%	↑
	Family Survey	Struggling students receive early intervention and additional help at this school	2022 54% 2023 51% 2024 52% 2025 55%	↑
	Family Survey	Teachers Accommodate My Student's Individual Needs By adjusting instruction	2022 49% 2023 44% 2024 44% 2025 53%	↑
	Family Survey	I am given opportunities to discuss my students progress at school	2022 44% 2023 39% 2024 40% 2025 43%	↔
High Levels of Collaboration and Communication	Family Survey	This school communicates with me about my student's progress	2022 42% 2023 46% 2024 48% 2025 45%	↓
	Family Survey	I am encouraged to collaborate with my student's teachers about my student's learning	2022 42% 2023 32% 2024 33% 2025 41%	↑

2025-2026 SIP Focus

Cycles of Inquiry - with an overlay of reading and math skill where applicable



Through the Cycle of Inquiry, teams harness their collective wisdom, embrace curiosity, and drive meaningful change - transforming challenges into opportunities for growth through collaboration and shared purpose.

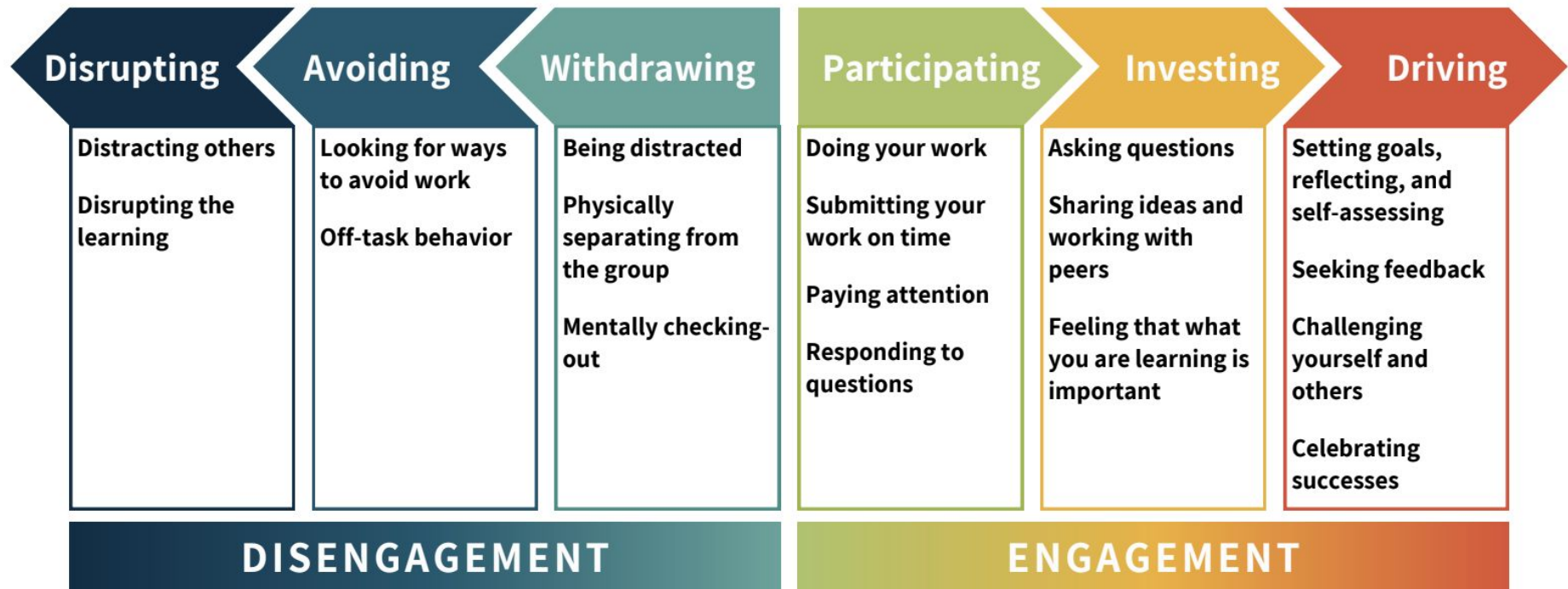
Expert Learners

In an ever-changing world, helping students become expert learners is one of the most powerful and lasting things we can do.

- Engage in learning with ownership and purpose
- Set goals and monitor their progress
- Reflect on feedback and use it to grow
- Take initiative and make choices in their learning
- Apply learning in meaningful and creative ways
- Transfer skills across contexts to deepen understanding.

What's my level of engagement?

Active ← Passive → Active



How do I connect with a Counselor?

You are always welcome to **call or email** us!

(Happy to answer any and all questions, even if you're not sure who else to ask)



Students are encouraged to chat with us in the hallways or during lunch, stop by our offices, send us a Schoology message or email us anytime! They can also ask their teachers to come see us.



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

- YFS mental health counselor in each of the schools.
- Counselors work with students, families and school staff to support social and emotional wellbeing.
- YFS Counselors help students and parents build a strong foundation for the future.

Meet your YFS Counselors !



Kate Howell

(206) 230-6154

kate.howell@mercerislandschools.org



Katie Spencer

(206) 230-6272

katie.spencer@mercerislandschools.org

YFS School Counselors
are brought to you by:



How to support your
YFS School Counselors:



*Donate items
& shop!*

Check out



ParentingMercerIsland.org

Who do I go to for help?

Start with the person closest to the issue . . .

If it's a classroom problem, begin with the teacher.

If it's a social-emotional, attendance, multi-class issue, or anything else- begin with the counselor.

LUNCH GROUPS

2025-2026 School Year!

MON

**Maker's
Mondays!**

TUE

**Tech
Tuesdays!**

WED

**Wellness
Wednesdays!**

THU

**Talk About it
Thursdays!**

FRI

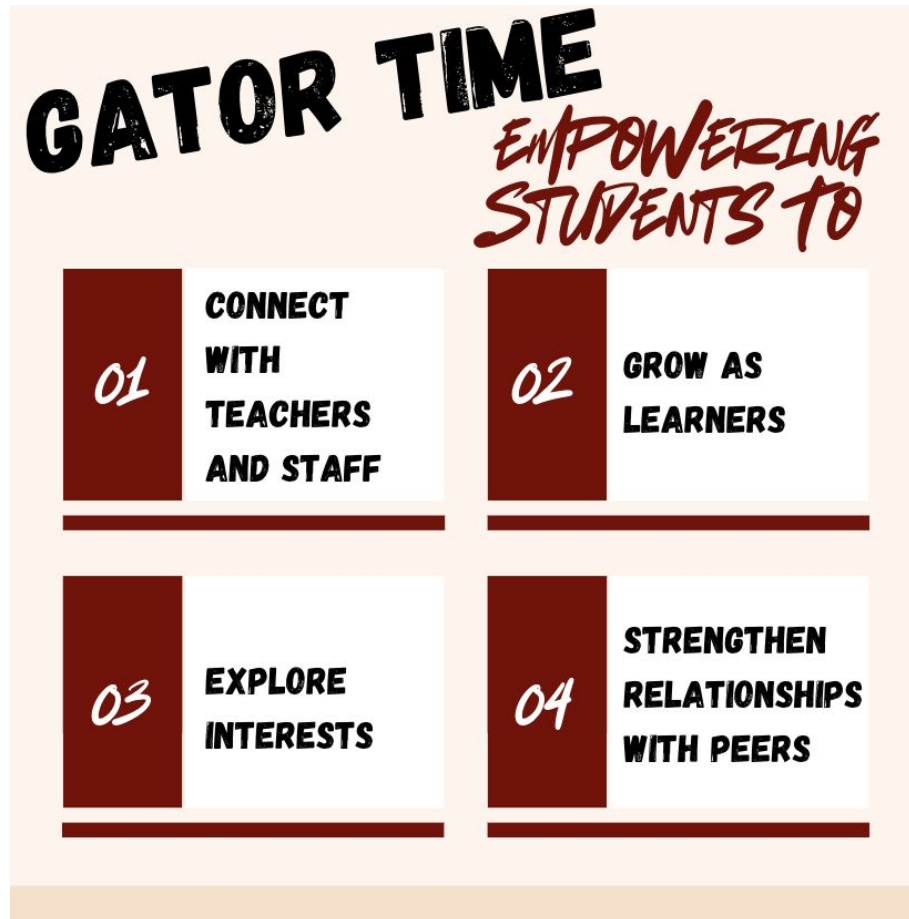
**Friendship
Fridays!**

**Grab Your Lunch and
Head to Room 113!**

Gator Time

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

At the end of the day (2:25 - 2:50)



Gator Time Start -Up Schedule

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	GT Begins/Students return to a teacher on their schedule			Per. 1	Per. 2	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Per. 3	Per. 4		Trial Run 1	Per. 5	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Trial Run 2	Per. 6		iReady Extended Schedule	iReady Extended Schedule	
28	29	30				
First 4 Week Rotation						

An Inside Look at Gator Time

	Teachers (1.0 fte)	Paraprofessionals	Students
Day 1	PLC	Host a Choice Activity	Choice or Connection, or Extended Support
Day 2	Connection (8 students minimum)	Host a Choice Activity	Choice or Connection, or Extended Support
Day 3	Host a Choice Activity	Host a Choice Activity	Choice or Connection, or Extended Support
Day 4	Host a Choice Activity	Host a Choice Activity	Choice or Connection, or Extended Support

Choice Options = Trial Run & First 4 Weeks

- Independent Reading
- Board/Card Games
- Drawing
- Gym Activity
- Foosball
- Chess
- LEGO Building
- Gym Activity
- Collaborative HW
- Walk the Track
- Coloring/Drawing
- Independent HW (Quiet)
- Orchestra
- Digital Group Games
- Nintendo
- Choir
- Band
- Creative Writing

Room Parents

Our goal is to continue to nurture a collaborative and inclusive environment where families feel involved and informed. We are asking classroom teachers to recruit a room parent at curriculum night.



The Room Parent will help with

- Recruiting support from other parents for the teacher as needed for things like bulletin boards, small group and/or one to one help in the classroom, fieldtrip volunteers, Amazon Wish Lists coordination, etc.
- Encouraging family involvement in the school community.

School Supplies

Our Goal is to have students lighten the load that they carry in their backpacks.

We are asking that students only carry:

- A Charged iPad
- Lined paper and some means to organize the paper and organizational tool (3 ring binder with dividers, pocket folders, etc.)
- Pens/Pencils
- Yondr Pouch (if applicable)

Therefore, we are looking for teachers to work with their Room Parent to create an Amazon Wish List of supplies to be housed in the classroom. (Rulers, Pens, Highlighters, Sticky Notes, Note Cards, Colored Pencils, Scissors, Composition Notebooks, folders, etc.)

Absentee Policy and Communication

The Islander Middle School Attendance Policy can be found on the IMS Website (<https://ims.mercerislandschools.org/>), About Us Tab.

- If your student will be absent, late to school, or need to leave early please contact the Absentee Line:
 - Call or email the IMS Attendance Secretary by 8:20 am on the day of the absence. Leave a message informing her of the absence. Provide your child's name, grade, date and reason for the absence.
- Erin McGuire - IMS Attendance Secretary

Email - Erin.mcguire@mercerislandschools.org

Phone: 206-236-3400

Clubs and Activities

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Club/Activities

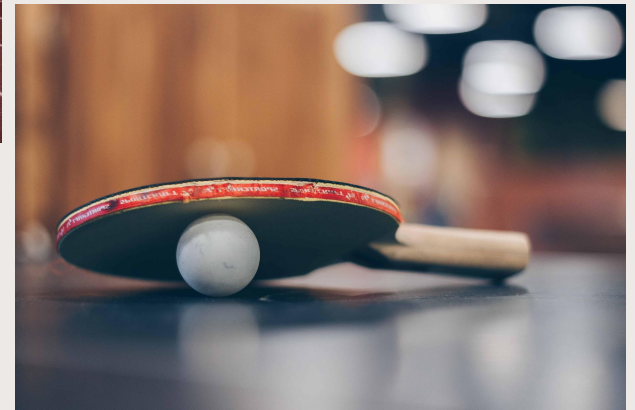
- Destination Imagination
- Drill Team
- Dungeons & Dragons Club
- Girls Group Lunch
- Golf Club
- QUILTBAG
- Robotics Club
- Running Club
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Math Club
- Board Game and Magic Club
- Baking Club

Sports 2025/26

- Cross-Country (August, September/October)
- Esports (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Track (May/June)
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball- 7th and 8th grade girls (August/September/October)
- Wrestling (October/November/December)

Lunchroom Protocols

Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe



Lunch Groups

Drop-in to Ms. Howell's office (room 113)

Starting Monday, September 15th

M

Makers Monday!

T

Tech Tuesday!

W

Wellness Wednesday!

T

Talk About It Thursdays!

F

Friendship Friday!

Technology for 2025/26

- All students have iPads.
- The priority for iPads is academic - both during school and at home.
- Students may download apps from the school-monitored catalog, called Self Service
- Do not sync iPads with personal Apple accounts.
- We encourage parents to make rules regarding the iPad for home.
- For more comprehensive information and support with your student's technology, please visit the MISD Tech website and/or our MISD Tech Youtube channel

For tech support email

ims.techs@mercerislandschools.org

Personal Devices Policy (Phones/Watches/Headphones)

If a student plans to carry a cell phone, smartwatch and/or ear buds during the school day, that student must bring a Yondr pouch to school with them each day.

As students enter the school buildings and no later than 8:20 am, they will

1. Put their phone (and/or) watch in “Do Not Disturb” mode.
 - a. [Do not disturb on iPhone](#)
 - b. [Do not disturb on Android](#)
2. They will place phone, watch, and/or ear buds in the pouch.
3. They will lock the pouch
4. There will be a first period Yondr bag check. (7th and 8th Grade families- many students have lost or broken pouches a replacement is \$25.)
5. The Yondr bag will remain locked and in their bag while the student is “on campus”.

At the conclusion of the student day

1. Students will have the opportunity to unlock their bag as they leave campus or before attending after school clubs, sports or activities. Unlocking stations will be located around campus.

Late Arrival/Early Release - Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the main office as part of their check-in/check-out process.

FAQ's related to our new tech policy

What if I need to contact my child during the day?

- You can email them via their school account
- You can contact the main office and someone can get a message to them

My child forgot their lunch/instrument etc. How do I get it to them?

- You are welcome to send them an email and let them know when you plan to drop it off. Then, they can swing by the front office during passing period or ask their teacher for permission to go and get it.

I am worried about my child's ability to interact during lunch. Any suggestions?

- We have small, supported lunch groups daily with our counseling team
- We have low stakes opportunities during lunch like open gym, foosball, ping pong, access to the Library
- Students will still have access to their ipads during lunch and/or they are welcome to read a book
- Counselor are available to talk to individual students and parents to discuss additional strategies

My child has anxiety and sometimes needs support during the day. How can I help from home?

- Remind your student that they can always access their Counselor via Schoology or they can stop by their office
- They can ask their teacher to take a break in the Zen Den
- They can take a quick walk and/or get a drink of water to regroup
- We encourage you to strategize in the evenings and prepare your child with ways to cope that feel good/accessible to them
- With teacher permission, they can listen to music on their ipad (The Bridge)

Parent Involvement Opportunities. . .

PTSA

- Feb. 8, May 9

Tier 1 Team (Parent Advisory Committee)

- Oct. 16, Nov. 20, December 18, February 5, March 19, April 23, May 21
- Application - Due Date Sept. 13th

Stay in the Know!

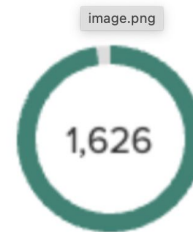
PTSA Blasts and Newsletter

[IMS Website](#)

[IMS Weekly Updates](#)

Monthly Spotlight

1,667 EMAIL USERS



Delivered



Viewed



Undeliverable

Bounced: 15

Spam: 3



We are excited to announce that MISD has adopted a new form of school-to-home communication.

What to Expect



- View only what's relevant to your student
- Receive translated messages
- Receive school and class information
- See pictures and files
- See calendar items
- Sign up to volunteer
- Schedule parent-teacher conferences
- and much more . . . **all in one centralized place!**

*MISD dedicated
Parent Square
webpage*



Notifications



You choose how and when

You can reach out too!



Direct message your classroom teacher

Where to access information

Communication will be sent to your **computer** or **phone** via **email and/or text**. For even more convenience, download the ParentSquare app

Tuesday's Communication

Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), schools must protect the privacy of every student's educational record. This means we cannot share details about another student's discipline, consequences, or corrective measures, even if your child was involved in the situation. What we *can* share is how we are supporting your child's safety, well-being, and learning environment.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR & STUDENT DISCIPLINE on MISD Website

BEHAVIOR	PROGRESSIVE CONSEQUENCE
Physical Aggression/Fighting	1st offense - 2 after-school detentions, reflection sheet 2nd offense - 1 day ISS, conflict resolution lesson 3rd offense - 1 day OSS 4th offense - 1 day ISS, 1 day OSS 5th offense - 2 days OSS
Friendly Fighting/Slap-boxing/pushing, etc.	1st offense - Warning 2nd offense - Meeting with Admin + Parent Phone Call 3rd offense - 1 After school detentions, reflection sheet 4th offense - 2 After school detentions, reflection sheet 5rd offense - 1 day ISS
Walking out or Skipping Class	1st offense - 2 Lunch Detention 2nd offense - 1 After School Detention + Escort to classes 3rd offense - 2 After School Detention + Escort to classes 4th offense - 1 ISS + Escort to classes 5rd offense - 1 OSS + Escort to classes
Defiance/ non-compliant with expectations.	1st offense - Warning 2nd offense - Meeting with Admin + Parent Phone Call 3rd offense - Meeting with Admin, Parent, and/or Teacher 4th offense - 1 After School Detention 5rd offense - 2 After School Detention
Multiple Disruptions in class	1st offense - Warning 2nd offense - Meeting with Admin + Parent Phone Call, Apology Letter 3rd offense - Meeting with Admin, Parent, and/or Teacher + 1 After School Detention 4th offense - 2 After School Detention 5rd offense - 3 After School Detention

Threat Assessment Protocol – What We Look At

- **Student Interview:** Student shares their perspective, thoughts, and intentions in their own words.
- **Parent Interview:** Parents provide insight on home life, stressors, and access to potential risks.
- **Teacher & Staff Input:** Teachers, coaches, or others who know the student complete questionnaires or give feedback.
- **Record Review:** Academic history, discipline records, and prior behavior patterns are considered.
- **Digital Searches:** School device searches and, if relevant, social media activity are reviewed.
- **Peer/Witness Reports:** Friends, classmates, or others who may have seen or heard concerning behavior are interviewed.
- **Risk Factors:** Looks for signs of a plan, target, access to weapons, or unusual interest in violence.
- **Protective Factors:** Also notes positive relationships, coping skills, and supports that decrease risk.
- **Outcome:** Findings guide whether a support/safety plan is enough, or if the case moves to a more in-depth Level 2 review.

Curriculum Night Purpose

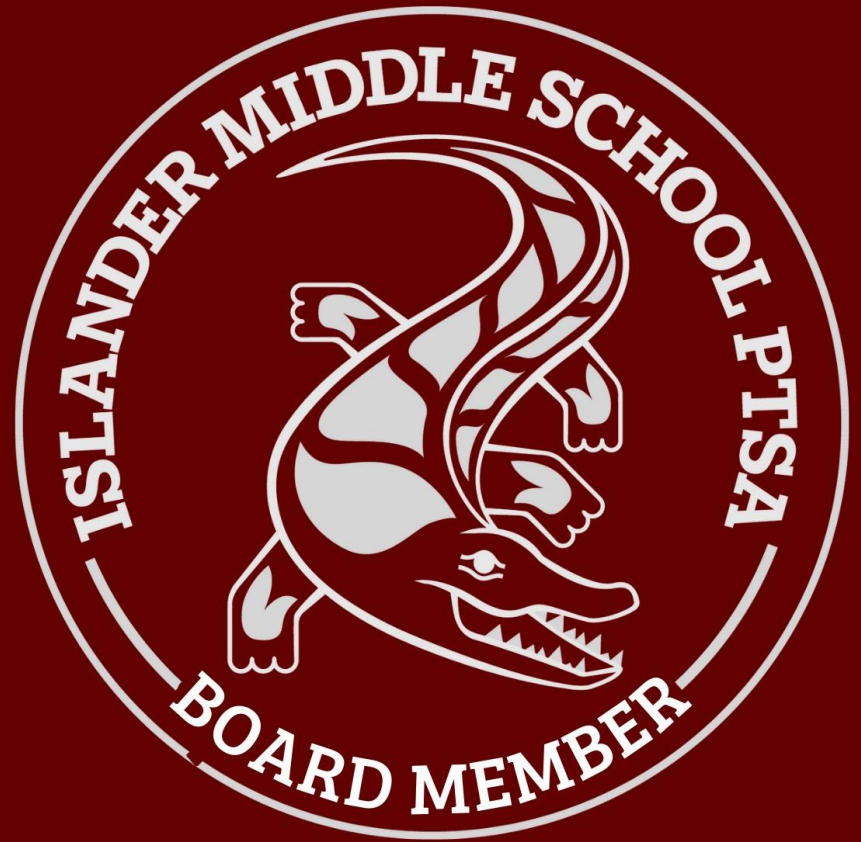
Throughout the evening we will be sharing information about curriculum and individual course expectations.

Curriculum Night is the time for the teacher to speak to parent groups as a whole and not the appropriate time for private conferences.

Conferences are welcome at other times and can be arranged by contacting the specific teacher or counselor during the school day.

PTSA Parent Representatives

If you have a
question, please
ask any parent
wearing . . . this
shirt!

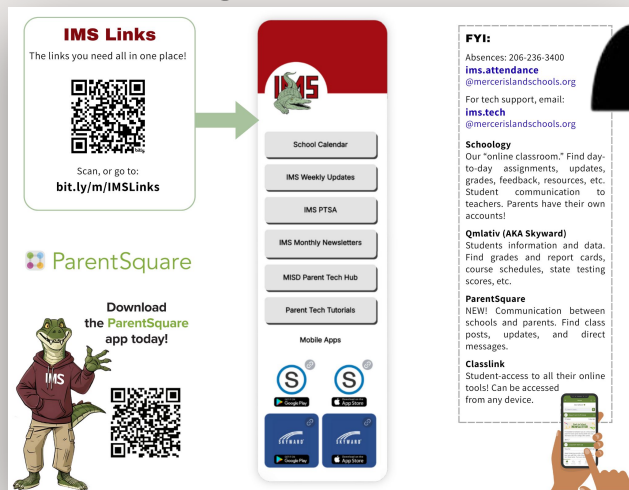


IMS Parent Info Guide & Student Name Tent

Will be passed out during your 1st period rotation (or 2nd period if your student is a TA or off-campus during 1st)

Contains helpful information and links – Don't forget to take it with you!

To help our teachers see whose parents are in the room, use the reverse side of the handout as a “Name Tent” by folding the handout and displaying it in front of you.



**Student
Name**

**Student
Name**

TIME	ORDER	STUDENT SUBJECT	TEACHER	Room # or Location
6:00 - 6:20	Admin/ Counselor Welcome	Expectations for the Night, Gator Time Reboot, Room Parents, School Goals/Data, etc.	Katie Gallagher Mary Jo Budzius Vicki Sherwood Dru Klein Janet Goldstein Jayna Dash	Gym (Rm 600)
6:30 - 6:40	Period #1			
6:45 - 6:55	Period #2			
7:00 - 7:10	Period #3	***NOTE: If your child is assigned to be a TA for one of their periods, there is not an informational session for this period. Please utilize that period as a break.		
7:15 - 7:25	Period #4			
7:30 - 7:40	Period #5			
7:45 - 7:55	Period #6			

Curriculum Night

Have a great Time -

Thank you so much for coming!



in THE MIDDLE

ISLANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL