



# **WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Iselin Middle School, 900 Panther Way, Iselin, NJ 08830 TEL: (732)602-8450*

Kelly A. Cilento  
Principal

September 1, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from Iselin Middle School! I hope this message finds you and your family safe, healthy, and enjoying the last few days of the Summer of 2023. This letter is your official welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

All of us at IMS are truly looking forward to the arrival of our Panthers on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5, 2023. The excitement to start the 2023-2024 school year is building here at Iselin Middle School. Our teachers, counselors, and support staff have worked extremely hard with the hope of making the 2023-2024 school year meaningful, memorable and comfortable for all of you, our students and their families.

Below are some general information/reminders regarding the opening of school and important dates in September:

First Day of School – Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

This is an extremely busy day that will cause some to be anxious and emotional. We must all exercise patience and understanding to get the year off to a good start. Please be sure your child knows their homeroom number since that is the first class they will be attending. Their homeroom teachers will give them a copy of their schedule. If you printed their schedule prior to today, please discard it and reprint it, if you wish, as some schedule changes have been needed

- Doors open at 8:05am. At 8:09am all doors are closed and students must use Door 1.
- Breakfast begins at 7:55am (Main Entrance - Door 1 - only) and will be available daily for purchase (\$2.40).
- Students are to access the building via 3 entrances before 8:09am:
  - 6th grade students will enter through the Door 5.
  - 7th grade students will use the entrance by the gym, Doors 23 & 24.
  - 8th grade students will use the main entrance - Doors 1 & 2.
- Bike racks are available for students, bring a lock!
- Parents dropping off students via car should anticipate some congestion around the school, especially during the first few days of school as well as when there is inclement weather. We truly need everyone to exercise caution and patience around our campus. It is imperative that you drop your children off in the morning and exit the parking lot. When dropping off your child we NEED you to pull all the way down in the lot as close as you can get to doors 22, 23 & 24 while staying in ONE SINGLE FILE LINE. Waiting by the closest door and watching your child creates a traffic nightmare, as you may know. Please stress to your children they should move to the appropriate entry point and should not stand along the edge of the sidewalk, we have far too many students for them to safely stay on the sidewalk until the bell rings.

Furthermore, the end of the day IMS has over 17 busses. Parents CANNOT park and pick up students in the lot. Any students that are being picked up are directed to exit and proceed towards the tennis courts at JFKMHS. Parents should be parking in a parking space at JFKMHS and waiting for students to meet you. Remember that arrival at JFKMHS should not happen before 2:45pm as that area is the senior and staff parking and they dismiss at 2:30pm. Students that are walking home have over 8 doors they can exit from, other than the front doors! Please be sure to set up a routine with your child that DOES NOT include you parking in the parking lot at IMS. Your children cannot SAFELY exit this way and thus it is not allowed. Myself and many other teachers will stop them from walking out into the lot, for their safety! There are just under 900 students and if you choose to not follow the plan above it will cause a nightmare of a situation. The routine and planned ideas for arrival and pickup are done for the safety of your children, and the staff, and the best flow of traffic.

If you opt to not wait at JFK, you are more than welcome to find parking on Worth Street and any other street off campus. Again please do not enter the lot for pick up and do not park in staff parking for drop-off or pick-up.

Remember the doors open at 8:05am and students are to be in HR and seated before the HR bell at 8:10am.

Parents can now log in to Genesis Parent Portal to view schedules and other information. Once you have successfully logged in, parents/guardians will be required to review and acknowledge several important policies and notices. Devices are ready for distribution on day 1. If you do not complete the user agreement your child will not get their device.

Grades 7 & 8 students will receive the same device they had last year if, and only if, the user agreement is signed. Grade 6 students will receive a device if, and only if, the user agreement is signed.

The summer of 2023 has been an extremely busy one here at IMS. Our Facilities and Grounds staff, including our building custodians, have worked tirelessly to have our school and campus ready for September 5. IMS is looking good!

Our Panther Nation Staff Members have spent significant time planning and organizing for the opening days and weeks of school to promote a successful start for our students. For more information and to prepare for the new school year, please be sure to review the parent pack that was emailed out and posted to the IMS website if you haven't already. [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/1584/IMS/3358106/Parent\\_Pack\\_2023-2024.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1584/IMS/3358106/Parent_Pack_2023-2024.pdf)

Please be sure to read the student dress code policy and the use of electronic devices and review these with your children prior to the first day. And check out our school spirit apparel order here: <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/NJ/Iselin/Iselin+Middle+School>

IMS yearbooks for the 2023 – 2024 school year are available for purchase now. If you order by 12/31/23 the price is \$20. On 1/1/24 the price increases to \$25. Yearbook sales will end on 4/15/24 so don't delay. Click the link for complete details and enter code 17632. <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/?event=general.displayLanding&jobnumber=17632>

Pomptonian Food Service has shared a welcome message with complete details of the food services in Woodbridge Township. Please review the link below and process an application for free / reduced lunch if applicable. <https://5il.co/239pd>

Finally, mark your calendar as Back to School Night is Wednesday, September 6, doors will open at 5:15pm. The schedule will be sent Tuesday after school with a reminder sent on Wednesday and will start promptly at 5:30pm cell phone time. Back to School Night is for adults ONLY, students, their siblings and young children are not to attend. We will send a reminder out about this the day before.

We are looking forward to starting a terrific 2023-2024 school year. See you on September 5!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cilento