



Welcome back to school! A special welcome to the new families that have joined our school community ... especially the newcomer families from Ukraine. I hope the amazing summer weather has given everyone the opportunity to rest, relax and recharge. May the Lord's blessings be with you for much success as we settle into a new school year, and new classrooms. I am excited for the coming school year and the opportunities ahead.

Mr. R. Picklyk, Principal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - ORIENTATION DAY / MEET THE TEACHER



Teachers and Staff are looking forward to see all the students! If you haven't already, please set up your appointment online by going to the Orientation Day 'Sign-Up' link and choosing the correct tab at the top of the page:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/73372D707AFC9EACF9-2023orientation>

meets Tuesday at 10am. Don't forget to read over the attachments in the SignUp: **IHMS Handbook, IHMS Back Lane Safety, School Acknowledgement Form and IHMS Volunteer Form** (to be completed and returned to the School). Please note the following:

- The school uniform is not required for Orientation Day.
- Upon arrival, enter through the side gym doors (adjacent to the playground)
- Leave any of the completed school forms with Mrs. Wozny (Administrative Assistant) who will greet you in the gym when you arrive. Forms include: School Acknowledgement Form, Acute Medical Forms (if applicable) and Volunteer Forms. These forms will be available at school if you need a second copy. Please arrive early if you still need to fill out forms.
- Respect the time allocated for your meeting so we can keep the day on schedule. If you have business in the School Office, please do so after your appointments with the teacher(s).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - UNIFORM SHOP OPEN

Students are required to wear uniforms on the first day of school (September 7). Uniform's must be purchased from our official school Uniform Shop (135 McGregor Street). There are two ways to purchase from the IHMS Uniform Shop:

1. In-Person shopping requires an appointment. To book an appointment, please visit our ongoing Uniform Shop link for 2023-2024. Please use the new 2023 link [here](#) and bookmark for future use!
2. Online shopping is available at <https://ihms-uniform-shop.square.site/>. Orders will be ready for pick up in the school office on Thursday and Friday after the Uniform Shop days.



NEW ATTENDANCE EMAIL

In case of a **planned absence**, parents/guardians are asked to notify the office by emailing attendance@ihms.mb.ca. A note/email submitted to the teacher, or a phone call, are required to explain ALL ABSENCES, including any Religious Holidays. The note should give the dates of absences and should be received from the parents. In the case of a known absence longer than three days, please see *Family Trip / Vacation Protocol below*.

In case of an **unplanned absence**, parents/guardians are asked to notify the office by emailing attendance@ihms.mb.ca, or by calling the school office no later than 9:00 A.M. If the school office has not received any notification by 9:30 A.M, the school will be contacting the respective home, checking whether the child is indeed at home or in need of help somewhere between home and school.

STAFFING NEWS

Immaculate Heart of Mary School extends a warm welcome to the following new staff members:

- Mrs. Nataliia Obraztsova, Grade 2 Teacher
- Ms. Emily Grant, Grade 8 Teacher (Mrs. Walton is on maternity leave for 2023-2024.)
- Mrs. Marilyn Pohl, Resource Teacher (Mrs. Paulic returns from her maternity leave in December.)
- Mrs. Miroslava Paches, Music Teacher
- Ms. Tetiana Bezhenar, Ukrainian Teacher
- Ms. Halyna Shpak, Educational Assistant & After School Program Supervisor

Sr. Emily will be working at a different mission for the Sisters Servants beginning this fall. We thank Sr. Emily for her time at IHMS and look forward to seeing her at special events taking place at the school. May God's blessings be with Sr. Emily in her new role with the Sisters.



SEPTEMBER

- 4 NO CLASSES - Labour Day
- 5 NO CLASSES - IHMS Spiritual / Admin. Day
- 6 Gr. K-8 Orientation Day - NO CLASSES
- 6 2:00 - 6:00PM IHMS Uniform Shop Open
- 7 First Day of Classes Grade 1-8
- 7 First Day of Classes K (staggered start)
- 8 First Day of Classes K (staggered start)
- 11 First Day of Classes for all K Students
- 14 2:00PM EARLY DISMISSAL - Staff Meeting
- 14 7:00PM Parents' Guild Meeting
- 15 Lifetouch School Photos
- 27 Welcome Back to School Picnic!
- 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades 1-8 classes begin for their first full day of classes. Uniform dress code is in effect! **Kindergarten classes** have a staggered start. Half the students will attend on Thursday, and half on Friday. Please refer to your Welcome Letter for your child's start date.

2023-2024 ANNUAL CALENDAR

The Annual School Calendar is available on the school's website. For a listing of upcoming events, inservice days, early dismissals, and other activities, please visit: <https://ihms.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/23-24-Annual-Calendar.pdf>

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- The **Before School Program** is for any student arriving at the school prior to 8:15 AM (opening at 7:15 AM). They must go to the gymnasium, using the front doors, where a supervisor will be present.
- The **After School Program** is for anyone staying past 3:30 PM until 6:00 PM. Families using the After School Program will use the back doors of the school between 3:45 - 5:30pm. Parents will wait in the back landing until supervisors bring the child(ren) to the parents. Families that pick up their children after 6:00 PM will be charged an incrementing late fee of \$5.00 for every 10 minutes late. Example: pickup between 5:16 - 5:25PM = \$5.00, 5:26 - 5:35PM = \$10.00, etc.

The cost for each program is as follows:
\$7.00 drop-in fee / child / day / program
\$55.00 / month / program (1 child)
\$80.00 / month / program / family