

Innocademy Family Resource Guide

2026-2027



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Welcome!

Welcome to the family...we hope Innocademy feels like a home away from home.

Mission Statement

Innocademy is an inclusive Public School Academy that prepares PreK-8th grade students to have a global mindset through whole child, Spanish language, and nature-rich learning.

Vision Statement

Innocademy focuses on the whole child to positively impact the whole world.

Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) Goal

By following the MICIP process and using the MICIP platform, we, as a team of stakeholders, developed a goal. The goals state that 1) *“By June 2025, the district math proficiency as measured by the state assessment will meet or exceed the state target of 47.55% proficient. Each year the percent proficient will increase by 1.5% each year”* and 2) *“By June 2026, the number of students who have reached ELA proficiency or advanced as measured by the state assessment, as well as the district exceeding the state proficiency target of 60%, will reach 60%. Each year the percent of students will increase at a minimum of 2.5%.”* We are currently working on adding an attendance specific goal for this upcoming school year.

Student Pledge & Compact

I pledge to be the leader of myself by utilizing the school expectations to grow independently and as a member of our community. I will strive to be **RESILIENT** by not giving up and finding support when times get tough. I will be **RESPECTFUL** by listening and caring about others. I will be **RESPONSIBLE** for what I do and say. I will make decisions that keep myself and others **SAFE**. I promise to do my best everyday.

As a student, I will:

- Be **RESILIENT** by doing my best work on classwork, tests, and activities
- Be **RESPECTFUL** of others, myself, and the learning environment.
- Be **RESPONSIBLE** by bringing what I need for each class, each day and being on time.
- Be **SAFE** by following the rules each day, wearing clothing that fits the task, and staying healthy.

Parent/Guardian Pledge & Compact

I pledge to uphold Innocademy's best practices, as noted in this resource guide. I will support Innocademy by investing my time, passions, and skill sets in ways that are best for my family. I will engage in parent meetings, communicate with school staff, help my child succeed by ensuring their attendance, and engage in his/her growth as a learner at home and school.

As a parent/guardian, I will:

- Believe my child can learn and provide a place at home to complete homework.
- Prepare my child for school by providing a balanced nutritious diet, dressed appropriately, and ensure my child has adequate amount of sleep.

- Spend 20-45 minutes a night reading, writing, or doing math with my child.
- Encourage educational technology to my child at home (Ex: math, reading apps)
- Maintain an open, positive and respectful relationship and communication with staff.
- Commit to bringing my child on time every day between 8:20 and 8:45 a.m. and schedule appointments to the best of my ability before or after school or over break weeks so that my child is set up for success.
- Read the family resource guide and ask questions as needed to the teacher.

Staff Pledge & Compact

I pledge to do all I can to honor and grow each child as a uniquely intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social being. I will foster a classroom environment that supports students towards their personal learning goals. I will support the families with whom we partner in this important endeavor.

As a staff member, I will:

- Believe all children can learn.
- Maintain open, positive and respectful relationship and communication between school and home
- Provide a safe, caring environment for student learning.
- Respect and value the uniqueness of each family.
- Provide enriched and challenging instruction aligned with the state core curriculum.
- Create positive relationships with students.
- Seek ways to involve parents in student learning and/or trips.

Staff Contact Information

Staff	Spends time with...	Location	Grade Level Objectives	Email
Precademy				
Ms. Gracyn	Precademy	4-day preschool (Nature Emphasis)	Preschool	gschut@innocademy.org
Ms. Jamie	Precademy	4-day preschool (Spanish Emphasis)	Preschool	jgenzink@innocademy.org
Ms. Michelle	Precademy	4-day preschool	Preschool	maling@innocademy.com
Ms. Stacey	Precademy	4-day preschool	Preschool	s.vanvalkenburg@innocademy.org
Ms. Maria	Precademy	4-day preschool	Preschool	mtorres@innocademy.org
Classic Elementary				
Ms. Kayleigh	Classic Youngest	Classic Kindergarten	Kindergarten	kalger@innocademy.org

Ms. Molli	Younger Friends	Green Room	1st Grade	mmchugh@innocademy.org
Ms. Kaleigh	Younger Friends	Green Room	2nd Grade	kcope@innocademy.org
Ms. Melissa	Younger Friends	Blue Room	3rd Grade	mpringle@innocademy.org
Ms. Megan	Middle Friends	Orange Room	4th Grade	manders@innocademy.org
Mr. Ky	Middle Friends	Yellow Room	5th Grade	klacy@innocademy.org
Ms. Kim	K-5th Grade FLES	Classic Spanish	Elementary Spanish	klooman@innocademy.org
Ms. Maddi	K-6th Grade	Intervention Space	Academic Interventionist	mcoulson@innocademy.org
Ms. Carlie	Special Education	Elementary Resource Space	Student Support	crozema@innocademy.org
Ms. Anne	All elementary friends	Elementary Student Support Space	Student Support	agardner@innocademy.org
Ms. Darlene	All elementary friends	Elementary Student Support Space	Student Support	dsalas@innocademy.org
Mr. Maxwell	All elementary friends	Elementary Student Support Space	Student Support	mluciano@innocademy.org
Ms. Joelle (behavior para)	All elementary friends	Elementary Student Support Space	Student Support	jvruiggink@innocademy.org
Ms. Deissy	All elementary friends	Elementary Student Support Space	Student Support	dsanchez@innocademy.org
Las huellas Elementary				
Ms. Natalia	Amigos Youngest LH	LH Youngest Room	Kindergarten	npanuco@innocademy.org
Ms. Marisol	Amigos Younger LH	LH Green Room	1st Grade	marvizu@innocademy.org
Ms. Rachel	Amigos Younger LH	LH Green Room	2nd Grade	rpotter@innocademy.org
Ms. Elisabeth	Amigos Middle LH	LH Blue Room	3rd Grade	evanwolde@innocademy.org
Ms. Morgan	Amigos Middle LH	LH Blue Room	4th Grade	mcummings@innocademy.org
Ms. Liliana	Amigos Middle LH	LH Yellow Room	5th Grade SLA & SS	ljogerst@innocademy.org
Ms. Jailin	Amigos LH	Student Support Space	Student Support	jmorales@innocademy.org
Ms. Debbie	Amigos LH	Student Support Space	Student Support	dduran@innocademy.org

Ms. Alondra	Amigos LH	Student Support Space	Student Support	aorta@innocademy.org
Ms. Andrea	Amigos LH	Intervention Space LH	Academic Intervention	abasulto@innocademy.org
Classic & Las Huellas Middle School				
Ms. Jacob	Older & Oldest Friends	Middle School	Science Teacher	jalger@innocademy.org
Ms. Jessie	Older & Oldest Friends	Middle School	ELA Teacher	jwebb@innocademy.org
Ms. Andréa	Older & Oldest Friends	Middle School	Math Teacher	avegter@innocademy.org
Ms. Maggie	Older & Oldest Friends	Middle School	SS Teacher	mhartman@innocademy.org
Ms. Andrea	Older & Oldest Friends	Middle School	6th-8th Classic Spanish	abasulto@innocademy.org
Ms. Liliana	Older & Oldest LH Friends	LH Middle School	6-8th Las huellas Spanish Language Arts & Social Studies	ljogerst@innocademy.org
Ms. Erin	Special Education	Middle School Hub	Student Support	ebeyer@innocademy.org
Specials, Support Staff, & More!				
Ms. Hillary	TK-8th Friends	Music Room	Music	hschmidt@innocademy.org
Ms. Emily	TK-8th Friends	Art Room	Art	evandam@innocademy.org
Mr. Chad	TK-8th Friends	Connections Room	Connections	czuber@innocademy.org
Ms. Natalia	TK-8th Friends	Outdoor Space/WOW Space	P.E. & Health	nbelsan@innocademy.org
Ms. Rachel V.	Everyone	Spanish Hub	EL Coordinator	rvereeke@iesschools.org
Ms. Melissa	TK-8th Friends	Tech Hub	Tech Support	mmeyer@iesschools.org
Ms. Lindsey	TK-8th Friends	All classrooms as needed	Substitute	N/A
Ms. Jen	TK-8th Friends	Resource Space	Behavior Intervention	jkahwa@innocademy.org
Ms. Kristin	TK-8th Friends	Office #1	School Social Work/McKinney-Vento Liaison	kfrederick@innocademy.org
Ms. Lisa	TK-8th Friends	Office #3	School Psychologist	lrnyon@iesschools.org

Ms. Abby	TK-8th Friends	Occupational Therapy Room	Occupational Therapist	adevries@iesschools.org
Ms. Marissa	Precad-MS	Speech Therapy Room	Speech & Language	mlanning@innocademy.org
Ms. Robyn	All students Precademy thru H.S.	Office #4	Special Education Director/Case Manager	rkepplinger@innocademy.org
Ms. Jessenia	All students TK-8th	Office #2	School Lead	jolmeda@innocademy.org
Ms. Kate	Everyone	IES office	Pupil Accounting	kathryn.mathe@iesschools.org
Ms. Raquel	Everyone	Front desk	Hospitality	rhulst@iesschools.org
Ms. Jane	Everyone	Front desk	Hospitality	jlanser@iesschools.org
Ms. Leisa	Everyone	Precad/Inno/Icademy	Enrollment & Communication	llobbezoo@innocademy.org
Mr. Oscar	Everyone	Everywhere	Custodian	orodriguez@innocademy.org
Ms. Jozlyn	Everyone	Everywhere	Custodian	jmathe@innocademy.org
Mr. Austin	Everyone	Everywhere	Maintenance Lead	austin.shumaker@iesschools.org
Mr. Patrick	Everyone	Bus	Bus Driver	N/A
Ms. Claudia	Everyone	Classic Just Right Library	Library Volunteer	N/A
Ms. Sarah, Ms. Ruth	Everyone	Lunchroom	Food Service	hot.lunch@iesschools.org
Mr. Jamison	All Staff	IES office	Human Resources	jamison.andrus@iesschools.org
Mr. Dave	All Schools	IES office	Finance	dave.zimmer@iesschools.org

Who We Are

Multi-Age Learning

Innocademy's multi-age learning approach consists of two interlaced facets - academic and social. Our multi-age learning environment provides experiences and interaction for students at a variety of age levels throughout the day. Best practices in teaching create a learning environment that consists of hands-on, student-directed, and project-based learning. The most emphasized approach to enhance student achievement is a commitment to a small student to teacher ratio. A smaller student-to-teacher ratio leads to higher student achievement because of increased individualized instruction and attention. The component of multi-age that we use at Innocademy is buddy classes. This is a partnership combining an older and younger class who work together, mentoring each other during activities and projects. Buddy classes participate in stewardship activities, academic support, and team-building on a regular basis. These groups not only foster ownership and pride in our school, but also function as a place where students are united by interest and passion, but differ in age, gender, and learning ability. This intentional time is meant to simulate a real-world environment. Students, staff, and parents consistently rank this approach as one of the most valued aspects of Innocademy.

Just Right Grouping

Our Just Right Grouping approach allows students to be placed in groups that fit their ability level. Using the following measures we determine a “just right” fit for each individual student: NWEA’s Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Michigan’s M-STEP standardized assessments, common assessments like running records, and daily formative assessments. Each child is closely studied in regards to their academic, social, and emotional needs and achievement. “Just Right Learning” groups naturally allow students who are ready for accelerated learning to be met where they are. Students learn at different paces and we know some need extra support with targeted intervention may also be needed. Parents and teachers together will collaborate to make decisions for individual children which may include working with a Just Right Group that is outside of their chronological grade level. This usually is just for Math.

Nature Rich Education

We know that an exceptional education doesn’t have to take place in a classroom; in fact, many times it takes place outdoors. “Spending time in nature enhances educational outcomes by improving children’s academic performance, focus, behavior, and love of learning.” ([Children and Nature Network](#)) Because we value outdoor education, we provide transportation twice a week to teachers as they plan their trips for the year.

Curriculum

Below is a brief overview of Innocademy’s curriculum. These resources support the teachers’ work of teaching the common core standards that have been adopted by 41 states. Click here for grade level guides to the standards for English Language Arts and Math. <http://www.corestandards.org/> Also, middle school students have the opportunity to earn iCademy Global high school credit through online coursework. Courses most commonly taken include Spanish, Algebra, and Geometry.

SUBJECT	CURRICULAR RESOURCE	ASSESSMENTS
English Language Arts: Reading, Writing, Phonics	• Amplify CKLA (K-5th) • Amplify ELA (6th-8th)	• NWEA Reading Fluency & DIBELS Y5- Kindergarten • NWEA MAP 1-8th • M-STEP 3-7th • PSAT 8th
Spanish Language Arts (Las Huellas students)	• Benchmark Taller (K-5th) • Espanol 7	• NWEA Reading Fluency & DIBELS Y5- Kindergarten • NWEA MAP 1-8th • M-STEP 3-7th • PSAT 8th
Daily Spanish (for Classic Students)	• Sonrisas Level 1-3	• Unit assessments & projects
Math	• K-5th: Investigations in Numbers, Data, and Space • 6th-8th: Connected Mathematics Project 3 (CMP3)	• Unit assessments • Delta Math K-8th • NWEA MAP K-8th • M-STEP 3-7th • PSAT 8th
Social Studies	• Grades K-2 & 5-8: TCI • Grades 3 & 4: Giants	• Unit assessments & projects • M-STEP 5th & 8th
Science	• Mystery Science K-5th • Project Learning Tree & Project Wild • Outdoor Discovery Center partnership	• Unit projects • M-STEP 5th & 8th
Social Emotional Learning	• Second Step K-5 Scope & Sequence • MS Scope & Sequence • PowerUp (6th- 8th girls, excluding sessions 16 & 20) • Resilience Partnership- Healthy Manhood (6th-8th boys)	• SAEBRS Screener (teacher and/or student)
Global Mindset	• Empowering Students to Improve the World in Sixty Lessons	
Health & Wellness	• Healthy Manhood	• Pre & Post evaluation survey

Specials

In addition to our core curriculum of ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish, “**Specials**” classes are offered in 30-45 minute classes per week throughout the year for students in Transitional Kindergarten through 4th grade.

- **Art**
Students grow creatively as they experiment with art mediums and materials, study art techniques and elements, and explore art from cultures around the world. Students are exposed to art, encouraged to express themselves, and then celebrated as individuals whose work is personal and meaningful.
- **Music**
Music is an integral part of educating the whole child at Innocademy. We believe by making music as an essential part of our curriculum we are able to better help our students learn and grow by: stimulating neural pathway development leading to greater gains in core academics; growing an appreciation for other communities’ music and cultures both domestically and abroad; and developing their own passion and skills within music.
- **Connections**
Connections class will work to unite our vision statement to our academic practices through Project Based Learning. Units will focus around our vision of developing a Global Mindset through Nature-Rich and Innovative Lessons. Students will connect what they are doing in science and social studies to experiences within the community and in our own school grounds. Additionally, students will work through the design process to solve problems including the use of technology such as Lego robotics, Sphero, and Specdrums. Through these projects, and direct lessons on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, students will learn about new cultures, their celebrations, and the struggles they face.
- **PE & Health**
This class will seek to develop students’ sportsmanship, resilience, and confidence through a whole child-approach to physical education. Students will grow to appreciate and encourage each other, seek a positive mindset in difficult situations, and boost their self-confidence while learning and playing new sports and games.

Field Experience Scope and Sequence

Another approach that enhances student achievement and cultural awareness are the field experiences...traveling near and far at an earlier age than most traditional schools. The trips that are planned for our students progress in distance and depth as they grow from a younger friend to an oldest friend.

	Youngest/er Friends: Kindercademy - 2nd	Middle Friends: 3rd-4th	Older Friends: 5th	Older Friends: 6th/7th	Oldest Friends: 8th Grade Capstone
2026-2027	Local Attractions (City governments, parks, farms, zoos, museums, restaurants, etc.)	3rd- 1 day trip 4th: 2 day, 1 night trip	5th- 3 days, 2 nights 6th & 7th- 5 days, 4 nights 8th- 5 days/ 4 nights		

Our teaching team invests huge amounts of time planning and coordinating field experiences to keep costs to a minimum. Several school-sponsored fundraising opportunities are available to take advantage of to help offset expenses and include: these are shared out as they are planned and received. *The profits from these fundraisers are automatically deposited into a Student Field Trip account to be used **by the student** for field trips only. Unused balances may be transferred to a sibling or another Innacademy student. Unfortunately, we cannot issue refunds or checks.*

Your child's classroom teacher will share more details about their trip with you. Please ask them directly for questions you may have.

Transportation

Innacademy does not provide transportation to and from school. As such, there are certain field trips throughout the school year where we rely on parent volunteers to provide students with transportation. All parent drivers are required to provide proof of insurance and have a background check on file two weeks prior to the field trip. Please stop by the front desk to fill out this form two weeks in advance. All students under the age of 8 or under 4ft 9 inches are required to provide their own booster seat for transportation during these experiences.

Outdoor Discovery Center Partnership



We've developed a sustained partnership with the ODC network that supports us in connecting deeper classroom learning with people, land, and nature. This allows students to adventure into nature at the Outdoor Discovery Center and other locations in the area.

In order to fully participate in these experiences, students need to come prepared with proper outdoor clothing, waterproof footwear, skin protection, etc. Keeping an extra change of clothes at school is encouraged. Thrift shopping, networking with other families, and online marketplaces are great ways to get quality gear for reasonable prices.

Notes Regarding The Innocademy Community

Arrival & Dismissal

Please use the same parking lot for drop off & pick up:

East Lot: Las Huellas (if you have students in both programs, please use the West Lot (Classic side, otherwise known as McDonald's side)

West Lot: Classic (otherwise known as the McDonald's side)

Arrival/Drop-Off: 8:20-8:40am

- There is no adult supervision outside before 8:20 am, PLEASE have your child(ren) stay in your vehicle until 8:20. Innocademy staff are not responsible for your children before 8:20am. The green flag will be placed by the gaga ball pit when there is an adult outside to supervise.
- Students have the opportunity to play outside until 8:40 when teachers pick up their students to begin our instructional day at 8:45. **Almost all students start their day right away with Math, so it's extra important to be on time.**

Dismissal/Pick-up: 3:30 -3:45 pm

- **Please, please stay in your vehicle. This is for the safety of all and greater efficiency.**
- Our goal is to have all students outside by 3:30 p.m.
- For the safety of all students, please remind your children they should be calmly waiting in the designated areas along the sidewalk with their siblings.
- For your child's safety and because we do not have a crossing guard, children are not able to cross the street off campus on their own. They must have an adult to help them physically cross from our sidewalk to where you are parked.

Ending the Day Early: School dismisses at 3:30pm. If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please notify the school by 8:45 a.m. via your teacher's class communication method or via email and attendance@innocademy.com. You must sign out your child before leaving school on the clipboard at the front desk.

Early Dismissal: On half days, school ends at 12:00. Dismissal/Pick-up runs from 12:00-12:15pm.

Calendar

Our balanced calendar is designed to maximize learning and retention as we avoid the 3 month summer slide. The roughly 6-week on, 7th-week off rotation offers periodic recharging and time with family.



July/August 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January/February 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

	8th Grade Graduation
	Holiday Extravaganza
	Spring Showcase

	School Day 8:30 - 3:30pm
	No School
	Records Day - No School
	PD Day-No School for Students
	MLK Day - No School
	First & Last Days- 12PM Dismissal
	State of MI Count Day
	Conferences
	Tulip Time - 12pm Dismissal
	Open House 6-7:30pm
	Info Night - 3:30-4:45pm

IMPORTANT NOTES

- School Day 8:45am - 3:30pm
- Open House is July 29th from 6-7:30pm
- 1/2 Day School Hours 8:45am - 12pm
- Conferences - 1st Day - Full Day of School 8:45am - 3:30pm Conferences from 4-8pm
- Conferences - 2nd Day - 1/2 Day Dismissal - Conferences from 1-5pm
- State of Michigan Count Day - Please be on time & stay for the full day

DRAFT #3 - 2/5/26

IMPORTANT TESTING DATES

- FALL - August 10th - 27th
- WINTER - November 30th - December 18th
- SPRING - May 3rd - 21st

Assessment Calendar

Along with daily informal assessments, students will “show what they know” in a variety of formalized assessments over the year that are during fall, winter and spring. Please make sure your child is on time on these days.

Attendance

School begins promptly at 8:45 am. If your child arrives at school after 8:45 am or needs to leave early for an appointment, PLEASE make certain you utilize the sign in/sign out sheet located on the clipboard at our Innocademy reception area. **For medical appointments, a doctor’s note needs to be provided in order to excuse the absence and your child must return to school for the remainder of the school day.** It is critical that we report our attendance accurately to the State of Michigan. If, for any reason, your student will be absent on a school day, please email attendance@innocademy.com **AND** your child’s classroom teacher. Once your child reaches 5% of accumulated absences, a letter will be sent home for your support in monitoring the absences and making sure you are communicating the reason for each absence. At 7% there is another letter that is sent home and at 10% there is another letter sent home in hopes of ensuring that families are fully aware of the absences up to that date. An excused absence is due to illness or medical appointments (with a medical note provided to school) or funeral. Parents must communicate with their child’s teacher and the attendance email noted above. At most, every child should not be absent for more than 10 school days in the entire academic year.

Chronic absenteeism has been proven to result in lower grades, students being more likely to drop out of school, and delinquent behaviors. As a result, the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District has adopted more specific and stringent guidelines for addressing attendance concerns.

	Excused and/or Unexcused Absences
Innocademy staff sends letter 1	5%
Innocademy staff sends letter 2 and includes our OAISD Truancy Officer	7%
Innocademy staff sends letter 3 and includes our OAISD Truancy Officer to schedule an in person meeting	10% or greater
Innocademy staff sends letter 3 follow up if no improvement in student’s attendance has been made	Greater than 11%

It is important to note that when your family chooses to travel on school days, they are not excused and do count towards their total amount of absences for the year. Please use the planned break weeks built in our balanced calendar for your family trips. It is crucial that your child is here every day for the entire day for their academic and personal development. Thank you for making sure they are here and on time for the day!

Please reference our attendance handbook [here](#) for more information.

Illness

Please help us create a safe, healthy environment for all of our students and teachers. We ask for your help in maintaining a safe environment by keeping your child home any time he or she is ill or becoming ill. It can be a tough call but if we all adhere to the guidelines, we can help make these days happen less for everyone. We will continue to rely on our professional medical partners at the Ottawa County Health Department for their most up-to-date [guidance for K-12 Schools](#).

In general per the Ottawa County Health Department, these include:

- Fever within the previous 24 hours, must be fever free without the use of medications for 24 hours.
- ANY vomiting or diarrhea in the past 36 hours. Must be completely symptom free without the use of medications for 36 hours. If they still are not eating normally, they shouldn't return to school.
- Any symptoms of diseases (COVID-19, scarlet fever, measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, etc.)
- Runny nose with any colored discharge
- Excessive coughing
- Sore throat
- Any unexplained rash
- Pink eye
- Head lice - Child should be treated and free of all nits/live bugs prior to returning to school. The following [link](#) does an exceptional job of explaining what lice looks like, the treatment, and myths.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, a parent will be contacted to determine if the student should go home using the guidelines above. Any minor injuries must be reported to a teacher and they will be treated and returned to class. If medication is required, the medication policy 5330 will be followed.

Lice

Should a student be identified during school hours to have an active case of head lice, students will be able to return to class, but restricted from activities involving close head-to-head contact or sharing personal items with other children. Immediate removal of the child is unnecessary. If the child has lice, they probably have been infested for weeks, and prompt removal of the child could lead to embarrassment and ridicule. Teacher will notify parents of lice directly and ask the parent to provide treatment to the student. Students will be checked for lice the next day by staff. Should lice be found, students will not be readmitted to school and will need to return home for further treatment. Parents should continue to treat for lice and have daily lice checks and nit removal for the next two to three weeks.

Medical Concerns

In your enrollment packet you should have filled out a Health Appraisal regarding any medical concerns. However, please feel free to contact your student's teacher regarding any concerns or updates to medical history.

Medications

No staff member is permitted to dispense non-prescribed medication (OTC medication) to any student. A doctor's note is required per Michigan law; please see staff at the reception area for the parent authorization form for these types of medications.

Furthermore, every effort should be taken to avoid taking prescribed medications during the school day. If it is unavoidable, please see staff at the reception area for the appropriate forms. Written permission by doctor and parent is required. Please remember that medication MAY NOT be sent to school in a student's lunch box, pocket, or on their person. If a student has medication in their possession, that student may be in violation of school drug policy. Please see Board Policy 5330 (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies") for further information on medications.

Sunscreen or bug spray can only be applied during the school day by student without any assistance from staff members. Sunscreen or bug spray cannot be shared with other students. Students must have a parent note giving permission for them to bring these items on file with the classroom teacher or with the front desk staff.

Enrollment Information

The enrollment process follows the protocols found in Schedule 7.5. All students enrolled must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from a county health department. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with state law. It is of the utmost importance that any changes in address, phone numbers, or pertinent medical information be shared with our front desk staff so that we can keep a current and accurate database.

Emergency Contacts

If there are any changes to address, email, phone number, and emergency contact information throughout the school year, it is the parent's responsibility to inform staff (child's primary teacher as well as Ms. Kate [at kathryn.mathe@iesschools.org](mailto:kathryn.mathe@iesschools.org)) as soon as possible.

Behavior Expectations

Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS)

POSITIVE FOCUS
Staff are celebrating the positive behaviors that students do every day.

MAKING A POINT
Expected behaviors are taught like core content. We revisit them often!

TALK THE TALK
We use common language that fits students at their level, from Young 5's to 8th.

4:1 RATIO
Our goal is to share 4 positive comments for every 1 reminder.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Students & staff earn tickets when they are caught being respectful, responsible, resilient, or safe.

WATCH US GROW!
We are striving hard each week to focus on the positives and are tracking our data.
Our average each week is **700 TICKETS!**

INNOCADEMY
PBIS
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION & SUPPORTS

I am Respectful
I am Responsible
I am Resilient
I am Safe

Tickets can be entered into drawings for treats & prizes:
Lunch line fast passes, extra recess, desserts, a treasure box, & more!
Drawings are held each Friday!

Whole School Expectations

Most instances of misbehavior are minor and handled by the teacher present. We have 4 simple, school-wide expectations:

- 1) Be Respectful
- 2) Be Resilient
- 3) Be Responsible
- 4) Be Safe

If an expectation is not being met, the three if/thens are:

- 1) reminder from teacher
- 2) learn away from friends
- 3) communication home

Behavior Rubrics & Formal Discipline

A behavior rubric is utilized to address inappropriate behavior to ensure the safety of all students (see attachments at the end of this doc). There can be cases of serious misbehavior that will require formal discipline and protocols. Please see Board Policy 5610 for more specific information

(<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies").

We have four Behavior Response Rubrics to recognize the different learning and expectations of the various age levels of students at Innocademy. In an effort to remain consistent in our response to specific behaviors, we refer to the following Response Rubrics that are organized by the frequency and severity of behavior demonstrated.

Below is a thumbnail image of what a rubric looks like. It is strongly encouraged to click on the links below to see the specific responses. We teach and expect our students to be respectful, responsible, resilient, and safe.

Please note: Behaviors that are outlined as level 3 or 4 may cause for a threat assessment to be completed by school lead, social worker, behavior interventionist and/or psychologist.

Level 3 - Major T.V.s			
Behaviors	Unsafe Words/Acts Level 3	Disrespect Level 3	Irresponsible Level 3
	Physical Contact Punching/Fighting/Choking Hitting/Kicking/Spitting/Biting Throwing objects Physical Aggression - Defiance with a Teacher/Threatening the above behaviors Abusive Language Racist/ethnic or sexual in nature Ridiculing/humiliating Harassment/Bullying/Cyber Bullying/Inappropriate/Sexual Gestures/Words (physical exposure) Retaliation/Intimidation/Extortion (Retaliation for being reported, false reporting) Initiating a weapon with intent	- Lying/Stealing - Cheating/Plagiarism	- Stealing - Damaging property/vandalism that costs money to repair/replace or someone to take time to fix - Technology Misuse
1st Incident	2nd Incident	3rd Incident	4th Incident
Removal from area and loss of privilege.	Removal from area and loss of privilege.	Removal from area and loss of privilege.	Removal from area and loss of privilege.
Discuss alternate action/model practice	Discuss alternate action/model practice	Discuss alternate action/model practice	Discuss alternate action/model practice
Opportunity for apology	Opportunity for apology	Opportunity for apology	Opportunity for apology
Two Supervised lunch or recess	Three Supervised lunch or recess	Half day in school suspension including lunch and recess.	One full day in school suspension including lunch and recess.
Problem Solving Worksheet	Problem Solving Worksheet	Problem Solving Worksheet	Problem Solving Worksheet
Meet with child and parent/guardian	Meet with child and parent/guardian and Administrator	Meet with the child, parent/guardian and Administrator and develop a positive behavior plan.	Meet with the child, parent/guardian and Administrator and develop a positive behavior plan.
			Meeting with parents and child before returning to his/her classroom.

- [Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten Behavior Response Rubric](#)
- [1st-2nd Grade Response Rubric](#)
- [3rd-5th Grade Behavior Response Rubric](#)
- [6th-8th Grade Behavior Response Rubric](#)

Innocademy will not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, national origin, color, disability, gender or age. Furthermore, any and all forms of harassment (sexual, emotional, physical) committed against a student or teacher will be dealt with in accordance with Michigan law.

At Innocademy, we have a policy on bullying or intimidation. Acts of this nature are viewed as severe and will be addressed immediately.

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2026 (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies").

Behavior Threat Assessment and Management

Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) Guidelines offer school staff a systematic, team-based approach to assess the risk of violence and address dangerous behavior through an integrated intervention plan. This tool provides documentation of the incident, an assessment of the present threat to the school, and an intervention plan template. The intent of this tool is not to determine whether a threat was made, but rather if the student poses a threat at this moment in time and to reduce the risk that a violent act will be carried out. The primary objective of a threat assessment is to provide help for the student and to ensure positive outcomes for the student and community. This process is most effective when used as one part of a continuum of social,

emotional, and behavioral supports in a school, which focuses on positive school climate and student connectedness (e.g. PBIS).

The BTAM Process is intended to:

- Be used as soon as possible after staff have addressed immediate legal, health, and safety concerns. This process should be started the same day that the threat or dangerous behavior occurs, if possible. If not possible, then the next working day.
- Guide school staff in conducting a thorough assessment of threatening and dangerous behavior when concerns are reported to them.
- Guide decision-making about the need for further action.
- Guide and document decisions regarding potential for violence by considering known principles of risk assessment.

Student Support Services

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

IES utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in order to best support students' learning and social-emotional needs. MTSS is a framework to provide all students with the best opportunities to succeed **academically** and **behaviorally** in school. The principles and practices of an MTSS are based upon what research has shown to be effective in creating successful and sustainable system change and providing the most effective instruction to all students. The MTSS framework includes a variety of programs and supports, including those listed later on this document.

What are the essential components of MTSS?

As defined by MDE, the essential components of MTSS are:

- Team-Based Leadership
- Tiered Delivery System
- Selection and Implementation of Instruction, Interventions and Supports
- Comprehensive Screening & Assessment System
- Continuous Data-Based Decision Making

Data Dig/Intervention Process

All students in grades K-8 are screened three times a year to monitor progress throughout the curriculum. District reading and math assessments and NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are used as assessment tools. The Data Dig process uses the results of these assessments to determine which students may require additional support in reading and math. It is designed for the early identification of students who are struggling in reading and math, and providing targeted instructional interventions with regular progress monitoring. Students are able to move throughout the tiers during the entire school year depending on their current academic needs.

Child Study Team (CST)

The Child Study Team (CST) process was developed to ensure students are provided reasonable accommodations and modifications within the general education setting in order to best support academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth. Any staff member that participates in a student's academic process may recommend a student for the CST process. The team should consider specific areas of concern, including social-emotional concerns, behavioral concerns, and/or academic concerns.

Special Education

In accordance with the Child Find process, IES offers evaluations to children suspected of having a disability that impacts their ability to fully participate in the educational setting (at no charge to families) in order to identify students who may be in need of special education services. IES has a full evaluation team that conducts student evaluations and provides support services to students, teachers, and parents. This team may include the following: teacher consultants/special education resource teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, School Social workers, School Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists. We value partnering with parents and students to develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students who are eligible for special education services. IES offers a wide continuum of programs and services for students who qualify for special education.

Evaluations for Specific Learning Disabilities

Currently, IES uses an evaluative model commonly referred to as "pattern of strengths and weaknesses" (PSW) to determine initial eligibility for a specific learning disability (SLD). The PSW model involves two main components. The first component is to review the student's response to targeted interventions in the general education setting. Prior to considering SLD eligibility, it should be clear that intensive general education interventions were attempted but unsuccessful in correcting the academic delays. The second component is to review existing data and administer assessments in an effort to determine if a pattern of strengths and weaknesses can be identified.

Careportal

The Careportal is an online platform that connects people/organizations who want to help meet the needs of children and families with schools and other organizations who can identify those needs. Innocademy is able to submit a request for a family need through the Careportal, such as a car repair to be able to transport the student to/from school, food, furniture, etc. Please contact your child's classroom teacher to make a request to have a need met.

McKinney-Vento

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law created to support the enrollment and education of homeless students. McKinney-Vento is intended to provide homeless students the same educational opportunities as housed students by removing as many barriers to learning for homeless students as possible. Please contact the McKinney-Vento Liaison, Kristin Frederick, at kristin.frederick@innocademy.com to inquire about eligibility and support.

Title I and Intervention

Title I is a federal aid program for elementary, middle and high schools. Title I money is given to school districts based on the number of low income families in each district. Each district uses its Title I money for extra educational services for children most in need of educational help. The focus of the Title I program is on helping all students meet the same high standards expected of all children, build capacity for parent involvement and provide professional development for building staff. We use the Title I funding to provide academic intervention services.

Substance, Weapon, Search and Seizure

We have a policy for any alcohol, drugs, tobacco and weapons on school grounds. Anything that intends harm or is presumed to commit harm is considered a weapon. Innocademy reserves the right to decide what is and is not considered a weapon. Any student caught with a weapon on campus may be immediately suspended and/or expelled.

If there is reasonable suspicion that a student is in violation of law or school rules, they are subject to a search and/or seizure of their possessions. A search may be conducted with or without a student's consent at any time. Refer to Board Policy #7217, 7434 (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies") for further information.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

To protect instructional time, reduce distractions, and support a safe and focused learning environment, students may not use cell phones or other personal wireless communication devices during the school day. This expectation applies to all students in grades K-8 and includes classrooms, hallways, restrooms, the playground, lunch, assemblies, and other school activities.

Personal devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, earbuds, headphones, gaming devices, and any device capable of calling, texting, messaging, accessing social media, recording, or connecting to the internet.

Students are strongly encouraged to leave personal devices at home. Any device brought to school must be turned off and stored at the front desk from arrival until dismissal. Devices may not be kept on a student's person or accessed without permission. Innocademy is not responsible for devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

Students may use school-owned technology when directed by a staff member for an instructional purpose. Personal devices may be used only when expressly permitted under one of the exceptions listed below.

Exceptions may be made for:

- *A medically necessary device.*
- *A device or accommodation required by a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, or special education program.*
- *A specific academic assignment when directly authorized and supervised by a teacher.*
- *An emergency, consistent with the school's emergency operations plan and the directions of school personnel or first responders.*
- *Another instructional or safety-related purpose approved by school administration.*

Families who need to contact a student during the school day should contact the school office. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian may do so through the office.

Violations

A student who uses, displays, or possesses an accessible device in violation of this policy will be directed to surrender it to a staff member. Consequences may include:

The device is held by a staff member and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

For repeated violations, the device is held in the office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian.

Continued or serious violations may result in additional disciplinary action and a requirement that the device remain at home.

Refusal to surrender a device, using a device to photograph or record others without permission, cyberbullying, academic dishonesty, or other unsafe or inappropriate use may result in additional consequences under the Student Code of Conduct- Rubric.

Valuables/Toys

Students are encouraged not to bring valuable items to school. Innocademy is not responsible for their safekeeping. We are not liable for loss or damage to valuables such as jewelry, clothing, electronic devices, and other valuables not listed. Students are allowed to bring toys/stuffed animals to school, but only for use during recess. During learning times toys and stuffed animals must be kept inside of your child's backpack inside of their lockers. If student use during class becomes an issue, it is up to the classroom teacher to decide whether they will be allowed at school or not. Backpacks should remain in their lockers/cubbies throughout the school day.

Electronic Device Usage Policy and Acceptable Use Policy

Innocademy is grateful to have access to iPads, laptops and other electronic devices for each student. Board Policy 7540 (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies") outlines our acceptable use policy in detail. Damaged technology will be assessed for fees on a case-by-case basis for misuse versus accident. Each of our classrooms utilizes technology as a tool to encourage innovation in our students' learning. Younger age groups have access to iPad sets. Tech involvement scaffolds up to our oldest friends who have the opportunity to participate in a 1 to 1 Chromebook program. We're always working to expand our tech

offerings and teach students how to use devices responsibly. Please see our [Parent & Student Technology Handbook](#) for more information.

Student Fees and Charges

Innocademy, on occasion, charges specific fees for field trips, non-curricular activities and programs. Such fees cover the cost of activities. Teachers will be the primary communicators around these class related fees. Students can be fined for excessive wear, damage, or any abuse/neglect to property and equipment. Late fines for Inno library books can be avoided by returning borrowed materials promptly.

Daily Schedule

8:20 AM - Supervised morning recess *please note students may not be dropped off before this time as there are no staff available until this time.

8:45 - Instruction begins

12:15-12:35 - Lunch for younger friends (TK-2) & recess for older friends (3-8)

12:35-12:55 - Recess for younger friends (TK-2) & lunch for older friends (3-8)

12:55 - Classes resume

3:30 PM - School dismissed

Recess

Just a reminder that we go outside EVERY day at school for recess unless:

- Lightning has been spotted in the past 30 minutes
- Tornado watch/warning is in effect
- “Feels like” temps read 0° or below
- “Feels like” temps read 100° or above.

The only time students are allowed to stay inside is if they have been invited to do so by a teacher. When appropriate, students should be bringing LABELED gloves, hats, boots and snow pants so that they are able to enjoy the outdoors. We encourage families to check the daily weather forecast to prepare for the day accordingly.

Daily Planners

Many classes utilize a daily planner. A planner is where students write either what they are learning throughout their day and/or homework they need to remember to do. This can be a great springboard for discussion as well as a communication tool with your child’s teacher or child.

Just Right Level Library

Engagement with our JRL is scaffolded as students grow and learn.

Youngest students visit our JRL (Just Right Library) daily with their individual book bag. These bags have books that are at your child’s just right reading level and fit their interests. Depending on the age level, the bag may also include a log to record their experience with their book. They will come home with these book bags every night to read to you. You will then sign their slip, tuck everything back in the bag, and return it the next school day.

Older students have the opportunity to visit our JRL throughout the week or as they are ready for a new book to explore. We encourage students to follow their interests while also reaching out of their comfort zone, including non-fiction texts.

If you are finding that they are becoming frustrated with a book, please connect with your child's teacher so that we can work with them to select something more appropriate.

If your child's JRL book becomes lost or damaged, please know there is a replacement cost that will be incurred to ensure our library stays well stocked.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."
— Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Lunch, Snacks, & Drinks

Research tells us that when we are dehydrated, even a little, it can affect our focus, productivity and overall health. PLEASE send a water bottle (labeled with your student's name) to school with them and encourage them to drink often. **We do ask, however, that you do not send juices, milk, or energy drinks in the water bottles. Additionally, caffeine is not permitted on campus for kids to consume.** Even those purchasing from Re:fuel will only be given caffeine-free options. Teachers are noticing a big issue in students who come to school drinking these sugary, caffeinated beverages. While they are fun treats once in a while, they are not a good substitute for water and do not give our bodies what they need like water is proven to do. We do offer a time for everyone to eat a healthy snack brought from home to help them get through the day.

Families can always choose to bring lunch from home or order lunch from school. **Microwaves and refrigerators are not available, so please use an appropriate container if you wish to keep your child's lunch hot or cold. Please also remember to pack any utensils necessary.**

Holland Christian Schools Food Service is our lunch provider. Students are given two or three lunch choices daily. Monthly lunch menus are available on our school newsletter sent weekly.

All Innocademy students will be able to receive a free daily breakfast and lunch at school. For future years, should we need to apply for Free and Reduced Meals, visit <https://hollandchristian.familyportal.cloud/>.

In order to pay for hot lunch, you may send checks, cash, or pay online. If you send a check, please make it payable to "Holland Christian Schools" as they are the ones to provide us with lunch services. There is an online option for hot lunch payment through [this site](#). With many students, we want to make certain that any money you send to school gets credited to your student/family. Please, when sending any money to school for anything, we ask that you:

- Place it in an envelope labeled with your student's name
- Record the amount enclosed

- Note the purpose of the payment (ex: hot lunch) **Precademy & Hot Lunch drop boxes are located behind the front desk

Breakfast and lunch will be free. Extra slice of pizza for middle schoolers is \$1.50. If a student wants milk only (with no lunch) the cost is 50 cents.

ALLERGY ALERT: We do have students with severe nut allergies. Please do not include nuts or nut products in snacks or lunches. Out of a concern for allergies and limiting the spread of germs, we ask students to not share lunch or snack items.

Grades

Students are regularly being assessed for progress. Teachers are always able to meet with parents and discuss specific students. Report cards are a formal communication of that progress at the end of each semester in January & in June. Every student receives a report card indicating their mastery level of essential Common Core Standards adopted by 41 states: Exceeding, Meeting, Progressing, or Concern. Meeting means they are at grade level. Progressing means a student is showing growth in the area towards being at grade level. Concern means the student is now showing much growth or is below grade level and/or needs a lot of support. **At the middle school level, parents are expected to check their students' google classroom to see their students' grades. We highly suggest checking weekly or at least bi-weekly.**

Middle school students have grades and progress reported on Google Classroom bi-weekly. This is accessible 24 hours a day beginning in the second month of school. Please help your child learn how to check their grades on a regular basis in efforts to stay on top of their academic progress. If you have any questions about their grade please reach out to their classroom teacher.

Homework

Homework expectations vary by age level. We expect that students will read each night for a minimum of 15-30 minutes depending on the age of your child. **Please look (or ask) for specific information from your child's teacher.**

When homework is assigned, it is the expectation it will be completed and turned in the next school day unless otherwise stated. In the event that your student does not bring his/her homework back to school, recess time may be used to complete work. This is because homework does provide the teacher with what the student knows or does not know and uses this to inform instruction. A meeting by the teacher with parent/student will be requested if the student shows a pattern of missed homework. For our students in middle school, homework will most likely be more than just reading and math as they are engaged in more rigorous content with more responsibility placed on them to be an independent learner. Students can access this via their google classroom and/or weekly spreadsheets from their teacher.

Staff Connections

What if I Have a Question For My Child's Teacher?

Please do not ever hesitate to ask a question of any of your child's teachers. We are here to listen and help! Some parents feel like they need to "save up" their questions for a parent/teacher conference time. No need! We would prefer to answer questions and work with you regarding your child's learning as soon as things come up throughout the year. As always, thanks for your partnership.

Please check with your classroom teacher for his/her preferred method of classroom communication. Please be mindful of the time you are sending a message or email; staff have families too.

Staff emails can be located at the top of this document. We make every effort to reply to emails within 24 hours during the school week. Bloomz codes will be provided by classroom teachers.

Another method to communicate with your child's teacher is to have an in-person meeting. These are highly valuable but need to be scheduled ahead of time with your child's teacher. This ensures that everyone's time is honored and there is enough time for meaningful uninterrupted conversation. **Please note: teachers are not available before school, during or after school day of unless you have scheduled a time beforehand.**

Please keep in mind that our entire staff gathers every Monday for a 4:00 pm-5 pm school-wide meeting therefore Mondays are not good days for staff to meet after school. Thank you in advance for scheduling connections around those crucial times.

Student-Led Conferences

Student-led conferences provide an opportunity for your child to share their goals and evidence of growth toward those goals with you as their parent/guardian. Conferences are focused on the whole child and include academic, social and emotional achievements and concerns. Conferences are held twice a year (October & March). We expect 100% student attendance at conferences with a parent or guardian. As always, teachers are available to discuss your child at any time throughout the year in addition to conferences. For our first conference this year, your child will take 5 minutes to share their goals with you, and the last 10 minutes will be used to speak with just the teacher and parents while your child completes another activity.

Student Records

Parents must notify the staff at the front desk and classroom teacher of plans to transfer their child to another school. Transfer will be authorized after the parent/student has completed the paperwork, returned school materials, and paid any fee or fines that are due. School records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Access to students' records is protected by FERPA and Michigan law. Please see the Board Policy 2416 (<https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/innocademy/Board.nsf/Public> Click on "Policies") for specific details. Parents may request a copy of their student's file, but all original paperwork will be transferred from school to school via secure methods. If requesting records please contact Kate Mathe at kathryn.mathe@iesschools.org

Dress Code

In order to create an optimal learning environment, it is important that students are dressed appropriately for the school activities planned each day. Warm weather dress could include shorts and T-shirts and should be comfortable and appropriate. Cold weather dress should be warm and appropriate for outdoor learning and play.

If necessary, students will be removed from the classroom setting until appropriate attire can be obtained. It may be necessary to contact parents to assist with finding alternative attire for the child to return to class. Our rubric outlines what consequences are received for repeated dress code incidents based on grade level.

Please refer to the specific guidelines below:

- **Appropriate for warm weather play may include:** Shorts, T-shirts, dresses or skirts with shorts underneath that are easy to move around in and are comfortable.
- **Appropriate for cold weather play includes:** Coats, boots, mittens, hats, and snowpants. They should keep students warm and comfortable.
- **Shoes must be worn in school at all times.** The health department says no bare feet or stocking feet are allowed. School slippers may be brought in from home.
- **Shirts, shorts, pants, and dresses** must be modest and cover what they are supposed to cover. A good rule of thumb is: no bums or tums. Additionally, your shorts must be visible beneath your shirt.
 - **Tops, shirts, and dresses** must have a modest neckline and coverage with no visible cleavage and be long enough so there is no visible midriff.
 - **Bottoms, pants, skirts, and shorts** must be modest in length, within a couple inches of mid-thigh, and worn so that undergarments are not visible. (When shopping, 5-inch inseam or longer is a good guideline)
- **Headphones/earbuds/AirPods** are not permitted. However, depending on class activity, teacher discretion may permit the use of headphones when needed with cord only that connects to the computer (no bluetooth).
- **Hats and hoods** may be worn based on teacher discretion because they may lead to distraction.
- **Clothing or accessories depicting alcohol, tobacco, sexual, or offensive language are prohibited. Clothing or accessories that can be considered political or divisive in nature are not allowed.**

These guidelines will be upheld by all staff, and as with any behavior in the classroom, decisions are made at the teacher's discretion.

Wheeled Items

Students are permitted to ride bikes to school, with parent permission and a helmet. Bike racks are available at the front of the school, but locks must be provided by families, if desired. Bikes may not be used during recess as there is not adequate supervision during this time. Students may no longer bring scooters, skateboards, ripsticks, or rollerblades to school for use during recess unless a teacher/staff uses it as a classroom reward. ***The following items are never permitted at school: hoverboards and heelys (wheeled shoes).***

Birthdays

If you are planning a birthday party for your student and wish to invite students from school, we ask that you please reach out to those students from your home rather than sending party invitations to school. As you can imagine, we have lots of hurt feelings when invitations get passed out to some students, but not others. Thanks so much for your understanding and support!

Birthday treats are welcome, but not required. If a student would like to pass something out to their classmates, they must have enough for everyone in the class. Please note that this will be given out at the end of the day to each student to take home. If it is a food item, it must be individually packaged as we have students with dietary or allergy needs.

Lost and Found

A collection of misplaced items can be found downstairs in the front lobby area. Middle school also has a lost and found that can be seen just outside the upstairs library, and is emptied downstairs monthly. Pictures are periodically posted on the Innocademy Parents Facebook page before any unclaimed items are donated to local charities.

Before School and/or After School Opportunities

There will be a couple of choices for students to choose from for either fall, winter or spring that happen either before school or after school once a week or at teacher discretion. This is on a first come first serve basis and might have a cost to them to help pay for supplies needed. Some of these opportunities include Girls on the Run, TTQ, gardening and board games. More information will be sent out each term with contact information should your child be interested. If it is an after school opportunity, your student must be picked up on time. Should they not be picked up on time, your student may be removed from the opportunity.

Tornado, Fire and Shelter in Place (Lockdown) Drills

In compliance with safety requirements designated by the State of Michigan, we will hold 5 fire drills, 2 tornado drills, and 3 shelter in place drills throughout the year. Every effort will be made to help students understand their importance in a calm and non-threatening way. We want to make the drills routine for the students and staff so that should an actual emergency arise, our actions are automatic in terms of where to go and what to do. When practicing our shelter in place drills we usually have the help of our police liaison. During the drill he, along with other staff members walk through the school. After the drill, our Officer Liaison meets with our emergency team to talk through the drill and make any suggestions regarding necessary changes. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Jessenia at jessenia.olmeda@innocademy.com.

School Closings and Delays

Please be aware that if school is delayed/canceled due to weather conditions, Innocademy will place notifications on Channel 8, Channel 13, Facebook as well as send out an email to your family. We generally follow ZPS closings. If we post that there is a "Two Hour Delay," it means that Innocademy will begin school at 10:45 am instead of 8:45 am. In this case, school will operate like normal including regular lunch and dismissal times.

Visiting Innocademy

All visitors are required to sign in at the front desk and wear a visitor badge. We love having visitors that help us foster independence in our students and model our school expectations of responsibility, respect, resilience, and safety. Since visits to the classroom are often distracting to the learning environment, they need to be pre-arranged with your child's teacher with a purposeful visit that has been planned with the teacher.

For everyone's safety, our doors are locked each day. If you are volunteering at Innocademy for any length of time, please make certain to check in at the front desk. We also ask that you do not open the door for anyone or hold it open for someone. All people should ring the bell to be let in at the front door. Thank you for your help in ensuring we are all safe! Visitors are asked to be mindful of our learning environment while in the building between the hours of 8:45 and 3:30 as our building is very open. We ask that we definitely use our inside voices.

If you know of a family or organization that would like to tour Innocademy, please contact Leisa.Lobbezoo@innocademy.com.

Volunteering & Family Engagement

We deeply value each of our parents' skills and passions and encourage each to share them with our staff and students to continue building a positive, collaborative, and smarter community! Please bring your state ID with you as you will need to sign in using it.

Volunteering Time and/or Talents

We will ask each family to complete a survey listing talents and interests so that we can best match you and your valuable offerings to the projects, activities and teams that are a critical part of what we can offer to students.

In order to volunteer, every family member will need a completed background check on file. It is imperative that we have this information from every single person that would like to volunteer. This includes field trips and/or helping with activities during the school day. Please stop by the front desk to fill out this background check form. **If you would like to volunteer please reach out to sr.engagement@innocademy.com.**

Weekly Newsletter Update/Email List

The weekly newsletter is sent out via email at the end of the school week. Please sign up for email updates by contacting Leisa Lobbezoo at leisa.lobbezoo@innocademy.com.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this information!

This guide can always be found under the "Parents" heading on our [website](#).