

# Issaquah Middle School

400 1<sup>st</sup> AVE SE  
Issaquah, WA 98027  
Phone: (425) 837-6800  
www.ims.issaquah.wednet.edu

Principal: Corrine DeRosa  
Assistant Principal: Jason Morse

March 31, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the coming weeks, your child will be preparing for our 8th grade culminating activity at IMS. In the past, this program has been called Spring Forum, but as educational philosophies and today's students are changing, the 8th grade team feels it is time for this program to do some changing as well.

Panther Passage is an opportunity for 8th grade students to reflect upon their total middle school experience before they move on to high school. It is, in one sense, a culmination of their middle school career. Each student will present for 20 minutes his/her Passage Portfolio to two community members. This presentation will include self-chosen examples of your son/daughter's academic work, accomplishments in sports or the fine arts, and achievements in personal hobbies or interests, plus an explanation of how she/he has grown from these experiences. Students will reflect on what they have learned about themselves over the past three years. The Panther Passage presentation will not be graded; however, it is a requirement for promotion. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to participate.

Because this presentation is personal in nature, preparation for Panther Passage will be unique to each individual. Your child will choose to format their presentation in a way that best fits him/her. As a result, the preparation process will rest solely on the shoulders of your child. In the weeks prior to presentations beginning, IMS will be offering "coaching sessions" after school, where students who need extra help can work with an 8th grade teacher, Ms. Holly Hosley, and parent volunteer on their presentation. In addition to these sessions, students can always ask any of their 8th grade teachers for assistance.

We have another request to ask of you! We need validators, or members of our IMS community who listen to the students' presentations. If you are able to be a validator, please sign up by going to our IMS website and clicking on Panther Passage. There you can find the "Validator Sign-up" page. Many community members, including business owners, parents, and grandparents, have noted that as validators, they gained wonderful insights into what's happening in our classrooms.

Thank you for supporting your child throughout her/his years at IMS and for helping in the preparation for Panther Passage!

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Team

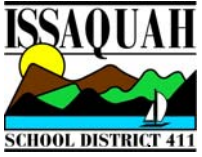
Panther Passage presentations will begin the week of May 19, 2008. Your son/daughter's scheduled date and time are attached. Please sign and return the following page verifying that you have received the Panther Passage parent letter and materials.

My Panther Passage Presentation is scheduled for:

Presentation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Students are responsible for making sure they are prepared to present on the date listed above. They are responsible for having any necessary materials at school on their presentation date. **Scheduled dates and times will not be changed due to lack of preparation or materials being available at school.**



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**Please sign and return to SSR teacher.**

**Returned signatures are due on April 18, 2008.**

**We have received the Panther Passage letter, presentation date and time, and materials to guide us in preparing for the Panther Passage Presentation. We understand that Panther Passage is a requirement for Promotion.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_