

Independence District



Newsletter

Spring 2017

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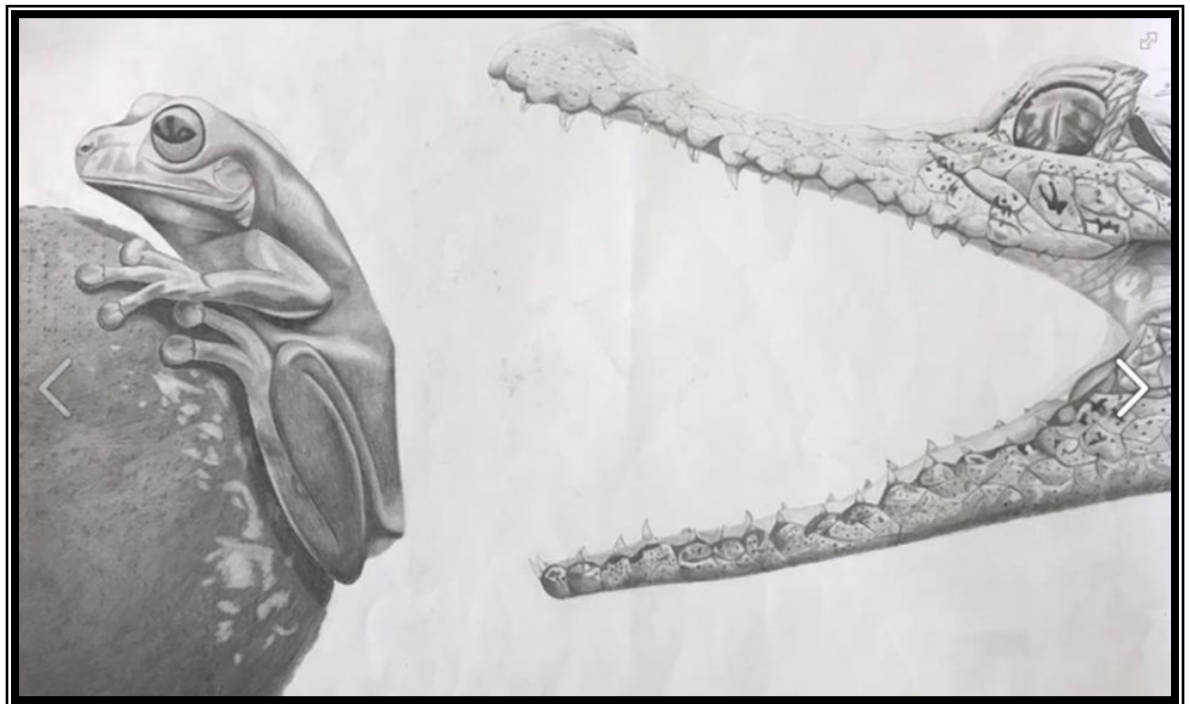
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Famous Indee Artwork



Hailey Skroch, daughter of Dale and Denise Skroch, created this pencil drawing for her 2-D Studio Art animal drawing assignment. Hailey is a senior and is planning to pursue her passion for art in her college studies. You can view more of Hailey's art and the rest of the Indee students' work on our Facebook page: [IndependenceK12art](https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceK12art).



MAIN OFFICE: (715)985-3172

CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE! WWW.INDPS.K12.WI.US

From the Desk of Mr. Schmitt

Trempealeau Valley Co-op 2.0



As we roll into February and feel spring approaching, it becomes time to begin planning for the next school year. With that comes the scheduling process and for next year our high school students will have even more options at the local level than in the past. This is due to the formation of Trempealeau Valley Co-op 2.0. Some of our alumni may remember and participated in the Trempealeau Valley Consortium which started in the early 1970's with shared programming in the areas of vocational education and special education. That co-op was in place until the early 2000's.

Talks about re-establishing these efforts began last year and in the spring of 2016, the Superintendents of the Arcadia, Blair-Taylor, Independence and Whitehall School Districts came



together to re-establish the highly successful co-op that had previously served our communities so well for the better part of 30 years. This work has led to, with unanimous support of each local Board of Education, shared high

school courses primarily in the vocational education areas beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

The Independence School District will be sharing classes with the Blair-Taylor, Arcadia, and Whitehall School District beginning in the 2017-18 school year. The sophomores and juniors from all four districts met in December to preview upper level course offerings in the Career and Technical Education field. In early January, all of the students who expressed interest in attending a program at another school were given tours of the other school's facilities.

The classes that are being offered in Arcadia next year include: Advanced Automotive, Health Science, Finance, Administrative Assistant, Agronomy, and Food Processing.



The classes being offered in Blair-Taylor next year include: Environmental Science, Early Childhood, Advanced Welding, and Accounting II. The classes being offered in Independence next year include: Tractor Restoration, Business, and Small

Engines. The classes being offered in Whitehall next year include: Animal Science, Marketing, Culinary Arts, and Construction.

This cooperation is a great opportunity for Independence students. We have not been able to give students many of these choices simply because we have either not had the program, staff, or numbers of students interested to offer them in-house. For example, we currently do not have a Family/Consumer Education program (FCE) like the other three schools. We only have one teacher to teach both agriculture and technical education and our business education teacher has responsibilities that range from early elementary through high school. These teachers do not have enough time in their schedules to offer such a wide variety of classes as being offered through TVC 2.0.

Although the cooperation between the superintendents and school boards has been positive and productive, each District has different strengths, demographics, and challenges. It is obvious that Independence currently doesn't have the scope of classes to offer that the other three District's do. Therefore, procedures are currently being discussed so everyone contributes equally, whether it be



through staffing, students, or monetarily. Some other obvious guidelines are that students in the hosting District will get first opportunity at the courses being offered in that District and then it is likely seniors from other Districts will get the next opportunities if classes are not full.

Discussions are now focusing on how to recruit and retain teachers in the shortage areas of technical education, mathematics, science, and business education. This may also mean that newly hired teachers may be teaching classes in different districts or students from different districts. It is also hopeful that Advanced Placement classes in numerous subject areas will also be made available to students from all the Districts as most Districts have dropped these classes due to low enrollment numbers in the courses. The ability of all four schools to attract students for these classes should allow them to run.

Why are the four schools doing this? Quite simply, to provide more opportunities for our students than a single small school can offer. We will reduce duplication of services while providing more resources to furnish special equipment and spaces for specific programs. The schools are also working on partnering with local businesses, because we know we need their support to offer these opportunities.



This is an exciting time locally in education as we work to bring back a concept that worked well in the past. Just as the Independence School District has progressed to a collaborative culture internally with the implementation of

a Professional Learning Community, these concepts are being broadened with the same goal in mind; which is to increase student achievement through best instructional practices by highly qualified teachers. Welcome back Trempealeau Valley Co-op!

Barry Schmitt

District Administrator/9-12 Principal

Vanderloop Scoop



Be Present

These two words can mean so much to the impact we can make with our students. From the surface, these two words can mean we want our students to be at school each and every day. Our staff continues to dedicate themselves to their students. They are writing lesson plans that take a class on an exploration of learning. Many times what they teach on Monday is used to help students understand the next step taught on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It is much like a road map where one missed direction can cause more confusion, and a longer alternate route to get back on the correct path. Or a recipe where a step is missed and the outcome is never as good as if all the steps were followed. Believe me, I can speak from experience, I have burnt my fair share of brownies for missing a step in the process. I think you get the point.

Our district is seeing a growing concern with the amount of student absences. We understand when students are ill and cannot make it to school. This is expected at some point during the school year, and for illnesses like the flu, it is best students are not around others and rest up to give their best when healthy. Our concern is the growing number of students who arrive late to school (tardy), miss school without a phone call notification (unexcused), or phone calls are made but the number of absences are too high (truant). Our district follows state statutes and students are allowed to be excused from school for ten days or less per semester. Being tardy from school for only five minutes counts as one of those days. Students who are not at school without a phone call (unexcused) are only allowed to miss five days or less per year. Once students reach one of those marks, the school has the right to call a truancy meeting and potentially refer the family to our county

juvenile intake office. We understand this does not promote collaboration between the home and school, but may be necessary when students are not coming to school. We need to find the root cause and seek a resolution that allows the student to *be present*.

Be present in all things and thankful for all things. - Maya Angelou

As we dig a bit deeper into those two important words, the ability to *be present* means students not only need to be in school physically, but mentally as well. Have you ever watched a television show where you just “zoned out” and before you knew it, the show was over and you couldn’t remember what took place? This is a very passive approach to life and we are seeing students take this approach to their education. They are wasting their days in school, and allowing opportunities to slip away. Each day they do this they slip further and further away from the correct path. Our school district wants to stop this unsettling trend. We want students to physically *be present*, but also mentally *be present*. We want our

Be present

students to be engaged in class, try their best, and take risks. We are here to support them. Our district is learning new ways to engage students throughout their day. Mr. Schmitt has incorporated a “zero tardies in Independence”

to boost attendance at the start and throughout the school day. It seems to be making a difference as many middle and high school grade levels are reaping the benefits. It is something little, but it is making a difference. We have also read and have access to professionals who share teaching strategies that allow students to *be present*.

In all good partnerships, we need to rely and support each other. We need a common vision to define our success. If we can, together, support our students to *be present* each and every day, we will show them how far their success

can take them. We need to wrap our arms around this vision and help our students maximize their learning as they prepare for tomorrow’s opportunities.

Parents and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)

There are great things happening in our district thanks to the collaborative focus we have worked so hard to develop. For example:

- **Teachers** are focused on collaboratively identifying key learning targets, building strong assessments, and responding to individual student learning needs.
- Our **school board** has worked with our administration and teachers to develop a strong mission and vision to guide our work.
- Our **neighboring schools** are working with us to provide more opportunities for all of our students.
- Our **administration** has attended numerous **community** club meetings to share news and collect feedback.

Parents, we want to be sure we maximize your ability and interest in contributing to our school community. We are better when we work together on *all* parts of your child’s education.

One unique opportunity we would like you to consider is being a Parent Member of our PBIS team(s). This commitment means your participation in a 30 minute, once a month meeting from 4:00-4:30 for the rest of this school year, and into future years if you wish. You would be part of a team that makes decisions related to our behavior system that supports student learning.

Please contact Dawn Woychik if interested at 715-985-3172 Ext. #111 or woychikd@indps.k12.wi.us

You are always welcome to contact us with your ideas about how you can become more involved in your child’s education.

Bullying. It starts with us.

Are you doing everything you can to not raise a bully?

If someone disagrees with you are you unkind to them? To their face, behind their back, or behind the computer screen?

Do you model how to treat people? Or can they see you mock people or leave mean or negative comments on social media when you disagree with someone?

Are you creating relationships with them where they feel they can come to you with the complicated stuff, difficult stuff, embarrassing stuff, and will we listen? Really listen?

Do we put too much pressure on our children to be perfect? Are we paying attention to their emotions, feelings, thoughts? Are we paying attention or are we too busy? Are we teaching them that compassion and strength aren't opposites but work well together?

Are we providing a peaceful home with love and security? Where our kids have a safe place to fall? Where they belong?

Are we teaching our kids to stand up for people? Are they seeing us stand up for people?

Are we encouraging their strengths and interests even if it isn't what we're passionate about?

As parents, we took on a huge responsibility. Let's take that responsibility seriously and raise them into a kind, strong person.

It all starts with us.

Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network Enrichment Update

5th Grade Performing Arts

In recent weeks we have had a handful of student participate in a couple of enrichment events. Our 5th graders participated in the Performing Arts Event held at CESA 4 in West Salem, WI on February 6, 2017. These participants were chosen from all interested 5th graders here at Independence back in December, but because of inclement weather we had to re-schedule their regional event to February. The following groups were selected to attend:

- Adi Pronschinske and Jasmine Montalvo — "Time Out"
- Kaylee Pronschinske and Sophia Walentine — "Hot Chocolate Shop"
- Jayden Matchey and Taylor Lambright — "The Phone Call"



Addison Pronschinske, Jasmine Montalvo, Taylor Lambright, Jayden Matchey, Kaylee Pronschinske, and Sophia Walentine.

At the event the groups presented their skits and were critiqued by judges, they also heard comments from their peers on what they liked about their performance. That afternoon they were involved with a storytelling activity presented by Sara Slayton. Ms. Slayton is a storyteller with a local group out of La Crosse and she explained to the students how to become a better storyteller and had the students participate in storytelling activities.

Virtual Vocabulary Challenge

On February 7, 2017, six students took part in a virtual vocabulary challenge. Alexis Dahl Abramczak, Emerson Pronschinske, and Kevin Halvorson form one team, while Cora Sonsalla, Marce Rebolledo, and Kylo Wright were team two. They were selected by their performance on a quiz given to all those that were interested. On the day of the competition they were greeted by a virtual host from a different school and used the online platform of Nearpod to answer the questions about different vocabulary words. These students had to understand a variety of things about words including synonyms and antonyms, roots, definitions as well as relate an image to a list of words. The students had a great time competing against other schools and Team 1 finished tied for third place and Team 2 finished 5th out of eleven other teams. Great job!



Upcoming Events

Upcoming events include the Rebel Spelling Bee held in Westby on March 28. We will have our local spelling bee March 17th. The 4th graders will begin to start work on their Heritage Fair projects as the regional fair will be on April 20th and we will conclude the year with Battle of the Books events and Kids College.

Melissa Pientok
Enrichment Coordinator

Media Literacy and Fake News

Can you tell the difference between what real news is and what is "fake news"? In the era of "fake news" that has been brought to the forefront of many media outlets and spurred by the recent presidential election, many students and parents alike are having a difficult time recognizing what is real and what is fake. As we

come across more and more fake news articles it is becoming more important that our students are equipped with the knowledge to critically evaluate online content to be able to make the decision about the credibility of an online article.

The National Council for Social Studies states that it is important for students to "ask key questions, compare competing claims, assess credibility, and reflect on one's own process of reasoning" when reading a book, an online article or even a Facebook post. The first step is making sure that both students and teachers have an effective framework for evaluating the credibility of information that they counter, says Lawrence Paska, the executive director for the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). A set of questions that each should ask when reading any content include: Who paid for this? When was it made? Who might benefit? What is left out of this message that might be important to know? How was this shared with the public?

Students will learn to become more critical consumers of online content as they perform more research, plan and make their own media messages according to the NCSS. Several Universities state that students need to learn and practice the skills that are needed to evaluate digital media. One suggested example is to have students include a short written description about why a source was selected and why they determined this source to be credible when writing up a reference list. Also students should be taught to differentiate between "verified" and "unverified" accounts on social media, as well as, looking closely for dates and authors of articles on the different posts they read.

While there is a rise of misleading news, the internet offers the ability to dig deeper and fact check any information one reads online. Using sources such as FactCheck.org can help with your research on whether or not an article or a post is fake or not.

Teachers can also use resources such as Digital Resource Center, <http://drc.centerfornewsliteracy.org/>, and Media Literacy Clearinghouse, <http://frankwbaker.com/mlc/teaching-standards/>, as a resource when teaching how to distinguish credible online content in their classes.

credible Staying abreast of a credible new resource is always a difficult task but in order for students to make informed decisions it is important to distinguish between what is a credible site or article and what is not.

Melissa Pientok
Technology Integration Specialist

Education Weekly, "Fake News, Bogus Tweets Raise Stakes for Media Literacy. December 8, 2016.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.indps.k12.wi.us is the web address for our dynamic website which is changing and evolving. We are hoping to make our website a 1 stop place where parents find information on school, school events, forms, the school calendar, lunch menu, and more. Where students find resources. And where anyone can go to find information on our district, where you can access our community link and find information on our Indee Booster Club, the Fitness Center, a link to our Volunteer page, current and past newsletters, School Board minutes, videos, and more.

Clipart Sources Throughout Newsletter
<http://www.google.com>



Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund

The purpose of the Independence Memorial Scholarship Fund is to support and encourage students to continue their education by granting yearly scholarship awards.

The Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship is a fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation.



DONATE TODAY >>>

Send your donations to Eau Claire Community Foundation, 306 S. Barstow St. Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701 or donate online at www.indps.k12.wi.us, the School District of Independence. Please note the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund on your check.

Everyone, Every Day

USE OF OUR SCHOOL

The following are Adult/Community Opportunities to use our school:

- Walking and community exercise 5:45am – 10:00pm
- Meeting Areas/Rooms available on request by calling the office
- Athletic facilities can be reserved by filling a Facilities Request form available from the office.
- Weight room with a membership (see Patti Klimek in Student Services).

Ashley for the Arts Donation

On Thursday, January 26th, Kris Gengler representing one of Wisconsin's largest charity events, Ashley for the Arts, provided a check to our school and the Humanitarian Award to a deserving recipient.

This past year, more than 35,000 people attended Ashley for the Arts; raising more than \$300,000 for 25 different charities including 17 participating schools. The Independence School District provided volunteers for over 180 different positions to help make the event possible along with 4 talented choir members who performed on Saturday. For our efforts, each volunteer received a t-shirt and admission wristband to the event. They also raised \$11,000 for our school this year. We would like to thank Ashley for the Arts and all the generous volunteers for this tremendous accomplishment.

Ashley for the Arts also has an award that they call the Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to help make their community a better place. This year's recipient from Independence is a retired school teacher with an outstanding career in education. She currently spends her time volunteering within the SSPP parish, the Legion Auxiliary, and in our school library. Her contribution to our school is a testament to her life-long desire to make a difference in the lives of children. This year's Ashley for the Arts Humanitarian Award recipient is Jane Matchey. Thank you for your time and efforts Jane.



Kris Gengler of Ashley Furniture, Bethany Skroch, Cassidy Kabus, Hannah Halama, and Jonathan Warner.

Jane Matchey with Kris Gengler



Photo credits to Cindy Bautch



Middle School and High School Booster

Our middle and high school students and staff reviewed our behavior expectations in early January which are about improving the learning environment for all. Although our priorities are always building a respectful, safe, and responsible school, we look very closely at our data in these areas and drill down to identify specific areas that we can improve on. Two areas that we know we need to emphasize are: 1) getting to school classes on time and 2) improving respect.

Our Advisory Time groups met for several days to discuss our expectations and then we had some fun with a whole school assembly. Each Advisory Time group was invited to do a lip sync to a song that had some connection back to our PBIS work. The students and staff provided some great entertainment and a fun way to emphasize the important work we do here to create a strong learning environment.



Mr. Hovell and the juniors were entertaining.



7th Grade proved to bring the largest group.



Some freshmen girls bravely stepped on stage.



The Staff were entertaining as well.

Escaping Silence Opens for Sadie Hawkins Dance

On February 4th, the student council hosted the winter dance. This year the first two hours featured the band Escaping Silence which includes bass player and Indee senior Colton Bork. Students were treated to a variety of alternative and rock tunes from the 80s to today. The evening was completed with DJ (and elementary principal) Rob Vanderloop.



Harvest Home Farm

Dr. Larry Guthrie from Harvest Home Farm came to the Agriscience class and demonstrated some of the Anatomy & Physiology marvels found in the body system of poultry. Go to www.harvesthomefarm.org to learn more about their educational opportunities and ministries!



100th Day of School



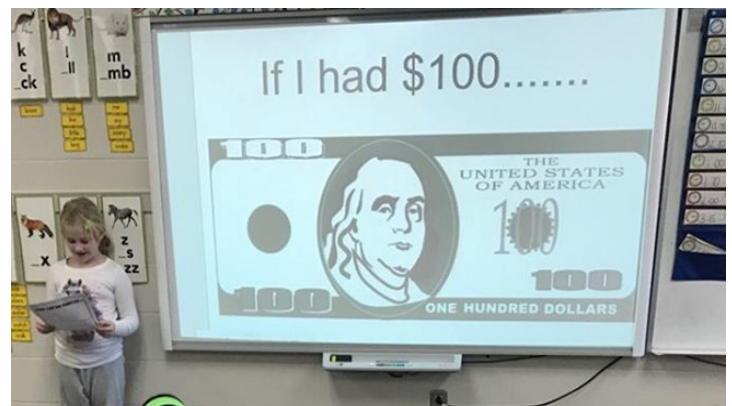
Elementary teachers sporting their 100th day T-shirts.



1st graders make 100 with their bodies.



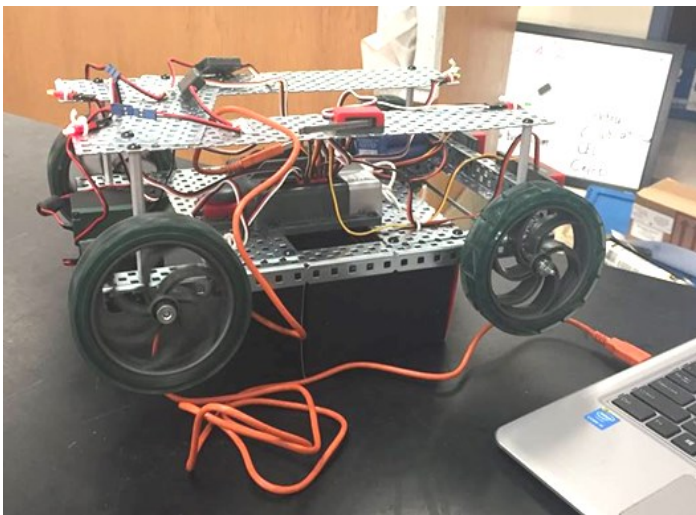
3rd graders with their 100 Lego challenge. They had to build something with 100 Legos in 10 minutes.



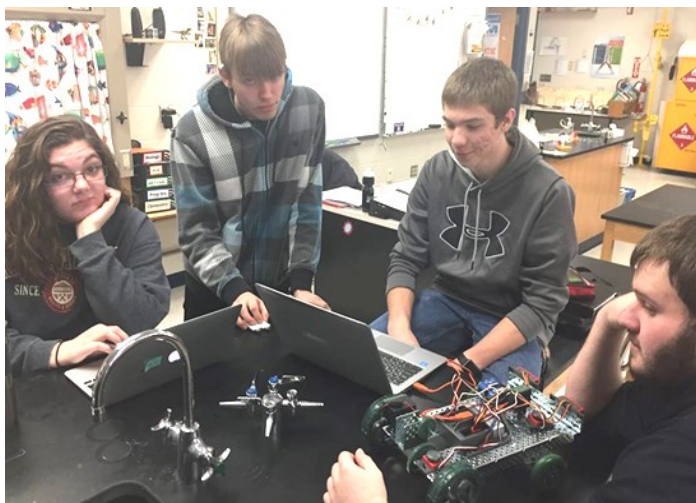
1st grader Evelyn Suchla talking about what she would do if she had \$100.

Principles of Engineering Class

Students in our Principles of Engineering (POE) class as part of Project Lead the Way are working on their first robotics challenge. They were either assigned a design challenge or developed one on their own and then designed a robot to complete their challenge.



Students wrote a code to program a robot to move on its own.



Morgan Becker, Colton Bork, Joseph Pyka, and Austin Matchey in Principles of Engineering Class.

2nd Grade Reading IEB

In Mrs. Halama's Reading IEB, the 2nd graders read the Adventures of Erik. Erik is blind and was encouraged at a very young age to try everything. Some of the things Erik tried were riding a bike, hiking mountains, river rafting and more. The 2nd graders tried their own adventure. They walked the elementary halls guided by Mrs. Halama's voice and they got dressed in the dark. We had a lot of mismatched outfits with shirts put on inside out as shown with Justin Jua-rez Delgado..



Did you Know?

Did you ever find yourself not being able to attend a concert or event that one of your family members are a part of? Well, don't miss another event! Many of the events, including concerts, special presentations and graduation, are live streamed using the school's Polycom camera. On the day of the event, log into the school's website (www.indps.k12.wi.us) and on the left side of the page there is a link called Indee TV Live. If you are not available to watch it live, you can also click on the link Indee TV and there are archived events listed.

Middle School Forensics 2016-17

This year we have an amazing team of middle school students who are working really hard at perfecting their oral presentations. We have students performing in the following categories: readers' theater, play acting, prose reading, and news reporting.

Our team's first performance was a scrimmage where the students all got blues and reds. This meant that they received at least two A ratings out of three possible scores! At our second competition, their dedication and talent was rewarded, as each of our nine student acts received scores high enough to advance to the next level! Our next and final performance is at Bangor on February 21st. We are planning a parents' night to showcase our performers in

early March.

Our team consists of seven 6th graders, eleven 7th graders, and six 8th graders. One eighth grade student had to drop out due to leaving the district, and another was ill. However, we had two last minute substitutions who impressed our coaches with their talent and courage--



thank you Alexis and Marce! Mrs. Gierok and Mrs. Loewenhagen are proud of each of our students and are grateful to work with some of Indee's best! ~BSE!



Our 2016-17 Independence Middle School Forensics Team from left to right are: (front row) Ziyannah Connor, Mackenzie Taylor; (second row) Mercedes Matchey, Mitchel Halvorson, Damon Connor, Cora Sonsalla, Kevin Halvorson, Carlie Barker, Andrea Laehn, Leslie Garcia; (third row) Kevin Ramirez, Emerson Pronschinske, Avery Pape, Emma Pietrek, Alana Back, Bianca Najera; (back) Diego Gutierrez, Johnavy Garcia, Agustina Romero Alejo, Marcelina Rebolledo, Chloe Cooper, Breanna Kulig, Alexis Dahl-Abramczak, Ariahann Rand, and Mason Gierok. (Missing from the photo are Hailey Witte, and Coaches Mrs. Gierok and Mrs. Loewenhagen).

Indee Powerlifting

The Indee Powerlifting Club has been very busy this school year. With 3 powerlifting meets under our belts, we are almost halfway through our season. In December, we were to Adams-Friendship for a Regional meet. Then, in January, we were to 2 more at Mauston and Holmen High School. The Indee Powerlifters have 4 more meets left in the season and are working hard.



We will be going to Necedah High School on February 18 for another Regional meet. Also, we will be hosting the Last Chance meet, previously hosted at Whitehall High School, at Independence on February 25. As of now, we have 4 kids qualified for the State meet which will be held in Racine, Wisconsin on March 11-12th

and 5 kids qualified for Nationals which will be held in Scranton, Pennsylvania starting on March 29th-April 2nd. The team would like to thank all the parents, coaches, and the community for all of their help and support.

Spring Sports Begin in March

Track and Field will have their first practice on March 6. The first meet is Saturday, March 25th at UW-Stout at 9:00 AM.

Softball will start practice on March 13th. The first game is Friday, March 24th at Melrose-Mindoro at 5:00 PM.

Baseball will start practice on March 20th. The first game is March 31st at home against Whitehall at 5:00 PM.



Golf will start practice on March 27th. The first match is April 11th at Whitehall at 4:30 PM.

Before students can participate in middle or high school athletics they must have had a physical within the past two years with an impact test, have permission from their parent/guardian, and also pay an athletic fee. This fee is waived if the family qualifies for free or reduced lunch.



- Independence Public School
- Independence K-12 Art
- 3rd Grade at Independence
- 4th Grade Independence Elementary
- Independence Athletic Booster Club
- Indees Volleyball
- Independence Indees Girls Basketball
- Independence Indees Boys Basketball
- Independence Indees Music Dept
- Independence Gilman-ton-Football

- Independence-Gilman-ton Track & Field
- Independence High School Powerlifting
- Indees Fastpitch Softball
- Indee Drama Club
- Independence FFA
- Independence Indees Baseball
- Independence Post Prom
- Independence Prom 2016
- Indees Themes
- Independence Prom Dress Sale & Resale 2017

Independence FFA

The Independence FFA Chapter has been promoting leadership, personal growth, and career success for 78 years, and is led this year by President Dakota Waletzko, Vice President Allison Bragger, Secretary Jaydin Guza, Reporter Geri Fredrickson, Treasurer Susan Thoma, Sentinel Jacob Rotering, Student Advisor Hunter Fredrickson, and Co-chairs Heather Marsolek and Hannah Halama. FFA Advisor is Mr. Jason Hovell.



2016-17 FFA Officer Team: Jacob Rotering, Susan Thoma, Geri Fredrickson, Allison Bragger, Heather Marsolek, Hannah Halama, Hunter Fredrickson, Jaydin Guza, and Dakota Waletzko.

Steven Gamroth and Justin Gierok received their State FFA Degrees at State FFA Convention. Steven was the State Winner in Specialty Animal Production, while Gierok was runner up in Ag Mechanics for his tractor restoration project.

The FFA Officer Team participated in the annual District 7 Officer Training Retreat in July at Jellystone Park in Warrens, WI. Our new officers learned parliamentary procedure and got to know each other. The officers learned the FFA opening ceremony lines and planned the coming year's activities. In October students traveled to the World Dairy Expo to compete in Dairy evaluation and Dairy product judging competitions. FFA students and members enjoyed the experience and cheese curds. On October 15th, our chapter participated in high-

way clean up. After the highway clean up the FFA went paintballing. National Convention in Indiana was a fun and exciting experience. Nora Killian, Susan Thoma, Heather Marsolek, Chase Cooper, Rebecca Heiden, and Jenni Salazar shared their experiences with their friends and within their Ag classes.

FFA members also sold fruit, nuts, meats, and cheese for our annual fundraiser to offset the costs for trips and scholarships. Students who sold an outstanding amount of fruit received a prize and will be recognized at our Annual FFA banquet on Saturday April 8th, at 5pm.

For the 2016 gun deer hunting season we had a Big Buck Contest. We had many bucks scored and had a drawing for every person who was signed up. Thank you to Holtan's, Howard's Hardware Hank, Arcadia Farm and Home, and Pat's Meat Market for donating prizes to our contest!

In December we held a Christmas Party for all members. This Christmas party consisted of a gift exchange and lunch. At our annual meeting in December, we decided to make ten blankets and donate them to the Trempealeau County Health Care Center in Whitehall. Our Chapter is very proud of this donation.

On February 9th, our members competed in a speaking contest. Jorgiann Gierok received second place in her selected speaking category! She will now be moving on to Sectionals where she will hopefully bring home the gold!



Jorgiann Gierok, Allison Bragger, Heather Marsolek and Susan Thoma attended the FFA District Speaking on Thursday, February 9th in Black River Falls.

National FFA week is right around the corner and the Independence FFA Chapter is ready for a week of fun. This week will consist of in school dress up days, emblem hunt, pedal tractor pull, teacher breakfast, and

bowling. Independence FFA Chapter will be celebrating FFA week on February 20-24th.

Many upcoming events are coming soon! Members will be competing in judging contests, Annual FFA Banquet, pedal tractor race, bowling, Spring highway clean-up and paintball. Jaydin Guza and Dakota Waletzko will receive their State FFA Degrees at the upcoming State FFA Convention and Steven Gamroth and Justin Gierok will receive their American FFA Degrees at the National FFA Convention in October.

High School FFA Members Include:

Morgan Becker, Allison Bragger, Anna Bragger, Brittny Brown, Brennon Campbell, Tyler Christianson, Josh Conrad, Chase Cooper, Nicole Filla, Hunter Fankhauser, Geri Fredrickson, Hunter Fredrickson, Elaina Gamroth Jorgiann Gierok, Isaak Gierok, Jaydin Guza, Rylie Guza, Hannah Halama, John Halama, Rebecca Heiden, Russ Heiden, Nora Killian, Samuel Killian, Abbigail Kotlarz, Carter Koval, Alyssa Kulig, Dylan Marsolek, Heather Marsolek, Bryan Morales, Blane Olson, Xavier Payton, Grace Pyka, Joseph Pyka, Matthew Pyka, Jacob Rotering, Jennifer Salazar, Vincent Skroch, Miranda Stegerwald, Nicole Suhr, Zachary Taylor, Susan Thoma, Brianna Truog, Lynnsey Tuschner, Dakota Waletzko, Daniella Warner, Jonathan Warner, Albin Woychik, Andrew Woychik, and Yael Xochicale



Team Paintball: Mr. Nix, Bryan Morales, Al Woychik, Dakota Waletzko, Sam Killian, Joseph Pyka, Andy Woychik, Hunter Fankhauser, Adaelyn Kalk, Rylie Guza, Nicki Filla, Lynnsey Tuschner, and Mr. Hovell.



Jacob Rotering, Dakota Waletzko, & Brenna Bays – State FFA President



To: Independence School District Parent/Guardians
 The Independence School District Child Nutrition Program begins the school day for all students with breakfast from 7:45-8:05 AM.

Benefits of Breakfast for Learning^{1,2}

Eating breakfast gives your child the fuel he or she needs to start the day. It has been shown that students who eat breakfast regularly are more likely to have:

- Better behavior in school.
- Improved concentration, alertness, and attentiveness in class.
- Improved abilities to perform problemsolving tasks and better performance on standardized tests.
- Fewer absences and late arrivals.
- Improved math, reading and memory scores.

Benefits of Breakfast for Health

Eating breakfast improves the variety and intake of important nutrients for the growth and development of your child. Research has shown that students who eat breakfast regularly:

- Have less probability of overweight and obesity than children who don't eat breakfast.
- Are more likely to have adequate amounts of vitamin A, vitamin D, iron, fiber, and calcium.
- Have lower intakes of fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

¹"Benefits of Breakfast." Energize Your Day with School Breakfast

Toolkit. United States Department of Agriculture, 24

Jan. 2014. Web. 18 July 2014.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/toolkit_benefitsflyer.pdf>. ²"Breakfast for Learning." Food, Research, and Action Center, Spring 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. < <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/breakfastforlearning.pdf>>.

The Breakfast Meal Pattern

School breakfasts now include more fruits/

vegetables, and whole grain-rich foods, only fat-free or low-fat milk, "right-size" meals with portions designed for a child's age, zero trans fat, and less saturated fat and sodium. These changes are a result of the new school meal standards established by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010—the first major changes to school meals in more than a decade. The changes are based on the latest nutrition science and the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

- Breakfast is made up of 3 components offered daily: milk, grain, and fruit/vegetable. – Protein-rich foods may also be offered.
- All grains served as part of the meal are whole grain-rich.
- At least two varieties of milk are offered to students.
- All students must take at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable as part of their breakfast.



PROM 2017: The GREAT GATSBY



Set in the roaring 20s, the junior prom will feature the same decadence, idealism, and mystery as F. Scott Fitzgerald's infamous novel. This year's prom will be held

on April 29th in the historic opera house, which has recently undergone renovations. The dance will be from 8:00-midnight with the grand march tentatively set at 9:30. The opera house is reserved the week prior to prom for decorating. Juniors will receive a schedule based on sports and supervision availability in March. If you are interested in helping supervise, providing a meal, or donating snacks or drinks please contact Julie Manor via email: manorj@indps.k12.wi.us. We are looking forward to another magical night!!



BOXTOPS 4 EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone that sent Boxtops in this year! We will continue to collect Boxtops for the 2017-2018 school year. Our goal for this year is \$1,000. Please help us reach our goal by sending Boxtops to school. They can be sent with a student or dropped off in the main office. Last year the money raised was used to support field trips. Again, thank you for your efforts.

**Don't Forget to Collect
BOX TOPS!**



and send them to your school

Badger Girls State

The American Legion Auxiliary is working to keep patriotism a part of the education of every child, a patriotism that teaches love of America through knowledge of how our state governments operate.

The legacy from those Auxiliary members who chartered the first Girls State remains. The lessons learned at American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State enable these young ladies to become more informed citizens in how their state government functions.

Selected to represent Independence are: Madelyn Woychik, Allison Bragger, and alternates: Nicole Skroch and Cassidy Kabus.

The delegates are sponsored by the Independence American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 and the Rainbow Community Club.

Badger Girls State will take place at UW-Oshkosh June 18-23, 2017.



Blood Drive Rescheduled to May 17th 1:00-5:00

Please watch the website and Facebook page for more information. To schedule an appointment please call the office or email Julie Manor at manorj@indps.k12.wi.us. The student council and the Blood Center of Wisconsin thank you for your donations!

Independence History Club
Prom Dress Sale & Resale
Saturday, March 4 (10am-4pm) and
Sunday, March 5 (noon-4pm)

WHAT: A Prom Dress Sale and Resale

We will be selling the donated inventory from the former
Marry Go Round AND doing a Prom Dress Resale

WHERE: Former Marry Go Round 103 5th Ave N, Strum, WI

Payment: CASH



OVER 400 BRAND NEW dresses under \$300

along with many dresses on consignment

If you have any questions contact **Tracy Halama**

at halamat@indps.k12.wi.us

or 715-797-2048



Like us on Facebook:

"Independence Prom Dress Sale and Resale 2017"





Independence Child Development Days

All children ages 2 1/2 – 4 years of age who have NOT previously been screened and live in the Independence School District should attend. Students currently enrolled in Four Year-Old Kindergarten need not attend.

Appointments are held from
4pm – 6pm on Wednesday April 5, 2017
and

9am – 3pm on Friday, April 7, 2017

Independence Public School 23786 Indee Blvd

For information or to schedule your appointment,

Please Call: (715) 985 – 3172

An informal educational screening process will be used to provide families with a free snapshot of how their preschooler is growing, developing and learning. Children will also have their vision and hearing screened.

4K REGISTRATION

Registration for the Four Year-Old Kindergarten 2017-18 school year will be held in conjunction with Child Development Days on April 5th and 7th during the above times. If registering for 4K, please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and the child's current immunization record.

*Interpreter services are provided to families if needed.



2017

Dear Independence High School Parents:

Once again there will be a Post-Prom Party to give our students a free, fun, safe place to enjoy after the dance. We sincerely hope your student will participate and make some great memories with their classmates and friends.

The party will be held immediately after Prom on Saturday, April 29th, 2016 (12:00 am -5:00 am). Activities depend on parent involvement. Earlier this year we polled the students and this is what our students said they hope to have:

Madden Tournament	Bean Bag Tournament	Wii/Xbox
Prizes	Food and Drink	Giant Inflatables
Photo Booth	Limbo Dance Off	Karaoke
Ice Cream/Sundae Bar	Chocolate Fountain	

If you would like to help with any of these please email Dawn Woychik at woychikd@indps.k12.wi.us or call at 715-985-3172 Ext #111, 715-985-2608. We will also need chaperones, clean up crew, and help soliciting prize donations. This event relies heavily on parent involvement so please consider getting involved!

We have always relied on donations from local businesses and individuals in the community to offset the costs involved. We would appreciate anything you would be willing to contribute. Contributions could be in the form of prizes, gift cards, or money and can be done on an individual family basis or a group of families for a larger donation. Donations can be dropped off at the high school. Please indicate at the office that it is for the Post-Prom Party.

Please have your student return the permission form and \$10 refundable deposit early. If you plan to bring a guest from another school then [this form](#) will need to be completed and returned by April 28, 2017.



PARENT PERMISSION

I, _____
(Parent Name)

Give permission for _____
(Student Name)

To attend the
Post Prom Party 12:00am-5:00am April 30, 2017

If necessary, parents may be contacted at:

Special Notes to Chaperones:

Return to Mrs. Woychik

Please attach your \$10 deposit which will be returned at the end of Post Prom.

Early Bird Drawing for those that have this form submitted by
April 1, 2017

*If you plan to bring a guest from another school then [this form](#) will need to be completed and returned by April 28, 2017.

We hope to have these activities in place! Parent involvement is needed to make this happen.

Madden Tournament
Prizes
Photo Booth
Ice Cream/Sundae Bar

Bean Bag Tournament
Food and Drink
Limbo Dance Off
Chocolate Fountain

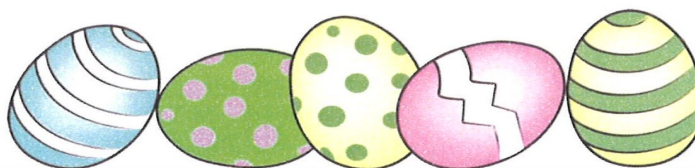
Wii/Xbox
Giant Inflatables
Karaoke





March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 2:30 DISMISSAL	<i>2</i> GBB Sectional Finals @ West Salem 7:00pm MS Wrestling (H) 5:00pm	<i>3</i> BBB Regionals TBD 7:00pm	<i>4</i> GBB Sect. Champ. @ Richland Center BBB Reg. Champ. TBD 7:00pm Prom Dress Sale & Resale- Strum 10-4
<i>5</i> OPEN GYM 5-8pm Prom Dress Sale & Resale- Strum 12-4	<i>6</i> First Day of Track Practice	<i>7</i> Winter Sports Awards 6:30pm MSWR @ O-F TBD	<i>8</i> 2:30 DISMISSAL School Board Meeting	<i>9</i> GBB State – Resch Center GB BBB Sect. Semi-Finals La X Central 7:00pm	<i>10</i> GBB State – Resch Center GB	<i>11</i> GBB State – Resch Center BBB Sect. Champ Logan HS TBD
<i>12</i> OPEN GYM 5-8pm	<i>13</i> First Day of SB Practice	<i>14</i> Vocal Concert 7:00pm	<i>15</i> 2:30 DISMISSAL	<i>16</i> BBB State – Kohl Center Madison	<i>17</i> BBB State – Kohl Center Madison	<i>18</i> BBB State – Kohl Center Madison
<i>19</i> OPEN GYM 5-8pm	<i>20</i> First Day of Baseball Practice 	<i>21</i> Band Concert 7:00pm	<i>22</i> 2:30 DISMISSAL	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> End of 3 rd Quarter GSB @ Mel-Min 5:00pm	<i>25</i> Track Invitational @ UW-Stout 9:00am
<i>26</i> OPEN GYM 5-8pm	<i>27</i> First Day of Golf Practice Regular School Day	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 2:30 DISMISSAL	<i>30</i> FFA CDE Contest	<i>31</i> GSB vs WHTL 5:00pm (H) BBB vs WHTL 5:00pm (H)	

April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Solo/Ensemble (H)
2 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	3	4 Track Invite @ Holmen 3:30pm GSB @ C-FC 5:00pm BBB @ C-FC 5:00pm	5 2:30 DISMISSAL Family Reading Night 5:30pm Child Development Day/4K Registration 4-6pm	6	7 Track Invite @ Onalaska Luther 4:15pm GSB vs Augusta (H) 5:00pm BBB vs Augusta (H) 5:00pm Child Development Day/4K Registration 9-3pm	8 GSB @ Pepin 10:00am BBB @ Pepin 10:00am FFA Banquet 7:00pm
9 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	10 MS Track @ C-FC 4:15pm Forensics Showcase 7:00pm	11 Track @ E-S 4:15pm GSB @ Lincoln 5:00pm BBB @ Lincoln 5:00pm	12 2:30 DISMISSAL	13 Track Invite (H) 5:00pm GSB vs Fall Creek (H) 5:00pm	14 	15 BBB @ Cinder City Park JV-11:00am V-TBD
16 	17 	18 Track Invite @ E-S 4:15pm GSB vs B-T(H) 5:00pm BBB vs B-T(H) 5:00pm	19 2:30 DISMISSAL HS Large Group	20 GSB vs EC Imman(H) 5:00pm BBB vs EC Imman(H) 5:00pm Conf Track (H) 5:00pm MS Track @ GET 4:15pm MS Large Group	21 GSB vs E-S (H) 5:00pm BBB vs E-S(H) 5:00pm Best Bench Contest Set-Up 4:00pm	22 State Forensics Best Bench Contest 7:00am-4:00pm
23 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	24 Track @ B-T 4:00pm	25 GSB vs Mel-Min (H) 5:00pm BBB vs Mel-Min (H) 5:00pm Golf @ WHTL 4:30p	26 2:30 DISMISSAL	27 GSB @ WHTL 5:00pm BBB @ WHTL 5:00pm	28 GSB vs C-FC(H) 5:00pm BBB vs C-FC (H) 5:00pm FFA State CDE	29 
30 OPEN GYM 5-8pm FFA State CDE						

May 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Vocal Concert 7:00pm	3 2:30 DISMISSAL	4 Track @ WHTL 5:00pm MS Track @ Arcadia 4:00pm	5 GSB @ Augusta 5:00pm BBB # Augusta 5:00pm MS Dance	6 GSB @ Poynette State Music @ UW-EC
7 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	8 Track @ Arcadia 4:00pm	9 GSB vs Lincoln (H) 5:00pm BBB vs Lincoln(H) 5:00pm	10 2:30 DISMISSAL FFA Highway Clean-up	11 Track @ C-FC 4:00pm	12 GSB @ B-T 5:00pm BBB @ B-T 5:00pm	13 GSB (H) 9:00am BBB (H) 10:00am
14 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	15 GSB @ EC Immanuel 5:00pm BBB @ EC Immanuel 5:00pm JV Track @ E-S 5:00pm OR Rain Date Conf.	16	17 2:30 DISMISSAL Senior Portfolio Interviews	18	19 MS Awards 9:15am HS Awards and Scholarships 2:00pm GSB @ E-S 5:00pm BBB @ E-S 5:00pm	20 GSB @ Arcadia 9:00am
21 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	22	23 BBB @ Mel-Min 5:00pm	24 2:30 DISMISSAL	25	26	27 GRADUATION 1:00pm CLASS OF 2017
28 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	29 NO SCHOOL 	30	31 2:30 DISMISSAL	1	2 	









We Appreciate Your Support!

Please continue collecting for our school. The money earned goes towards field trips for our students in grades 4K through 8th grade. Items that you can collect and bring to our school include:

•Box Tops	•Milk Moola Caps and Bags
•Pop Tabs	•Cans 4 Kids (aluminum cans) <i>cans can be put in fence by football field</i>











Website:
www.indps.k12.wi.us

Independence School District

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More Chances To Save & Earn!



5¢ for every Nature's Touch product cap or milk bag top and 10¢ for each Glazers donut price oval collected.

All of these Nature's Touch™ and Glazers® products will help your school or organization earn cash faster.

Nature's Touch Products

- Homogenized Whole Milk: Bags, Gallons, Half Gallons
- Reduced Fat 2% Milk: Bags, Gallons, Half Gallons, Quarts, Pints, Half Pints
- Low Fat 1% Milk: Bags, Gallons, Half Gallons, Quarts, Pints
- Fat-Free Skim Milk: Bags, Gallons, Half Gallons, Quarts, Pints, Half Pints
- Chocolate Flavored Milk: Bags, Half Gallons, Quarts, Pints, Half Pints
- Polar Vanilla Flavored Milk: Pints
- Root Beer Float Flavored Milk: Pints
- Orange Juice (from 100% juice concentrate): Bags, Gallons, Half Gallons, Quarts, Pints, Half Pints
- Orange-Pineapple Juice (from 100% juice concentrate): Quarts, Pints
- Drinking Water: Gallons, Quarts, 20 oz., Half Pints

Nature's Touch Products, continued

- Egg Nog: Quarts, Pints, Half Pints
- Chino™ Iced Cappuccino: Pints
- Ice Tea: Gallons
- Flavored Waters (20 oz.): Raspberry, Cherry, Strawberry, Lemon, Lime
- Flavored Waters (Half Pints): Raspberry, Strawberry, Watermelon

• **Kwik Quencher® Fruit Drinks**
Orange Flavored, Fruit Punch Flavored, Lemon-Lime Flavored: Gallons







• **Glazers Donuts**
Regular: Dozens and Half Dozens
Specialty: Dozens and Half Dozens

Home of the

Indees!

Every one. Every day.



2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL Board Approved 3-2-16 – **Updated 2-7-17***
 12:15 dismissal
  Teacher Day
  Vacation Day
  End of Quarter
  Holiday
  PT Conf
 * PLC 2:30 dismiss

PLEASE NOTE: The following days have been changed to a regular school day.

POR FAVOR TENGA EN CUENTA: Los siguientes días han sido cambiados a un día regular escolar.

Snow Make-Up Days:

Monday, March 27 – Regular School Day

Thursday, April 13 – Regular School Day

Thursday, June 1 –

Regular School Day

Friday, June 2 – Regular School Day (Last Student Day)

January 2017
*4,11,18,25, PLC 2:30 PM

1 New Years Day
2 New Years Observed
3 School Resumes
19 End of 2nd Qtr
20 Inservice No School
Student Days - 20
Teacher Days 22

January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

February 2017
*1,8,15,22 PLC 2:30 PM
23 12:15 PM dismissal
23 PT Conf 2:00-8:00 PM
24 Vacation Day

Student Days - 19
Teacher Days - 19

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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 2017
*1,8,15,22,29 PLC 2:30 PM
1 Ash Wednesday

24 End of 3rd Qtr
27 **Regular School Day***
Student Days - 22
Teacher Days - 23

March 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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 2017
*5,12,19,26 PLC 2:30 PM

13 **Regular School Day***
14 Good Friday
16 Easter Sunday
17 Vacation Day
Student Days - 17
Teacher Days - 18

April 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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 2017
*3,10,17,24,31 PLC 2:30 PM
27 Graduation
29 Memorial Day

Student Days - 22
Teacher Days - 23

May 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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 2017
1 **Regular School Day***
2 **Regular School Day (Last Student Day)***
5 Teacher Inservice
6 Teacher Inservice
Student Days 1
Teacher Days 2

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
School District of Independence
2016-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING STATIONS:

Whitehall

102.3 FM

Winona

KWNO 1230AM

KG Country 1380AM

KG-95.3FM

CD Country99.3FM

Soft Rock 101.1 FM

Eau Claire

CARP 99.9FM

I-94 94.1FM

WAXX 104.5FM

WAYY 790AM

COOL 92.9FM

Z-100 100.7FM

WEAU TV 13

ESPN 1150AM

B-95 95.1 FM

ROCK 92.1 FM

News Talk 880 AM

Sports Radio 1400 AM

WQOW TV 18

Moose Country 106.7 FM

The Mix 98.1 FM

LaCrosse

WKTY 580AM

WIZM 1410AM

Z93 93.3FM

WKBT TV 8

WTRV 95.7 FM 89.9

CC 106.3

MAGIC 105 104.9

EAGLE 102.7

Classic Rock 100.1

ESPN 105.5

WLFN 1490 AM

Black River Falls

WWIS 99.7FM

Tomah

WZFR 94.5FM

WTMB 1490 AM

Eden Prairie, MN

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The newsletter of
Independence School District
Independence, WI 54747