
The Campus Observer

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY
DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY

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Welcome back from Spring Break! 😊

From The Chief

by James M. Bondi

Since the school opened, I think I have stated at least one billion times that the safety and well-being of students is our number one priority on campus. Everyone at IMSA should be committed to this and I hope they are. Whenever I find people having priorities not in line with this concept, I try my best to convince them to reevaluate their thinking. I always do this in my most kind, gentle, and diplomatic manner, which you all know is me.

What gets frustrating is when the people we are trying so hard to protect do things that directly circumvent the systems we have in place. One of my hot topics is the security of cards and keys. We intentionally had the access cards printed with nothing specific to IMSA on them and the room keys are printed with a room code designator only. This was done

specifically to insure that lost cards could not be traced to IMSA and lost keys could not be traced to a specific room.

A certain convenience item sold in some stores has caused a great deal of concern in regard to students intentionally or not intentionally circumventing this system. The item is a holder that allows you to keep your card, I.D. and keys in one packet.

When someone places their card and keys together in this packet, it causes no problem. When they add some type of I.D. to the packet identifying the card to IMSA and the key to a specific person or room, that is a problem.

No matter how much I preach against this and no matter how much others do the same, we are still consistently finding card/key packets with I.D. inside of them.

I have even gone as far as establishing a new program for this problem. I call it IMSA SECURITY RANDOM ROAD SIDE CARD and

KEY PACKET SPOT CHECK PROGRAM or ISRRSCKPSCP for short. I simply ask students or staff to show me the contents of their packet when I see them with a visible card/key packet. Since I have started this, I have found 6 out of 7 packets with an IMSA I.D. or other form of I.D. with IMSA or the students name on it.

As everyone should know, we started adding an extra strike to the total for anyone who has their packet turned in to us with an I.D. inside of it.

Please do not keep any form of identification inside your card/key packet. Refraining from this will keep you, your roommate, and everyone else at IMSA safer.

Spring Is Coming

by Amanda Adeleye

Spring break is coming and it's time to start cruising. Just because you are getting out doesn't mean that the car thieves

aren't out also. Here are some ways to make your car safer from those would be thieves.

- Keep anything valuable either with you, or in the trunk.
- You should always try to park in parking lots or well lit areas.
- Even if you are only going to leave your car for a minute, make sure to lock your doors and roll up your windows.
- Don't put an I.D. tag on your car keys. A car burglar/thief could trace it to your car or house.

If you don't have four-wheel transportation at the moment, there are still ways to protect your mode of transportation (i.e. your bike).

- Park it out of sight in a garage or basement.
- Lock your bicycle with a casehardened chain or cable and lock.
- Look to see if your bike has a key number, serial number, or any other significant markings to take note of. In case your bike is stolen, this will make it easier for Law Enforcement to get your property back to you.

Hopefully with this information, you'll have smooth sailing on your spring break.

Bikes

by Amanda Adeleye

Here are some facts from McGruff, the Crime Dog, on how to play it safe this spring when riding your bike.

Do:

1. Ride with traffic. Keep to the right of the road.
2. Obey all traffic regulations.
3. Use proper hand signals for turning or stopping.

4. Stop and look both ways in order to make sure that sidewalks or streets are clear before entering a street.
5. Walk your bicycle across busy streets at corners or crosswalks.
6. Use proper headlights and red taillights or reflectors when riding at night.
7. Wear reflective clothing and light colors.

Don't:

1. Show off. Keep your hands on the handlebars.
2. Zigzag, race, or stunt-ride in traffic.
3. Hitch rides on trucks or cars.
4. Accept passengers.
5. Carry large packages (use luggage carriers or baskets).
6. Ride against traffic.
7. Wear dark clothing at night.
8. Tailgate or ride too closely to cars or trucks.

Working Together

by Officer James L. Read

The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy Security Department is three-fold:

1. To take whatever steps reasonable to insure the safety and well being of all IMSA students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus.
2. To develop and maintain programs and lines of communication, with all members of the IMSA community, which will insure their protection, as well as that of IMSA property and assets.
3. To enforce IMSA rules, regulations, policies and procedures, as well as all local, State, and Federal Laws.

As IMSA Security Officers, it is our duty to honor and uphold the aforementioned Mission Statement. However, I feel that, too often, we are perceived as "rigid disciplinarians" whose only function is to find fault with members of the student body. It is important to understand that we are not only concerned with enforcing the rules and policies, here at the Academy, but also in helping the students, faculty, and staff understand why these rules and policies have been created and why they must be upheld. The IMSA Security Department is always eager to hear the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of community members here at the Academy. Officers are available to students, faculty, and staff on a 24 hour basis, 7 days per week.

Because of the unique nature of the IMSA community, it is also very important that students, faculty, and staff all work together to help the Security Department maintain a safe and secure environment. Self-awareness and self-protection are two key concepts, which the IMSA community needs to embrace. These two concepts, along with increased communication and respect for each other's personal safety and personal belongings, will enhance the quality of every community member's experience here at the Academy. By working together, we can achieve better results throughout upcoming school years. Information pamphlets relating to: Residential Hall Security, Personal Safety, Campus Watch, and much more, are available to community members and can be obtained in the main Security office.

Street Smarts

by Amanda Adeleye

Once you get to where you are going, you need to make sure you can protect yourself from whatever might be out there. Did you know that everyday there are at least

2000 violent crimes committed against teenagers and that they are more likely to be victims of theft than adults. There are some common sense tips to follow so that you won't become a statistic. First, you should know your area and where you can go if something should happen. If at all possible, walk with a group, but if you can't, then present yourself as being strong and as confident as possible. Most importantly be

aware of what is going on around you. Don't look for trouble either. Stay out of wooded areas, dark alleys, and "shortcuts." Also, don't try to hitch hike a ride. In the case that you might really need to contact someone, always have some extra change with you. But 911 is free.

If the unfortunate should happen to you, try to stay calm and take note of your attacker. Their height, weight, race, complexion,

clothing, etc. are all things to take note of. If your attacker is threatening you and wants your possessions, just hand them over because what is most important is your life. Possessions can be replaced.

Lastly, report the crime as soon as you can. Hopefully, if you follow this advice, you will stay safe no matter where you are.

CHOICES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You will be faced with many choices this year, not to mention your whole life.

Think straight, think right, and make choices in your life that will let you shine bright.

Have a GREAT spring break!! C ya soon.

Join Campus Watch and help your community by reporting what you see. If you like to write, consider writing for the Campus Observer!

If you would like to help make your campus a safer and secure place for all to live, work, and learn, be sure to join Campus Watch in the fall. If you would like to write for the Campus Observer, contact Lieutenant Dale Arentsen at extension 5087 / e-mail: arentsen@imsa.edu or Officer Jim Read at extension 5002 / e-mail: read@imsa.edu.

The Campus Observer Staff

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THELMA THWARTUM -- By Alex



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