



Mustang Trailblazer

AUGUST 2019

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Indian Trails Middle School

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From the Principal

Dear Mustang Families,

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are ready for a new school year. We have been busy preparing for our new 7th grade class and the return of our 8th grade scholars. As we reflect on this past year, we want to say thank you to all of our scholars for their many accomplishments.

As we continue to prepare for the school year, we hope that your scholar is doing the same by keeping up with key skills. Reading is a key to future success. Spending time every day reading increases reading fluency and comprehension. Khan Academy is a great website for scholars to keep up with their math skills and to preview skills they will be learning this year. We encourage students to spend a little time each day working on improving their skills.

Our professional educators and staff are very excited to begin a new year of learning. I know that at Indian Trails our staff, professional educators, and Mustang scholars are all committed to the academic excellence that has become the hallmark of the Indian Trails experience.

Respectfully,

Paul Peacock

Principal

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To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to <http://academypublishing.com/schools/indiantrailsflagler/indiantrailsflagler.php>

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Indian Trails Middle School

Vision

Indian Trails Middle School is committed to challenge, empower and inspire scholars to apply their knowledge, skills and creativity in order to achieve academic and personal success in an ever changing global community through innovative teaching, community involvement and the application of new technologies.

Mission

To provide high-quality, innovative instruction to our scholars in a safe environment.

Motto

The Big 3 -
Do What Is Right,
Do Your Best,
Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated.

Flagler County School District Guiding Principles

Children First
Trust and Respect for All
Empower Others
Teamwork
Excellence, Quality, and Consistency
Commitment to Individual Needs
Get to "YES"

Dress Code

The district's uniform dress policy promotes an environment that enhances learning and safety, encourages students to express individuality through personality and achievements, and creates a sense of school pride and belonging.

→ Pants/Bottom Attire

1. Must be khaki (tan), grey, white, navy blue or black slacks, shorts, skirts, skorts or jumpers, or plain blue or black denim jeans, shorts, skirts, skorts, or jumpers. A small trademark logo is acceptable.
2. Bottom attire must be plain without any holes, tears, tatters, or unfinished hems, and must be worn securely at the waist.
3. If bottom attire has visible belt loops, a belt must be used. Students in grades K-3 are exempt.

→ Shirts

1. Shirts must be standard short or long sleeve polo style, oxford style, or button-up dress shirt with a collar. A small trademark logo is acceptable.
2. K-8 schools may use any of the district approved colors and choose up to two additional standard school colors. Shirts must be solid color and fabric. No lace or sheer materials, including "cut outs".
3. 9-12 schools may use any solid color, striped or plaid collared button down or polo shirt. No lace or sheer fabric materials, including "cut outs".
4. On designated school Spirit Days or special events, students may wear their school logo t-shirt, team jersey, or club shirt. Items must represent the school the student attends. Friday of each week will be a designated Spirit Day for grades K-8. Grade 9-12 students may wear school logo shirts, team jerseys, or club shirts each day. Special school event days (such as Homecoming week, Cancer Awareness Day, Red Ribbon Week, etc.) will be designated by the school; dates will be released in advance.
5. It is recommended that shirts be tucked in. Cleavage must be covered.

→ Outer or cool weather attire must be school appropriate.

1. Zip- or button-up or "over the head" sweatshirts or sweaters are acceptable as long as required dress attire is worn beneath.
2. Items must be solid color.
3. Standard, required dress code must be worn, even when wearing cool weather attire.

For entire Flagler Schools Dress Code Policy, please visit the Flagler County Schools website at www.Flaglerschools.com.

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Electronic Devices

All electronic devices including but not limited to iPods, MP3 players, and handheld games are not permitted in school or on campus. Please leave these items at home. The school assumes no responsibility if items are lost or stolen. Cell phones are not forbidden at school; however, their use is prohibited during the school day. Cell phones are to be off and put away, and not visible during school hours. The school assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen cell phones. Cell phones and all additional electronic devices will be confiscated from students who violate this policy.

Student Items

One of our primary goals is to provide our scholars with a safe learning environment that is also free from distractions to the learning process. In order to help us reach this goal, we need your assistance in monitoring what your child brings to school.

- **Medication**- If it is necessary for your scholar to take any form of medication at school, then the parent/guardian must bring the medicine in its original container, fill out the required form(s), and leave it with the school nurse. Your child should never be in possession of any over-the-counter or prescription medication. Students may carry inhalers that are prescribed for them with the proper forms submitted to the school.
- **Miscellaneous Items**- Please do not send cakes, cupcakes, or any other food items to school with your child. Indian Trails guidelines prohibit the sharing of food items. Balloons and other large items cause distractions in the classroom and are not permitted on the buses. Any food or additional items that cause distractions will be held in Student Services until a parent/guardian can pick them up.

Pal Sports

ITMS is offering a wide range of middle school athletics programs in collaboration with the Police Athletic League. The fall sports offered will be Cross Country (boys and girls) and Girls Volleyball. Winter sports being offered will be Basketball (Boys and Girls), Cheerleading, and Soccer. Sign up information will be available at <https://www.flaglersheriffspal.org/>.



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Chris Tincher • tincher@flaglerschools.com



School Advisory Council Meeting (SAC)



What is School Advisory Council (SAC)? SAC is a team of people representing various segments of the community—parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/ industry professionals, and other interested community members. The purpose of a SAC is to assist in the preparation and evaluation (developing and evaluating) of the results of the school improvement plan. Additionally, SAC receives funds to be used at the discretion of the School Advisory Committee, and a portion of this money should be used for implementing the school improvement plan. *Please join us on Thursday, August 29th from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Indian Trails Spark.* We look forward to seeing you there!

Attendance Policy

Not only does Florida law require student attendance each day, but also regular attendance is an important component in students' academic success. Research shows that school attendance and student achievement is directly correlated. State law and district attendance policy allows the parent to write notes to document and excuse up to 10 days of student absence for illness or excusable reasons per year: Five days in the first term (August through January) and 5 days in the second term (January through June). Beyond those 10 days, if a student has a serious reason to miss additional days, the school principal can review parent requests to excuse up to 5 more days per year, for a total of 15 days. **Note: Students may not receive credit for work made up from unexcused absences which can impact grades.** Beyond 15 days per year, only doctor/therapist or court notes are accepted to excuse absences. It is very important to document all days of absence with a note which must be turned in at school--even if the reason for the absence does not allow the day to be excused. **It is important to note that family vacations are not excusable days.** ITMS does not have a sick line to call in absences; please provide an absence note to the attendance office for events out of school. Questions about attendance should be directed to the attendance clerk, Mrs. Grant. Attendance is a big part of school success!

For Flagler County School's entire attendance policy, please visit www.flaglerschools.com.



We need spots filled...



...Can YOU help?

Support Indian Trails Middle School by advertising in the *Mustang Trailblazer!*

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the *SAME TIME* help support your local schools!

Indian Trails Middle School
Chris Tincher • tincher@flaglerschools.com

Student Arrival and Departure

Per Flagler County Schools statute, Flagler County Public Schools employees are not responsible for supervising students arriving on campus more than 30 minutes before school sponsored activities begin and remaining more than 30 minutes after the end of school sponsored activities. Unless students are on campus early for a club or at a teacher's request, no student should be on campus before 7:10 a.m. Similarly, students should not remain on campus beyond 1:40 p.m. unless they are participating in a club, athletic team, or tutoring/study program. All after school programs run Monday through Thursday and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Please contact Indian Trails with specific questions.

Transportation

ITMS students get to and from school in a variety of ways. For the safety of all of our scholars, it is important for you and your child to follow the guidelines below.

- **Bike riders** - Florida law requires students riding bicycles or skateboards to wear helmets. It is also important that students remain on the sidewalks and use the Flagler County crosswalks with crossing guards where applicable. Bicycles and skateboards must be locked up in the bike and skateboard rack located south of the school's main entrance. Both bicycles and skateboards are not to be ridden on the campus or walkways at any time. Neither FCPS nor ITMS is responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen bicycles or skateboards.
- **Bus riders** - Students must follow the bus driver's directions at all times. While riding the bus, students are subject to the same disciplinary procedures as they are while in schools. Upon arrival and dismissal, students should always use the school's sidewalks to exit from and go to their buses. Also, remember that students must ride their assigned bus to and from school and may not board or depart the bus at a different stop. Furthermore, students may only ride their assigned bus.

For bus name, stop location and times, please complete the following:

- Go to www.flaglerschools.com
- Click Leadership Development and Operations
- Drop down menu - select Transportation
- Bus Routes
- Bus Routes Icon
- Username & password are both **guest**
- Enter your Mustang's grade and address
- Click Find School/Transportation Info

This will provide you with the bus pick up location, pick up time, and bus name.

- **Car riders** - All students should be delivered and picked up in the ITMS car rider loop located through the ITMS north gate entrance of the school. Cars should not drop students off on Belle Terre Parkway, in the front of ITMS (main entrance). Once in the car line, please follow the lines of traffic as directed by school personnel. In addition, we ask that you abide by the request to make right turns only onto Belle Terre during morning drop off. Please keep in mind that students are not permitted to walk through the parking lot to meet you. Finally, please watch out for our bike riders and walkers as you enter and leave our campus.
- **Walkers** - Students who walk to and from school should stay on the designated sidewalks and refrain from walking in the street. Please be careful crossing the streets and please use the provided crosswalks and crossing guards where applicable.
- **Activity pick up** - After school activities may conclude between 2:30 pm and 4 pm. Students will be picked up in the south bus loop off of the Bird of Paradise traffic light.

We greatly appreciate everyone's assistance in helping to keep all of our Mustangs safe.



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Important Dates

July 31st	Computer Distribution 1pm-6pm
August 1st	Schedule Pickup 7th Grade:10am-12pm. 8th Grade: 1pm-3pm.
August 3rd	Back to School Jam at FPC
August 8th	<u>Orientation Night in the Gym</u> 6pm-7pm
August 12th	First Day of School, Students Return
August 20th	School Picture Day
August 22nd	Band Instrument Rental Night 5pm - 7pm
August 29th	School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting 5pm-6pm
August 29th	Indian Trails Open House 6pm - 7:30pm
September 2nd	Labor Day Holiday - No school
September 24th	School Picture Make-Up Day
September 25th	Donuts With Dad 7am
October 3rd	Band Fall Concert 6:30pm-8pm
October 11th	End of First Quarter
October 14th	Teacher Planning Day - No school for students
November 11th	Veteran's Day Holiday - No school

