

Indian Hills Junior High
Eighth Grade Registration Packet
2009-2010

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this packet is to acquaint parents with the required and elective 8th grade courses offered at Indian Hills. All students are required to take math, English, social studies, science and physical education both semesters. A course called "Study Skills" for students in special education has also been recommended if your child has an I.E.P. If your son or daughter is currently in reading, math resource, ELL, ELP, and/or learning lab, those courses will be recommended for next year. In addition, you and your child will need to select their preliminary elective courses and mark them on the Scheduling Worksheet on page 9. Students should bring page 9 with them to the on-line registration on January 30. Please review the eighth grade curriculum and confirm that your child has selected between two and five elective courses. He or she must also designate one or two "Alternative Electives".

On January 30, your son or daughter will enter their elective requests on-line using a program called Infinite Campus during science class. Core classes and teacher recommended classes will already be selected, so students will only select two to five electives. The students will print a copy of their requests and bring it home for you to review, make corrections if necessary, and to return signed. **Your signature on the registration form will indicate your approval with the selections. Return the registration form by Monday, February 2, 2009.**

Due to budget restraints, teaming, class size, and conflicts with singletons, it may not be possible to schedule every one into 100% of his or her electives. If a conflict exists, the computer will automatically attempt to substitute one of your "Alternative Electives" for the course in conflict. Alternative courses will not be scheduled unless the student has a scheduling conflict with his or her initial course requests.

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.

Course Descriptions- Required Courses:

- English: ENG801 Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking skills and strategies are integrated to form a dynamic process-based program which 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.
- Ad. English: ENG802 This advanced course will provide priority time for students to engage in the language processes of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will study classic and contemporary literature in a variety of genres. Instruction and practice in the writing process with assignments ranging from narratives based on personal experience to explanatory essays. The emphasis is on developing an individual voice and on learning through reading, discussion, and expository writing—to shape experience, discover ideas and communicate effectively in a variety of rhetorical situations. In the context of the students' own writing, matters of grammar, punctuation, and usage are reviewed as necessary. This course will help in preparing students for Accelerated Pathways at Valley Southwoods as well as allow West Des Moines junior high students to take advanced courses without leaving the district. This course is open only to qualified students.
- Basic Math 8: MTH811 This course provides a review for students who need assistance with basic computation and reasoning. Topics covered include whole number operations, fractions, decimals, percents, integers, geometry, statistics, and consumer math. Open only to students who qualify or are recommended by an Indian Hills' teacher.
- Pre-Algebra: MTH821 Pre-Algebra involves the expansion of basic whole number operations to the real number system. This course provides an in-depth preparation and background for algebra and geometry.
- Algebra C (Advanced): MTH831 The course content is similar to 9th grade Algebra which includes problem solving techniques, the real number system, polynomials, functions, and quadratic equations. This course is open only to qualified students who have successfully completed pre-algebra (advanced), by teacher recommendation, or special testing. During the beginning of the school year, students will receive a letter asking if they want high school credit for this course.

Substitute Math sequence on page 2

- Science: SCI851 This course provides an integrated and balanced coverage of all science disciplines including physics, life science, earth science, chemistry, and sequences them so that topics presented in each course build upon previously learned concepts. Health topics include drug and alcohol education and human growth and development.
- Ad. Science: SCI852 This advanced course would cover the same units and topics as 8th grade science but to a greater depth. Students would be engaged in research and problem-solving activities that would include designing their own investigations followed by scientific writing. Higher level math skills would be incorporated into the chemistry and physical science units as well as studying these topics in greater depth to prepare these students for the possibility of taking chemistry or physics at the sophomore level. A greater emphasis on careers would also be included to help guide these students in course selection in future years. Additional speakers and possible field trips would also be included to enhance depth and understanding of the major topics. This course will help in preparing students for Accelerated Pathways at Valley Southwoods as well as allow West Des Moines junior high students to take advanced courses without leaving the district. This course is open only to qualified students.
- Social Studies: SOC841 Students will be provided with a relatively comprehensive overview of American history from Pre-Columbian America to 1877. In addition this course provides opportunities to engage in research and enriched activities.
- Ad. Social Studies: SOC842 This course will have similar content base compared to the regular section of 8th grade social studies (1500's – 1900's US History), but will take a more intense look at the history through a variety of different methods. Students will have the opportunity to debate historical issues, study and compare work of historians, analyze primary resources, apply historical learning in a modern setting and explore problem based learning. Students will be asked to read and write at a high level in promotion of higher order thinking skills related to the content. This course will help in preparing students for Accelerated Pathways at Valley Southwoods as well as allow West Des Moines junior high students to take advanced courses without leaving the district. This course is open only to qualified students
- Physical Education: PHY870 The physical education program encourages the development of a healthy lifestyle. 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. Classes meet every other day. A plain white T-shirt, (may be purchased at IH) any colored gym shorts/gym pants, socks, and gym shoes are required.

Elective Courses:

- Visual Art:** ART840 This course is designed to explore the visual arts in depth, expanding on the student's previous experiences. Students will increase their understanding of the importance of the visual arts, their function in society, and impact on our daily lives. Students will also continue to study a variety of art media and methods through self-expression.
- Communication Media:** ENG809 This course consists of hands on projects such as the school newspaper, creating a magazine, radio broadcasting, TV programming, and film production. Students will learn to recognize and understand the media's importance and influence in the world and in their lives. Students will also have many opportunities for advancing their speaking, writing, reading, and listening skills.
- Drama:** ENG808 This is an exploratory theater arts course. Units of study include informal and formal acting opportunities culminating in an one-act play production. The study of drama teaches commitment, concentration, creativity, and cooperation which all students need to succeed in an increasingly complex world. Drama also provides opportunities for students to engage actively and personally in all four communication skills: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.
- World Languages:** Spanish I and French I are one-year high school level courses. After successfully completing a full year of either language, a student is qualified to enroll in the level II course at Valley Southwoods. During the beginning of the school year, students will receive a letter asking if they want high school credit for either of these courses.
- Spanish I:** FRL801 This course is an initiation into the structure of the Spanish language and a survey of the cultures in Spanish-speaking countries. Speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills will be developed through varied classroom activities. Students will gain basic working vocabulary with which they will be able to communicate. It is recommended that students complete 7th grade Spanish if they intend to take Spanish I in 8th grade.
- French I:** FRL802 This course is designed to develop the student's skill in the four basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Successful students will develop basic conversational skills and learn to read and write French within reasonable limits. Students will be exposed to the cultures of French speaking countries.
- Family/Consumer Science**
- FCS-Foods:** FCS830 This semester course will provide students the opportunity to develop valuable kitchen skills as they work individually and with others in the labs. Students will gain knowledge of kitchen safety and food sanitation through the preparation of items such as: pizza, muffins, biscuits, breads, vegetables, fruits, cookies and many other foods. Life long nutritious food choices are discussed and encouraged. The planning, preparing, serving and table etiquette are all life skills that are taught in the 8th grade foods class.
- FCS-Sewing:** FCS831 This semester course will provide students the opportunity to improve their machine and hand sewing skills. Students will create several sewing projects (frog, sports bags, a clothing item such as flannel pants, etc.) that will teach many sewing techniques as well as fabric selection and care. Students will explore the areas of design, color, and the history of clothing. For a class finale, students may create a project by using a computer-aided program or an independently chosen alternative project. Students will need to pay for the projects that are ordered for them.

- Exploring Technology: TEC820** This course studies how men and women use different materials and change these materials to make them more useful. Students will gain experience working with wood, metal and plastic, and study the processes of laminating, welding, and forming. Problem solving is also studied. Projects include clocks, mini-basketball hoops, and various plastic projects.
- Graphics/Energy: TEC821** This course is the study of two different technical areas. Graphics is the study of how men and women communicate visually. Projects include computer-aided design, drafting, and photography. Power and Energy explores how people harness energy for useful purposes and how we conserve energy. Students will study rocketry, aerodynamics, and electricity. Projects include electric motors, model rockets, CO₂ powered race cars, and cranes.
- Band: MUS882** While beginners are welcome in band, it is recommended that students have previous training on their instruments so that they may participate in large group band instruction. During the year, the band will perform various concerts. Each student will have a group lesson once per six days. All students have the opportunity to audition for jazz band and will be encouraged to perform in solo and ensemble contests. Band meets every other day and is a one-year course.
- Chorus: MUS883** Chorus is open to any student who enjoys singing and wants to further his or her musicianship. Attention is placed on development of vocal skills and choral technique. The students sing three and four part music and perform various concerts and occasions throughout the year. All chorus members are eligible to audition for the show choir, which is an extra-curricular activity. Chorus meets every other day and is a one-year course.
- Orchestra: MUS884** Students are provided large group, small group, and individual orchestra experiences. Each student also participates in a combined junior high chamber orchestra. Individual or small group lessons are available to each student. The orchestra will perform at several concerts during the year. Orchestra meets every other day and is a one-year course.

Teacher Recommended Courses:

- Reading: ENG807** 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 40th 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.
- Extended Learning: LRN899** 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.
- 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 Valley High School 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 by taking ESL892.
- E.S.L.: LRN892** 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.

Study Skills: LRN894, 895 All students receiving support in special education must allow one period per day to meet with his or her teacher on meeting I.E.P. goals, organization, motivation, and academic accommodations.

Learning Lab: LRN801 The learning lab is a non-graded 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 40th 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.

The administrative and counseling staffs ask your prompt attention to bringing the scheduling worksheet on Jan 30 and returning the signed registration form no later than February 2, 2009. Before signing the form, ask questions by calling 633-4700 or scheduling a conference with a counselor or administrator. In addition, a special parent orientation is scheduled on January 27, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. in the Indian Hills Auditorium to explain the scheduling process and 8th grade curriculum. Indian Hills would encourage your attendance to help your child make informed decisions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jack Nicodemus Counselor,

Miss Barbara Johnson Counselor,

Mr. Shane Christensen Principal,

Mr. Kerry Ketcham Associate Principal

Indian Hills Electives

Listed below in the left hand column are the Course Titles and Numbers for the electives at Indian Hills. Write in both the Course title and Course number in the spaces provided on Lines 5-7 on the Scheduling Worksheet on page 9.

Example: Write in **ART840** if you want to take Art or **FRL 801** if you elect Spanish I.

Course Title/Number

ART840	Visual Art--1 Semester
ENG808	Drama--1 Semester
ENG809	Communication/Media--1 Semester
FCS830	Foods--1 Semester
FCS831	Sewing--1 Semester
TEC820	Exploratory Tech--1 Semester
TEC821	Graphics/Energy--1 Semester
FRL801	Spanish I--2 Semesters
FRL802	French I--2 Semesters
MUS882	Band--2 Semesters every other day
MUS883	Chorus--2 Semesters every other day
MUS884	Orchestra--2 Semesters every other day

Scheduling Worksheet **Due January 30, 2009**

Listed below is a Scheduling Worksheet students can fill in to determine the number of study halls per semester they will have depending on the number of electives and teacher recommendations taken. By reading over the registration packet, taking notes from Mr. Nicodemus in science class, and asking questions, you should have minimal problems.

Helpful Hints to filling in the worksheet below:

- ✓ **First**, notice English, science, and social studies meet every day for both semesters. If you qualified for an advanced level of any of these classes, circle the class you will take. (Lines 1-3)
- ✓ Circle the math class that you will take next year. (Line 4)
- ✓ P.E only meets every other day both semesters and is required. (Line 5)
- ✓ Band(MUS882), Chorus(MUS883), and Orchestra(MUS884) meet every other day for both semesters. (Add to Line 5, 6, or 7)
- ✓ E.L.P.(LRN899), Math Resource(MTH710), Learning Lab(LRN801), and Reading (ENG807) meet every other day for both semesters. If you are currently in Learning Lab every day, mark LRN801 on two lines.(Add to line 5, 6, or 7).
- ✓ Special ed. study skills (LRN894 or 895) and ESL (LRN892) meet every day both semesters.(Add to Line 6 or 7)
- ✓ Fill in two Alternative Electives using the courses on page 6.
- ✓ Note: Students in special education or English as a Second Language typically choose two (2) semesters of electives in addition to LRN894, LRN895, or LRN892. (Exceptions may be necessary)
- ✓ Note: Two classes that meet every other day can be written on one line. EX: Band / Chorus or Reading / PE or Orchestra / ELP or Reading / SH
- ✓ Note: Your "Alternative Elective" will only be substituted for an elective that is in conflict. If there is no conflict with scheduling your original electives, these alternative electives will not be scheduled.

Scheduling Worksheet for _____ (Please Print)	
<u>First semester</u>	<u>Second semester</u>
1. English (ENG801)/Adv. English (ENG802)	1. English (ENG801)/Adv. English (ENG802)
2. Science (SCI851)/Adv. Science (SCI852)	2. Science (SCI851)/Adv. Science (SCI852)
3. Social Studies (SOC841)/Adv. Soc St. (SOC842)	3. Social Studies (SOC841)/Adv. Soc St. (SOC842)
4. B. Math(MTH811) Pre Algebra(MTH821)	Algebra C(MTH831)← (Circle the next math class you would take)
5. P.E.(PHY870) / _____	5. P.E.(PHY870) / _____
6. _____	6. _____
<small>Course Title Course Number</small>	<small>Course Title Course Number</small>
7. _____	7. _____
<small>Course Title Course Number</small>	<small>Course Title Course Number</small>
Alternative Elective _____	Alternative Elective _____
➤ You must choose a minimum of 2 semesters of electives that meet every day both semesters. ➤ Any line not filled in by a course will result in a study hall. ➤ Parent Signature _____	

2009-2010 Eighth Grade Registration Form

Return by February 2, 2009

Name _____ Male _____ Female _____ Team _____

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____

Parent's Name _____

All students will take the core courses of English, math, social studies, and science every day both semesters. PE is required every other day all year. In addition, students must select between 2 and 4 elective and teacher recommended courses. Due to budget restraints, teaming, class size, and conflicts with singletons, it may not be possible to schedule every one into 100% of his or her electives. Therefore, all students must choose one or two "alternative electives" in case a scheduling conflict occurs.

Please fill in the Scheduling Worksheet on Page 9 of this registration packet as you build your own schedule. Transfer recommended classes in this boxed in area to lines 4 through 7 of the Scheduling Worksheet (p.9) before choosing your electives. Once you and your parents make your final decisions, copy your choices from the worksheet on page 9 onto the final form below. Course descriptions are described in the registration packet of information. Please see a counselor or principal if you have any questions.

Teacher Recommendations

Mathematics: Basic Math (MTH 811) _____ Pre-Algebra (MTH821) _____ Algebra (MTH831) _____

Level I Study Skills (LRN894, 895) _____ MDSC Study Skills(LRN796) _____ BDSC Study Skills(LRN714) _____
IEP IEP IEP

E.S.L. (LRN892) _____ ESL Newcomers (LRN 810) _____ Math Resource(MTH710) _____

Reading(ENG807) _____ Learning Lab (LRN801) _____ Extended Learning (LRN899) _____

Transfer information to Page 9 - Scheduling Worksheet)

- **You must choose a minimum of 2 semesters of electives that meet every day both semesters.**
- **Remember to sign up for one or two "Alternative Electives" at the bottom of this page.**

Registration Final Copy	Neatly transfer below your decisions from page 9 using pencil
First semester	Second semester
Lines 1-4 are required of all students.	
1. English -ENG801/ENG802	1. English -ENG801/ENG802
2. Science -SCI851/SCI852	2. Science -SCI851/SCI852
3. Social Studies -SOC841/SOC842	3. Social Studies -SOC841/SOC842
4. Basic Math--MTH811 Pre Algebra--MTH821	Algebra C--MTH831 ←(Circle the next math course you would take)
5. PhyEd870 / _____ <small>Course Title / course number or S.H.</small>	5. PhyEd870 / _____ <small>Course Title / course number or S.H.</small>
6. _____ <small>Course Title / Course Number</small>	6. _____ <small>Course Title / Course Number</small>
7. _____ <small>Course Title / Course Number</small>	7. _____ <small>Course Title / Course Number</small>
Alternative _____	Alternative _____
<p>➤ You must choose a minimum of 2 semesters of electives that meet every day both semesters.</p> <p>➤ Any line not filled in by a course will result in a study hall. Alternates are not scheduled unless a conflict exists.</p>	

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____ **Return by February 2, 2009**

To: 2009-2010 Indian Hills Eighth Grade Parents
 What: Parent Orientation
 Date: January 27, 2009
 Time: 7:00-8:15 P.M. Indian Hills Auditorium
 From: Mr. Shane Christensen, Indian Hills Principal
 Mr. Kerry Ketcham, Associate Principal
 Mr. Jack Nicodemus, Counselor
 Ms. Barb Johnson, Counselor

The administration and counseling staff at Indian Hills would like to extend an invitation to the parents of Indian Hills' eighth grade class of 2009-2010 to attend a meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Indian Hills will discuss the eighth grade curriculum, extra-curricular offerings, and answer any questions you may have about signing up for electives and/or grouping recommendations.

Prior to this date, the guidance staff will meet with students in a required class to explain the different electives to each student and hand out a registration packet for parents and student to examine. Expect this packet to come home the week of January 26. This actual registration form is due back to the guidance office no later than February 2, 2009.

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting. There will be time for questions at the conclusion of our presentation.

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