



Student Affairs

November 2021 Newsletter

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UPDATED 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The 2021-2022 academic calendar was updated on November 17, 2021. The most important update is virtual intersession which means students will be participating from home. Student will return to campus from winter break/intersession on Monday, January 17, 2022. Residence halls open at 3pm on January 17, 2022.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 22 - Mental Health Monday - Yoga with Ms. Mary Myers
- November 23 - **Extended Break (classes end at 1:55pm / Res Halls close at 5pm)** - The link for ordering a sack lunch: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/imsasacklunch>. Please specify the date you are ordering a lunch for (available for all students, no hot lunch being served on this day).
- November 28 - Res Halls open at 3pm
- November 29 - Classes Convene / COVID TESTING for all
- December 20 - 22 - **Final Exams (all students must leave within 24 hours of their last exam)** Please note that final exams MUST be taken in the assigned time slot unless there is a conflict with another final exam at that time, a student has 3 or more exams in one day, or there is a documented medical emergency. Any and all requests to have an exam time changed must be cleared by Paul Gaszak in the Principal's office: pgaszak@imsa.edu.
- December 22 - Winter Break (Res Halls close at 5pm)
- December 22 - January 9, 2022 - Winter Break
- January 10 - 14 - Virtual Intersession
- January 17 - (MLK Day Academy Closed) Res Halls open at 3pm
- January 18 - Classes Convene
- January 20 - Soph/Jr Photo Retake Day (if you do not like your ID photo or did not take a professional photo on move in day)



IMSA BAN ON RECEIPT OF GIFTS

Although many students and families have December traditions for providing holiday gifts of thanks to faculty and staff, IMSA employees are subject to the State of Illinois Ethics Act which prohibits them from accepting or soliciting gifts from prohibited sources and per [IMSA's Ban on Receipts of Gifts Policy](#), this includes current and prospective parents and students.

Therefore we respectfully request you limit any holiday thanks to written notes of appreciation only.



Safety & Security

All individuals visiting IMSA are required to enter the main building through the assigned entrance and follow proper procedures. All visitors (vendors and contractors) must enter through Door #1, main entrance on east side of the main building.

All deliveries are made to shipping and receiving. All delivery drivers are made aware of our hours of operations. When people circumvent the procedures/controls it exposes the entire community. **Please do not hold doors open for anyone!** Send all visitors to the main entrance security desk.

As many parents already know, we have initiated the process of providing parent I.D.'s as an option. Please stop by the Security desk in the main building to obtain your IMSA parent photo I.D. A current driver's license or state ID is needed.

I am also happy to report that our November 5, 2021 Law Enforcement intruder drill went very well. While no one wants to think of this horrific act, it is necessary that we prepare ourselves and provide as many options for survival as possible.

LET'S TAKE CARE OF IMSA

This academic year the facilities operations department has seen a substantial increase in damage to state property in both the main academic building and the residence halls. In the past week alone, documented damage includes, 8 stools having seat covering peeled off, 1 table broken beyond repair in student union, damage to wall under A wing stairs, residence hall wing commons damage to paint from students peeling it off, male restroom mirror vandalized, 15 snow plow markers placed around campus have been pulled out and thrown around or are missing. The facilities department tries their best to provide a safe and clean learning environment. The actions of these individuals paints a poor image of IMSA and the work we strive to provide. Let's work together to keep IMSA looking the best we can.



MEET THE STUDENT AFFAIRS NEW HIRES

Erin Ryan, Director of Residence Life

Ms. Ryan has been with IMSA since November 2014 . Erin has been a RC (resident counselor), an AC (area coordinator) and most recently promoted to Director of Residence Life in September 2021.



Pallavi Thota, Area Coordinator

Pallavi joined IMSA as an Area Coordinator on August 3, 2021.

Ms. Thota earned her BS in Public Health with a Minor in Psychology from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Pallavi has served as a Programmes Intern in London, UK, and an English Instructor in Seoul, ROK. Most recently she was a High School Residence Hall Coordinator for the University of North Carolina School for the Arts.



Lucas Moneypenny, Area Coordinator

Luke joined IMSA as Area Coordinator on October 4, 2021.

Mr. Moneypenny earned his BFA Art & Design, Painting from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. Luke was most recently an Academy Hall Manager for Interlochen Center for the Arts, where he also served as Visual Arts Faculty and Studio Assistant.



Carley VanOverberghe, Coordinator of Student Leadership and Service

Carley joined IMSA as Coordinator of Student Leadership and Service on October 25, 2021.

Ms. VanOverberghe earned her BS in Biology from Purdue University, and her MS in Sports Management from The Ohio State University. Carley was most recently the Assistant Director of Intramural Sports for Purdue University Recreation and Wellness. Carley also served as a volunteer for the Lafayette Transitional Housing Center.

In addition, we've welcomed the following Resident Life staff since September 2021:

Isiah Bonet, RC in 1503
Kyla Harden, RC in 1506
Nia Flowers, RC in 1501
Samuel Nehmey, RC in 1507
Monique Williams, RC in 1502
Rich Phelan, DHM in 1503
Emilio Solis, Substitute DHM

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



IMPORTANT IF ATTENDING WINTER ATHLETIC EVENTS:

Please park in the west parking lot, north of the tennis courts.

If you are attending a basketball game this season please enter through door #13.

If you are attending any of the swim meets you can enter through door #14.

Also, continue to refer to the 8to18 website for all athletic schedules, announcements and updates. <https://il.8to18.com/imsa>



SERVICE LEARNING

Don't forget, 200 Service Learning hours are required for graduation. More information about Service Learning can be found at our website: <https://www.imsa.edu/student-life/student-engagement/service-learning/>

Reminder: Make sure that you are staying on top of tracking your Service Learning hours and entering them into Helper Helper. If you are looking for External Service Learning hours, Thanksgiving and Winter Break are great opportunities to reach out to organizations in your hometown!

New Opportunities: We have some upcoming opportunities for Internal Service Learning hours. Be sure to check-out Helper Helper for more details and to sign-up!

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Seasons are changing, mornings are brisk while afternoons are warmer and the temperatures drop as we get into the evening. It is time to start changing wardrobes to warmer clothing. Please start bringing sweaters, pants and coats to dress appropriately for the weather. Page 35 of the handbook states, students will dress in clothing including covering arms, legs, and feet when outside in weather 32° or below (with or without wind chill). If a student's attire does not meet the guidelines list above, the student will be sent to their room by any staff member to change clothes. The failure to return with appropriate dress will result in disciplinary action.

Upcoming Residence Life Educational Programming in December :

- Helping during a breakdown
- Social: Stress Relief

Students will also engage in social programming that is implemented by the RC and Residence Life Student Leaders that various from wing to wing.

HEALTH SERVICES

Through a partnership with the VNA, IMSA has been able to secure first, second, and booster doses of the three COVID-19 vaccines for all eligible staff and students. These vaccines will be given on campus, in room B101 on December 14, and December 17. An additional date will be added in early February. If you wish to be vaccinated, you must register for the date you prefer, using the links provided below.

All students who have not been vaccinated, or have had only one dose of Pfizer or Moderna, are encouraged to sign up to be vaccinated. Students who are fully vaccinated and past 6 months since the last dose are also encouraged to sign up. Students under the age of 18 years must have parental consent.

- All IMSA staff and students meet the eligibility for booster doses due to living or working in a high-risk setting since our students live on campus.

Please use these links to register for the vaccine:

December 14th clinic: <https://events.juvar.com/IL-IDPH/vuebu/>

December 17th clinic: <https://events.juvar.com/IL-IDPH/btydpd/>

All persons receiving the vaccine must bring a signed consent and the QR code that was sent to your email when you registered to the appointment. Print the [consent form](#) and bring it to your appointment. Students under the age of 18 years old need parents/guardians to sign this consent form.

Do not send consent forms to the health office. Students will need to print and bring their own signed forms.

Helpful tips:

- A reminder email will not be sent. Please make sure to add your appointment to your calendar. These are set

- appointments times and "no show" or late appointments may not be accommodated.
- The QR code (verification pass) needed on the vaccine clinic dates will be emailed to the email you used for registration. Do not delete this email. We recommend using your IMSA email address.
- Do not schedule an appointment during your class time.
- Plan ahead and remember that you will need to be observed for reactions in the vaccine room for 15-30 minutes after the vaccine.
- Have a full meal and hydrate well before your vaccine.

If you would like more information about the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the website for the vaccine or discuss with your primary care physician.

PAC UPDATES

NEW PAC WEBSITE: Introducing the NEW PAC website: <https://bit.ly/IMSAPACsite>. You can find the following on the website:

- PAC contact list (Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Regional Representatives) - <https://bit.ly/PACcontact>
- Calendar of events (includes PAC and IMSA happenings/important dates) - <https://bit.ly/IMSAPACsite> (you can click on the events/calendars to download it to your personal calendar)
- Emails sent from IMSA to parents/guardians - <https://bit.ly/IMSAemails>
- PAC meeting information, recordings and slides - <https://bit.ly/PACmeetings>
- Committee information - <https://bit.ly/PACcommittees>
- Helpful resources - <https://bit.ly/PAClinks> (this includes where to find information on IMSA's website)
- Free gifts - <https://bit.ly/PACgifts>
- How to make donations to the PAC - <https://bit.ly/donatetoPAC> (feel free to share if your company does matching donations)

We will continue to add content to the website. If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, send an email to us at info@IMSAPAC.org.

PAC MEETINGS: The recording and slides from the November meeting are available now at <https://bit.ly/PACmeetings>. You are invited to attend the next PAC meeting on **Saturday, December 11 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM either in-person at IMSA or via Zoom**. The meeting will be held at IMSA in the IN2 space and simultaneously shared via Zoom for those unable to attend in-person. We will share updates from the PAC board and committees, including upcoming events and programs. Representatives from different areas of IMSA will also give updates. There will be the opportunity to ask questions.

DECEMBER SPEAKER SESSION: You are invited to attend the next speaker session on **Saturday, December 11 from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM either in-person at IMSA or via Zoom**. Rick Palmer, the Coordinator of Athletics and Co-Curricular programs, will be the speaker for our speaker session. He will be discussing the athletic programs at IMSA. There will be the opportunity to ask questions.

ACADEMIC SURVEY: The Academic Committee requests parents/guardians to [complete this survey](#) by **November 30th**. We will allocate our efforts with a focus on the topics with the most concerns.

FRIDAY FEST: Thank you to all of the families who donated food and/or their time for the November Friday Fest! We appreciate each and every one of you! The next Friday Fest is scheduled for **Friday, January 21st**. There will be 2 planning meetings for the January event - **Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00 pm** and **Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome to attend those meetings. The link for both meetings is <https://imsa.zoom.us/j/99124912433>. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on how we can make the January Friday Fest even better than ever!

PARENTS OF SOPHOMORES: We continue to have our fortnightly meetings with encouraging participation from Sophomore Parents. Our next meeting after the Thanksgiving break is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 8th**. Please email sophomore@IMSAPAC.org for the meeting link.

SENIOR BANQUET: Parents/guardians of seniors - **SAVE THE DATE!!!! THE SENIOR BANQUET IS ON JUNE 3RD, 2022**. The Senior Banquet Committee is excited to let you know that the venue is Embassy Suites in Naperville. The DJ, DJ Aris, has been secured. The committee is starting to prepare for the banquet and will need information from the seniors on the theme and playlist. Please have your senior student [fill out this form](#). Parents/guardians of sophomores and juniors, the committee will need your help in planning and executing the banquet. Please email seniorbanquet@IMSAPAC.org to volunteer.

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE: We are hosting a conversation with IMSA's Director of Equity and Inclusion, Dr.

Adrienne Coleman, on **Tuesday, December 7th, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm** We'll explore questions like: What is educational equity, why is it important, and how can we as parents help IMSA build an environment where values of equity and inclusion flourish? Email multicultural@IMSAPAC.org for the link to join the conversation.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS: If you have any new reimbursement requests for PAC-related activities, please [complete this form](#) then submit receipts or supporting documentation/explanations to treasurer@IMSAPAC.org. Contact treasurer@IMSAPAC.org if you have any questions regarding outstanding reimbursement requests.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE PAC: We need you! The PAC is only as good as its volunteers. Let us know where you would like to help out by [filling out this form](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Check out our [calendar of events](#). It is continuously updated with PAC and IMSA events, meetings, activities, etc.

Email info@IMSAPAC.org if you have any questions.

[COVID CASE DASHBOARD](#)

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