

Dear IMES Families,

We hope you are all well and that your family has enjoyed some quality time together this summer. The cyclical nature of the school year brings us renewed hope and energy. We will continue our focus on student engagement and creating a welcoming, safe, and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

We look forward to seeing all our students in September. **Our first full day of in-person learning with all K-5 students at Increase Miller is Thursday, September 9.**

Last week, we sent out communications regarding two events prior to the full return of students:

- **Kindergarten Visitation:** Thursday, September 2 in the afternoon. Details were included in the email communication.
- **New Family Orientation Grades 1-5:** Thursday, September 2 at 2:45 pm (homeschooled students and remote Kindergarten students from last year are also invited given this is the first time they are attending school in-person)
- **Special Classes K-2 and 3-5 Meet & Greet:** Thursday, September 2 at 2:45 pm

\*If this information is relevant to your family and you did not receive it via email, please contact Jen Ferentini in our main office at 763-7155 and she will assist you.

**Class Placement:** During the week of August 30, we will post the name of your child's teacher on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You will receive an email communication asking you to check your account when the information is available.

Our grade level teams this year are as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Dooley, Mrs. Morfea, Mrs. Noonan, and Ms. Walsh

Grade 1: Mrs. Ausiello, Mrs. Burroughs, Mrs. Bremner, and Mrs. Lisk

Grade 2: Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Resnick, and Mr. Vetere

Grade 3: Mrs. Cohen, Ms. Mangione, Mrs. Marmo, and Mrs. Samuelsohn,

Grade 4: Mrs. Emig, Ms. Fahy, new to IMES from Meadow Pond, Mrs. Garber and Ms. Lividini

Grade 5: Mr. Crivelli, Mrs. Panesar, Mrs. Rieger

Special Class Teachers: K-2, Mrs. DeFrancesco and 3-5, Mrs. Giacquinta

### **Health and Safety Guidelines**

- **Daily Screeners:** CDC and NYSED no longer recommends daily health questionnaires so it will not be a requirement of daily attendance.
- **Student Health:** It is most important that you keep your child(ren) home if they are sick. The District will be sending regular reminders about the symptoms and reasons that would cause a child to stay home. In addition, please contact our School Nurse, Lisa Kopf, immediately in the event that you learn your child is COVID positive. She can be reached at [lkopf@klschools.org](mailto:lkopf@klschools.org) and 763-7139.
- **Masks:** Please be sure your child wears a mask to school each day as masks are required for all students and staff when indoors and on school buses. Please talk to your child about the importance of doing this and find opportunities for them to practice wearing one prior to the start of school. Also, please pack your child with an extra mask each day in a Ziploc bag. Your child may store his or her mask in the bag during mask breaks, including snack and lunch. If your child needs an extra mask while in school, we will provide it to him/her. As per the guidance, masks will be optional outdoors.
- **Physical Distancing:** CDC and NYSED recommend at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms, however, desks do not need to all be facing in the same direction. This will allow for some flexibility in creating a collaborative learning environment conducive to whole class discussions, small group instruction and student partnerships. Physical distancing is no longer required on school

buses. Though not required, we will make every effort to increase the distance at lunch and at other times when masks must be removed. Language about increased distance (6 feet) for certain activities such as music and PE has been removed from the guidance. However, we will make every effort to increase the distance during such activities. We will continue to teach students how to properly social distance, especially during transitions. Seating charts will be maintained on buses, in classrooms and in other indoor locations when necessary (for the purpose of contact tracing).

- **Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing:** We will continue to implement handwashing/handsanitizing routines throughout the school day.
- **Lunch:** Families may pre-order FREE, bagged school lunches each Sunday for the following week. More information about how to pre-order will be sent to you in the near future. Students will eat lunch outdoors as a class whenever the weather permits. For indoor lunch periods, students will be assigned to a classroom or the cafeteria based on available space and supervision, and we will make every effort to maintain 6 ft. distancing during this time.
- **Recess/Movement:** Students will go outside daily for recess, weather permitting. Masks are optional during this time. Children will have the opportunity to play with their peers from across the grade on the playground and on our fields.
- **Cohorts:** Students will remain with their class throughout the day (with the exception of recess when classes may mix). Classes will travel to art, music, and library classrooms as well as to PE (which will be held outdoors unless weather doesn't permit) for instruction in these special area classes. All teachers will continue to be encouraged to take students outside for learning experiences when appropriate.
- **Visitors:** Consistent with CDC guidance, KLSD will limit non-essential visitors inside our buildings when the year begins. In general, parents should assume they will not be entering our buildings. We will be making limited exceptions, however, as we recognize there are times when individuals or small groups of visitors can be essential. We will also look to accommodate visitors outdoors, when possible. Our visitor guidance may evolve through the year and particularly if/when conditions change.
- **Other Mitigation Strategies:** Cleaning will occur daily. All ventilation continues to be monitored and serviced so that it is working to its highest specification as designed. Appropriate PPE will continue to be available to all students and staff.
- **School and Family Conversations:** We will be talking to your child about all of our safety measures and we ask that you do the same. Your comforting and supportive words and explanations will only help your child better understand and follow these guidelines.

### School Hours

- School hours are 9:15 am – 3:40 pm. To start the year, please follow the drop off and pick up times below for arrival and dismissal.

Student Arrival		
Time	Group	Drop off Location
9:10 – 9:15	K-5 Buses unload	Front of the school
9:15 – 9:20	Kindergarten with siblings	Circle by the gym
9:15 – 9:20	Grade 1 with siblings	A Wing Parking Lot
9:20 – 9:30	Grade 2 and Grade 4 with siblings	Circle by the gym
9:20 – 9:30	Grade 3 and Grade 5 with siblings	Front of the School

Student Dismissal		
Time	Group	Pickup Location
3:10 – 3:20	Kindergarten with siblings	Circle by the gym
3:10 – 3:20	Grade 1 with siblings	A Wing Parking Lot
3:20 – 3:30	Grade 2 and Grade 4 with siblings	Circle
3:20 – 3:30	Grade 3 and Grade 5 with siblings	Front of the School
3:30 – 3:40	K-5 Buses load	Front of the School

- In order to assist the staff with identifying a parent/guardian during pick-up, please write your child's grade, teacher's last name, and child's first and last name on a sheet of paper (at least 8 x 11 inches) and tape it to the front windshield of the passenger side of the car. Making this sign visible will help our process run smoothly.
- Additionally, please click on the link to complete this survey - [Arrival and Dismissal Survey](#). This information will also help us operationalize both arrival and dismissal in the beginning of the year. We may revise our plans based on traffic patterns and bus-ridership.

### **Transportation**

- Your child's bus number, pick-up time and drop-off time will be available in the near future on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account.
- Each child has to ride their assigned bus to and from school. Bus notes for changing your child's bus ride home for playdates will not be permitted.

### **School Supplies**

The school supply lists may be found on our school website under the section "Quick Links."

### **Technology**

Each student will have an assigned iPad that will be available for use in the classroom, as well as at home. Our goal is to integrate technology using a balanced and purposeful approach as we understand the importance and value of in-person learning experiences and non-digital activities.

### **Remote Learning**

- To meet the goal of having all students in-person, remote learning will not be a standard, year-long option.
- If, at any time, it becomes necessary to close schools and transition back to remote learning for all, KLSD is prepared.
- Medically fragile students will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis. Families should reach out to their school principal if they believe their child may be unable to attend school.

### **Operations and Maintenance Department**

As you drive onto our campus, you will notice the solar & wind powered lamp poles recently installed. They are free standing and completely powered by renewable energy. They were installed to provide light during the evening and early morning for people who park and use the stairs in front of the school building. Later in the

year, our Technology department will be adding enhancements that will connect the poles via WiFi to a suite of building management tools.

**Mark Your Calendar for these Important Dates!**

Thursday, September 2 Kindergarten Visitation (see letter with additional information and RSVP on the link)

Thursday, September 2, New Family Orientation at 2:45 pm

Thursday, September 2, Special Classes K-2 and 3-5 Meet and Greet at 2:45 pm

Thursday, September 9, First Day of School K-5

Thursday, September 9, IMES PTO Event, *Tears and Cheers Breakfast* at 9:30 am at Fox Valley Park (see PTO Eagle Express)

Friday, September 10, IMES PTO Event, *Back to School Picnic* 5pm – 7 pm Fox Valley Park (see PTO Eagle Express)

\*Wednesday, September 15, IMES PTO Meeting & Principal's Coffee 9:30 am

Thursday, September 16, Schools Closed for Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 21, K-2 Virtual Curriculum Night 7 pm

Thursday, September 23, Student Picture Day

Monday, September 27, 3-5 Virtual Curriculum Night 7 pm

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our students in the coming weeks! We are grateful to all our faculty and staff who are busy preparing for the upcoming school year.

In the meantime, be sure to enjoy the remaining days as a family and check Infinite Campus' Parent Portal next week with additional information.

Be safe and be well,

Kerry Ford, Principal, & Dr. Michael Weschler, Assistant Principal