## News at a Glance

## September 18, 2020

#### **Important Dates**

Tuesday, 9/22 – Virtual PTA Meeting – 7 PM ZOOM Link <u>HERE</u> Meeting ID: 920 0053 5859 Passcode: 613226 Friday, 9/25 – Meal Pick-Up – 7-9 AM

Use the entrance off 97<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **District News**

Shawnee Mission School District recently requested that all parents acknowledge three assurances regarding remote learning. The request comes because the KS State Department of Education recently changed its requirements for how we verify student learning and attendance. Once you acknowledge the three assurances, we will no longer need to require that students complete and parents sign a daily learning activity log, which would have gone into effect once we entered hybrid learning mode. Your help and cooperation is greatly appreciated. **Please log on to** <u>Family Access</u> to complete the form.

#### **School News**

<u>Class Attendance and Participation Expectations</u> As you know, <u>being present and participating</u> in daily class activities ensures course knowledge and personal success. Each class session materials are presented to ensure sequential learning experiences.

We will support our students should they have any challenges or questions regarding new materials; however, it is critical that our students participate in daily scheduled class curriculum assignments and WebEx meetings. Should your student have any special circumstances that prohibit them from being in class on time, prepared, and for the duration of the daily learning experience please contact the teacher through email.

We want to prevent your student from missing or being late to our class sessions in which we will be reviewing a substantial amount of information. Excessive missing of class or tardiness will definitely hinder their ability to be engaged collaboratively and individually in assignments.

As we move forward, it is extremely important we understand that attendance and participation are the two key components to successful online learning. We realize that this does not apply to all students and that some students learn better individually, but class attendance and participation is paramount.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us here at Indian Woods Middle School.

#### WebEx Request

Our teachers are trying to get to know our students by putting a name to a face. It is important that students use their name when participating in our WebEx Meeting sessions. If students are not joining using video, they need to have a selfie picture as their icon. We are running into difficulties when students are using nicknames for their screen names and different pictures/graphics for their screen shot picture.

Following these simple guidelines will help teachers take correct attendance, limit outsiders from entering the WebEx Meeting session, and foster the building of our teacher/student relationships.

## **IWMS Bell Schedule**

All students are starting the year with remote learning. Students will be expected to remotely attend each class at the scheduled time. This schedule is posted to our website <u>HERE</u>.

#### MacBook Directions and "How To" Instructions

Need assistance with your student's MacBook? Our librarian, Kacey Reynolds, has helpful directions on our website. Click <u>HERE</u> or email Mrs. Reynolds at kaceyreynolds@smsd.org



## 2020 Pack-a-Palooza

The first few days of school at Indian Woods were orientation days called Pack-a-Palooza. We know some students may have been absent or experienced connection issues for various parts of Pack-a-Palooza, so we've created a **"studentfacing" version with all of the needed information. It will also serve as a great reference/resource for students**. Please click <u>HERE</u> to view this presentation.

## **Remote Back to School Night**

If you missed last week's virtual Back to School Night, please meet your teachers below. The videos are listed by teacher last name and the subject they teach. FlipGrid can be accessed here: <u>https://flipgrid.com/da9868a6</u>

## Attendance Update

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate through the Remote Learning process.

# The following attendance guidelines apply to ALL students. (In-Person and Remote)

- Teachers take attendance at the beginning of each class period. If your student is not present for roll call, they will be marked absent.
- If a student is unable to attend due to technical issues, please email the teacher.
- Unreported absences will receive an automated phone call at the end of each day.
- Parents and students may check attendance by logging into Skyward <u>HERE</u> and checking the "ATTENDANCE" tab on the left. This will detail absence types and class period.

If your student will not be in class due to an **appointment**, **illness**, or **any other reason** than a technical issue, please call the 24-hour attendance line at **913-993-0612 by 9:15 AM** and follow the prompts.

**IMPORTANT:** We ask that parents not send an email for your students' attendance, we need to have one location for attendance and calls need to be recorded on the 24-Hour Attendance Line.

## 24-HOUR ATTENDANCE LINE: (913)993-0612

<u>Please do not call the school office for attendance, we</u> <u>need to keep our phone lines open for non-</u> <u>attendance purposes.</u>

## **School Fees**

Shawnee Mission has **waived the Foods and FACS fees** for first semester classes. Those fees are removed in Skyward for all students. If you paid for Foods or FACS classes there is a credit on your student's account. Second semester, the credits will be moved to any fees that are owed by the student or to their lunch account. If you have questions about this procedure, please call Mrs. DeVeau at 913-993-0601. The fee shows as waived for those students that haven't paid their fees. The **online fee payment** program is available, please click <u>HERE</u> and pay your student's fees.

If students have a **medical card with the State of Kansas**, please email a copy of the card or the card number to <u>patdeveau@smsd.org</u>. Our bookkeeper, Pat DeVeau, will check the KANCARE status and notify you by email if you are not on the KANCARE 19 (TITLE XIX MEDICAID APPROVAL) program. The KANCARE 19 status waives the textbook rental and ID fees. Families will be required to pay any course or optional fees.

**Checks and money order payments** can be mailed to Indian Woods Middle School, 9700 Woodson Drive, Overland Park, KS 66207. Please go to the online program above to check the amount due for your student. Please also put your student's name and ID number in the memo section of your check and write your phone number on the check.

**Payment arrangements** for fees can be made by calling Mrs. DeVeau at 913.993.0601. Please have your credit or debit card available to make your first payment. You will be sent a payment plan by email that you will need to sign and return to the school.

If you have any questions regarding fees, please contact Pat DeVeau at 913-993-0601.

## PTA NEWS

There are so many ways to get involved with your child and your school. We are going to work hard to make this a fun and memorable year for everyone!

## Virtual PTA Meeting – Sept. 22 - 7 PM

Get a chance to meet our new Principal, John Bartel, and find out what is going on at IW. Click on the Zoom link below to join: <u>https://kumc-</u>

ois.zoom.us/j/92000535859?pwd=UU8vdVhIT0ViWj dPRIQ4WUFJMyt1Zz09

Meeting ID: 920 0053 5859 Passcode: 613226

## Join PTA, Purchase Spirit Wear & Yard Signs

Click the memberhub link below to join PTA! Show your school spirit and pride by purchasing IW Spirit Wear or the new Yard Sign!

https://indianwoods.new.memberhub.store/store



Thank you for your support. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Jennifer Burns (jboresow@gmail.com) and Adrienne McGee (<u>4mcgees@gmail.com</u>)