

October 2017

Issue 2

SMOKE SIGNALS

For the Parents, Staff, and Community of Indian Trails Middle School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear ITMS Families,

What a busy beginning to our school year at ITMS! We weathered Irma as a community and I appreciate your support with our Food Pantry in addition to helping to clean up our courtyard areas. As we begin this school year, our PTSA, and our community partnerships are such a powerful combination with our ITMS staff to support your child. Thank you.

The turnout at Open House was so exciting for our teachers! We want to support you in your efforts in following along with your child's progress so we have a special Family Tech night planned for Oct 5th. Our teachers will be there to help you with Skyward, how to access teacher eCampus pages, IConnect /IJourney course and robotics. We also have invited the Winter Springs Police Department to present on Cyberbullying. Our ITMS jazz band will be performing and you just can't miss that! Come and join us at 6pm on Oct 5th.

As we are more than half way through the first nine weeks, please remember how important it is to ask your child about their school day. The planner or eCampus is a helpful tool as you have this conversation because you can find the assignments for each of their classes and see what they are learning. Please contact your child's teacher or our guidance office if you have any questions.

I will continue to communicate through our school newsletters, weekly principal phone calls, Remind, Skyward emails, eCampus and certainly hope to see you at our school events. Remember we are in volleyball season and it is a fun way to support our school, games are Wednesday afternoons at 4:30.

Thank you for your continued support.

GO Trailblazers!!!

Sincerely,

Lesley Sileo, Ed. D.

Principal



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Indian Trails Middle School (ITMS) Community is to provide all students a safe, supportive environment where academic excellence is encouraged, individual strengths and talents are fostered, and respect for the rights of others prevail.



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Winter Springs, FL 32708
Phone: 407-320-4350
Fax: 407-320-4399

<http://www.indiantrails.scps.k12.fl.us/>

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Lesley Sileo
Principal

Mr. Avellino
Assistant Principal

Dr. Neal
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Gaudio
School Administration Manager

Ms. Brittany Campbell
Dean

FIVE STAR SCHOOL



A+
SCHOOL

School Events: 407-320-4356
Guidance Office: 407-320-4354.
Office Hours
8:20 a.m. - 4:20 p.m.
Attendance Hours
9:20 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.



GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE STAFF

Certified School Counselors

- Adele Futato 407-320-4313
Last names that begin with **A-L**
- Tiffany Everson 407-320-4314
Last names that begin with **M-Z**

Secretaries

- Linda Keiter, ESE 407-320-4424
Parent/Teacher Conference; SST Meetings
- Erin Millwater 407-320-4445
Registrar; Skyward

**SIGN UP FOR
OUR REMIND!**

Text @itms to 81010

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT

Students are starting to earn SPARK bucks and are spending them in their classrooms. Trails TV has started rolling out commercials to spread the SPARK spirit. The PBIS team is meeting monthly and getting feedback from teachers and students to improve prizes and ways to earn the bucks. The PBIS team is also rolling out some lunch time prizes and drawings which will begin next Quarter! Remember Trailblazers to CREATE THE SPARK!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



The 2017-2018 election for SGA was held with much success, and we would like to extend our congratulations to the elected body here at ITMS: President: Carter Craig; Vice President: Donte Taft; Secretary: Kylie Dunaye; 8th Grade Representatives: Daniel Kaprow and Brittani Backensto; 7th Grade Representatives: Cole Whitely and Leyla Finley; 6th Grade Representatives: Trevor Francis and Payton Pagan. The ITMS SGA has begun to focus on work involving recycling initiatives, PBIS, and student involvement and school spirit. We look forward to continuing to build this bridge between the students and their school!

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The ITMS SAC Committee had its first meeting of the 2017-2018 school year on Tuesday, September 12. The Committee voted Ms. Cara Roesner as our Chair, Mr. Dan Finley as our Vice Chair, and Ms. Stephanie Gaudio as our Secretary. We also welcomed four new SAC members; this includes Ms. Carol Waters (parent), Ms. Graziella Busa (parent), Ms. Leslie Joyner-Cunningham (teacher) and Mr. Juan Hernandez (teacher). At this initial meeting, we reviewed the by-laws, the Code of Conduct, and our school data. We also discussed our School Improvement Plan and our budget for the year. These meetings are open to the public, and are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 4:45 in the ITMS Media Center. The next meeting will be on October 10.



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HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET INFORMATION

All 8th graders attended an information session on high school magnet choices on September 5.

- October 1 - December 1 High school magnet application period
- October 24 (6:00pm-8:00pm) High School Magnet Expo at ESC (school board office)

There are five magnet high school choices; Magnet Nights begin at 6:30 pm at the following schools:

- **International Baccalaureate** – Seminole High School- November 14
- **International Baccalaureate** – Winter Springs High School- November 8
- **Academy of Health Careers** – Seminole High School- November 6
- **Institute for Engineering** – Lyman High School- November 13
- **Crooms Academy of Information Technology** – Crooms AoIT- November 15

In addition, there are six high schools that offer programs of emphasis:

- **Renewable Energy** – Winter Springs HS
- **Bioscience Technology** – Oviedo HS
**Oviedo HS added Entertainment and Sports Marketing (not an emphasis program)*
- **Modeling, Simulation, & Analysis** – Hagerty HS
- **Cybersecurity** – Lake Howell HS
- **Entrepreneurship** – Lake Howell HS
- **Forensics Science & Legal Studies** – Lake Mary HS
- **Institute of Finance** – Lake Brantley HS
- **Teaching, Learning, & Leadership** – Lyman HS

There is only an **online application** to complete if you are interested in attending one of the high school magnet programs. Students in 8th grade will receive an information booklet during the first week in October. Postcard reminders are mailed to the student's current address of record.

Crooms AoIT Field Trip is the first week in November, date is November 10th. Only a select number of 8th grade students may attend this field trip. Please contact your counselor if you are interested in attending this.

CURRICULUM



READING

The reading department is so excited to announce that students are diving right in to their iReady and Achieve programs that will individualize their learning! Each student participated in a diagnostic assessment to target their learning strengths and focuses on their reading weaknesses. Their classes will work in teacher and student led rotations to practice reading standards they will see in the FSA Reading in spring. Students will begin to hear about Battle of the Books and Read to Lead clubs starting third quarter. These clubs give students the opportunity to read Sunshine State books and compete against SCPS middle schools here at ITMS! Keep Reading Trailblazers!



SCIENCE

6TH GRADE

Our 6th Graders have been hard at work exploring the nature of matter, starting with an in-depth look at the Atomic Theory and how our scientific understanding of atoms has changed over time. We have also examined the Periodic Table of Elements and are currently investigating how elements combine to form molecules and compounds. Students will study the physical and chemical properties of matter and will also learn about pH, solutions, and mixtures. By the end of Unit 1: Hierarchy of Organisms, students will have a strong foundation of fundamental chemistry concepts and will broaden their understanding of the "stuff" that makes up everything around us!

7TH GRADE

After learning more about the Nature of Science and how to conduct experiments, 7th graders explored weathering, erosion, and deposition. They also learned about physical and chemical changes. We weathered and eroded sugar cubes and created a "Sunset in a Bag." In our next unit, Interactions of Spheres, students will take a deeper dive into the forces that drive the water cycle. We are excited for all of the fun activities and learning ahead of us in this unit before we go "Beyond Our World" to discover what makes up the stars, galaxies, and universe.

8TH GRADE

Students are off to a quick start in Physical Science this year! Through the use of hands-on inquiry based lessons, students are discovering the exciting world of Science. We have already explored the Nature of Science, Forces and Motion, and Gravity. Upcoming lessons include Energy Transformations, Light and Waves, and Heat Flow. All classes are using their Interactive Notebooks to document their adventure. Many of our students will be using their investigative skills to research and experiment even more while completing projects for our ITMS Science Fair, scheduled for December 11th. **SCIENCE ROCKS at ITMS!**

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CURRICULUM

SOCIAL STUDIES

6TH GRADE

World History students are learning about early civilizations! Their investigative use of primary and secondary sources will take students on a journey back in time to study pre-historic man and the early civilization of Mesopotamia. The Interactive Notebook is the primary vehicle used by our student to record every step of our travels. As part of the DBQ Project students will have a chance to conduct an in depth examination of Hammurabi's Code. They will determine for themselves the answer to the question: Hammurabi's Code – Was It Just?

7TH GRADE

Civics classes started the year off talking about Citizenship and what it means to be a citizen and more importantly, what it means to be a good citizen. We then transitioned into talking about different forms of governments around the world in an effort to better understand our government here in the U.S. We had some exciting conversations about political parties, with emphasis being focused on the two-party system in the United States. Our final unit of study for this quarter will be on Propaganda and the Media, and students will get to examine the impact of the media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government. After that, we will begin to identify the make-up of our government by exploring the three branches and how they work together.

8TH GRADE

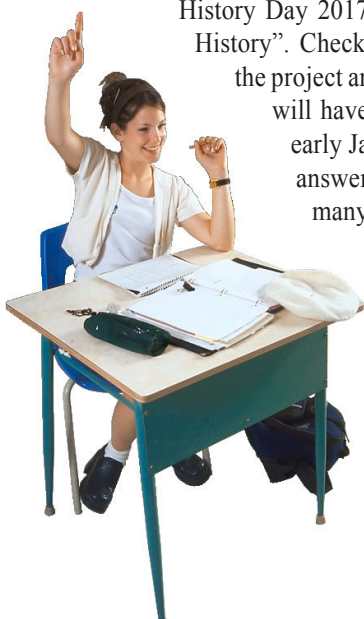
United States History students are already off to a great start! Our first topic discussed Native Americans and the early European explorers that set sail seeking a quicker way to Asia by water. Students explored various reasons and motivations that enticed people to risk their own life in an effort to explore new lands. We also examined the contributions of Native Americans and their impact on early settlers, as well as identifying effects of European colonization on the natives.

Learning how the United States came to be, we delved into the early colonies in the Americas. Students uncovered the reasons for settlement, geographic characteristics, political and social aspects of the colonies, and how economies changed depending on the region. Having grown unhappy under the English crown, students are recapping their Civics knowledge of “why one enters into a government” as we examine British policies and events that ultimately led to the Revolutionary War. As part of the DBQ Project, students will have a chance to conduct an in depth examination of early Jamestown. They will determine for themselves the answer to the question: Early Jamestown: Why did so many colonist die?

ADVANCED AND PRE-AP US HISTORY

Advanced and PreAp US History students have been introduced to National History Day 2017, with a theme of “Conflict and Compromise in History”. Check out www.nhd.org for additional information on the project and guidelines. As part of the DBQ Project, students will have a chance to conduct an in depth examination of early Jamestown. They will determine for themselves the answer to the question: Early Jamestown: Why did so many colonist die?

PreAP US History students are learning to think like historians! Their investigative use of primary and secondary sources will take students on a journey back to Colonial America. As part of the DBQ Project, students will have a chance to conduct an in depth examination of early Jamestown. They will determine for themselves the answer to the question: Early Jamestown: Why did so many colonist die?



MATH

6TH GRADE STANDARD

Students will be studying adding, subtracting, multiplying fractions and mixed numbers during this 9 week period. Students should bring their planner, math folders, and composition books to class each day. Students should be doing Khan Academy each week for at least 50 minutes.

6TH GRADE ADVANCED

Students are finishing up the division of fractions and mixed numbers and will be starting Unit 2 where we will be learning about ratios, unit rates, and percent.

GEMS

Students are currently working on expressions and equations. Students should be working on their Virtual Bridge at home. Please encourage your child to review/complete the materials provided on the task sheet before taking each quiz.

7TH GRADE STANDARD

Students are finishing up Unit 1 on integers and then moving into Unit 2 which deals with operations involving integer operations with fractions and decimals.

7TH GRADE ADVANCED

Students have just completed our work with Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities. Essential skills as we prepare for Algebra next year. We will conclude the nine weeks with Two-Dimensional Geometry. Be sure to ask your student about pi (3.14159...). The nine week exam will count as 10% of the nine week grade. Khan Academy work is on-going so please encourage your student to spend time each week on the 7th grade mission.

8TH GRADE

Students have begun working on proportional and non-proportional relationships. We will then move on to identifying and working with functions. Next, we will be solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Please remember that student assignments and resources are posted on ECampus each day. This allows you to keep up with work that has been assigned in class, and gives your child the opportunity to keep caught up if they are absent.

ALGEBRA

Classes will be working on Multi-Step Equations & Inequalities, Relations & Functions, and Linear Equations.

HONORS GEOMETRY

Geometry students spent the last quarter learning about basic geometric properties and logical reasoning to prepare them for everyone's favorite-writing proofs! We will spend the second quarter developing the ability to write proofs about triangle congruence and properties and attributes of triangles. We will continue to use Math Nation as an additional resource, both in class and as a home learning tool. All students have been provided a Math Nation workbook, which should be used when they are completing assignments in this program. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Hamilton if you have any questions regarding the geometry course.

CURRICULUM



LANGUAGE ARTS

6TH GRADE

Hello families of our wonderful sixth grade class! By now you should have heard from your student about the Unit we are studying in Language Arts class: Fear! We have spent time reflecting on our own fears while we read nonfiction articles explaining how our brains react to fear in preparation for our first argumentative essay for the year: Is fear real or imagined? While reading, we are continuously focusing on the Florida Standards, specifically identifying the central idea of the text as well as utilizing textual evidence within the article to support our claim. In addition to this, we are using weekly reading and writing assignments for our home learning extension. Reading Inventories are given to the students each week as a way to have students read independently while using text evidence to answer a given question. Please see your teacher's e-Campus page to find out more information regarding Reading Inventories as well as daily classwork assignments. We look forward to working with you and your student this school year!

7TH GRADE

The 7th grade team is happy to have our students back after Hurricane Irma. We hope that your families are safe and settled after that horrific storm. Our 7th graders are preparing for our first FSA practice writes called the FPMA. This test will help us locate gaps in your children's writing. We will be offering a writing workshop after school. Stay tuned for dates and additional information. In addition to writing, the 7th grade Trail Blazers are working on reading comprehension skills through our Unit on Bold Actions. In Unit two, students presented arguments for a mock trial on the adventurous Abby Sunderland, utilizing skills for citing and ranking evidence. Students also concentrated on text structure in a variety of activities to help them improve understanding. Technology was utilized for group discussions using Nearpod, No Red Ink for grammar diagnostics, and Quizlet for academic and domain vocabulary. Visit your 7th grade teacher's e-Campus for fun, learning applications. We are proud of our 7th grade students and appreciate your support of our classroom. Our goal is one year's growth in one year's time.

8TH GRADE

Greetings to the families of our 8th grade students! During this first quarter in Language Arts, students are getting re-acclimated to the routines and expectations of a new school year; a new school year that means a significant transition into high school for our ITMS seniors next year. As our own 8th graders transition in their own personal thinking from children into adults, the texts we are analyzing in class reflect their very personal journey of growing up. The first unit in our HMH Collections textbook explores the emotions and brain science behind the maturing process from childhood into adulthood. Students are performing close-readings of different genres on this topic including short fiction, informational text, and poetry. Students are formulating ideas and opinions as we reinforce skills in evidence-based writing through PEEL paragraphs and argument-based essays. Home-learning assignments reflect the skills that are being reinforced in class such as: theme, central idea (in an informational text), analyzing interactions, text structure, and point of view. We anticipate with great excitement seeing our 8th graders develop their thinking as they grow into young adults.



SPORTS

Girls Eastern Division Volleyball Schedule 2017

October 11 - Indian Trails @ Tuskawilla
October 18 - South Seminole @ Indian Trails
October 21 - *Tournament

Boys Eastern Division Volleyball Schedule 2017

October 11 - Tuskawilla @ Indian Trails
October 18 - Indian Trails @ South Seminole
October 21 - *Tournament

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ICONNECT/IJOURNEY

Whether in 7th grade or 8th grade, there will be an opportunity for students to learn important skills that will be helpful in high school, college, and future careers. iConnect and iJourney are blended courses: that means that part of the instruction will be led by the classroom teacher and part of the class will take place online in Canvas, the digital learning space available to SCPS teachers and students! In these fun courses, students will learn how to communicate using technology in different ways, collaborate with classmates to produce real-world applications, and create amazing portfolios that reflects who they are or who they want to be! If both courses in the series are completed while in middle school, and they pass a three-part test, students will earn a special IC3 Digital Literacy certificate, which is recognized by the Florida Department of Education and can be included on resumes! This is an opportunity to be "ahead of the pack" and to stand out as an innovative, technology-savvy student while becoming better prepared to continue on your high school path.

IJOURNEY

Do you know what path you want to take in life? Do you want the world to know about yourself and your talents? In iJourney, students will explore and discover their own path, learn to be a digital leader in today's world, and experience career exploration through fun and meaningful activities including the creation of a digital portfolio! This blended course meets the state of Florida's career education requirement for promotion to high school, will include a 4-year plan for high school connected to potential career paths, and will provide some of the information needed to earn the IC3 Digital Literacy certificate.



ICONNECT

Expressing yourself through technology is vital to your future. In this course students will learn about various ways to communicate in today's world through digital technology. Students in this course will learn technology terminology and skills through fun activities, learn how communication skills relate to trends in today's world and how this will help you to

become a future leader and entrepreneur. Students that pass this course in middle school will earn a .5 high school credit that will also satisfy the online learning graduation requirement for high school, and will provide some of the information needed to earn the IC3 Digital Literacy certificate.

BETA CLUB

Beta is excited for the upcoming State Convention that is held at the Renaissance Resort in November. Students from across the state will compete head to head with other Beta teams in academics and fine art competitions. Students have been working hard to show display their best in music, drama, academics and engineering.

Beta Club will also begin supporting their community through donations of canned goods that will be collected for the ITMS food pantry and hurricane relief projects. Upcoming events include Making Strides against Breast Cancer, Give Kids the World, and Pet Rescue. These students really are lighting the way and showing what being a trailblazer is all about. Good luck BETA!

If you have any questions about Beta, please contact Ms. Locke at priscilla_locke@scps.k12.fl.us. Have a great summer!!

BAND

Hello Band Families,

We have some exciting things upcoming on the horizon. First off I want to remind everyone that our concerts we're coming up. The advanced band concert band, and jazz band, will be performing on Tuesday, October 24. The symphonic band beginning band and jazz band, will be performing on Thursday, October 26. All concerts start at 6:30, and are in the auditorium at Winter Springs High School. The beginning band students have received their order forms for the blue band polo. That will be their uniform for the concert. Along with black pants and black shoes. The concert band advanced band and symphonic band, will be wearing a white tux shirt or dress shirt and black pants and black shoes. We cannot wait to see everyone at these concerts they are going to be so much fun. You will be so surprised at how far your students have come this year.

Fair share information went home as well. If you have not received information about your students fair share for the year please send us an email, so that we can get that to you. It is very important that each student do their best to raise their fair share for the year.

We are so excited to see all of you at the concerts, and I cannot wait for you to hear your students perform!

– CJ Shafer - Band Director

Jessica Kollas - Band Director

CHORUS

Hello to everyone!

The chorus department would like to let everyone know that our semester concert is going to be November 28th at 6:30 (Winter Springs HS). Call time for chorus students will be announced once the date is closer. Later this month, we will begin our Woodwick Candle fundraiser. Details and forms will be sent home with the students on October 24th. Our classes have been learning a lot of fun music, and I can't wait for us to share the gift of music with everyone in November!

– Mr. Boardman

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