Dear 5th Grade Parents,

Believe it or not, 2018 is the year your 5th grader goes to middle school! 😊 The transition process for students and parents begins this March and runs through the first day of school next year on September 5th, 2018. In anticipation of how quickly spring will be upon us, we want to ask you to please **SAVE the DATE** for all the following important 5th to 6th transition activities. We have clearly indicated which events are for families, for parents and for students.

**5th Grade Registration Information (packets distributed to students at their elementary):**
Registration information will be delivered to 5th grade classroom on **March 15th**. Families will need to complete the registration worksheet and turn it in to their 5th grade teachers by **March 23rd**.

**Gator for a Night . . . Incoming 6th Grade Family Night (for parents and incoming 6th graders):**
This event is on **Tuesday, March 20th at IMS**. The purpose of this night is to give families an opportunity to get familiar with the layout of Islander Middle School. This informal event will give you and your child a chance to participate in a scavenger hunt as you tour around the school and experience fun opportunities that IMS has to offer. Counselors will be available to answer questions about the registration process. This event will be open from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm and is a drop-in situation. We anticipate the experience to last about 40 minutes. There will be no formal presentation on this night.

**5th Grade Classroom Visits from WEB Leaders (for incoming 6th grade students only):**
These visits will take place during the late-Spring. IMS 8th grade WEB Leaders along with our Academic Counselors Dru Klein and Jayna Dash, will visit each of the four elementary schools and share information about IMS and answer student questions.

**Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information Night (for parents only):**
This event is scheduled for **Thursday, May 17th at IMS**. The purpose of this night is to give parents a sense of the middle school experience. The event will run from 6:30-8:00 pm and will begin in the IMS gym. Throughout the evening, parents will move through a rotation of four presentations.

- **Presentation 1** - Focus on 6th Grade WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program which connects 6th grade students to the Islander Middle School community.
- **Presentation 2** - Panel discussion comprised of current 6th grade students who will reflect on their first year at IMS. They will share their perceptions around transition, fitting in, lunches, homework, and extra curricular activities. (This is often the most valuable session for parents)
- **Presentation 3** – Facilitated discussion by IMS Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Counselor and IMS Technology Specialist. Our MIYFS Counselor will share information about what to expect from your child as he/she enters the middle school years. Our Technology Specialist will discuss Schoology - our main communication platform for students and parents.
- **Presentation 4** – Presentation from IMS Administration and PTSA. IMS Administrators and PTSA members will share information about the rules and expectations at Islander, the overall student program and how parents can stay involved.
**IMS “Back2School” Day (for incoming 6th grade students and parents):**

The *anticipated* date for this event is **Wednesday, August 22nd**, but the date won’t be finalized until May of 2017. IMS Back2School is the day all students and parents come to IMS in order to take school photos, pay fees, sign-up for PTSA volunteer opportunities, pick up the class schedule and receive a locker assignment. Students will be able to practice opening their lockers and check out their class locations during this event.

**IMS Open for locker practice and informal visitations (for incoming 6th grade students and parents):**

During the week of **August 27th**, IMS will be open to kids and families. Students can come through the school, practice opening their lockers, walk their schedule and get comfortable with the school.

**6th Grade WEB Experience (incoming 6th grade students only):**

**Wednesday, September 5th, 2018** is the first day of school. IMS runs on a special schedule that day where only 6th grade students and their 8th grade WEB Leaders attend school in the morning. The new 6th graders will have a large welcome assembly and then will break into small groups where there will be team building experiences for students, followed by tours and lunch. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders will then run through a shortened schedule of their 6 classes beginning at 11:20 am and ending at 2:50pm.

There will be lots of reminders as we get closer to the date for each event, but we wanted to be sure families are aware of the myriad of transition activities and that the dates get a priority spot on your busy calendars.

Sincerely,
Tara Stone, Aaron Miller and Mary Jo Budzius
IMS Administration