

Independence District



Newsletter

November/December, 2016

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Famous Indee Artwork



Famous Indee Artwork

Senior Brittney Brown, daughter of Robert Brown, created this drawing of her dog "Beast" in 2-D studio art. Brittney utilizes what she learned about value and contour line to create dimension and did an excellent job capturing the personality of her four-legged friend.



MAIN OFFICE: (715)985-3172

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From the Desk of Mr. Schmitt

MAKING A NAME FOR OURSELVES



If you haven't heard yet, Independence High School won the Dairyland Conference Sportsmanship Award this past September based on the 2015-16 school year. This is the 4th year out of six that our school has won the award. If you've been around as long as I have (31+ years), that would have been unthought-of 25 years ago. Yet, we now feel that this is an expectation of our school.

I am proud of that accomplishment and many more here at Independence. Throughout my time at Independence I have always strived that Independence be known for excellence, whether it is in sportsmanship, athletics, or academics. I wanted excellence and class to be associated with our name and that is what I still strive for today as we work to become the "Best School Ever." To do that, many times it requires change. Albert Einstein defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Sometimes it also takes a "gut check" and "swallowing your pride" to realize that you aren't getting the results you want and change has to be made. I think in the past several years we have done that here at Independence.

A little over five years ago, I took the position of Middle and High School principal in a time of great political change with respect to the effect Act 10 had on education. Locally, though, our school was in the formative years of implementing a positive behavior system, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). At the time, I remember some reluctance and skepticism by the community and some staff members as to whether or not this would work

or even make a difference. There was an impression that this "new" system involved "giving out candy for good behavior", but that is a very naive observation of a how to deal with human behavior. Sure, food and candy was given to reward good behavior at times, but the basic



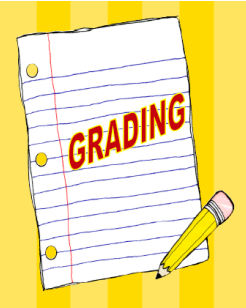
premise of the system is to teach and make sure your students understand behavior expectations

tions and then to acknowledge students when that behavior is met. I knew from my coaching days that many successful coaches were using that system already. It was common knowledge in the coaching ranks that coaches were getting better results by praising what their athletes were doing right, instead of yelling and punishing athletes for what they did wrong. The ultimate goal is that students get their reward intrinsically (internally) by feeling satisfaction for doing the right thing, instead of wanting the extrinsic (external) reward such as food or material items. Despite the reservations regarding this change several years ago, right now our staff and students see it as "business as usual" and I think it has made a difference in our student behavior and we get many compliments from other schools and organizations about us having "good kids". I also think the four Sportsmanship Awards in the past six years supports that.

This year the big change will be the implementation of a new grading philosophy. This is going to be a major change, but it is not something we took on lightly. We realized for many



years that we had an issue with our grades not correlating to results on state assessments and college entrance exams. Our latest school accountability reports also indicated that although we do well in many areas we still are below the state average in regards to student achievement. This is just not acceptable. Therefore we began researching best practice



in instruction. This has been demanding work and has been facilitated by our commitment to becoming a Professional Learning Community, another change that people also had skepticism about when the journey began. The research has clearly shown that traditional grading practices

do not increase student achievement or motivation. In fact, many times it decreased it and many students "played the game" of accumulating points through extra credit, good behavior, or participation. Our new philosophy focuses on mastering skills and concepts and demonstrating depth of knowledge of those skills and concepts. Accumulating points is not the focus, and this will be a major shift in thinking for many community members and parents who have known no other way from their days in school.

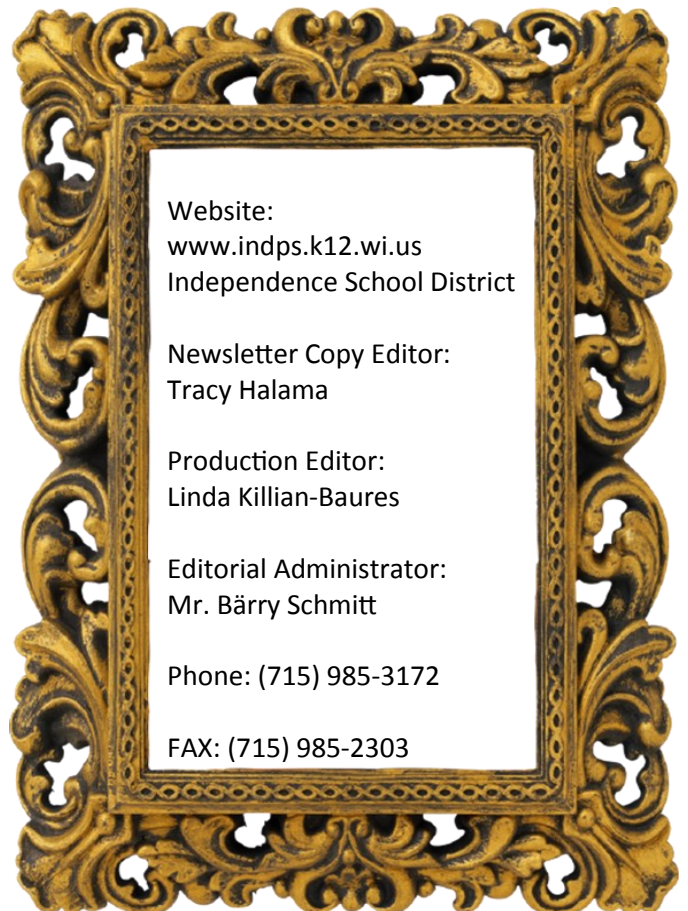
Although all this change sometimes comes with growing pains, the cool thing about education is that you never stop growing. I am very proud of what we are doing here at Independence and people are starting to notice. A number of other Districts are beginning to recognize the same challenges that we have dealt with and are seeking us out for guidance and advice. Independence is making a name for itself as an innovative leader in education as directed by our Vision statement. Part of that vision is to have Independence be the "Best School Ever." Thanks to all for their support! BSE!

Bärry Schmitt
District Administrator/9-12 Principal



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- 3rd Grade at Independence
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- Independence Athletic Booster Club
- Indees Volleyball
- Independence Indees Girls Basketball
- Independence Indees Boys Basketball
- Independence—Gilmanton 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



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Independence School District Finance Report

DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE



Part of my responsibilities as District Administrator is to oversee the finances of the school. As I write this article I am finalizing the 2016-17 budget in preparation for the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting on October 19th. In doing so, one always reviews the budget history from the previous years. During the summer we also “close the books” on the previous fiscal year which completes on June 30th of each year.

Last year, my first in my new role, was a learning experience in regard to budget creation. Having an undergraduate degree in mathematics and computer science obviously helped me enjoy the process more than most people would. As in my personal budget creations, you always try to assume the minimum in revenue and when in doubt assume the maximum in expenditures to try to cover worst case scenarios. By doing so, the budget I presented last year forecast a \$90,000 deficit based on current trends. The good news is, 2015-16 was a great year fiscally for the school district. A mild winter and low fuel prices along with a reduction in the expenditures in certain departments and for substitute teachers resulted in a surplus of \$170,000. This was a much needed increase to our fund balance (savings account) as it had been decreasing the last couple of years.

There are other positives for the district financially. With the passing of the referendum last February, we now have added \$450,000 to the operating budget and with the maturity of the building referendum of \$650,000 (meaning the money being used to pay off the building), the tax levy for referenda is actually \$200,000 less. Our official enrollment count also went up by 20 students which means we are allowed to increase our revenue cap (how much money we receive in state aid and taxes) by about \$200,000. Of course this increase in revenue was needed as part of the reason for the referendum was to generate money to take care of needed maintenance to the building, site improvement, and student programs. We added two new teachers to help with the increase in enrollment and improvement of instruction. We have revamped the science curriculum and added new Project Lead the Way courses to emphasize the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

This summer has been very busy as we have upgraded our lighting, building envelope, and heating and ventilation system. This was done through a performance contract which means the contractor guarantees that the energy and operational savings generated from the upgrades will pay for the cost of the project over a negotiated period of time. We had to take out a loan to pay for the project, but the savings from the project will definitely help make the loan payments. We also constructed a rubberized track, recoated the parking lot, put new carpeting in the library and band rooms, put in a new phone system, remodeled the technical education room, and upgraded equipment in the ag, woods, and metal shops. Next year we will need to do improvements on the roof.

So as you can see, creating an accurate budget is difficult with so many moving parts. Currently, I project my preliminary budget for 2016-17 will be balanced, meaning our revenue will cover all of our expenses. Of course the actual results will depend on a number of factors such as weather, economy, and sometimes good or bad luck. When finalized, a copy of the budget will be available on the school website for your review, but please feel free to call at any time if you would like more details or information.

I look forward to another great year and as always, I thank you for your support! BSE!

Barry Schmitt
District Administrator

Vanderloop Scoop

Taking the Shine Off, Focusing on Grit



The start of the new school year can bring about excitement amongst students, school staff, and even parents. Students are excited to get back to school to see friends they missed over the summer, learn some new things and possibly show off their new school shoes. School staff are excited to welcome back students, meet new faces, and try new approaches that will help students reach their potential in the content they teach. Parents are excited for the start of the school year to see their child advance another grade level, and blossom as a person both socially and academically. The newness to the start of the year is a great time in education.

As the weather gets colder, it is sign that fall is in the air and school has been in session for a few weeks. In the last article I discussed the need to be working as a team to provide a successful environment for students. I discussed our knowledge about collaboration and how we work stronger when we are working together. I also praised our hard working staff who have taken what they learned about assessments and feedback and are incorporating those strategies into their classroom. Lastly, with the theme of football, I discussed the need to have 100% effort for all parties.

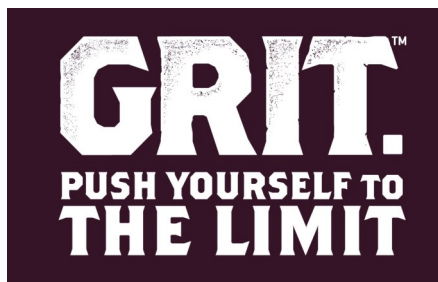
I will not waiver on the thoughts above. We have extremely dedicated staff who continue to amaze me with their efforts. We also need to continue to work as a school/home team to promote success in each student. As we take the shine off of the start of the new school year, and continue to focus on the goals we set to accomplish, we must have *grit*.

Grit is the ability to stay focused on our long-term goals and put in the work to accomplish what is needed to succeed. At Indee we want to be the Best School Ever and have the

Best Students Ever! This takes hard work and determination. This takes grit.

When we think about the education of one student, we need to look at the end in mind and work backwards to plan a successful path. When we look at the education of all students, we need to plan is a systematic way to ensure that successful path. In our mission statement, we want each child to be prepared for tomorrow's opportunities. We want our district to be an innovative leader in education with excellent, focused, collaborative programs and staff. We cannot possibly live up to these goals without the internal focus on continuous improvement for students and adults.

"In all those very different contexts, one characteristic emerged as the best predictor of success. And it wasn't social intelligence, it wasn't good looks, physical health, it wasn't IQ. It was grit. Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals.



Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future day in day out, not just for the week, not just for the month,

but for years. And working really hard to make that future a reality. Grit is living life like it's a marathon; not a sprint."

-Angela Duckworth
Ph.D. in [psychology](#)

The quote above emphasizes my point. If we can instill this mindset in our students, their future will be bright, and possibilities endless. This bright future does not come without a price. It means long hours of study, staying focused on the learning each and every day and putting forth 100% effort. Students do not just show up with this grit, like most things, it must be trained. We cannot just expect elementary, middle or even high school students to care about their future and plan for it today. We

must continue to nurture relationships with our students. We must talk to them about life beyond the Indee walls. We need students to persevere and set long-term goals.



As a 4K-12 building, students are able to experience and participate in many things that would not be possible in larger districts. One example of this recently took

place during homecoming week. In addition to the goofy dress up days and the Indee Pride that was felt throughout the entire building, students at the elementary level participating in career day by dressing up in their future career of choice. As I was helping students during the lunch hour, I had to step back and look at all of the students and the potential futures they are dreaming about at such a young age. You can see some of those great moments by liking our Indee Facebook page. It was a great sight to see our future teachers, farmers, veterinarians, mechanics, and service workers. I was amazed that many of our young elementary students knew exactly what they wanted to become in the future. Most of them, if not all, will not reach their goals without grit

All of this leads me back to the point that the school year is well underway, the newness is worn away, and the hard work must continue to help our students achieve their goals. We must have grit and instill that grit in every classroom, with every student.

With Indee Pride,

Robert Vanderloop
PreK-8 Principal/Director of Special Education
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Curriculum and Counseling Corner

Counseling Services Added

Student success in school can be affected by many factors including stress, emotional health, and behavior issues. All of these can interfere with a student's ability to learn, function well in their relationships, and their ability to achieve life goals. In our community the options for therapy are limited; therefore, our school district has made it possible for families to access that help in our school building during the regular school day.

Peace of Mind Counseling, located in La-Crosse (<http://www.pomcounseling.com/>) now have office hours in our school to provide services to students. This counseling/therapy is available to families under the same conditions as if they would solicit services at a community counseling center. Payments would be required and Insurance and/or Badgercare could be billed. This would *not* be a school sponsored program.



Peace of Mind Counseling Center has worked with several area schools in this capacity and works with children and adolescents in the areas of ADHD, Depression, Anxiety and Behavior Concerns.

Contact Jay Clark 608-797-5679 for more information or to arrange an appointment.

New Faces at Independence Public School



Front row: Dianne Engst, Tiffany Haas, Jenny Estenson, Jenna Buss, Linda Killian-Baures, Katie Simmons.
Back row: Michael Jon Mullikin, Lori Loewenhagen, Anne Peyton, Amanda Schneider, Lauren Brodsky, and Collin Manley.

The school district has 12 new staff members to introduce to the community. The district is excited to have these great staff members at our school.

Tiffany Haas is a new 1st grade teacher. She grew up in Thorp, WI and went to college at UW Stout earning a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a Minor in English. Other than Tiffany's parents, she has a brother and a sister. She likes to go to her cabin, boat, swim, and snowmobile in her free time. Tiffany think IPS works together as a team and puts in the hard work to help the students. She also loves how the community works together and is involved with the school.

Linda Killian-Baures is teaching Business Education. She grew up in Waumandee and graduated from Arcadia High School. Linda went to college at Winona State and has a degree in Human Resource Management and Business Education. Other than her husband Bob, she has a 7 year-old son, Donny, and a 2 year-old chocolate lab, Smile Lee. Linda likes to be in her flower garden, go boating, fishing, watch football, soccer, and play football, soccer, and board games with her son. She says, "The school is much smaller than I'm used to, but so far everyone here has been very welcoming and helpful. The students seem very respectful." When asked about Independence Linda said, "The town is familiar to me because my dad was originally from Independence and graduated from Independence High School."

Lori L. Loewenhagen is joining us as a Special Education Teacher in grade 4 – 8. She grew up on a dairy farm in Eastern Wisconsin and attended Freedom High School. Lori has a Bachelor's of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater and a

New Faces at Independence Public School

Masters of Education in Special Education from Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI. Lori has been married to her wonderful husband Kyle, for nearly 23 years. They have three talented children. Katerina is attending UW- Eau Claire pursuing Bachelors in Music Education. Isaiah is a senior at Eleva-Strum High School. Malachi is a freshman at Mondovi High School. Lori enjoys being active in her church, hiking, horseback riding, baking, sewing, movies, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. When asked about her thoughts on the school and Independence, Lori says, "I am very impressed with the technology initiative and level of professionalism at Indee. I am thankful for all the friendly and helpful staff and am grateful for the level of support from the community for our school. Students are friendly, hardworking and respectful. Overall, Indee is a positive and great place to work! Independence is a beautiful town with the parks, church, school, and river running through it. Independence has a lot of pride and a strong sense of community."

Lauren Brodsky is a Middle School English teacher. She grew up and went to school in Melrose-Mindoro. Lauren attended UW-Eau Claire. She is the oldest of five siblings, four girls and one boy. Logan is a nurse in Madison, Mackenzie is a nursing major at Viterbo University and a CNA at Gundersen Lutheran in the Orthopedic Unit in La Crosse, Monica and Mitchell are twins and seniors at Melrose-Mindoro High School. Her dad has taught English at Melrose-Mindoro High School for over thirty years as well as served as the head wrestling coach there. Her mom taught for over twenty years in the West Salem School District, holding various positions such as special education teacher, first grade teacher, and fifth grade teacher. Lauren enjoys being outside either hiking Mt. Simon in Eau Claire with her two dogs, playing sand volleyball, or camping with friends and family. Because her youngest siblings are seniors at Melrose-Mindoro High School, she spends much of her free time cheering in the stands at their various sporting events. Otherwise, Lauren enjoys curling up with a good book, trying new recipes from Pinterest, and watching the Packers on game day. Lauren says, "One of the many things I enjoy at Independence is its sense of community. Whether it is amongst the students, the staff, or the community in relation to the school, I already feel at home in Independence Schools. This isn't common in bigger districts and it is an attribute I am incredibly grateful for, especially as a new teacher. Additionally, Independence aims for an academic rigor that is present in larger districts or secondary institutions. Being a part of a district with big goals for its students makes me excited to be a teacher. I love small, close knit communities. (Thankfully, having grown up in Melrose.) However, Independence as a community sets itself apart by welcoming newcomers with open arms."

Jenna Buss is a High School Math Teacher. She went to Belmont High School in Belmont, WI. Jenna received her degree in Math Education at University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Her parents are Roger and Sharon, and she has 2 older brothers. Jenna likes playing and coaching sports. She is currently the assistant volleyball coach at Independence. Jenna says, "I really like how friendly everyone is here. It was a big move for me getting the job at Indee and staff members and students have been very helpful with the transition. Independence is a small town, which is really nice considering I came from a town of 800."

Jenny Estenson is a Special Ed paraprofessional. She grew up in Osseo, WI and went to High School there. Jenny along with her husband Terry have 4 children: Karli 17, Kelby 15, Kylee 10 and Kysen 8. When Jenny is not wearing her Indee Pride t-shirt she is found wearing her black and

orange gear cheering on her children at their sporting events. She also enjoys family gatherings and making wine with friends. When asked her thoughts about IPS and Independence, Jenny says, "I think it's a wonderful school and I'm proud to be a part of the Independence school district. Independence is a beautiful town with a friendly community."

Collin Manley is the new Middle School Math teacher. He grew up in Arcadia and has 2 brothers. Collin attended UW-Eau Claire where he majored in Elementary Education with a minor in math. He likes to watch and play sports as often as he can. Collin says, "I love the sense of community within the school and I respect how we are building a strong learning culture. I like it here because it has that close knit feeling."

Dianne Engst is a Kindergarten teacher. She grew up in Moravia, New York. Dianne received her Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and Master of Science in Special Education. She has two children, a son and a daughter and five wonderful grandchildren. Dianne likes to spend time with her grandchildren, sew, crochet, needle point, cook, and bake. Dianne says, "Independence School has been a great place to relocate; all the staff and students have been very kind and welcoming. I feel very fortunate to have been asked to come and be a part of the Independence school family. Thank you! Independence is so beautiful and all the people have been so nice and helpful. I have been made to feel right at home here. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to become a part of such a wonderful community."

Michael Jon Mullikin is on the Special Education Team as a Paraprofessional. He grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Wauzeka, WI and graduated from Wauzeka-Steuben Public School. Michael also earned his B.S. in Physical Education with a Minor in coaching from Mayville State University in North Dakota. He is currently earning his Special Education

Teaching License through 10 SPED Program. Michael is married to his lovely wife of 14 years and they have one daughter and one son. He enjoys time with his family and enjoys being able to play golf when he can. When asked about IPS and Independence, Michael says "I really like the setting and make up of IPS. I believe that this will help the student be able to be the most successful they can be. The openness and welcoming of everyone is very refreshing. I grew up in a smaller town than Independence and have always enjoyed that. I feel Independence offers that same small town feeling and everyone is there to welcome and support you."

Anne Peyton is a SPED Paraprofessional. She grew up in De Soto, WI. Anne worked with adults and children with mental disabilities for 5 years at the Riverfront. Her family consists of her father – Robert, her mother – Stacie, and 2 brothers, Joe and Lane. Anne likes to hunt, fish, and play softball. Anne says, "I really enjoy working here, everyone is very friendly and welcoming!" Independence reminds her of her hometown, very small.

Kathleen (Katie) Simmons is also a SPED Paraprofessional. She grew up in Elk Mound and is currently working on a psychology degree with a behavioral analysis degree. Katie's family consists of her mom, half-brother, and her nephew, along with her half malamute husky/half timber wolf puppy. Katie enjoys drift rotary cars, dirt biking, hiking, binge watching Netflix, sleeping, eating, and homework. When asked her thoughts on IPS, she says "It is a friendly, cozy school. I really enjoy it here."

Amanda Schneider is the new 4K/5K Paraprofessional. She grew up in Gilmanton and has a diploma for a teacher's aide. Amanda likes to spend time with her husband Chad, and their two children Bradyn and Brynna.

Raising Digital Citizens

Access to the internet is just about everywhere, from public libraries, malls, and schools to personal hotspots on cell phones and personal wifi in new vehicles. With all the quick and easy access to the internet, our children need to know how to act and behave responsibly online for their own protection. Even though the internet is a wonderful place where great learning can take place, having some precautions in place will make exploring the internet a more enjoyable experience. The following tips can be implemented in your house to help keep your devices at their optimal performance levels, as well as protecting your children's digital footprint.

1. As a parent/guardian remain positively engaged with your child as they explore the internet. Pay attention to the different sites they visit or use frequently. Make it a teachable moment if they happen to come upon inappropriate material.
2. Keep your device clean by installing anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-spyware or a firewall that is set to automatically update. Make sure you are running the current operating system on your computer and make it a good practice to backup files on a regular basis.
3. Review privacy settings with your children on different social media sites. Decide together which settings are appropriate for your child to provide the best level of protection.
4. Help your child decide which sites are credible websites and teach your children to be cautious about clicking on, downloading, posting or uploading content.
5. Children need to understand the public nature of the internet and the risks and benefits associated with using and exploring. Children should clearly understand that any digital information they share can be easily be copied and pasted elsewhere, which is basically impossible to take back. Children should be mindful of sharing content that

could damage their reputation or friendships.

6. Your children may have to deal with situations online such as cyberbullying, unwanted contact from others, or hurtful comments. Develop strategies together, that your child can use if these problems arise, such as talking to a trusted adult, not retaliating, talking calmly to the person, or blocking the person.

As a final thought about raising positive digital citizens, while your family computer may be in a public location in your home, children also have many other ways to access the internet including smart phones, tablet and ipods. Establish expectations for your children when using mobile devices and establish "device free" areas to develop relationships with your children. While what you decide for your children's access to the internet is a personal choice, talking to others can help you understand what other families are doing which may help aid in making your decisions for your family. Remember to also stay current with what is happening with online safety as well as new online services or applications. Websites like [Common Sense Media](http://CommonSenseMedia.org) (commonsensemedia.org) can help parents make informed decisions on apps, websites, movies and more that their children may want to use. For more information about raising digital citizens you can visit National Cyber Security Alliance staysafeonline.org

Melissa Pientok
Technology Integrator Specialist



INDEE MVGTN Enrichment Events 2016-2017

The Mississippi Gifted and Talented Network will again be organizing a number of events for our students to participate in. Students will be choice based on teacher recommendation as well as scores on school assessments. Letters about each event will be coming home with those students invited to partake in each event. Some events like the Performing Arts Fair and Heritage Fair are judged events where the judges select projects to move on to the Event Fair. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Pientok at school.

EVENT	DATE & TIME Snow Date	LOCATION
3 rd Grd. Creative Problem Solving Day	November 15 Tue SD 17	Blair-Taylor Elementary
5th Gr. Performing Arts Fair	December 16	CESA 4 TBC
Vocabulary Showdown	Jan. 24	online
Young Writers (4-8) Workshop/Showcase Guest Author:	Feb 28 SD March 2	Arcadia
Rebel Spelling Bee North and South Event	March 28 SD March 30	Westby
6-8th Gr. Art Festival	April 4	Melrose-Mindoro
4th Gr. Wisc. Heritage Fair	April 20	GET Middle School
H.S. Creative Writing Fest North and South Event	April 25	CESA #4
5-6th Gr. Battle of the Books	May 2 or 9	Whitehall
7-8th Gr. Battle of the Books	May 2 or 9	Whitehall
5th-6th Gr. Kids College North and South Event	May 12	UW-L

2016 State Assessment Talking Points



****EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 UPON
RELEASE OF STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT DATA****

Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

Forward Exam, ACT, and DLM 2016 Assessment Data Release *Suggested Talking Points for Schools and Districts*

Big Picture Summary

1. Annual state assessments help all stakeholders – parents, teachers, districts, school boards – see a clear picture of how well they are preparing students to be college and career ready. The WSAS exams accounted for in this release of annual statewide assessment data include:
 1. Wisconsin Forward Exam:
 1. Grades 3-8; measures performance in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
 2. Grades 4 and 8; measures performance in Science
 3. Grades 4, 8, and 10; measures performance in Social Studies
 2. ACT: grade 11; measures performance in ELA, mathematics, and science (same college admissions exam taken by students nationwide)
 3. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): grades 3-11; alternate assessment in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies for students with severe cognitive disabilities
1. The Forward Exam was administered online to approximately 370,000 students statewide in grades 3-8 in ELA and mathematics, 120,000 students in grades 4 and 8 in science, and 180,000 students in grades 4, 8 and 10 in social studies.
 1. As an online assessment, the Forward Exam incorporates innovative and better ways for students to demonstrate what they know and can do (technology enhanced items)
2. The ACT assessment measures English, reading, math, science, and writing performance, and was administered statewide via paper/pencil to approximately 64,000 students in grade 11.
 1. By offering the ACT statewide, all grade 11 students, regardless of family circumstances, have the opportunity to participate in a college readiness assessment. Previously before the ACT was a required statewide assessment, only about 72% of WI graduates took the ACT. Evidence shows that when college readiness tests like ACT are given universally with fees paid for by the state or district, students who would not have taken the college readiness assessments may discover that they are “college material.” Improving access to post-secondary readiness options is one way in which to close our achievement gap and address equity issues in WI.
3. The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment was administered to approximately 5,400 students statewide in grades 3-8 in ELA and mathematics, grades 4, 8, and 11 in science, and grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.
 1. As WI’s alternate assessment taken by students with significant cognitive disabilities, DLM is an online assessment administered individually to students. It allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they relate to the WI Essential Elements.

High Expectations for College and Career Readiness (CCR)

1. ACT cut scores are rigorous.
 1. Aligned to ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks
 2. Proficiency signals readiness for credit-bearing college-level coursework
 3. Resources:
 1. [ACT Cut Score and Data Proficiency Information](#)

2. [ACT Performance Level Cut Scores for WI](#)
4. The spring 2016 administration included changes made by ACT to the design of the ACT writing test with modifications to the prompt, rubric, testing time, and score reports assessment. Per ACT, the new writing task included a much broader range of subject matter, and measured more complex thinking and writing skills. The change in writing assessment was communicated to schools and districts prior to testing, and the new sample writing test was made available by ACT to familiarize stakeholders around this topic.
2. Forward Exam cut scores are also rigorous.
 1. Forward Exam standard setting occurred earlier this summer in collaboration with educators from across the state.
 2. Cut scores were informed by NAEP proficiency levels, thus raising expectations for all students.
 3. Resources:
 1. [Forward Exam Data & Results](#)
 2. [User's Guide to Interpreting Reports](#)

Please Note / Data Cautions

1. Spring 2016 marks the first administration of the Forward Exam for WI students, and users should take caution when interpreting these results, as well as comparing them to Badger Exam and WKCE results from years past.
 1. As you know, the 2015-16 administration of the Forward Exam was – due to legislatively required changes – the third different state test in three years. As WI continues to administer the Forward Exam, scores are anticipated to stabilize statewide. Please use these results in conjunction with other data to drive school improvement. WSAS results are high profile, but only one of many data points that should be considered in a school improvement planning process.
 2. WI Forward Exam results this year show a general decrease in the number of students considered to be “proficient” or “advanced” when compared to previous administrations of the Badger and WKCE. This decline does not indicate a drop in student performance per se, but rather is an outcome of extending the increased rigor expectation to all tested content areas.
2. Differences between ACT statewide and ACT graduates releases
 1. ACT **graduates** is the most recent score for students who reported as having graduated in that year.
 2. ACT **statewide** is the required administration of the ACT plus Writing for all grade 11 students (except those taking DLM).
 3. The state moved from five racial and ethnic subgroups to seven this year; fluctuations in performance among groups is possible when comparing previous years' results.

Wisconsin Civics Graduation Requirement

Starts with The Class of 2017

- *How many US Senators are there? (100)*
- *What does the Constitution Do? (sets up and defines the government, protects basic rights of Americans)*
- *What is an amendment? (a change or addition to the Constitution)*
- *How many amendments does the Constitution have? (27)*

There is a requirement in WI Act 55(2015) that any student graduating from a Wisconsin high school (starting with the class of 2017) "takes a civics test comprised of 100 questions that are identical to the 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the pupil correctly answers at least 60 of those questions."

- Students, starting with the class of 2017, must correctly answer at least 60 of 100 questions.
- Students with IEP's must take the test, but do not have to pass it in order to graduate.
- Students identified as Limited English Proficient may take the test in their language of choice.
- It is up to the school/district what format to use, and when in the school year to administer the test.
- Districts are responsible to give the test, score it, and keep records of student scores/passing.

Independence Students will have the opportunity to take their test November 8, 2016 or February 8, 2017.

Practice Materials: <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test>

Assessment for Learning

Assessing, monitoring, and responding to student learning is a priority in Independence and for most schools around the country. If we are clear about what our students need to know and then assess to find out their level of understanding we can better serve them. In the past several years Independence Public School has built a strong assessment system based on the most current research in best educational practices. Listed below are the assessments and their test windows that our school currently uses and a short explanation of each. If you have further questions about any assessments we use please contact your child's teacher, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Vanderloop, Mrs. Woychik, or Ms. Knudtson (English Language Learners).



How can families help their students perform at their best?

- **Encouraging a positive attitude about the process of learning.**
- **Reminding students that working hard is something to be proud of.**
- **Getting rest, drinking plenty of water, eating healthy, and staying active-everyday.**

Many of the tests list a testing window. This means that our students will test some time during that window. The specific testing time and date for your child will be shared with you via your child's home folder (elementary only).

State law (section 118.30(2)(b) of the state statutes) establishes a parental right to excuse their child from taking the state-mandated examinations in grades 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The 2016-2017 assessment schedule is on the following pages.

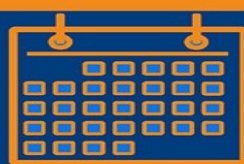
2016 – 2017 Assessment Schedule

Grade Level	Test	Test Window	Purpose and where to find more information:
K-5	<u>AIMSweb</u> Academic Improvement Monitoring System	September 1-15, January 1-15, May 1-15	http://www.aimsweb.com/ Brief assessment of early literacy, early numeracy, reading, math, and behavior.
4K-5K	<u>Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG)</u> Screening	September 1-15, January 1-15, May 1-15	http://shop.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD-assessment-online.cfm Assessment of early literacy skills.
6-12	Reading Plus Insight Assessment for MS/HS Reading Plus IEB Groups	September 1-15 January 1-15	
6-12	<u>STAR Math & Reading</u>	BENCHMARK: September 1-15, January 1-15, May 1-15 Progress Monitoring: First week of each month	http://www.renaissance.com/products/star-assessments/star-360 Computer adaptive measure of broad math and reading skills.
3-8	<u>Forward Exam</u>	March 20-May 5	http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward Assesses student achievement English Language Arts and Math grades 3-8 Science grades 4 & 8 Soc. St grades 4-8-10
5k-12	ACCESS Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners for English Language Learners	December 6- February 10	http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward Assesses student's academic language proficiency.
9-10	ASPIRE	April 24-May 26	http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act Assesses college readiness.

2016 – 2017 Assessment Schedule

Grade Level	Test	Test Window	Purpose and where to find more information:
11	ACT	Feb 28 or March 21	http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act Tests English, Reading, Writing, Math and Science, Writing Assesses college readiness.
11	ACT Work Keys	March 1 or 22	Tests applied math, reading for information and locating information used to help students understand how they can improve their career readiness skill.
3-11	Dynamic Learning Maps	March-May	http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm Measures the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics for students in grades 3-11 as well as science for students in grades 4 and 8-11.
12	Civics Exam	November 8 and February 8	http://dpi.wi.gov/social-studies/civics Students, starting with the class of 2017, must correctly answer at least 60 of 100 questions identical to the INS citizenship test in order to graduate from a WI public, charter, or private school. Questions and answers for the test: http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/educational-products Resources in other languages: http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/other-languages

SCHEDULE



Kindergarten Receives Interactive Software

The kindergarten received a full set of Lakeshore Interactive Software through donorschoose.org and the Herb Kohl Foundation. Mrs. Pyka developed a proposal for donorschoose.org and the Herb Kohl Foundation funded it. Donorschoose.org is a web-based program where teachers can create a proposal for needed classroom items and anyone can choose to donate to the proposal. During the period of Mrs. Pyka's proposal, the Herb Kohl Foundation donated the funds needed for any proposal that was still not funded for teachers in the state of Wisconsin. Timing was everything and after the proposal, being on donorschoose.org for only two days the kindergarten received full funding. The cost of the software was approximately \$700.

The interactive software arrived at school one week after notification of the proposal be-

ing funded. The software is in use on a daily basis and the children love being engaged with the software as they learn new skills. The software is primarily used on the classroom SMART Board, but can also be used by students on an individual basis on a computer. The software includes reading, math, science and health materials. It complements the kindergarten curriculum perfectly. Thank you to the Herb Kohl Foundation for funding the project.



Mrs. Pyka's 2016-2017 Kindergarten Class

Ashley Donation

Ashley Furniture gives a \$20,000 donation to Middle School and High School Science Classes



Independence School District superintendent Barry Schmitt, right, received a \$20,000 Ashley Furniture Industries donation from Ashley Furniture public relations representative Cole Bawek during a Sept. 1 student assembly at the school. The donation will help cover costs in the middle school core science program which will receive a complete overhaul where IQWST curriculum will serve as a foundation and our high school students taking a Project Lead The Way-Principles of Engineering Class as an upper-level science course. The curriculum is designed to strengthen the district's science, technology, engineering, and math programs. Teachers are engaging students in problem-solving, hands on, as well as minds on learning which includes strengthening student skills in writing, reading, and speaking about science. Our teachers participated in several weeks of professional development this summer to prepare

for the implementation. Significant upgrades to materials were made.

Work will continue this fall with the development of, what will be, annual partnership meetings with professionals working in the science and engineering fields. Any interested community member interested in participating may contact Dawn Woychik at [715-985-3172](tel:715-985-3172).

Independence Public School extends our most sincere appreciation for the support of Ashley Furniture in this important shift in our science curriculum and for their investment in our student's education.

Also taking part in the donation event were, from left, Ashley Furniture engineer Jay Herrick, science teacher Amber Guza and science teacher Jenna Sonsalla.

Homecoming 2016 "Through the Decades"

Students and staff showed their Indee pride all week as we traveled through the decades. Each class had 2 decades to build their class competition. Freshman focused on the Great Gatsby and floated through the hallways in flapper dresses. Sophomores loved the 50's and their rock-n-roll legends. Juniors got groovy in the 70's and Seniors found every icon from the 80's and 90's to make us smile. Freshman won points through the greatest participation in dress up days. Sophomores dominated in the

ironman volleyball, powderpuff football, as well as float and skit. Juniors won overall, taking points in tug o war, amazing race, and hallway. Seniors took victory in the gym banner.

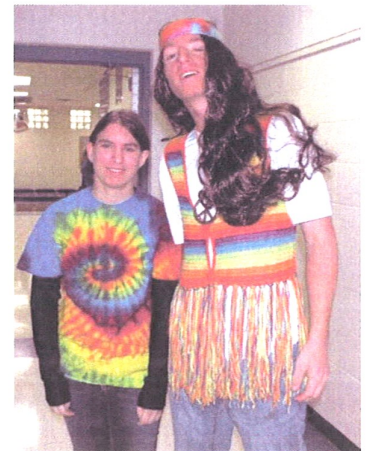
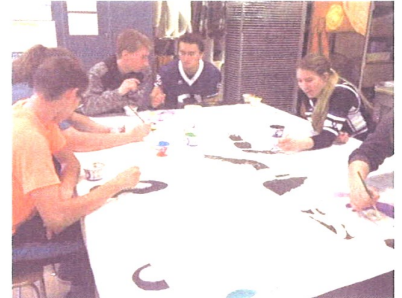
Student Council wishes to thank everyone for their participation and respect for our new homecoming expectations. Also a special thanks to all of those behind the scenes who make all the fun a possibility!



Homecoming court left to right: Dakota Waletzko, Andrew Grulkowski, Josh Conrad, King: Jonny Warner, Queen: Sara Marsolek, Hannah Halama, Darby Smieja, Jaydin Guza. (photo credit to Laurie Grulkowski)

1920s 1940s
1950s 1930s 1970s
1960s
1990s 1980s

Homecoming 2016



Through the Decades



INDEES AND NORSEMEN 2 teams ONE CAUSE Digging for a Cure 2016

On September 29th, the Indees Volleyball team hosted a "Digging for a Cure" event to help raise cancer awareness. This event was in conjunction with the three volleyball games that night vs. the Whitehall Norsemen. Activities included a Chinese Raffle, Serve to Win Game, Honor/Memory Wall, 50/50, and signing cards. Thanks to the 40+ businesses and 25+ personal donations, the support was overwhelming and a very successful night came to life. Although the Indees lost the volleyball game in four sets that night, they found themselves to be part of the support group of the true winners that night, Laura Olson and her family.

This year the Indees played in honor of Laura Olson, daughter of Rich and Doreen Olson, and a 2005 graduate of Independence High School. She was a 4-sport athlete while at IHS, and continued to be involved in intramural sports and Madison intercity sports. Laura was diagnosed with a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma which primarily affects young adult females. This type of lymphoma presents a large mass behind the breastbone that usually puts pressure on the heart and lungs. She was diagnosed September 14, 2015 and on September 29th, 2015, she began the first of ten

rounds of chemotherapy. On March 23, it was determined that the lymphoma was not in remission and she was referred to UW-Health/Carbone Cancer Center in Madison for a stem cell transplant. In preparation for the stem cell transplant, she completed two more rounds of chemotherapy and thirty radiation treatments. At the end of July, biopsies determined the lymphoma had spread to her stomach, liver, and lymph nodes so the stem cell transplant could not be completed. A na-

tion-wide referral process had led her to be medically accepted for a CAR T-cell immunotherapy clinical trial at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Laura and her mother are expected to be in Seattle for at least eight weeks. Although Laura has been in continuous treatment for a year, her physical strength, spirit, and drive for life has never wavered. She finds a silver lining in the worse of situations and does so with a sense of humor.

Rich, Laura's father, and Leah, Laura's twin sister, were in attendance at the event. Leah shared an uplifting and inspirational message sent all the way from Laura in Seattle. Rich recognized the friends and family that have stood by Laura's side her entire battle, including Laura's boyfriend and his parents who drove from Madison that day to support the event. He also



shared an inspiring message with the team, sharing that they have joined a world-wide support system.

Thanks to the businesses and families that donated, those in attendance, and those that helped work that night, the Indees raised an impressive \$5967.72 that will be donated directly to Laura. The Indees can't thank the school district, donors, and fans enough for their support. We also thank Laura and her family for allowing us to become a part of her support system--because Her Fight is Our Fight!

Donors and volunteers include: Ginny Kulig, Broney & Jane Matchey, Pata Warner, Kerry Franks, & Linda Longmore, Charlotte Gamroth, Randy & Geri Sluga & Kay Wozney, Gary & Kathy Smieja Family, Bruce & Lynette Speltz Family, Rita Olson, Darlene Fjelstad, & Marion Brickner, Betty Zilla, Allie & Bonnie Kabus, Allis & Rose Ottum, Bernard & Marilyn Kampa, Darin & Jennifer Pape Family, Randy & Jean Symicek, Steve & Sue Wozney Family, Doug Yapp, Fjelstad Auctioneer, Cheryl Bragger, Indees Girls Basketball, Lions Club & Heidi Bragger & Mick Kadinger, Brian & Eva Olson Family, Ron & Renee Guza, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186, Always in Season Gift Shop, Ashley Furniture, Bushy's Meat Market, Cabin Creek Bar, Central Builders, Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods, Dejno Acres/Any & Mary Dejno, East

End Bar, Keith & Nancy Edison, Teresa Edison & Matt Wood, Terry & Jenny Estenson Family, Ever-in Tax Service, Dave & Sandy Filla Family, Gamroth Fur Farm, Gold N Plump, Halama Flooring, Jerome & Tracy Halama Family, Hayter Handyman, Indee Metal Works, Independence Ready Mix, Independence State Bank, Marilyn Senty Ivers, J & J Storage, JoJo's Drive-In, Kabus Auto-body & Recovery, Klimek's Automotive, Liberty

Floral, Michael Lyga, MM San Juan LLC, Marsolek Excavating, Marc's Barbershop, Midwest Natural Gas, Nelson Straightline, Northern Investment

Co., Olde' Mill Hair Salon, Olde' Creamery Antiques, Olson Fur Farm, Pehler Oil, Pietrek Service Station, Pronschinske Welding, Rainbow Community Club, Rick & Cher Schaumberg Family, Scheel's All Sports, State Bank of Arcadia, Simple Things, Trempealeau County Relay for Life, Troy's Gas N Grub, Starwood Rafters Inc, Southern Exposure, Sylver's Bar, Adolph & Darlene Thoma Family, Mike & Kari Waters, Sharon Truog, WHTL Radio, Truog Plumbing, and anyone we may have missed. Your donation and time are greatly appreciated.



#1 Indee Fan

Jill Gamroth can be seen and heard at almost all Indee sporting events. Jill lives and breathes purple (except on Sundays – during Pack-er season, then she's all green and gold). Jill has been known to skip family events to come to watch the Indees. Whether the game is near or far, Jill is there. This year's senior volleyball players honored Jill at their Senior Night for being the #1 Indee Fan. Thanks for your time and dedication to the Indees, Jill. It's always nice to see your smiling face.



Winter Sports Begin in November

Girls' Basketball will get underway in November with practice scheduled to begin on November 7th. Their first game is scheduled for November 15th at home against Elmwood/Plum City.

Boys' Basketball and Wrestling will then begin on November 14th with the basketball team opening regular season play on November 28th with a home game against Elmwood/Plum City. The wrestlers open up with a Tournament in Black River Falls on December 3rd.

Middle School boys' basketball, which is a cooperative program with SSPP will start practice on October 24th with their first game scheduled at home against Melrose-Mindoro on November 10th.

Girls Middle School Basketball with SSPP does not begin until after Christmas and their first game is January 12th.

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.

Booster Club News

With the upgrade of the concessions stand inside the school, we are ready to embark on a great year. There are several things that we will need to get ready for the 2016-17 athletic seasons:

- Sign-up for shifts to man the concession stand during the 2016-17 season. We would like two adults per shift. We are working on a sign-up that will be available on the athletics website on the Independence School District's web page in the coming weeks. It is the responsibility of every parent/guardian who has a student involved in athletics to sign-up for several shifts.
- Meetings have been switched to the second Wednesday's in the months of October, December, January, March, May, June at 7:00 PM. We will always have the first meeting of the year following the athletic code meeting in August.
- Independence will be hosting the Wrestling sectionals here on February 18, 2017. This will be a big concessions opportunity for all athletes/parents.

As always we welcome new members, people looking to enhance our facilities/equipment and opportunities for our student/athletes. If interested in finding out more, please contact Mr. Ruhland at the school, Lynnette Speltz (Our President) or Connie Guza and Teresa Fredrickson (Co-chair of concessions).

First Student from Independence High School Accomplishes Great Triumph!

Bailie Bautch, becomes Member of Wisconsin High School Honors Choir! A senior soprano in the Independence High School Choir has been selected, via audition, to the 2016 Wisconsin School Music Association Treble Honors Choir. Started in 1967, the WSMA State Honors Music Project provides musically talented students with an opportunity to rehearse and perform with the nation's finest conductors in a professional, highly disciplined setting. Selected through a rigorous audition process, students are challenged to perform at their musical best throughout a short rehearsal period (four day summer music camp), which culminates with a performance in October at the Wisconsin State Music Conference held in Madison. The WSMA State Honors Music Project is nationally recognized as one of the finest musical opportunities for young musicians in our country.



My Musical Life and the WSMA Honors Choir

By Bailie Bautch

My mom says I've been singing since I was four. I would watch Disney movies and afterwards endlessly sing the songs -- my mom got one such moment on video. I was sitting in a rocking chair swaying back and forth singing, "Everybody Wants to be a Cat" from the Aristocats. But, she says I've been listening to music long before that. When I was a baby, she would play Yanni, the famous pianist, so I would fall asleep. I also asked my mom or grandma to sing what I called "Roses" to me, which was "My Favorite Things" from The Sound of Music. In eighth grade I realized I really wanted to do something with my singing. I started to realize that my voice was developing and that with practice it became strong and lyrical. My freshman year of high school, choir wouldn't fit into my schedule, but I was still in band as a tenor saxophone player just as my mom had been. When I was finally able to fit choir into my schedule my sophomore year, I was able to participate in the Dairyland Conference Honors Choir, as well as the Dorian Honors Choir in Decorah, Iowa. I also started competing in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival Competition. I sang a classical solo and a musical theatre piece and went to state with both. At state competition I received a first on my musical theatre piece. This inspired me to work even harder! My junior year was my favorite year musically because I was able to stretch myself even more. Along with my solo singing, I was able to sing with other choir members in

duets and quartets – most of which moved on to the State competition. Once again my hard work rewarded me with something special. I received a 1--N rating for my classical solo, the highest rating one can receive at the state completion. This rating means that I was selected for an Exemplary Soloist Award. Not only was I thrilled, but my teacher, my accompanist, and friends were also ecstatic when we saw that rating! My greatest achievement musically has been my selection to the WSMA Honors Choir. I auditioned for this at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in April and was told that I would be sent a letter in the mail towards the end of a May letting me know if I was selected. The letter finally came and I had made the cut! I was in and was officially a member of the Wisconsin High School Honors Choir! I went to the choir music camp this past June and it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. We are performing eight different pieces of music, including pieces in Latin, Bulgarian, and soul. Our concert is October 27th in Madison, Wisconsin, I am very excited to represent the Indee choir, my school, and my community at this concert! I know there are going to be many challenges ahead of me, but with guidance and courage I can overcome any obstacle. I look forward to being involved with music for the rest of my life.



Dairyland Conference Honor Musicians Selected from IHS

Sixteen musicians from Independence High School are representing our school on Saturday, November, 12, 2016 at the Dairyland Conference Honors Concert in Whitehall, Wisconsin. The concert, which takes place in the Memorial Auditorium in WHS, starts at 7:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$4 for adults and \$1 for students.

Each year, all of the music directors of the Dairyland Conference come together in a non-competitive setting to nominate music students to build a concert band and concert choir. The band and choir directors submit names of qualified band and choir students to the pool of possible members and then select players and singers basing their selections off of playing experience, instrumentation, solo and ensemble experience and other musical qualifications.

The students meet for the first time as a choir or band the Tuesday evening before the concert. There they meet their guest clinician and begin a two and a half hour rehearsal. The students come back four days later to rehearse again on Saturday afternoon. That evening the students have supper together and then present the concert at 7:00 pm.

Representing the IHS Choir this year are:

Soprano: Baillie Bautch, Devon Diebold, Destiny Diebold

Alto: Hailey Skroch, Jorgiann Gierok, Miranda Stegerwald

Tenor: Jonathan Warner, Cody Blaha

Bass: Bryan Morales, Chase Cooper

Representing the IHS Band this year are:

Tayea Campbell and Hannah Witte, Clarinet
Yulisma Garcia and Morgan Becker, Alto
Saxophone

Brittany Brown, Tuba

Colton Bork, Percussion



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JV Basketball 6:00pm Varsity Basketball 7:30pm 	1 FALL AWARDS 6:00 snacks 6:30 awards	2 2:30 DISMISSAL 7:00pm School Board Meeting	3 State Volleyball Resch Center	4 State Volleyball Resch Center End Of 1 st Qtr Football Level 3	5 State Volleyball Resch Center	
6 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	7 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service First Day of Girls Basketball Practice	8 Dairyland Band/Choir Practice	9 2:30 DISMISSAL	10 MSBBB vs Mel-Min 4:45pm (H)	11 VETERAN'S DAY Program 10:00am FFA Leadership Football Level 4 	12 Dairyland Band/Choir Concert FFA Leadership
13 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	14 First Day of Boys Basketball Practice First Day of Wrestling Practice	15 GBB vs PC/Elmw 6:00/7:30pm (H)	16 2:30 DISMISSAL	17 State Football Camp Randall MSBBB @ B-T 4:30pm	18 Holiday Fair Set up	19 Holiday Fair Set up
20 Rainbow Community Club's 39 th Holiday Fair 9am - 3pm OPEN GYM 5-8pm	21	22 GBB @ Pepin 6:00/7:30pm MSBBB vs A-P 4:30pm (H)	23 12:15 DISMISSAL	24 NO SCHOOL  Happy Thanksgiving	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	28 BBB vs PC/Elmw 6:00/7:30pm (H)	29 GBB vs B-T 6:00/7:30pm (H) MSBBB @ C-FC 4:30pm	30 2:30 DISMISSAL			

December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>The best way to spread CHRISTMAS CHEER is singing LOUD for all to hear</p>		JV Basketball 6:00pm Varsity Basketball 7:30pm		1 BBB vs B-T 6:00/7:30pm (H) MSBBB @ Lincoln 4:30pm	2 GBB vs EC Imman 6:00/7:30pm (H)	3 Wrestling @ BRF 10:15am MSBBB @ WHTL 7 th Gr AM/8 th Gr PM Minneapolis Arts Trip
4 OPEN GYM 5-8pm Minneapolis Arts Trip	5 MS/HS Instrumental Concert 7:00pm	6 GBB @ EC Imman 6:00/7:30pm BBB @ G-E-T 6:00/7:30pm MSBBB vs Gilman 4:30pm (H) FFFA Fruit Pick-up	7 2:30 DISMISSAL 7:00pm School Board Meeting	8 Wrestling vs Onalaska 7:00pm MS BBB vs B-T 4:30pm (H)	9 BBB vs A-P 6:00/7:30pm (H)	10 GBB vs WHTL 6:00/7:30pm (H) Wrestling @ La Crosse Logan
11 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	12 MS/HS Vocal Concert 7:00pm	13 GBB vs Gilmanton 6:00/7:30pm (H) MSBBB @ A-P 4:30pm	14 2:30 DISMISSAL	15 Wrestling @ Mondovi TBD 4K – 1 st grade Music Concert 9:15am and 1:15pm	16 GBB @ Augusta 6:00/7:30pm 2 nd – 5 th grade Music Concert 9:15am and 1:15pm Wrestling @ RKD	17 BBB @ WHTL 1:00/2:30pm
18 OPEN GYM 5-8pm	19 MSBBB vs C-FC 4:30pm (H)	20 BBB @ Gilmanton 7:00pm MSBBB @ WHTL 4:00pm	21 2:30 DISMISSAL	22 12:15 DISMISSAL Wrestling vs Durand 7:00pm	23 NO SCHOOL	24 <p>Twas the Night before Christmas ...</p>
25 	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL GBB @ Cashton BBB @ Cashton	28 NO SCHOOL GBB @ Cashton BBB @ Cashton	29 NO SCHOOL Wrestling @ La Crosse Center	30 NO SCHOOL Wrestling @ La Crosse Center	31

Christmas Vacation

ChristmasText.com



Kwik Trip will give the Independence School District 5 cents for every cap and bag top from Nature's Touch Milk and 16 oz. or larger Nature's Touch Ice Cream bar code, and 10 cents for every tan Glazers price oval.

Start saving now!

All proceeds will go the Independence School District to help with field trip funding.



More Chances To Save & Earn!



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

WANTED: Yearbook Pictures

The yearbook is in need of your help. If you have fantastic pictures of our Indee students playing a sport, having fun cheering at a game, or just plain fun, candid pictures, please submit them to Alie Bultman so that we have a lot of pictures to choose from for the yearbook this year. We are looking for all ages 4K-Seniors. Please remember that all high school pictures will be considered for the high school yearbook and all elementary and middle school pictures will be considered for the elementary/middle school yearbook. Please take and send pictures throughout the school year. Please call Alie Bultman if you have any questions at 715-985-3172, ext. 139 or via email at bultmana@indps.k12.wi.us. Submit pictures to her email as well.



Western Dairyland RSVP Volunteers are taking on a new project devoted to providing weekend food for children in need. Focusing on our young people, we will provide lunches, at no cost, for students to eat on non-school days, such as weekends and holidays. Children in the Independence School district and Independence Head Start locations will be participating in this project. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recognizes the National School Lunch program as the most efficient and effective method of eliminating childhood hunger and urges you to apply if your student would benefit from free or reduced price school meals. If your child would benefit from receiving supplemental food for non-school times, we welcome you to enroll in our RSVP Weekend FOOD 4 KIDS Project. Enrollment forms are available at all schools and at the Western Dairyland RSVP office. This project is available to all students up to 19 years of age. There are no income guidelines to receive weekend lunches, all children are eligible. General household information collected will remain confidential and be used for statistical purposes only.

Food will be sent home with students on Thursdays and can include food for all children within the home. We deliver to all Independence schools and the Independence Head Start Center which serves families from Arcadia, Independence, Whitehall and Pigeon Falls. Lunches vary each week, but a typical RSVP Weekend FOOD 4 KIDS bag will include easy to prepare meals, fruits, vegetables, string cheese, trail mix or a granola bars.

This wonderful project is made possible by RSVP volunteers and community donations. If you're interested in learning more about how you can become involved with the RSVP Weekend FOOD 4 KIDS Project please call. Volunteers are needed 1 to 2 hours per week on Thursdays. We welcome and encourage you to volunteer. Please contact our RSVP Volunteer Coordinator at

- cheryl.padula@wdeoc.org or call 715-985-2391 ext. 1205
- erika.hobbs@wdeoc.org or call 715-985-2391 ext. 1232

TO ENROLL, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER/SCHOOL OR MAIL TO:

RSVP Weekend FOOD 4 KIDS
PO Box 125
Independence, WI 54747

ENROLLMENT FORM

Names of school aged children (3 to 19 years) in the household who wish to receive weekend food assistance.

Student's name _____ Age _____ School/location _____
 Teacher's name _____ grade _____ gender **M** or **F**

Student's name _____ Age _____ School/location _____
 Teacher's name _____ grade _____ gender **M** or **F**

Student's name _____ Age _____ School/location _____
 Teacher's name _____ grade _____ gender **M** or **F**

Student's name _____ Age _____ School/location _____
 Teacher's name _____ grade _____ gender **M** or **F**

Parent/Guardian name _____ Home/Cell Phone _____

1. Please **circle** your delivery location:

- **Independence Schools:** Elementary High School or SSPP Catholic School.
- **Head Start Center** - serving Independence, Whitehall, Pigeon Falls & Arcadia area children
- **Other** special circumstances, please describe _____

Optional

2. How many individuals are in the household? _____ # of Adults _____ # of Children

3. Household Income (Please **circle** which amount below most closely matches the total annual household income)
\$11,670-\$15,730 **\$19,790-\$23,850** **\$27,910-\$31,970** **\$36,030-\$40,090** **\$45,000 +**

4. Ethnicity (Please circle)

White/Caucasian **Native American** **Asian** **Hispanic/Latino** **African American** **Pacific Islander**

All information is strictly confidential. Contact is only made to notify of changes.

This project is made possible by the joined efforts of the Western Dairyland RSVP Volunteer Program, Independence Schools, S.S. Peter & Paul Church and the Western Dairyland Head Start Program. It is typically not possible for our project to provide specific menu items for special diets or allergies. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the Independence Schools, Western Dairyland or S. S. Peter & Paul Church shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court of administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all costs, attorney's fees, and judgments or awards.

Signature _____ date _____



Western Dairyland Voluntarios de RSVP están asumiendo un nuevo proyecto dedicado a la provisión de alimentos de fin de semana para los niños de bajo ingreso. Centrándose en nuestros jóvenes, proporcionaremos los almuerzos, sin costo alguno, para que los alumnos coman en días no escolares, como los fines de semana y días festivos. Los niños en el distrito escolar de Independence y la ubicación de la Independencia de Head Start estarán participando en este proyecto. Programa de Voluntarios Retirados (RSVP) reconoce el Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares como el método más eficiente y eficaz de eliminar el hambre infantil e insta a aplicar si su hijo beneficiaría de las comidas escolares gratis o precio reducido. Si su hijo beneficiaría recibir alimentos suplementarios para los tiempos fuera de la escuela, le invitamos a que se inscriba en nuestro proyecto de comida para niños (RSVP Weekend FOOD 4 KIDS Project). Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles en todas las escuelas y en la oficina de RSVP Western Dairyland. Este proyecto está a disposición de todos los estudiantes hasta 19 años de edad. No hay requisitos de ingresos para recibir almuerzos de fin de semana, todos los niños son elegibles. Información general del hogar recopilada se mantendrá confidencial y será utilizada únicamente con fines estadísticos.

Alimentos será enviado a casa con los estudiantes los jueves y puede incluir alimentos para todos los niños en la casa. Entregamos a todas las escuelas de Independence y el Centro Head Start Independence, que sirve a las familias de Arcadia, Independence, Whitehall y Pigeon Falls. Los almuerzos varean cada semana, pero una bolsa típica del programa FOOD 4 KIDS de RSVP incluirán comidas fáciles de preparar, frutas, verduras, queso, mezcla de frutas secas o unas barras de granola.

Este maravilloso proyecto es posible gracias a los voluntarios de RSVP y donaciones de la comunidad. Si usted está interesado en aprender más sobre cómo usted puede participar con el programa RSVP FOOD 4 KIDS llame. Los voluntarios se necesitan de 1 a 2 horas por semana los jueves. Les damos la bienvenida y animamos que sean voluntarios. Por favor, póngase en contacto con nuestro Coordinador de Voluntarios de RSVP en cheryl.padula@wdeoc.org o llame al 715-985-2391 ext. 1205 erika.hobbs@wdeoc.org o llame al 715-985-2391 Ext. 1232

Para inscribirse, por favor complete la PARTE POSTERIOR DE ESTA FORMA Y REGRESE AL MAESTRO / ESCUELA DE SU HIJO O POR CORREO A:

RSVP WEEKEND FOOD 4 KIDS
PO Box 125
Independence, WI 54747

OVER ↓

FORMULARIO DE INSCRIPCIÓN

Los nombres de los niños de 3-19 años de edad en el hogar que deseen recibir asistencia alimentaria de fin de semana.

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Edad _____ Escuela / locación _____

Nombre del profesor _____ grado _____ genero **M o F**

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Edad _____ Escuela / locación _____

Nombre del profesor _____ grado _____ genero **M o F**

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Edad _____ Escuela / locación _____

Nombre del profesor _____ grado _____ genero **M o F**

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Edad _____ Escuela / locación _____

Nombre del profesor _____ grado _____ genero **M o F**

Padre / Guardián _____ Teléfono / Celular _____

Necesaria para fines estadísticos:

1. Por favor marque la ubicación de entrega:

• **Las escuelas de Independence a:**

Escuela Primaria Independence Escuela superior (High School) Escuela Católica SSPP

• **Centro de Head Start** - Independence, Whitehall, Pigeon Falls y zona infantil Arcadia

• **Otras circunstancias especiales**, por favor describa _____

2. ¿Cuántas personas hay en la familia? _____ # De Adultos _____ # de Niños

3. Ingreso de la casa? \$ _____ Mensual
\$ _____ Anual

4. Etnicidad (Por favor circule)

Blanco / nativos de raza caucásica Americana Asiática Hispano / Latino Africano Americano Isleño del Pacífico

Toda la información es estrictamente confidencial. Contacto sólo se hace para notificar de los cambios.

Esta actividad es posible por el esfuerzo de Western Dairyland RSVP programa de voluntarios, Escuela pública de Independence, la Iglesia católica de S.S. Peter & Paul y por Western Dairyland Head Start. No es típicamente posible para nuestro proyecto de proporcionar opciones del menú específicas a dietas especiales o alergias. En consideración por el privilegio de distribuir estos materiales, las Escuelas de la Independence, Western Dairyland o la iglesia católica S.S. Peter & Paul serán exonerados de cualquier causa de acción, reclamación o petición presentada en cualquier tribunal de tribunal administrativo derivadas de la distribución de estos materiales, incluyendo todos los costos, honorarios de abogados y sentencias o laudos.

Firma _____ fecha _____

Holiday Fair

39th Annual Holiday Fair

Independence School District will once again be the location for the Rainbow Community Club's annual "HOMETOWN HOLIDAY FAIR." The club has chosen "Let It Glow" as their theme for this, their 53rd year of the Community Club. This Holiday Fair will be held on Sunday, November 20th, 2016. Featured will be a galaxy of unique arts and crafts, decorations, and gifts, as well as a quilt raffle, and a third edition cookbook "Golden Goodies" featuring refrigerator dessert recipes from their 1st and 2nd cookbooks along with many new ones. Lunch and yummy refrigerator desserts will be available. Admission is \$1 and kids 12 and under are free. The Club's proceeds are used to support charitable, community, and school projects.

Medication Drop Box

The city of Independence has recently installed a secure Medication Drop Box in City Hall. This was received through a grant from CVS pharmacies and is a very effective way to keep prescription drugs out of the hands of children. The drop box is securely locked and video monitored. To assist our police department in keeping our children and our city safe, please bring any and all unused prescription medications to be disposed of properly.



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 filing a Facilities Request form available at the school.
- Weight room with a membership (see Patti Klimek in Student Services)

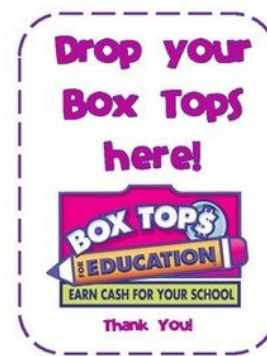


We Appreciate Your Support!

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)
cans can be put in fence by football field

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**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL
AND
EARN 5 BONUS
BOX TOPS!**

Support our school with Box Tops for Education and earn **5 BONUS BOX TOPS** when you subscribe to the Box Tops email newsletter. You'll receive:

- Coupons for Box Tops products
- Exclusive free sample offers
- More Bonus Box Tops offers
- Weekly updates on our school earnings progress

Just go to BTFE.com/signup to get started! **Make sure to enter our Box Tops ID number so our school gets credit for the Bonus Box Tops.**

Our school ID number is: 399770

Cans 4 Kids

The Independence Athletic Booster Club has a can cage where aluminum cans can be dropped off. Please put them in bags with no garbage. Proceeds from the can cage help fund equipment or uniforms for athletic teams. Please consider donating you cans. The can cage is located behind school to the left of the garage.



**SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
School District of Independence
2016-2017**

**School Closings will also be posted on the Independence School District webpage
and Facebook page, as well as a voicemail delivered to all families.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING STATIONS:

Whitehall

102.3 FM

Winona

KWNO 1230AM

KG Country 1380AM

KG-95.3FM

CD Country 99.3FM

Soft Rock 101.1 FM

Eau Claire

The Mix 98.1 FM

I-94 94.1FM

WAXX 104.5FM

WAYY 790AM

COOL 92.9FM

Z-100 100.7FM

WEAU TV 13

WQOW TV 18

B-95 95.1 FM

ROCK 92.1 FM

News Talk 880 AM

Sports Radio 1400 AM

Moose Country 106.7 FM

LaCrosse

Classic Rock 100.1

WIZM 1410AM

Z93 93.3FM

WKBT TV 8

WLFN 1490 AM

CC 106.3

MAGIC 105 104.9

EAGLE 102.7

Black River Falls

WWIS 99.7FM

Tomah

WTMB 1490 AM

Eden Prairie, MN

KMSP 9

www.wlcr.com

www.CC1063.com

www.lacrosserradiogroup.net

www.indps.k12.wi.us

The newsletter of
Independence School District
Independence, WI 54747