

Students like new lunch choices, eating in class

By Ben Carr
IMMS Grade 6

Should students be allowed to bring non-water drinks and food into the classroom? Well, in a recent IMMS Messenger survey, the newspaper team tackled these questions! Most of the people who responded said that we should be able to drink Vita Ice, lemonade, or other flavored drinks in class as long as it is in a closed container to prevent spills. That makes sense because spills of colored drinks can be messy. It will soak into the carpet and make a big stain. Also, it could emit a bad smell if it settles for too long. But if it is contained, you guys think drinking stuff like Vita Ice is fine in classrooms. About two-thirds of respondents also say we should keep Vita Ice as an option even if it has to stay in the cafeteria.

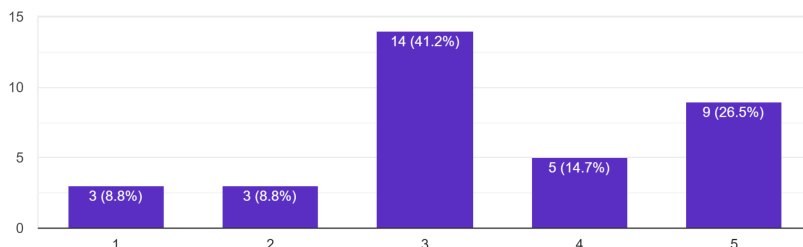
Next on the eating in classrooms: most of you are in favor of that, even if it can be distracting. But y'all mostly said that we need to not be messy and loud with our food. So, maybe next year, rules on food and drink could be relaxed.

The survey also showed that the majority of respondents have tried the new grab 'n' go options and say they have improved school lunches.

Thanks to all who provided their opinions.

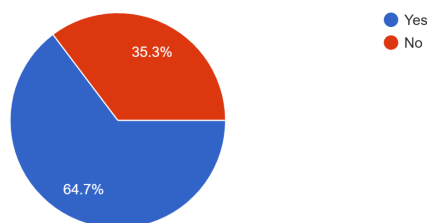
How much do you agree with this statement: The grab and go options have improved school lunches.

34 responses



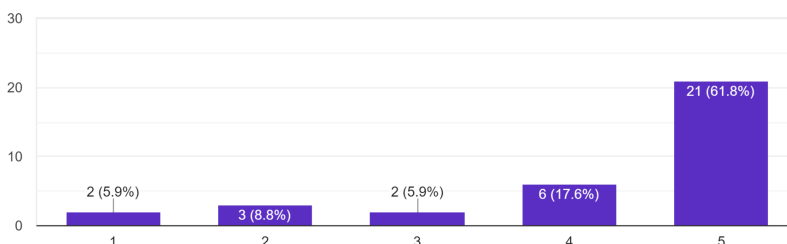
Do you think items such as Vita Ice are worth having at lunch if they have to stay in the cafeteria?

34 responses



How much do you agree with this statement: Students eating in class is not a distraction.

34 responses



About Books: Check out these favorites

House Arrest

Timothy stole a wallet. But it wasn't for himself; it was for his little brother, born with a breathing problem. The money was for his medicine. But the judges don't care. So now Timothy is on house arrest for one year, when he can only leave to talk with a probation officer and a therapist. So, Timothy will have to live one year with his financially and emotionally troubled mom, no dad after he mysteriously left, bad nurses, a turtle car, and the hope that he can get through to a doctor that can help his little brother. Read *House Arrest* to find out what happens!

~Ben Carr, IMMS Grade 6

The 39 Clues

Siblings Dan and Amy come from a long line of people who have done amazing things! Composers, explorers, and lots more make up the legendary Cahills. But Dan and Amy are called to their grandma's house in the wake of her death and are given a choice: Get one million dollars, or go on a journey to become the next legendary Cahill. So, they decide to get the 39 clues that lead them on an adventure with many dangers and riddles that none of them could have imagined. Will they succeed? Read and find out!

~Ben Carr, IMMS Grade 6

A Middle School Slang Dictionary

By Kaavi Bezouska
IMMS Grade 6

Rizz: short for charisma

Skibbidy Toilet: a fictional character, also a meme

Preppy: aesthetically pleasing

Grimace: purple guy from McDonald's

Alpha: a wolf, the leader of the pack, also a letter of the Greek alphabet

Sigma: a popular, self-reliant person, also a letter of the Greek alphabet.

Phantomtax: to steal

Baddie: a person who is always slaying

Cap: not telling the truth

Let him/her cook: let them win or do good

Ship: short for romantic relationship

Fit check: checking out your outfit

Cringe/Cringey: uncomfortably awkward, or weird

Chat: same, or I agree

Yapping: talking with a lot of useless information

Slay: cool, or good

IMMS Spring Messenger Staff and Contributors

Kaavi Bezouska, Ben Carr, Cece Norgord, and Kendall Thorson. If you would like to get involved, contact Adviser Ms. Ndlovu at Ndlovut@mcfdsd.org.

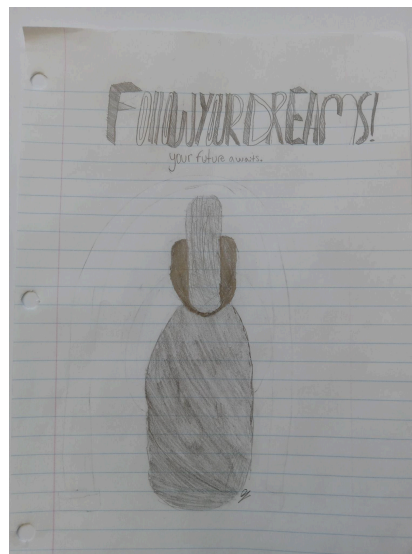
Spring Art Contest



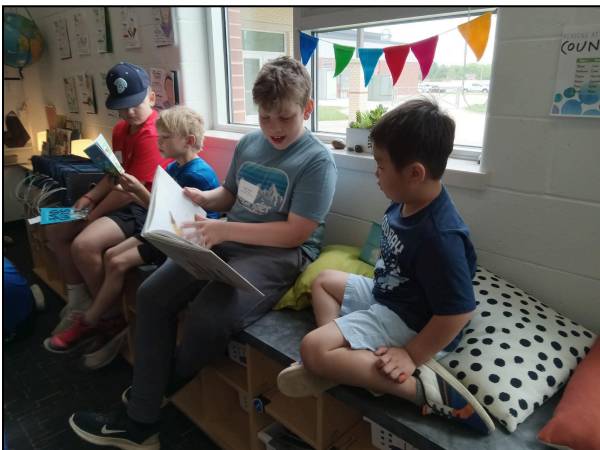
Above: Evelyn Cooper, grade 8, created this puppet piece titled "The Life of Spring," earning top votes for the IMMS Messenger Spring Art Contest.



Below left: Maria Jose Campos Velasco features elements of 2024 into her drawing. Below right: At the top is Brynn Sercombe's art, and Lily Mortensen's drawing rounds out our contestants.



New field trip brings service to community



IMMS seventh-grade students participated in our inaugural Community Day. They started with a walk to CEPS to read with first-graders. Then they walked to Larson Park to divide into project groups. One group, above, cleaned throughout E.D. Locke Public Library. Others spread mulch, divided plants, marked drains and more.

State swimming winners offer advice



Congratulations, State Champions!

DIVING	TYLER EMORY WHITEFISH BAY	100 FREE	JACK SULLIVAN NICOLET
200 MEDLEY RELAY	McFARLAND	500 FREE	FINN HOLDREDGE
200 FREE	JACK SULLIVAN NICOLET	200 FREE RELAY	McFARLAND
200 IND MEDLEY	BLAKE TEBEEST McFARLAND	100 BACK	BLAKE TEBEEST McFARLAND
50 FREE	CALE TEBEEST McFARLAND	100 BREAST	JULIAN CALLENDER STOUGHTON
100 BUTTERFLY	CALE TEBEEST McFARLAND	400 FREE RELAY	McFARLAND

In this photo we have the State Champions for the 2024 Championship at the WIAA meet. They include many McFarland swimmers that dominated the state. They won relays, medleys, freestyle events, backstroke events, and so much more.

By Kendall Thorson and Kaavi Bezouska
IMMS Grade 6

The McFarland High School swim team has gone to state once again. They defeated their rivals, and they became State Champions! Youth swimmers aspire to be like them and have also unlocked state accomplishments and times this year. Here are interviews with youth state qualifiers, the Julson twins Isaac and Wyatt.

Q: What did you do to set your swimming apart from others?

Isaac: I stayed focused on my own swimming and worked hard to go to state.

Wyatt: We get to work on turns or starts while they swim.

Q: What encourages you to swim fast?

Isaac: I look up to the faster swimmers like the Tebeests and set goals for myself and try hard at swim practice.

Wyatt: The Tebeests and Lyon Hall.

Q: Who inspires you?

Isaac: THE faster swimmers like Olympians.

Wyatt: My coaches. :)

Q: Does state swimming conflict with other aspects of your life?

Isaac: Not really except it requires a lot of extra training and it requires me to have to miss a day of school.

Wyatt: Not really. If we're around people we can't be mean to them.

Q: How is sportsmanship maintained with non-state swimmers?

Isaac: You just have to keep saying good things to non-state swimmers and tell them to keep at it and work and push themselves to their goals.

Wyatt: You can't swim at state if you don't have sportsmanship.

Q: Do you believe our team welcomes new swimmers?

Isaac: Yes, always.

Wyatt: Yes.

Q: What is the best way to get involved in swimming without joining the team?

Isaac: If you like swimming you could be a coach once you get to high school or you could be a meet official or even a lifeguard or you could follow swimming.

Wyatt: The sharks website or taking private lessons with a coach.

Congrats to all state swimmers.

Track team finishes with record-setting season

IMMS Staff

The Indian Mound Middle School track team set eight new course records during its two home meets and performed phenomenally throughout its seven-week season.

Competing against Verona, Monona Grove, Oregon and Stoughton, Indian Mound track team members faced many of the area's best runners, jumpers and throwers.

Nearly 80 seventh and eighth graders competed on the team this spring.

The top three fastest Indian Mound times for running events and the top two best for field events have been kept since 2019 when the high school opened its new track. That's the best times or distances over nine home meets.

Among those who added their names to the record

list were eighth graders Clint Landerud, Laylaa Peterson (in multiple events), Hudson Harrison (in 100 and 200 meter dashes), Will Heitzman, Boden Wagner, Matthew Ochalla, Chase Weber, Patrick Fruits, Vaughn Duckert, Quinn Jaeger, Talia Rieman, Greta Olson and Jordan Trott Czebotar.

In the seventh grade categories, new names in the record books were Joe Johnson, Lane Spelshaus, Olivia Schultz, Alyssa Bressette, Zachary Kuehl, Hannah Stolyarov, Gavin Yerges, Liam Krueger, Teddy Hackel, Calvin Behm, Audrey TeBeest, Libby Sampson, Tristan Bancroft and Max Hoyer.

The track season goes from late March to mid-May. The team competed in five meets -- one each week -- from mid-April to mid-May. Signup for the team will be next March. Sixth graders should consider joining.

Doodle wins state, moves on to national vote

Elise Schwartz, an IMMS eighth-grader, is among the top 55 finalists in this year's Doodle for Google. You can vote for her entry at

<https://doodles.google.com/d4g/vote>.

Doodle for Google is an annual art contest open to students in grades K-12. Students are invited to create their own Google Doodle for the chance to have it featured on Google.com, as well as win some scholarships and tech packages for them and their schools. This year, the 16th for the contest, students were asked to submit doodles that share student's unique visions of the future.



Honoring our IMMS Retirees

Ms. Runde recalls relationships, surprise assembly

Q: How long have you been a School Counselor?

A: I have been a school counselor for 22 years, I started in 2002 at McFarland High School. Then in 2007, I came to the middle school. This is my second career, my first was in business -corporate marketing management. I worked for Helene Curtis in Chicago (Suave and Degree brands) and then moved to Madison to work at Kraft-Oscar Mayer on marketing Lunchables.

Q: What is your favorite part of working as a Counselor?

A: My one-to-one conversations with students who were struggling or just having a tough time. There are so many that are close to my heart. Students that were struggling with depression and were trying to figure out how to get through the school day, or intense grief from losing a parent, or new to foster care, or struggling with addiction, or PTSD from abuse. There are a few letters I've received from students thanking me that they are alive and that I had a part in their getting through some really tough parts of their life. I will cherish those always. There have been some awesome parent conversations and relationships formed that I also will never forget. Parents who trusted me and let me "in" to help their family. I will be touched forever by those



relationships.

Q: What is your favorite memory at IMMS?

A: Probably the surprise assembly where I was named a Wisconsin Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2018. State Superintendent Tony Evers (now the Governor) came to our school to present the award. And my whole family came up to surprise me as well. It was just awesome. Then that summer I got to throw the first pitch out at a Brewers Game. Many staff members came to the game; it was just so thrilling and something I will never forget.

Q: What are you planning to do after retirement?

A: I plan to focus more on my

family by helping my mom and dad on their farm and helping with their transition into retirement. I'm also going to be a grandma soon and will spend time with a new grandchild. In my spare time, I'd like to travel with my husband, stay active by going to the pool, riding my new ebike and playing pickleball with all the other retirees. AND just maybe be a guest teacher every once in a while.

Q: What other roles have you played at IMMS?

- The Scheduling Team-creating every students schedule on IC
- ARRE Time Activity Planning: Banner Day & Wacky Olympics
- Real World Day
- Forward Test Planning Team
- American Legion Essay Contest
- Courage Retreat
- Dane County Future Quest Career Exploration field trip with 8th grade students.
- Service Projects: Fleece Blanket Project, Koats For Kids, Cancer Research Fund Raiser
- Gannon Grant awarded for social activities (dances/open gym) in 2022-23 and 2023-24

Students top list of Mr. Kinnaman memories



Q: How long have you been a teacher?

A: This June will be my 28th year of teaching and my 19th year as a Tech Ed teacher here at IMMS.

Q: What is your favorite part of working as a Teacher?

A: The students.

Q: What is your favorite memory at IMMS?

A: Every year at the last assembly of the year I look at students in the bleachers and on the floor. It is a good reminder of how many students I teach in a year. 99% of students at IMMS have my

class each year. It is an honor to be their teacher.

Q: What other roles have you played at IMMS?

A: Robotics coach.

- GSA advisor.
- Mentor for new teachers.

Q: What are you planning to do after retirement?

A: Ride my bikes: a fat bike in the winter, mountain and road bikes in the summer and fall. My ebike during rainy spring weather. I plan to work in my garden and travel to visit family and friends.

Ms. Neal remembers students, dress up in the library

Q: How long have you been a teacher?

A: 33 years.

Q: What is your favorite part of working as a teacher?

A: Students over the years.

Q: What is your favorite memory at IMMS?

A: Halloween when we could dress up. Always a lot of fun.

Q: What other roles have you played at IMMS?

A: I've been GSA advisor and yearbook advisor.

Q: What are you planning to do after retirement?

A: I plan to relax and read books. I have some trips planned in the fall. This will be a first in 33 years.

