

## Indian Hills Junior High Seventh Grade Registration 2009-2010

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with the required and elective seventh grade courses offered at Indian Hills and invite you to attend a very important parent meeting on February 3, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. in the Indian Hill's Auditorium. We encourage at least one parent to attend this meeting. The information you hear will help your child in choosing electives and will answer a lot of parental questions about Indian Hills.

Our counselors will meet with your child at his/her elementary school in mid-February to explain the registration process and to distribute a registration form. The registration form will indicate our recommendation for math courses for all students. In addition, some students will be recommended for reading resource, math resource, learning lab, English as a Second Language, Foundations of Social Studies and/or a special education study skills class. Students who qualify for Extended Learning will be notified at a later date once the screening process has been completed.

All seventh graders are required to take English, math, science, social studies, physical education, and the following four nine-week long exploratory classes: art, technology education, consumer education, and family consumer science. Students' elective options are music and Spanish. Students are required to take one of four music electives: general music, band, chorus, or orchestra. The music requirement may be waived for students who are taking Reading Resource, Math Resource, English as a Second Language, Extended Learning, Learning Lab, or a special education Study Skills class.

Indian Hills will make every effort to attempt to schedule each seventh grader with the electives they choose. It is possible that this may not happen due to staffing restraints, class size, seats available, teaming, etc.

The West Des Moines Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability in educational programs and activities.

**You will be receiving a registration form from your child in mid-February.** Help your child fill it out and return it to his/her sixth grade teacher within five days or bring it to parent-teacher conferences in February. **All registration forms need to be returned by February 20, 2009, at the latest.** As parents, you may have questions about certain recommendations that are made. Feel free to talk to your elementary teacher or to call Indian Hills at 633-4700 to clarify your questions. Each student will receive a separate math flow chart to help parents see the sequence of math courses after seventh grade.

Indian Hills' schedule consists of a seven-period day with school starting at 7:35 and ending at 2:35. Each student will be assigned to a small homeroom group called Tiger Time that meets daily with an adult advocate in order to help each child adjust to junior high. All students will also be placed on one of three teams having the same math, English, social studies, and science teacher to create a smaller learning community. The three teams are all equal in ability, balanced by male/female ratio, and each have a similar number of students involved in band, chorus, and orchestra. Two of the teams will share the number of students who have an I.E.P. and the third team will teach the students who qualify for English as a Second Language.

Finally, Indian Hills will schedule an orientation session where 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will come to our building. We will also schedule two meetings at the elementary sites where our counselors and some seventh grade students will inform and answer questions and concerns.

**Please mark February 3 at 7:00 P.M. on your calendars for an important parent meeting in our auditorium.** Indian Hills looks forward to working with you and your child.

The following are descriptions of seventh grade course offerings:

### **Course Descriptions—Required Courses**

English: ENG701 Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking skill strategies are integrated to form a dynamic process-based program that explores relationships among and between the communication arenas. This integrated approach provides priority time for students to demonstrate their literacy growth, encourages students to assume responsibility and ownership for their own language learning, and provides opportunities for students to discover, explore, formulate, and evaluate ideas. Reading workshop, writing workshop, and traditional theme-centered projects integrating all content areas are significant components of the curriculum.

Basic Math: MTH711 The course provides students with an opportunity to increase their self-confidence in mathematics and to improve their skills and knowledge of fundamental mathematical concepts. Enrollment is based on test scores and the recommendations of sixth grade teachers.

Math: MTH721 This course is designed to meet the needs of most students. The course stresses the basic mathematical facts and skills, and provides opportunities for development through application. There is usually one lesson or two presented each day with some time for review, lecture, notes, class work-time, and question/discussion time. Homework is assigned on a daily basis with tests at the conclusion of each chapter.

Pre-Algebra (Advanced): MTH731 This is an accelerated course designed to meet the needs of the highly-motivated, independent learner with exceptional mathematical abilities. Lessons are fast-paced with minimal notes and examples. There are often many skills combined into one lesson with very little review. The pre-algebra student must have a strong math background and have exceptional problem-solving skills. Enrollment is based on elementary test scores in combination with 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher recommendations.

**(Parental placement is strongly discouraged if the student is not recommended.)**

### **Math Sequence Chart**

Each child will receive an individual letter recommending a math course along with his/her registration form. A 7-12 math sequence chart may be found on the back of the math letter. Please look this over carefully.

Social Studies: SOC741 The content of the seventh grade social studies curriculum will focus on the study of geography and map skills, ancient civilization, and the history and geography of Europe. The processes used by the students will include research projects, classroom dialogue, textbook reading, a variety of hands-on activities, and the use of the Internet. Interdisciplinary connections with other subject areas will be utilized.

Science: SCI751 This course provides an integrated and balanced coverage of all science disciplines (physics, life science, earth science, chemistry) and sequences them so that the topics presented in each course build upon previously learned ideas. A unit on health is also included.

Physical Education: PHY770 The physical education program encourages the development of a healthy life style. The curriculum utilizes a variety of individual and group activities to improve the student's knowledge, appreciation, and performance in the areas of fitness, motor skills, and games. The class meets every other day. A plain white T-shirt (can be purchased at IH), any color gym shorts/pants, socks, and gym shoes are required.

## Exploratory Block of Nine Week Long Courses

Consumer Economics/Career Education: SOC763 C.E. is an introductory course involving personal economics, money management, and career exploration. This course will include a review of keyboarding skills and will incorporate a variety of computer software packages. The students will also be involved in life-skills simulation and be introduced to the basics of advertising.

Technology Education: TEC762 This is an introductory course involving graphic communications, manufacturing, and power technologies. The students will be working in (1) materials and processes and (2) graphic communications.

Visual Art: ART760 This is an introductory course to help develop an awareness and understanding of the visual arts; their function in society and impact on our daily lives. Students will explore a variety of media and processes, emphasizing thinking skills, self-expression, and self-discipline.

Family/ Consumer Science: FCS761 This introductory course is designed to help develop an awareness and responsibility in the areas of nutrition, food, clothing, and relationships..

### Electives Courses:

General Music: MUS780 General music offers a broad overview of many areas of music. Keyboards, drumming, recorders, and electric and bass guitars are used to help students acquire basic theory skills in rhythm, staff notes, key signatures, chords, and beginning composition. Other units include musical theater, instruments, ensembles, technology and a study of classical and popular music. Integrated listening includes a variety of musical styles and cultures. The class meets every other day for one semester. If a student does not want to participate in band, chorus, or orchestra, they must take general music. If a student drops band, chorus, or orchestra at or before semester, they must complete general music, unless he or she is also enrolled in a second musical course, as he or she did not complete the year-long commitment.

Band: Students in Music 781 and 782 will have played previously on their instruments during 5th and 6th grade. Beginners will be started in this band according to the instrument needs of the ensemble (as determined by the director). During the year, the band will perform at various concerts. Each student will have a lesson each week. All band students will have an opportunity to audition for jazz band and will be expected to perform in solo and ensemble contests. Band meets every other day and is a one-year course.

Chorus: MUS783 The seventh grade chorus sings two and three-part music and is open to all students who enjoy singing. During the year the chorus will present two concerts for the public. All chorus members are eligible to try out for the show choir. Chorus meets every other day and is a one-year course.

Orchestra: MUS784 Students are provided large group, small group, and individual orchestra experiences. Individual or small group lessons are provided for each student. The orchestra will perform at several concerts during the year. Orchestra meets every other day and is a one-year course. Each student is also encouraged to participate in a combined junior high orchestra.

Spanish: FRL701 This introductory course is designed to bridge the gap between elementary Spanish and Spanish I. Students will continue to explore the Spanish language structure and cultures. Spanish meets every other day and is a one-year course. This course is recommended for students preparing to take Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Recommended Courses:

- Extended Learning:** LRN799 The purpose of this class is to develop self-directed, independent life-long learners. Students work individually, in small groups, and with the entire group on projects and presentations based upon their interests, needs, and abilities. ELP is open only to identified gifted and talented students who have been recommended. Parent permission is required. The class is a one-year course scheduled every other day opposite physical education or study hall.
- Reading:** ENG707 The purpose of this class is to provide students with additional time to read and develop study skills and reading strategies useful for core subject reading. Enrollment is based on test scores and teacher recommendations. The class meets every other day all year. Students scoring below the 40<sup>th</sup> NPR in Reading Comprehension on ITBS will be required to take this course whenever it can be added to their schedule. If it becomes apparent by the building administrator, that the student has been inappropriately placed, an adjustment will be made.
- E.S.L.:** ESL Newcomers As students enter the WDM School District with English as a second language, the Idea Proficiency Test (IPT) will be administered. Students scoring a low proficiency score on oral, written, or reading will be served within the Newcomers Program at Stilwell Junior High for three periods in the mornings. Students are eligible to participate in the program for two full semesters. After completing the Newcomers Program, students will be served by the regular E.S.L. teacher at Indian Hills.
- E.S.L.:** LRN791 The purpose of E.S.L. is to provide support and modifications for students whose native language is not English. This class teaches basic skills in reading, writing, and speaking English. The class meets every day in order to teach English and support academics in content area classes.
- Foundations of Social Studies:** SOC742 The content of the foundations of social studies curriculum will focus on the study of geography and map skills, ancient civilization, and the history and geography of Europe. The curriculum content will be intertwined with strengthening student reading and study skills such as organization, note taking, outlining, listening, and assignment completion. This course will provide the same essential learning as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class but will move at a pace that will allow for more focus on individual skill improvement. Skills learned in this class will be transferrable into other curricular areas.
- Study Skills:** LRN794, 795 All students receiving support in special education must allow one period per day to meet with their teacher on meeting I.E.P. goals, organization, motivation, and academic accommodations. This class will reduce study hall time and the number of electives available.
- Learning Lab:** LRN701 The learning lab is a class designed to help and assist students who are struggling with academic success, organization skills, and assignment completion. Parents will be contacted to discuss this option after the school year begins if problems become apparent. The learning lab will become a closely supervised study hall with a small teacher to student ratio. The class meets every other day or every day, if needed.
- Math Resource:** MTH710 The purpose of this class is to provide students with additional direct instruction in math skills and strategies. Students will review math homework, be assessed for problem areas, and review key concepts using a variety of strategies and methods. Enrollment is based on test scores and teacher recommendation. Students scoring below the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile NPR on the math total of the ITBS will be required to take this class if it can be fit into their schedule. This class meets every other day. If it becomes apparent by the building administrator, that the student has been inappropriately placed, an adjustment will be made.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shane Christensen, Principal  
Mr. Kerry Ketcham, Associate Principal  
Ms. Barbara Johnson, Counselor  
Mr. Jack Nicodemus, Counselor

## 2009-2010 Seventh Grade Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

All students are required to take English, social studies, science and one of three recommended math classes marked in the boxed-in area below. In addition, all students will take four nine-week long exploratory courses and physical education. The exploratory courses are Art, Technology Education, Family Consumer Science and Consumer Education.

Each student will be assigned to one of three seventh grade teams with approximately 110-120 students. Each team of students will have a common math, English, science, and social studies teacher who will meet weekly to discuss academic concerns, attendance, missing work, social problems, and discipline issues. Teaming allows us to create a smaller learning community to know your child better. All three teams are carefully built to assure teams of equal academic ability. Two teams will have special education students integrated while the third team will accommodate our English as Second language learners.

### Music Electives

\* Students are required to take one of four music electives: general music, band, chorus, or orchestra. The music requirement may be waived for students taking Reading Resource, Math Resource, English as a Second Language, Extended Learning, Learning Lab or Special Education.

**A teacher's initials next to the courses listed below represent our best professional judgment and our specific recommendation for your child.** Call Indian Hills at 633-4700 or talk to your sixth grade teachers if you wish to discuss or change these recommendations.

**Line A, B, and C** recommendations meet every day for the year.

**A.** Basic Math(MTH711) \_\_\_\_\_ Math 7(MTH721) \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Algebra(MTH731) \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Level I Study Skills(LRN794, 795) \_\_\_\_\_ MDSC Study Skills(LRN796) \_\_\_\_\_ BDSC Study Skills(Lrn714) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (IEP) (IEP) (IEP)

**C.** Foundations of Social Studies (SOC 742) \_\_\_\_\_

Line D, E, F, and G recommendations meet every other day for the year.

**D.** Reading(ENG 707) \_\_\_\_\_ Math Resource(MTH710) \_\_\_\_\_

**E.** Learning Lab (LRN701) –IH counselor will meet with 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to determine placement

**F.** Extended Learning (ELP)(LRN799)—The district will send recommendations.

**G.** English as a Second Language(LRN791) \_\_\_\_\_ or E.S.L. Newcomer Program (LRN710) \_\_\_\_\_

### Check (√) Yes on the elective course(s) you wish to take. (You must check at least one music course.)

**Spanish** (FRL701) Every other day for both semesters Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**Band** (MUS781, 782) Every other day for both semesters Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**Chorus** (MUS783) Every other day for both semesters Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**Orchestra** (MUS784) Every other day for both semesters Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**General Music** (MUS780) Every other day for one semester Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your band or orchestra instruments \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature indicates approval of recommendations and electives

**Please return this form to your 6th grade teacher within 5 days or bring it to parent-teacher conferences if timing permits. 100% of the registration forms should be returned to your elementary building prior to February 20, 2009.**

To: 2009-2010 Indian Hills Seventh Grade Parents  
What: 7th Grade Parent Orientation  
Date: February 3, 2009  
Time: 7:00-8:15 P.M. in the Indian Hills Auditorium  
From: Mr. Shane Christensen, Indian Hills Principal

The administration and counseling staff at Indian Hills would like to extend an invitation to the parents of the Indian Hills seventh grade class of 2009-2010 to attend a specially designed evening on Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00 P.M. in our auditorium.

Our staff will discuss:

- Middle level philosophy
- Attendance and discipline expectations
- Building procedures
- Curriculum offerings and music electives
- Differences between elementary and middle schools
- How to read a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class schedule
- Hints for helping your child fill out his/her registration form (Look for this the week of February 9)

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting. We look forward to meeting you and your future Indian Hills Tiger. Our goal is to make this transition from elementary to middle school a successful process.

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