ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Tips and Resources for Families with Secondary Students

For Students Grades 6 - 12

Family Partnership Team

Issaquah School District

August 25, 2026

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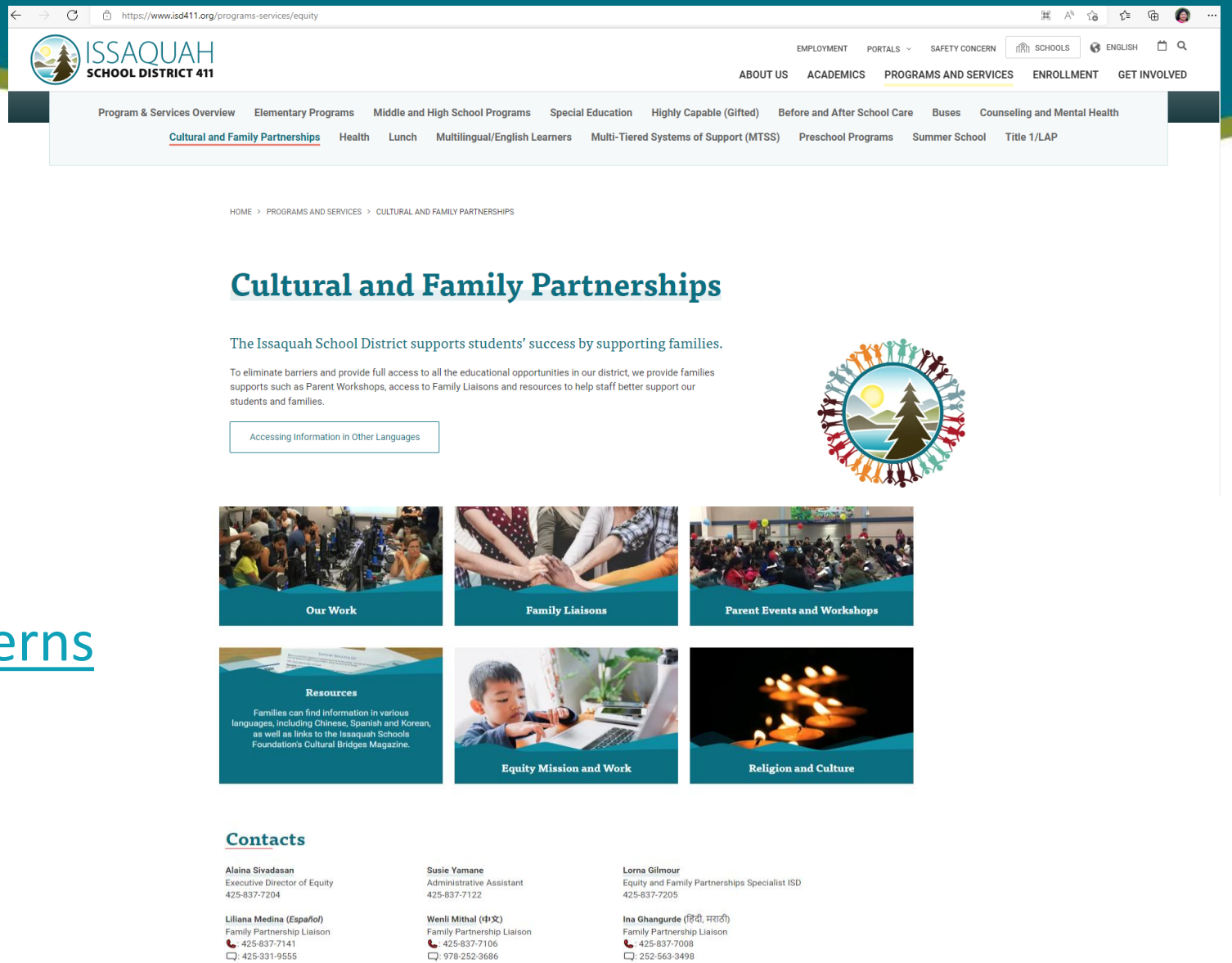
Purpose of today's presentation

- To help families who are new to the school district, especially those from other countries, understand how the U.S. public school system works.
- We will share helpful information and websites to show you where to go if you have questions or need help in the future.

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Who are we?

- Issaquah School District
- Family Partnerships
- Resources
- Who to Contact
- Issues, Questions or Concerns



Family Liaison: Supporting Families in the ISD

- ISD employee who helps connect school staff and parents
- A helpful resource for families to navigate the school system
- Each school has a Family Liaison (same liaison serves all schools in a feeder pattern with a few exceptions)
- Acts as a bridge between families and the school
- Can help arrange interpreters for meetings and communication

Do you have questions about your child's school programs? How to connect with your child's teacher(s) or counselor? Family Partnership Liaisons can help you navigate the Issaquah schools so you can better support your child.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a **medinal@issaquah.wednet.edu**, o mande un texto o llame al 425-331-9555.

需要協助與老師或職員溝通嗎？請發送電子郵件至 **mithalw@Issaquah.wednet.edu** 獲取協助並回答問題或填寫表格。此外，學校的教職員也可以與您聯繫提供協助。

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a **MarinIsazaL@issaquah.wednet.edu**, o mande un texto o llame al (252) 563-3498.

Liliana Medina (*Español*)
Family Partnership Liaison
Office Phone: 425-837-7141
Cell Phone: 425-651-5170
Text: 425-331-9555

Wenli Mithal (中文)
Family Partnership Liaison
Office Phone: 425-837-7106
Cell Phone: 425-651-5205
Text: 978-252-3686

Lina Marin (*Español*)
Family Partnership Liaison
Office Phone: 425-837-7008
Cell Phone: 425-571-2566
Text: 252-563-3498

Liliana Medina supports:
Issaquah High School
Issaquah Middle School
Pacific Cascade Middle
Clark Elementary
Issaquah Valley Elementary
Sunset Elementary

Wenli Mithal supports:
Skyline High School
Beaver Lake Middle School
Pine Lake Middle School
Cascade Ridge Elementary
Cedar Trails Elementary
Challenger Elementary
Creekside Elementary
Discovery Elementary
Endeavour Elementary
Sunny Hills Elementary

Lina Marin supports:
Liberty High School
Cougar Mountain Middle
Maywood Middle School
Apollo Elementary
Briarwood Elementary
Cougar Ridge Elementary
Grand Ridge Elementary
Maple Hills Elementary
Newcastle Elementary

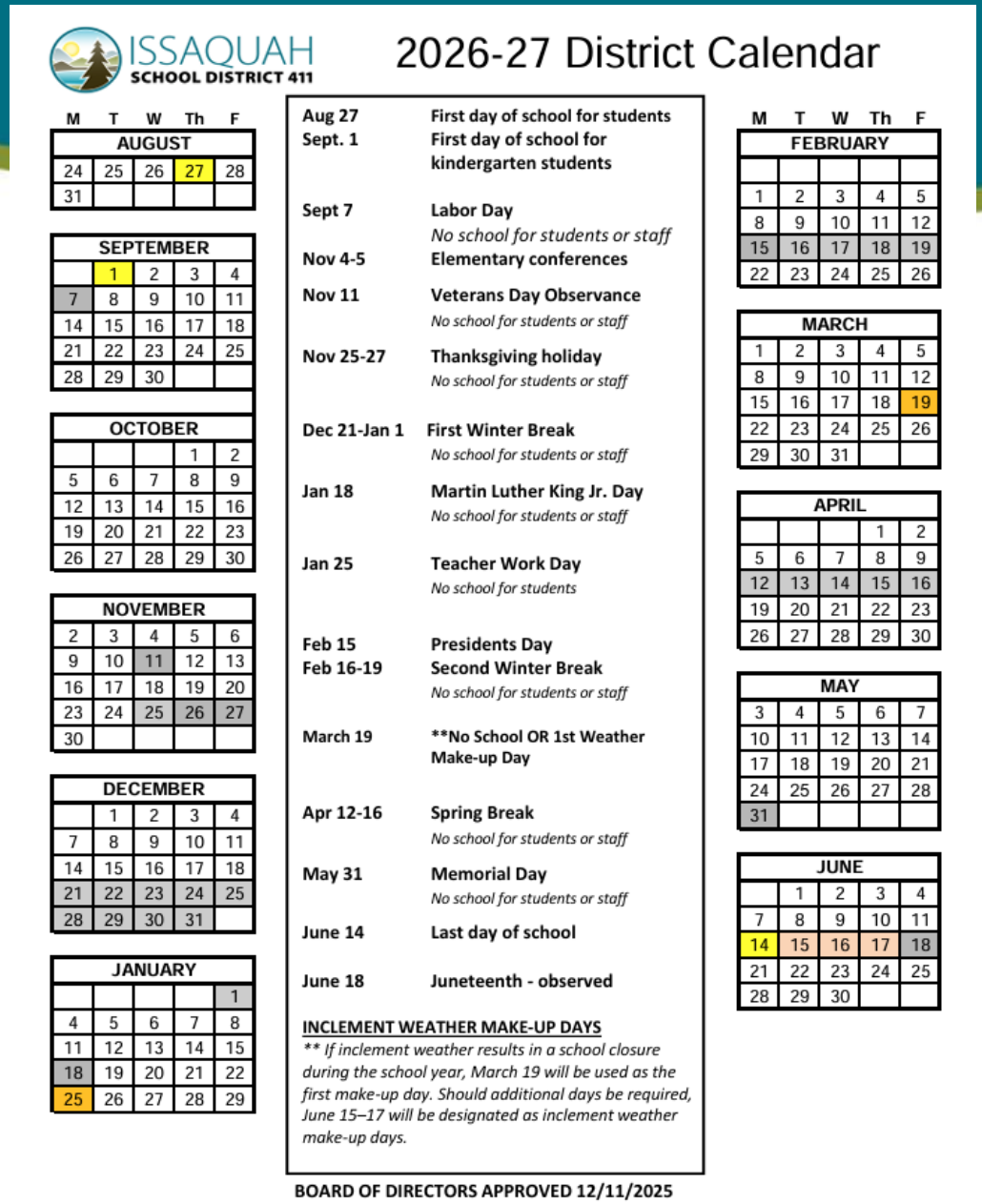
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School Website

- Website translatable – Google
- Link to Canvas and Family Access
- Link to Fees and Fines or the Pay Online portal
- Attendance email and phone on bottom of home page of all schools.
- List of Upcoming Events and calendar (Picture day, curriculum night, etc)
- School Announcement that were emailed also posted (in case you miss one)
  - Emails sent Thursday evening with updates – please make sure you are receiving them
  - Make time on Thursday evening or Friday to read them – important information.
- Find Bell Schedule (periods, Wednesday schedule)
- Community Flyers
- Who to Contact

School Calendar

- District calendar – this year and subsequent years
- School Calendar link under “Upcoming Events”
  - Full Calendar provides dates for sport events and grading periods for the year
- **Note:** District Specific no school days - Jan 25th and snow make up day March 19th (see calendar)
- Last day of school Monday, June 14th (days will be added in case of snow or other weather related events)
- Tip - Schedule appointments and vacations while students are on break, no school days, and Wednesday mornings when possible.



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2026-27 District Calendar

M	T	W	Th	F
AUGUST				
24	25	26	27	28
31				
SEPTEMBER				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		
OCTOBER				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
NOVEMBER				
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				
DECEMBER				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	
JANUARY				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Aug 27	First day of school for students
Sept. 1	First day of school for kindergarten students
Sept 7	Labor Day *No school for students or staff*
Nov 4-5	Elementary conferences
Nov 11	Veterans Day Observance *No school for students or staff*
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving holiday *No school for students or staff*
Dec 21-Jan 1	First Winter Break *No school for students or staff*
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day *No school for students or staff*
Jan 25	Teacher Work Day *No school for students*
Feb 15	Presidents Day
Feb 16-19	Second Winter Break *No school for students or staff*
March 19	**No School OR 1st Weather Make-up Day
Apr 12-16	Spring Break *No school for students or staff*
May 31	Memorial Day *No school for students or staff*
June 14	Last day of school
June 18	Juneteenth - observed

INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS

*** If inclement weather results in a school closure during the school year, March 19 will be used as the first make-up day. Should additional days be required, June 15–17 will be designated as inclement weather make-up days.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED 12/11/2025

M	T	W	Th	F
FEBRUARY				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
MARCH				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
APRIL				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
MAY				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
JUNE				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

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Bell Schedules

What to Know

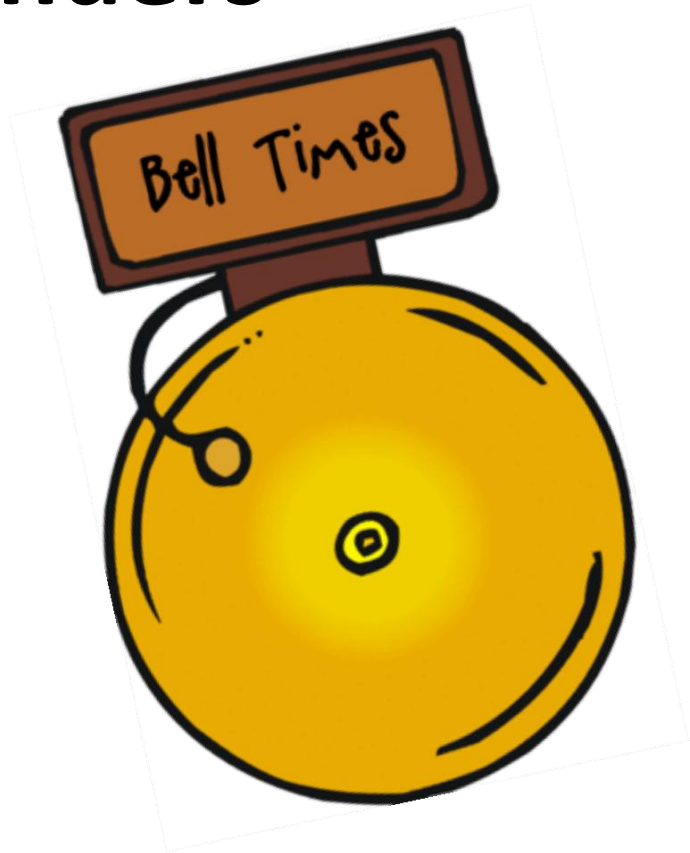
- Check your child's school website for details.
  - Under "Our School" - "Bell Schedules"
- **Two Main Bell Schedules:**
  - **Regular Schedule:**
    - Used on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
  - **Late Start** Wednesday **-** Bell times: 10:20 a.m.
- **Early Release**
  - Last day of the trimester for Middle School
  - Final week at the high school level – check website for details
  - Regular bus transportation on early release days.



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Bell Schedules – Important Reminders

- Especially at Middle Schools - Students may only be on campus **10–15 minutes before school starts** — check your school's policy
  - **No supervision is provided** before this time
  - Please **do not drop students off early**
- **Traffic Tip:**
  - School parking lots can be very busy during drop-off and pick-up times
  - Plan ahead and allow extra time
- **Special Bell Schedules posted on website**
  - One Hour or Two Hour Late Starts – Due to snow or other weather-related emergencies
  - Early dismissals
  - Assemblies (usually not of concern to parents)



Regular Schedule | Early Dismissal | A.M. Assembly | P.M. Assembly | One Hour Late Start | Two Hour Late Start

One Hour Late Start - Wednesday | Two Hour Late Start - Wednesday

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School Supplies and Books

- Textbooks and Learning Materials
  - Your student will receive login information to access these digital resources at the start of the school year.
  - Most textbooks are now available digitally through your student's online learning portal
  - Students typically don’t carry heavy books to school.
- Essential items for Day 1:
  - Backpack
  - Headphones (overhead cans ones are always safer)
  - Lunch or lunch account/money
  - Pens or pencils
  - Notebook paper
  - Folder or binder
- For middle schoolers, general supply list available online
  - Go to "Academics" section → "School Supplies“
- Teachers may ask for a few additional classroom-specific items during the first week of school, and they will communicate these needs directly with students.



*The Issaquah Schools Foundation has donated school supplies for students in need of financial assistance. Check with the school bookkeeper or school counselor for backpacks or school supplies.

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Lockers

- Lockers are available at schools. Most high school students may not use them. Most middle schoolers use them.

- Students may be assigned a locker (if they haven't received one already).

    - Check if students use lockers at the school.
    - It's highly recommended to visit the school this week to **practice using the locker**.



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Laptops at School

- Schools will provide a laptop to ALL students (6th to 12th grade).
- Please make sure you have completed the EVP form (signature needed) so your child can receive a laptop.
- Responsible Use Agreement signed by parents during enrollment verification process in August (EVP).
- ALL students need to use district assignment laptops – safer to monitor, easier to troubleshoot for technical issues, and compatible with all district adopted curriculum and applications.
  - Parents have access to Securly.
- Students will be using laptops daily to submit assignments and part of daily learning.
- Online textbooks and learning resources are available.
- School-issued laptops already have required district software such as web filtering, screen monitoring, special applications and secure browsers for state and federal testing. The district is unable to install these programs on personal laptops.
- FAQ regarding 1:1 laptops at the ISD



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Cell phone and Tech on Campus

Devices SILENCED AND STOWED in backpacks or placed in teacher-designated locations at the beginning of each class period and remain stowed until the end of the class period. Extends to hallways and common areas while class is in session. Some schools may add additional rules to best support their students.

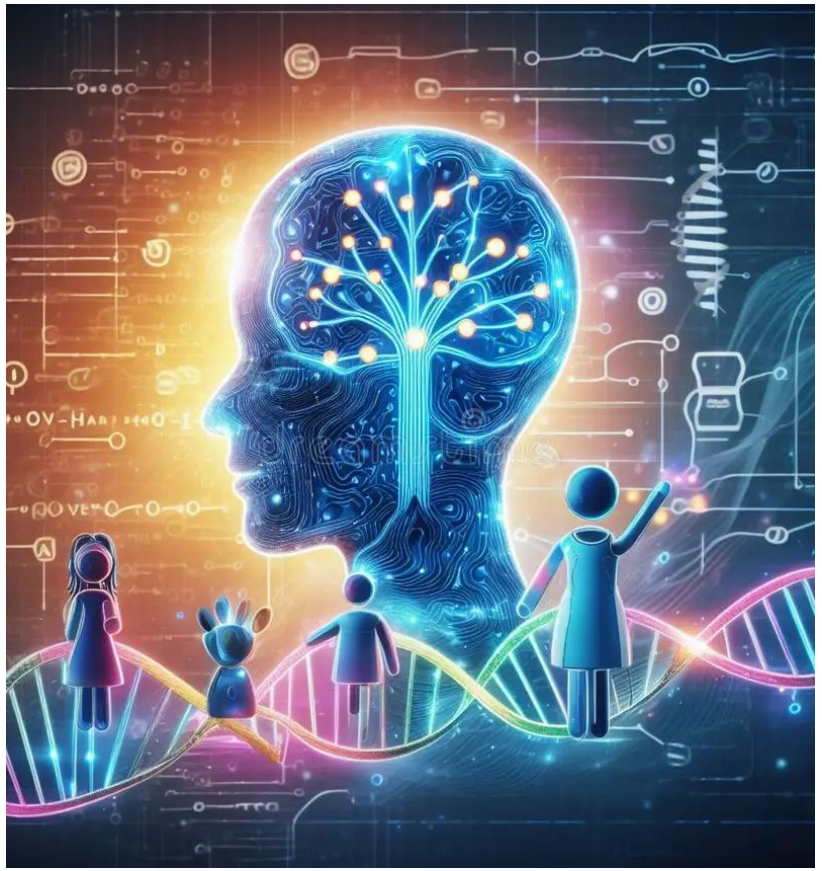
- **Cell Phones:** Most schools have a **"Bell to Bell" no phone use policy** — check your school's specific rules.
- Personal electronic devices are privately owned, portable electronic devices used for communication, information access or other functions. Examples of personal electronic devices: smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, portable media players, gaming devices, tablets, Bluetooth/wireless headphones and other mobile/smart devices.
- No ear buds or headphones (leave in locker unless the teacher asks to bring in headphones for a class activity).
- **Regulation 3245: Student use of Telecommunication Devices**
- **For more information:** Regulation 3245: Student use of Phones, Personal Devices | Single Announcement



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Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidelines

- Review the Responsible Use Agreement signed by families in August.
- Check with class syllabus or teacher before use.
- Generative AI tools should only be used for school-related creative work (e.g., to generate text or other creative works) when given approval or guidance from classroom teacher.
- Please discuss the limitations of AI and potential bias of AI with your child.
- Key – help your child know how to use AI responsibly!!



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E-bikes

- Students who use e-bikes or scooters to commute must follow specific rules on campus.
- Only certain types of e-bikes are allowed—Class 3 e-bikes and electric dirt bikes are not permitted.
- Helmets must be worn at all times while riding, and reckless behaviors such as speeding, tricks, or riding in pedestrian areas are strictly prohibited.
- Students must dismount and walk their e-bikes or scooters as soon as they arrive on campus, parking and locking them only in designated racks.
- More details and consequences for violations of school rules are available in the School Handbook (under tab “Our School” – Student Handbook)



Canvas (LMS)



- Daily grades, assignments and learning material accessed via CANVAS
- Students can communicate with teachers via CANVAS
- Students can link to their textbooks, library and other school resources via Canvas (apps available on the account)
- Parents should set up an account if they don't have one already
- We will have an information night Canvas for parents
- Please check the school bulletin for registration link.

Class Schedule

- Is available on Family Access/Skyward.
- Includes the class period, room number, classroom teacher and time.
- Lunch period will depend on their schedule – the school will explain how to read the schedule. Students will have either 1st or 2nd lunch.
- Tip – Print or write out the schedule so students know their classes.
  - Schools also have print out of the class schedules for students the first day.



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Grading Schedule

Middle Schools	High Schools
Trimester System 1st trimester – August 27 to November 20th 2nd trimester – November 20 to March 11 3rd trimester – March 12 to June 14	**Semester System** 1st semester – August to January 22 2nd semester – January 26 – to June
Early release/half day at the end of each trimester • November 20 • March 11 • June 11	Finals exams given – ½ day of school usually during finals week
Grades reset each trimester	Grades reset each semester
Report cards are available in Family Access about a week after the trimester ends	Report cards are available in Family Access at the end of each semester (end of January and by the last day of school)
Canvas contains grades so students and families can see progress through the school year. **Please check grades periodically so no surprises at the end of grading period.**	

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Health

Each school has a **Health Room** staffed by:

- A **School Nurse (Registered Nurse - RN)**
- A **Health Room Specialist** (not a licensed medical professional, but trained to assist with daily health needs)

Vaccines:

- The only additional required vaccine after elementary school is the **Tdap vaccine**, due **before 7th grade**.
- Students **must be up to date** on all required vaccinations to attend school.
- If you need help getting your child's Tdap vaccine, please contact the school nurse for assistance.

When to Keep Your Child Home:
Students are encouraged to attend school regularly, but they should stay home if they are sick and may spread illness to others. Please keep your child home if they have:

- A **fever of 100°F (37.8°C) or higher** within the last 24 hours — without using fever-reducing medication
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** within the past 24 hours
- **Fever plus other symptoms** like cough, sore throat, chills, body aches, headache, vomiting, or diarrhea

Parents – Are Your Kids Ready for School?



Required Immunizations for School in Washington State

Instructions: To see which vaccines are required for school, find your child's grade in the first column. Look at the matching row across the page to find the number of vaccines required for your child to enter school.

	DTaP/Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	Hepatitis B	Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type B)	MMR (Measles, mumps, rubella)	PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate)	Polio	Varicella (Chickenpox)
Preschool Age 19 months to less than 4 years on September 1st	4 doses DTaP	3 doses	3 or 4 doses* (depending on vaccine)	1 dose	4 doses*	3 doses	1 dose**
Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten 4 years of age or older on September 1st	5 doses DTaP*	3 doses	3 or 4 doses* (depending on vaccine) *Not required at 5 years of age or older*	2 doses	4 doses* *Not required at 5 years of age or older*	4 doses*	2 doses**
Kindergarten through 6th grades	5 doses DTaP*	3 doses	Not Required	2 doses	Not Required	4 doses*	2 doses**
7th through 12th grades	5 doses DTaP* *Plus* Tdap at age 10 or older	3 doses	Not Required	2 doses	Not Required	4 doses*	2 doses**

Vaccine doses may be acceptable with fewer than listed depending on when they were given.
****Healthcare provider verification of history of chickenpox disease is also acceptable.***

Students must get vaccine doses at the correct timeframes to meet school requirements. Talk to your healthcare provider or school staff if you have questions.
Find information on other important vaccines not required for school at: https://www.immunize.org/official-guidance/cdc/rec-schedules/

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127.
Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov **DOH 348-295 March 2026**

Washington State Department of HEALTH

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Attendance

- Washington State law requires children **ages 8 to 18** to attend school (with some exceptions).
- **Notify the school** if your child will be absent
  - Call or email the attendance office
  - Contact information is at the bottom of each school's website.
  - Communicating with the school about attendance is important.
- **Prearrange absences** whenever possible (for travel, religious/cultural events, etc.).
- Families will receive **letters** if there are **too many absences** or concerns about truancy.
- Teachers do not provide assignments ahead of time for planned absences such as travel.
- It is the student's responsibility to:
  - Check Canvas for classwork and homework during and after their absence.
  - Follow up with teachers when they return to make sure all work is completed.
- **Tip for parents:** Schedule vacations and appointments during Wednesday mornings, school breaks or non-school days whenever possible.



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Lunch

- Many options available at school.
- Only the hot lunch is part of the free and reduced lunch program.
  - Students need to pay for other items such as chips and drinks (a la carte) or milk if only buying milk.
- If buying lunch, please send a check to the school or pay online. My School Bucks website.
- Cost of lunch is $4.75 (Milk only $0.75)
- Lunch time depends on student schedule (usually period 4 or 5)
- 30 mins time frame for most school lunches
- Most schools have microwaves for students to use
- Menus and allergen information available



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Transportation

- **Bus routes and schedules** are available on the school website — look for **"Find Your Bus Route."**
- You can find your child's **bus stop location, pick-up, and drop-off times** online.
- *Routes are still being adjusted, so please be sure to check E-link again on Wednesday, August 27, for updated first day stop times.
- **Questions?** Please email the Transportation Department or call them at 425-837-6330. Look at the troubleshooting ideas under "Login issues" before calling or emailing transportation.
- **Remember: Please have your student at their stop 5 minutes before their bus stop time.**



Bus Route Reminder: Please Check Your Student's Route Online

Weather & Emergencies:

- Bus routes may change during **snow or emergency conditions**.
- Check the **"Snow Route"** on the website for updated stops during school delays.
- Stay informed about the **Emergency Transportation Bulletin** for important updates (snow, power outages, etc.).

Students living within about one mile of school with a safe walking route may not qualify for bus service.

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Transportation - elink

Route number (make sure students are not looking at number printed on the bus. Route number is different – in first window on bus by front door.

Pick up address

Note – Wednesday pickup time is different

Drop off time and location

Snow route has separate E-link – during inclement weather, please check website and updates.

Hide Transportation Information

Transportation Information

Transportation Information

Request Information: Type:**IN** Status:**Ride** From:**190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE** Days:**All** To: **ISSAQUAH HS** 9:47 AM

From	Time	Route	Days	To	Time
190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	**7:10 AM**	22	MTHF	ISSAQUAH HS	**7:37 AM**
190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	**9:20 AM**	22	W	ISSAQUAH HS	**9:47 AM**

Request Information: Type:**OUT** Status:**Ride** From:**ISSAQUAH HS** Days:**All** To: **190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE** 3:02 PM

From	Time	Route	Days	To	Time
ISSAQUAH HS	**3:02 PM**	22 P	MTHF	190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	**3:20 PM**
ISSAQUAH HS	**3:52 PM**	22 P	W	190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	**4:10 PM**

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Sports

- Information posted on “Student Life” – “Athletics” on school webpage. Various sports offered during each sport seasons
- Many schools are hosting an information night regarding sports in late August-early September – check the school’s website.
- Finalforms is a portal to complete registration forms and upload sports physical to be eligible to play sports.
  - A signed sports “Physical” form is required from your child’s health care provided to demonstrate child is medically eligible to participate in sports.
  - Physicals are valid for two years and may not expire during the season of participation.
  - Tip – Print out the Physical form and take it to your child’s next doctor’s appointment.
- Fees must be paid prior to participation – includes ASB card fee and specific Sports fee (per sport)
  - Middle School - $50 for most expect $20 for intramural sports
  - High School - $200 per sport, per student annual maximus of $400
  - Financial aid available if needed – check with school ASB bookkeeper

Middle School Sports

Fall–Season 1	Winter 1–Season 2	Winter 2–Season 3	Spring–Season 4
September 8 – October 29, 2026	November 2, 2026 – January 16, 2027	January 26 – March 23, 20276	April 5 – June 5, 2027
Cross Country (coed)	Basketball (girls)	Soccer (girls)	Track (coed)
Soccer (boys)	Wrestling (coed)	Basketball (boys)	Intramural Girls Flag Football
Volleyball (girls)			Gym Sports

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Sports – Practices and Games

- Check school website for start date (or students can listen for school announcements)
- Buses transport students to “away” games – occasionally parents are required to collect student from another school (coach will provide the information about pick up)
- Practices start immediately after school in middle school.
- Practices start time is later at high schools for many sports to allow students to participate in afterschool clubs.
- No practices on Fridays.
- Parents may need to pick up students after some matches/games – check with school team.
- Parents welcome to attend games/matches



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Clubs

- Numerous clubs at each school and students are highly encouraged to join a club.
- Activities provide students rich extra-curricular opportunities to engage with peers, interact with dedicated advisors, and develop lifelong skills.
- All Activities and Club information posted on school website under “Student Life” tab and sub tab “Activities”
- Cost – ASB card
- Clubs vary at each school – check website for meeting time, date and location or students can look for posters at the school and/or school announcements.
- Some clubs or activities have selective criterial for participation. Example: ASB, Cheer, band, honor society, etc. Check school website for criteria.
- If no club exits for their interest group, they can work with school to create a new club.
- Example at PCMS – clubs tab



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Activity Bus for Clubs and Sports

- If your child stays after school for clubs or sports and normally rides the bus, an **Activity Bus** is available.
- The Activity Bus usually uses **different stops**, often requiring a longer walk.
- Activity Bus routes are posted on the website — be sure to note the correct stop if your child uses this service.
  - Usually student has to walk more since there are fewer buses.
- Activity Routes are posted on website – note the bus stop if child takes the Activity bus
  - Activity bus at school between 4:15 - 4:20 pm (5:15-5:25 pm on Wed)
- No sports or activity bus on Fridays.
- Look for sign on bus not the painted sign on the bus (Route number)



EDA Routes- Extended Day Activity Routes

+ Cougar Mountain Middle School Activity Routes
+ Issaquah Middle School/Issaquah High School Activity Routes
+ Maywood Middle School/Liberty High School Activity Routes
+ Pacific Cascade Middle School Activity Routes
+ Beaver Lake Middle School/ Skyline High School Activity Routes
+ Pine Lake Middle School/ Skyline High School Activity Routes

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Curriculum



- What Curriculum Do We Use?
  - District-adopted curriculum aligned with:
    - Common Core Standards
    - Next Generation Science Standards
- Teaching Approach
  - Focus on applying knowledge, not just memorizing facts
  - Develops higher-order thinking skills
  - Standards-based learning
- Consistency Across Schools
  - All students receive the same core learning curriculum
  - Teaching methods may vary by school
  - Same essential content for all students
- Parent Involvement
  - ISD website has resources to help you understand the curriculum
  - Parents serve on the Instructional Materials Committee
  - You can review curriculum materials used in schools

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Curriculum Nights

Middle School	Curriculum Night
Beaver Lake Middle	September 15th
Cougar Mountain Middle	September 10th
Issaquah Middle	September 15th (IMS Family/Staff night "Panther Palooza)
Maywood Middle	September 1st
Pacific Cascade Middle	September 10th
Pine Lake Middle	September 15th

High School	Curriculum Night
Gibson Ek	September 9
Issaquah High School	September 8th
Liberty High	September 15th
Skyline High	September 8th

Please check the school bulletin for specific details such as time.
Wonderful opportunity to learn more about each class and meet the teacher!

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Communications with teachers

- CANVAS is our Main Communication Tool!
  - Check CANVAS weekly (or daily during first few months)
  - Primary way teachers communicate with students and families
  - Track your child's progress and assignments
- What to Expect
  - No paper communications - no report cards, flyers, or letters sent home
  - Middle school: teachers may email whole class or families on occasion
  - High school: most communication goes directly from teacher to student
- Stay Informed
  - Check CANVAS for class updates
  - READ the class syllabus
- Meeting with Teachers
  - No formal parent-teacher conferences scheduled
  - You can request a meeting with a teacher by email or reach out to school counselor to set up a meeting with teachers.

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Communications with School

- Besides reading the school announcements sent on Thursday evenings, communications are sent via Canvas to families.
  - Be sure to set up your Canvas account preferences.
- Check school website for updates especially during weather events – school closures and changes in bus routes will be posted.
- Robo-calls from the schools

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Role of School Counselors

- School counselors are the main contact for **general support**—not the homeroom teacher.
- Students have the **same counselor throughout middle school**.
- To request a **class schedule change**, email the counselor and fill out the required form.
- Counselors are assigned based on **student last name**—check the school website under "Counseling" in the **Student Life** section.

Academic Support:

- Help with **course selection**, including advanced classes, pathways, and electives.
- Serve as a **liaison between teachers and parents**.

Financial & Basic Needs:

- Point of contact for families seeking **financial assistance or support with basic needs**.

Social & Emotional Support:

- Counselors provide support for **social and emotional well-being**—there is no stigma in talking to them.
  Help students with issues like anxiety and depression, which are increasing nationwide.
  Connect students to **mental health resources** available at school.

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Supporting Your Child

Starting a new school can feel overwhelming. Your support makes all the difference.
Here are ways to help your child adjust:



Acknowledge Their Feelings

- It's normal to feel nervous at first
- Reassure them it gets easier with time

Explore Interests Together

- Talk about clubs, sports, or activities they might enjoy
- Review the school website together to see what's available
- Getting involved helps students feel connected

Help Them Get Organized

- Review the bell schedule together
- Print a copy to keep in their backpack or binder
- Make sure they understand the daily schedule (including Wednesday differences)

Make the First Week Easier

- Pack lunch the first week to avoid crowded lunchroom stress
- Help them check Canvas for assignments and grades
- Gradually encourage them to take ownership

Check In Regularly

- Ask open-ended questions: "What was something good today?" or "Is anything confusing?"
- Students may not always open up right away — showing interest builds trust
- Regular check-ins matter, even as they grow more independent

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Building Confidence & Self-Advocacy in Students

Middle and high school is when students begin to take more responsibility for their learning. Here's how you can support your child in becoming confident and independent:

Encourage your child to participate in class, ask questions when unsure, and seek help from the teacher when needed.

Model what self-advocacy looks like — especially if your child is shy or new to the school system. Role-play how to speak up or ask for help.

Teach and practice email writing with your child — show them how to politely contact a teacher with questions or concerns.

In grades 6–12, **independence is emphasized** — students, not parents, are expected to communicate directly with teachers.

Help your child **find out how to connect with teachers**:

Check the **syllabus**, **Canvas**, or contact the teacher to learn the best way and time to meet or ask questions.

Volunteer Opportunities or Keeping Connected with School

- Be sure to complete the Volunteer Application form
- Join PTSA – PTSAs often have a Facebook page to stay informed.
- There may be some opportunities for parents to volunteer in school (dissection, field trips such as DECA, boosters or other clubs).
- Read the school announcements sent via email bulletins (Sign up to get a school announcements sent to you if you are not received them)
- Join district or school's social media groups (more frequent or timely reminders)

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Contact information for Family Liaisons

Issaquah High School, Issaquah Middle School and Pacific Cascade Middle School

- Liliana Medina - Mobile 425 651-5170
- Text - 425-331-9555 MedinaL@issaquah.wednet.edu

Liberty High School, Maywood Middle School and **Cougar Mountain Middle School**

- Lina Marin - Mobile – 425 571-2566
- Text - 252-563-3498 marinl@Issaquah.wednet.edu

Skyline High School, Beaver Lake Middle School and Pine Lake Middle School

- Wenli Mithal 425-837-7106
- Text - 978-252-3686 MithalW@issaquah.wednet.edu

Follow up sessions:

Parent Events and Workshops - Issaquah School District 411

- Canvas event on September 28th
  - Canvas for Parents Information Night (Grades 6-12) Sept 28, 2026 – Fill out form
  - Canvas for Parents in grades 6-12 allows guardians access in an observer capacity such as read course announcements, examine student's grades, and see course assignments.
  - The information session is designed to help families learn how to set up the parent account, change language setting, organize your dashboard and provide various tips on using Canvas for Parents.
- Graduation Pathways on January 12th
  - Information on High School Graduation - January 12, 2027 – Fill out form
  - Informative event about how high school students choose courses and pathways to support their post-graduation goals.
  - Families will learn about graduation requirements, available guidance and support in school, and the various options students have to explore their interests and plan for life after high school.
- Family Connections event – date to be announced

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Thank you!

- Please complete the feedback form to get a copy of this slide deck and to have a liaison contact you.
- Lorna Gilmour
  - (425) 837 7205
  - gilmourl@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Sign up for the Canvas information event in September



Feedback Form for Tips and Resources for Secondary Families August 25, 2026 – Fill out form