



Imagine International Academy of Smyrna Frequently Asked Questions

Our Vision: “Pursuing and Achievement Excellent”

MISSION STATEMENT: “The Imagine International Academy of Smyrna is a community partnership whose purpose is to empower students to be critical thinkers, well-rounded individuals and caring world citizens by developing intellect in a nurturing environment, through a rigorous and relevant curriculum.”

Six Measures of Excellence

Teachers and parents understand that test scores alone do not measure how well a school is performing. At Imagine Schools, we believe that operating a successful school requires constant attention in five important areas that we call *Measures of Excellence*:

- Parent choice and satisfaction
- Adhering to shared values
- Academic achievement
- Positive character development
- Economic sustainability
- New School Development

We work hard to balance accomplishments in all of these areas, because a school that emphasizes one while ignoring another will not thrive. In addition, we add a sixth Measure of Excellence, *new school development*, because starting and operating new schools enables us to fulfill our mission to help more parents and guardians educate their children.

At Imagine Schools we believe in accountability and continual improvement. Our Measures of Excellence are the yardsticks we use to evaluate our effectiveness in providing a challenging, effective program of study and strong moral development in a safe, nurturing environment. We have established criteria for evaluating ourselves and our schools in each area. We grade ourselves annually on how we are performing - where we are excelling and where we can improve.



IIAS is a Tuition-Free Public Charter School

- You pay no money to have your children attend IIAS
- We are funded through State and Local taxes, just as other public schools
- IIAS is open to all students living in Cobb County, Georgia

Charter schools are public schools of choice. Charter schools are operated according to the provisions of a charter document. The charter document is a contract that gives the charter petitioner the authority and the public funding to operate the charter school and states how the charter school will be run. In order to continue to operate the charter school, the charter petitioner is required to meet the performance objectives stated in the charter document.

- Charter schools help put the public back in public education by encouraging participation by parents and the local community.
- Charter schools give principals the authority to manage effectively.
- Charter schools allow teachers the flexibility to utilize innovative methods to reach all children.
- Charter schools are public schools and cannot charge tuition.
- Charter schools are like free private schools.

STUDENT SCHOOL HOURS: K-8TH GRADES 8AM – 3PM DAILY

After 8am students are considered tardy; pick up before 3pm (counts against attendance). Please be sure to follow school hours and schedule appointments after school and during vacations. There are strict guidelines for attendance/absences.

ABSENCES

Students should only miss school for legal absences – illness, court, family emergency, family death, immediate sibling graduation, etc. If your child needs to miss school for family trip, graduation, weddings, please e-mail Ms. Clarke in advance at Gloria.clarke@imageschools.com

OFFICE ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSACTING BUSINESS

1. Drop box in front office for monies due for PTA, BSP, ASP and Lunch.
2. Please try to use the front desk for service between 8:15 am - 2:30 pm daily – it is extremely difficult to provide quality service during am/pm carpool. We love our families and want to service you well, but we need to focus on our students to receive and dismiss them daily.

WALKING INTO BUILDING IN THE MORNING

- **If you wish to walk your child into building...**(1) park at front office, (2) to lobby area, (3) kiss and hug in the lobby and allow your little one to start the day.
- **NO IMPROMPTU PARENT CONFERENCES:** Teachers cannot meet with parents from 7:40 am - 3:00 pm daily (teachers are responsible for supervising students all day). If you need to contact them, leave a message at the front desk, a note in the agenda book or student folder or send an e-mail. Emails receive quicker responses because teachers can access at school and at home. Please schedule a conference with your teacher should you need to discuss any issue.
- **ALL VISITORS WHO NEED TO ENTER HALLWAYS MUST SIGN IN AT FRONT OFFICE AND RECEIVE A VISITOR'S STICKER.**
- **OBSERVING CLASSROOMS** – please schedule an appointment with Ms. Clarke, Principal at least 24 hours in advance. Best way to schedule is to e-mail Gloria.clarke@imageschools.com. We need to coordinate parent visits to ensure that the classroom environment experiences the least amount of interruptions each day. Plan to stay no longer than 30 minutes and please do not ask questions of any kind (schedule a conference). Classroom Observations are for “observing, not participating.”
- **CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER** – please schedule an appointment with your child’s teacher to provide assistance. Please allow teachers to manage all discipline (alert a teacher if needed). Please refrain from chiming in during lesson or making comments aloud in front of the students – most parents do not want their children addressed by an adult who is unfamiliar to them (please provide parent courtesy).

BREAKFAST

Please provide breakfast at home. All children K-8 need a healthy breakfast everyday! Please send with child if unable to eat at home or on ride to school.

LUNCH

Our lunch program is prepaid each month. Please follow the directions provided on the Lunch Page of the IIAS website www.iasmyrna.org. ***No child will go without lunch, but we are not provided funds for students who do not qualify for free/reduced lunch. Please send \$3.50 in the next day should your child forget to bring lunch for any reason.

UNIFORMS

Our charter requires PE each day for students K-8th grades; there are specific days for gym uniforms that will be provided by your child's teachers. Remember students K-5 have recess almost every day as weather permits.

- Uniform shirts/khaki pants worn with **black/brown shoes with rubber soles; black and brown belts only.**
- Gym days – gym uniform with sneakers.
- Parents will be called to pick up student if child is out of uniform once backorders have been filled by Uniform Depot (around end of August). Special event days that do not require uniforms will be announced during weekly PTA newsletter –all other days, students are required to wear uniforms.

Where do I purchase Uniforms?

UNIFORM DEPOT KENNESAW 2141 North Cobb Parkway, Kennesaw, GA 30152

Telephone: (770) 919-9967 Facsimile: (770) 919-9378

BOOKBAGS

Book bags should not have name brand or characters (solid colors please). No wheeled book bags on our campus please.

PARENT NEWSLETTERS

Please sign up to receive the PTA newsletters electronically at www.iasmyrna.org. Please let the office staff know if you do not have computer access.

CALLINGPOST MESSAGES

Automated phone messages providing school announcements and updates directly to you. We hope to receive a \$5 donation.

DISCIPLINE

Grade teams have devised their discipline plans. Parents will be contacted by phone, e-mail or note in agenda for behavior infractions that warrant parent support and attention. Serious behavior incidents will be directed to Ms. Clarke and she will complete an investigation and contact parents directly.

AGENDA BOOKS

Agenda Books will be used as a communication tool for parents, students and teachers throughout the school year. Students will record assignments and parents & teachers will check daily and correspond. All student agenda books should be signed by parents each day beginning Monday, August 17, 2008.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Parents are required to complete volunteer hours according to the following:

Single Parent Household, 15 hours

Double Parent Household, 30 hours

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Join the PTA! Membership sign up at every major event – we are striving for 100% family participation. PTA forms/communication can be placed in mailbox in front office. PTA Contact Questions? Our PTA co-presidents have the answers! denise_terrell@bellsouth.net (Denise Terrell) and scottandrhonda@msn.com (Rhonda Byrnes)

WHO IS THE FRONT OFFICE TEAM?

Principal: Gloria Clarke; gloria.clarke@imagineschools.com

Business Manager: Janet Better; janet.bettters@imagineschools.com

Student Information Coordinator: Belinda Brown; belinda.brown@imagineschools.com

Student Services Manager Sheneria Crocker; Sheneria.crocker@imagineschools.com

Front Office Reception Anna Williams; Anna.williams@imagineschools.com

HOW ARE GIFTED STUDENTS SERVED?

Students will be serviced during the school day (once per week in class) and on Mondays & Tuesdays for extended day from 3-5:30. A parent orientation meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Class meeting schedule may change based on student Gifted population. Dates will be finalized by Tuesday, September 8, 2009. Parents will receive letters for Gifted Program prior to start-up. If your child received Gifted Services at his/her previous school, please provide copies of the service plan to the IIAS school counselor, Ms. Stacy Evans, or Ms. Belinda Brown, Student Information Coordinator.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM (IB)?

The IB program focus was outlined in our Charter as a means to provide rigorous instruction to our students with a global focus. Schools interested in becoming IB Authorized complete a feasibility study and determine a course of action. We will build upon the units of instruction developed last year and work to fully develop the IB culture using the Learner Profile and the Character Attributes as this year's focus. Our curriculum will continue to be the state required Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The GPS was developed within the last decade by the best Georgia Educators from around the state called Dream Teams. "Dream Teams" worked together throughout the school year to establish content and proficiencies for every grade and every subject. Our state assessment, the CRCT, is based on the GPS. For more in-depth information please visit the state website – www.gadoe.org. Our school received notice from the International Baccalaureate Organization that we have completed Phase I and we are now an IB Candidate School. We will work with a consultant from the Atlanta International School to further develop our program this year.

ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Homeroom teachers should be informed of any allergies and medical conditions that may need attention throughout the school year. We now have a full time clinic monitor, Ms. Marye Dyer. It is imperative that your child's teacher and Ms. Dyer learn of your child's needs as soon as possible so that he/she can be well cared for. Please contact Ms. Dyer directly with information, requests and to discuss any medical needs. E-mail Ms. Dyer at Marye.dyer@imagineschools.com or call 678-370-0980. Clinic office hours are 9 am - 2 pm daily.

WEBSITES

Imagine Schools - www.imagineschools.com

IIAS - www.iasmyrna.org