

August 2020 Newsletter



Welcome class of 2023 and welcome back classes of 2021 and 2022! We know that we would all rather be on campus but we will all be patient because that time will come. We hope that you all are adjusting well and that you are getting to know one another inside as well as outside of the classroom. IMSA and the Student Affairs team want to remind you that WE are here for you! Happy 2020-2021 academic school year.

ZOOM AND ONLINE BEHAVIOR

This serves as an important reminder that all students need to practice responsible Zoom and online social media behavior. The Zoom chat is a tool to make comments or ask questions about the topic being discussed in the session. Backgrounds should be appropriate and non-distracting.

All students need to be reminded that when you post something on social media, you are writing in ink not pencil. The words and images you post don't disappear. Be mindful of what you say and how you say it.

Pause and reflect before you post/comment on Zoom or social media. Inappropriate online or Zoom behavior may be grounds for disciplinary action. We want our community to be safe, behave appropriately and respectful of one another and the educational community.

Reminder that if you have not completed your online 2020-2021 IMSA Student and Parent Handbook Form complete [here](#). Only one form per student is required. Please refer to the email sent on August 11, 2020 from mratsamy@imsa.edu.

[2020 - 2021 Student Parent Handbook](#)

[2020 - 2021 Student Parent Handbook Distance Learning Addendum](#)

Important Attendance Reminders

- We ask parents to call the Attendance Office, 630-907-5029, with any required class/activity absence. Calls received after the fact for classes will be unexcused.

IMSA's New Food Service Vendor

We are excited to introduce Lexington

- There is 24 hour attendance voicemail for your convenience.
- Emails are a secondary way to communicate; attendance@imsa.edu
- Immediate notification is needed if there are problems connecting to classes via ZOOM.
- Students MAY NOT report themselves absent for any reason.
- Students are responsible for arriving to class on time as attendance is taken within the first 5 minutes.
- Please try to schedule appointments outside of the mandatory class time.
- For the complete Attendance Policy please reference the Student-Parent handbook beginning on page 14.

Independents as IMSA's new food service provider! Lexington was selected through a competitive process following State of Illinois guidelines. A special thank you to the students, parents and staff who reviewed food service proposals and attended vendor presentations to assist us with this process.

Want to learn more about Lexington?

Check out this video:

<https://vimeopro.com/user19543166/eli-or-brand-narrative>

Password: elior



Service Learning:

Thank you all for participating in Welcome Week's Service Learning presentations this week. Be sure to check out the [Service Learning](#) page of IMSA's website for important information.

The graduation requirement is two hundred (200) hours of community service. These hours should be completed prior to spring break of senior year. Here are some details:

- A minimum of thirty (30) hours but no more than one hundred twenty-five (125) hours are to be completed internally, e.g. campus run programs, tutoring IMSA students, serving as a Residential Student Leader, volunteering in specific departments, etc.
- A minimum of seventy-five (75) hours but no more than one hundred seventy (170) hours may be completed externally.
- Fifty (50) hours of the 200 required hours may be completed out of the state/country.

Please note: For the 2021 graduating class, all approved and validated service learning hours during the 2020-2021 academic year will count towards the two hundred required for graduation. The requirement that a certain number of hours be internal or external has been suspended.

Checkpoint Recommendations:

- Sixty five (65) hours completed by the end of sophomore year.
- One hundred (100) hours completed by the end of the student's third semester at IMSA (midway through junior year).
- Two hundred (200) hours completed by spring break of senior year.



Student Activities:

Just because we're working remotely, doesn't mean you can't get involved.

We'll be hosting an Involvement Fair on **Wednesday, September 2, 4:30pm to 6:30pm**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the clubs and organizations available to IMSA students. We have a variety of organizations focused on academics, volunteer, social and special interest groups. Getting involved can help you make new friends, build your resume and develop leadership skills. Save the date NOW and look out for an email next week for more information.

Residence Life:

Hello all! The school year has begun and the Residence Life department is ecstatic to reconnect with the juniors and seniors while establishing new relationships with the sophomore class. While we may not be meeting in person you should still expect to hear from your RC so be sure to pick up the phone and reply to those emails.

Peer Tutor Program:

IMSA Staff to get to know:

Amy Keck, Learning Strategies Coordinator
Dr. Linda Hefferin, Academic Support Specialist
Erin Ryan, Area Coordinator in Student Life

We would also like to introduce the Peer Tutor Liaisons for this school year - Luis Villafuerte, Robyn Norton, Freddy-May AbiSamra, Ethan Castro, Ben Lepak, Pooja Haney, and Dane Christianson. These RCs will work closely with Erin Ryan to support the Peer Tutor Program and the students the program serves.

This week the Class of 2023 will be introduced to the Tutoring Services during Welcome Week (8/18) and are encouraged to reach out to the Peer Tutor Liaisons listed above if they have any questions. There will be a Peer Tutor Meeting and condensed training for tutors that will take place on Monday Aug.24th in preparation for tutoring services to start the week of Sept. 1st!

Students, please look for an email in the coming week for tutoring details and tutor information. Let's start the year off strong!

LEAD

LEAD, our leadership development course, is a graduation requirement for all sophomores. Classes will be taught on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30pm through Canvas, our Learning Management System. More information will be emailed out to sophomore students soon regarding the fall semester schedule and the syllabus. Attendance in class is required and all absences must be emailed to attendance@imsa.edu or called into our attendance office phone number. Students who miss too many classes will be subject to repeating LEAD the following year. You may check out our [webpage on IMSA.edu](#). For any other questions, please contact Andrea Stuiber, the program coordinator.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

<https://www.imsa.edu/student-life/counseling-services/>

Tips, Ideas, and Information for IMSA Parents

(One area)

How to start conversations with your student about school

Here are some open-ended questions to ask your student to discuss how IMSA is going:

1. What are some of the goals that you have set for school this year?
2. What are you most worried about related transitioning to IMSA and doing online school?
3. Follow up—How can we help you with this?
4. Have you met any other students or staff that you liked?
5. Which of your classes seem the most challenging so far?

Set Your Student Up for Success

The beginning of the school year is filled with excitement and positive energy, but there are also worries and nervousness. Here are some things that you can do to help your student develop some successful habits.

Try to have an area at home that is dedicated just for schoolwork. Every family circumstance is different, but try to create a learning environment that is not in the bedroom or surrounded by distractions. The workload is challenging enough, so having a clean, organized, well-lit area where students can engage in online learning will help to reduce anxiety and help with maintaining focus. It is important to have the area stocked with appropriate school materials, like textbooks, pens/pencils, calculator, highlighters, notepads, etc.

Help your student with organizational and study skills. Many new IMSA students have not had to study before, as they complete most of their work during the school day. This is not possible at IMSA, so work with your student to use clocks and alarms to remind about classes starting, calendars (online or paper) to remember when work is due, and managing time around studying. Remember to encourage students not to sleep until 5 minutes before classes start and to maintain a regular, healthy routine during the day. This includes taking breaks, eating meals, and staying hydrated. Avoid staying up late and using caffeine, as it is more likely students will lose focus quickly and develop poor study habits.

Next Level Preparation

Most IMSA students have their eyes set on post-secondary education. Part of being successful is having conversations that involve students around their individual interests and schools that meet their needs. Often, student are influenced by their peers around needing to attend School X, when that school does not fit their personal financial needs, academic desires, or campus/community lifestyle. Of course it is important to do well in classes and on entrance exams, but there are many factors universities use to evaluate students. Here are some suggestions on how to create a strong, well-rounded student

· **Do not become hyper-focused on grades.** Make the shift to talk about what students are learning in their classes or where their struggles are. When students can identify where they are struggling and communicate that to others, many people can assist. Focusing purely on grades can deter students engaging in the learning process, as they only worry about test scores and preventing punitive action. This can create test anxieties, excessive worrying, and makes students more susceptible to wellness issues.

· **Encourage your student to explore interests.** Doing well in something does not always equate passion. Does your student like music, dancing, art, or exercising? Does your student want to engage in community service, participate in leadership programs, or explore entrepreneurial endeavors? Talk with your student about finding a good balance between academics and these programs, and also discuss that college admissions and future employers want to see commitment, responsibility, and leadership in a couple things rather than casual involvement in many things.

· **Treat each student as an individual** Often, IMSA students can feel pressure to succeed from self, peers, or family. It is common for students to compare themselves to other students or successful older siblings. Work hard to support your student and his/her/their individual interests, as well as their academic success. If you notice your student is sad, worried, or frustrated, encourage them to talk to you. If they do not feel comfortable talking to you, encourage them to reach out to their RC, a staff member they trust, or a school counselor. If you are feeling hurt by this, realize it is a natural feeling, but that allowing your student to advocate for self and to communicate with others will be beneficial in the long run.



[IMSA Student Emergency Relief Fund](#) Not only has IMSA's alumni, Sam Yagan '95 and Jessica Droste Yagan '95, committed to supporting the IMSA Student Emergency Relief Fund in a major way to bring the \$100,000 goal in reach, the successful power couple want to send their support to all IMSA students, especially seniors, during these challenging times.

Jessica, managing partner and CEO of Impact Engine, LLC, an investment firm with a mission to bring more capital to a market where financial returns are linked to positive social and environmental impacts, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Haverford College, an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, and a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Prior to Impact Engine, Jessica led the creation of McDonald's Corporation's global and U.S. sustainable sourcing strategies.

Sam, who hails from rural Bourbonnais, IL is the son of Syrian immigrants and best known as the co-founder of SparkNotes and Ok Cupid. He is currently the CEO of Chicago-based ShopRunner, an e-commerce network that provides free two-day shipping and returns across multiple merchants. Sam holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics and Economics from Harvard University and an MBA from **Stanford University**.

Applications to the **[Student Emergency Relief Fund](#)** are ongoing and provide assistance for basic essentials, including food, rent, utilities and access to remote learning technology. Preference is given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 families, but all families are eligible to apply. If you have any questions about the Student Emergency Relief Fund, please reach out to Mrs. Tami Armstrong at tarmstrong@imsa.edu.

imsa.edu

