

Independence District



Newsletter

December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE...

Indee Art.....p. 1

Desk of Mr. Schmitt.....p. 2

Vanderloop Scoop.....p. 4

The Principal's Perspectivep. 5

Enrichment.....p. 6

Curriculum & Counseling Cornerp. 7

School Report Cardsp. 8

Scholarships p. 12

Recent Eventsp. 16

Ads.....p. 23

Upcoming Eventsp. 26

Famous Indee Artwork



Jazmin Lopez Garcia, a first grader and daughter of Felipe Lopez Mendoza and Claudia Garcia Perez, created this adorable penguin. First graders learned about the southern lights in Antarctica, and watched a time-lapse video to inspire their lights, which were created using oil pastels. Penguins that live in Antarctica were drawn using simple shapes. 1st graders will be "traveling" around the globe in art, finding inspiration in a variety of landscapes and cultures!



MAIN OFFICE: (715)985-3172

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

From the Desk of Mr. Schmitt

Strategic Planning



Although the 2021-22 school year is still over two years away, the Independence School District is already thinking about it. The reason for that is because our current operating referendum for \$700,000 per year ends after the 2020-21 school year. This means that unless another referendum is supported by the voters of the District, the District would not be able to levy for that additional \$700,000 to help run the operations of the school. Independence has historically run referendums every 5 years. The amount of money requested for by the referendum is set by the School Board based on what it feels the needs of the District will be over that five year span. Board President Joe Bragger thinks of it as setting the budget of the District for the next five years.

Of course, trying to plan an annual budget is difficult enough so trying to project what you need for the next five years is even more difficult. There is always the chance of a major unexpected expense, or even unexpected additional revenue. Our revenue limit is set by the State based on our enrollment so any increases or decreases can affect the budget. The state also sets its budget every two years and part of that is how much money is allocated for public schools. Therefore to justify the amount of money requested in the referendum, the Board needs to determine the future needs of the District, as well as project the increase or decrease in current revenue and expenses. The process the Board uses to make these determinations is called strategic planning. That process started this past summer with a formation of a committee made up of Board members, administrators, school staff, parents, and community members.

The Strategic Planning committee is led by

facilitator Carl Duley from the University of Wisconsin Extension Office in Buffalo County. Mr. Duley took feedback from the committee regarding strengths and weaknesses of the District. Mr. Vanderloop and myself gave the committee information about our current demographics and the financial state of the District. Mr. Duley then had the committee begin brainstorming about what the needs of the District currently are and what may be some needs of the District in the future. This committee then also began prioritizing some of these needs.

The next step in the process was to gather feedback from focus groups. A focus group brings together a group of people to discuss attitudes and concerns about a subject. Three focus groups were identified: Students, Community Members/Parents, and Staff. The students met with Mr. Duley during the first Friday of the school year. Then around parent-teacher conferences, parents and community members were invited to attend a focus group. Because of the low turnout, some feedback was also gathered via a survey over Facebook. Finally, Mr. Duley met with the staff over their lunch breaks in early November.

Now that all this information has been gathered the Strategic Planning committee will meet again and begin prioritizing specific needs of the District. From these priorities, action plans will then be addressed with specific timelines identified to accomplish the goals of the action plan. It is probable that these action plans will require some resources and these action plans and resource needs will be communicated to District residents so they can make an informed vote on the next referendum.

As described above, this structured process is essential to gather information about the needs of the District and how to strategize to meet those needs. Thus, the name, "Strategic Planning". We feel the process has worked well in the past as the District has been financially sound and has met the needs of the students it has served. Evidence of this is the "Exceeds

Expectations" rating of all our schools on the latest School Report Cards which can be found in this Newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any information or comments on what you feel is important to the District. As always, my goal is to make Independence the Best School Ever.

Barry Schmitt
District Administrator

School Report Card: What Does It Mean?

In November the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released for the public the Accountability Report Cards. They can be viewed at <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> or on page 8 of this newsletter. These report cards give data on a number of indicators, some of which are for multiple years. There are four priority areas and each of these four areas are given a certain "weight" and are combined to give a final numeric score between 0 and 100. The four priority areas are Student Achievement, Growth, Closing Gaps, and On-track and Post-Secondary Readiness. The score of each area is calculated using some rather complex formulas and takes into account some of the demographics of the student population such as ethnicity, disabilities, poverty, and English Language Learners (ELL).

I am pleased to report that our District Score was again the highest amongst area schools. I think that is news to celebrate. I feel our intentional work over the past several years to improve student learning is reflected in this score. Although our student achievement scores are below the state average, where we excelled was in Growth and Closing the Gaps. In those two areas we were way above the state average. Growth is computed by comparing achievement scores of our students from one

year to the next with students of similar demographics and scores for the base year. Closing the Gap is a measure of the difference between the scores of economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, and students receiving special education services to those students not in those categories from year to year. For on-track and post-secondary readiness, we are also above the state average but not by a significant amount.

Besides the District Report Card, we also get Report Cards for each school in the District. For us that means Elementary (4K-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12). I am pleased to announce that all of our schools were also rated at Exceeds Expectations and this is great news because last year our High School rating was at Fails to Meet Expectations.

Although comparing our scores to those of other District's and school's can be seen in a competitive nature, I feel this kind of comparison alone is unhealthy for schools. There are just too many variables and other important indicators not reflected in these report cards that impact the true effectiveness of a school. The true value of these report cards for Districts and Schools is the data that they provide. This data can be used to confirm what a school feels it is doing well and to look at areas that need to be improved. This data along with other local data is important for all schools in developing their school improvement plans.

I also feel that Independence, by its participation in the Trempealeau Valley Cooperative 2.0 (TVC 2.0), along with Arcadia, Blair-Taylor, and Whitehall, believes that cooperation between schools will be more valuable for our students and the region than competition for students. To compete for students, each District will have to duplicate resources. By sharing resources we are able to offer more opportunities for students, expand programming, and create more jobs in the area for industry and education. Cooperation can be a win-win for all Districts, and the work of creating a strategic plan to make this happen is now beginning.

Therefore, in concluding, I again want to celebrate our District Report Card score, but at the same time we must keep moving forward to improve the areas we are still deficient in. I also take some pride in this score as it is concrete data to confirm that BSE (Best School Ever) is not just a slogan, but that it is becoming a reality. I also think this score is a reflection of all the support and hard work by our staff, students, and community. Thank you to all.

Barry Schmitt
District Administrator

Vanderloop Scoop

Appreciate the World Around You, Reduce Your Stress



This is the season for giving thanks for all the good around us. This can be difficult when life moves quickly and many of us, myself included, don't take time to reflect and appreciate the good around us. The holiday season can be stressful for

adults as we try to juggle the balance of demands from work and our personal lives. I do think everyone wakes up each day and tries to be at their best, provide for others, and believe in some form of self-care. This is a lot to consider, so naturally, stress levels elevate. I am constantly reminded that things get done when they are planned, and written down (or elec-



tronically scheduled). I read about this when looking for ways to be more productive. I talk to other leaders about this approach. Personally, my google calendar helps me accomplish so many things throughout the day. Now, this article will not focus on the good and bad regarding technology, as I don't have enough paper (or time) to do this today. This article will focus on how to reduce stress and get the most out of life. This comes through my google calendar. This is something I intentionally have to schedule, or it won't happen. With all of the stress in our adult lives, I am challenging each adult who reads this to make it a priority to reflect on the good for the next twenty-one days. Let's call it our own twenty-one day challenge! Join me! Here is a little more detail. At the end of each day, reflect on three things that went well. If you don't write it down and commit, it won't happen. I have scheduled this reflection time on my google calendar, do you? Think about what that will do for your stress level (during the most stressful time of the year) and the ability to be a better adult, a better spouse, a better co-worker, and a better parent.

There is so much to be thankful for when reflecting about the people around us. Reflecting has already helped me better appreciate the world around me. I recently had the opportunity to teach in some kindergarten and first grade classrooms. There is so much energy in those classrooms and it made me appreciate the work of our staff. It also made me appreciate the wonder the students bring to their day, and their abilities to try new things. As a person who handles a lot of older student and adult issues, I forget what it is like to wonder like a younger student. Those students were ready to do the activities planned and most of them did it with their best effort. I believe this is a testament to the teachers in those classrooms and setting up this type of culture with their students. It also made me reflect on how my 'teacher' mindset will shape the engagement of each student. If we can build passion for what we teach, that passion can ignite in our students. As a parent, I can ignite that passion in my own children, and

I need to have the positive mindset to do this work. Reflection leads to appreciation, which leads to passion for what we do!

Another opportunity of reflection came when we took a group of teachers to learn about a process when selecting a new reading curriculum. Parents may not realize that school districts review their curriculum in core content areas (math, reading, science, social studies) every few years. It has been about seven years since we last reviewed our reading curriculum, and we believe there is a better curriculum out there to best fit our ever-changing student demographics. Let me get back to my reflective moment.

I reflected on the day, and left feeling energized about the staff in our district and the potential for what a new curriculum can do for our students. The teachers brought so much passion and dedication to the process. I'm excited for what will happen as a result of this process. This deep understanding and appreciation would not have been possible without taking time for reflection. This isn't just about appreciating others, but the concerted effort to change a mindset, organize thoughts, and reduce stress. We need to do this to be at our best for the impressionable students we serve.

In conclusion, we need to be present with and for our students. I've talked a lot during this article about reducing the stress for adults. Reducing adult stress is critical, and greatly impacts the stress that our students and children carry. Talk with your child about stress, what stress they have, and what they can do to help reduce that stress. My message is for the adults reading this article, but I fully realize this will help our students, your child. You can respond to the stressors of the holiday season and 'hope' for the best, or you can proactively plan for stress this holiday season and put measures in place, like reflecting on three positives a day, to reduce it. Commit to this twenty one day challenge, focus on the good that is all around you, reduce stress, and share your thoughts with your child. I'd like to hear from you if you ac-

cept this challenge and how it is helping your life during this holiday season. Please send me an email if you accept the challenge, and keep me posted on the transformation is it having on your outlook. I can't wait to hear from you!

With Indee Pride,
Robert Vanderloop
PreK-8 Principal/Director of Special Education

The Principal's Perspective School Attendance: The Gift that Matters!

We all want what is best for our children, but sometimes families do not realize how absences from school can quickly add up and can lead to academic problems. Sometimes students miss school when it's not absolutely necessary. We see this happen more frequently around the fall and winter holidays as families try to squeeze another day here or there from the vacation season. Each day that is missed is a missed educational opportunity for your child that cannot be easily replicated when they return to school.

This holiday season one of the best gifts you can give your child is a great education and the best place to get that education is in school. Each and every day, on time! We know that it is tempting to extend your vacation by a few days on either side of a holiday and we recognize that holidays are important times to reconnect with family far away. We also understand the importance of exposing your children to your home and language, whether you grew up in another part of the United States or a different country. The cost of travel often influences when you can travel as a family and breaks in the school calendar usually fall around the holidays but please keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school. Even a few days missed from time to time, excused or not, can add up to too much lost learning time. This is as true in

kindergarten as it is in high school. I encourage you to make sure your children are in school every day, until the start of the scheduled school vacation. Our teachers will be teaching and our students will be learning, but it is harder to teach and much harder to learn when too many students are absent. Students also become more stressed about completing missed assignments when they don't know how to do something because of the missed instruction. So give the gift of attendance and help build a habit of attendance!



Some tips to consider if missing school is unavoidable:

- Talk to your children's teachers in advance to create a plan for making up missed work.
- Remember, that a homework packet doesn't make up for the missed interaction that goes on in the classroom.
- If planning a trip with your family, consider only going when school is not in session.
- When sickness does occur in your house, please keep your children home when they have a fever or have been vomiting.

As always if you have questions or concerns about your children's attendance, feel free to contact the school.

Melissa Pientok

Assistant Principal
Technology Integration Specialist

Source: www.attendanceworks.org

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All parents are reminded to call the school by 9:00 a.m. on the day of your child's absence. Failure to notify the school by 9:00 a.m. may result in a disciplinary action for the student. We appreciate your cooperation on this. Again, if parents do not call, then we will call to confirm the fact that parents know where their children are (either at home or school), and that our children are safe. Thanks for your cooperation.

Indee Enrichment Activities for November

November brought two opportunities for students to participate in enrichment activities through the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network.

On Tuesday, November 12th, six eighth graders traveled to Black River Falls to compete in the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network 8th Grade High Quiz Bowl. Two teams competed for Independence. Each group of students competed in two rounds of competition. Each round consisted of an individual round, a team round and a speed round. All the students had a great time and learned how to work together as a team. The eighth graders who competed were: Jayden Matchey, Tayler Lambright, Olivia Killian, Gracie Rombalski, Dawson Olson, Sydney Dejno, Kaylee Pronschinske, and Vanessa Adank. All who participated enjoyed the challenge of the questions and categories throughout the competition and were glad they were able to attend.

Later in November, on Thursday, November 21st, six third grade students were chosen to participate in the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network Third Grade Problem Solving Day at the Blair-Taylor Elementary School. Each student was placed in a group of third grade students from other local schools. Learning to work as team with people they didn't know was both fun and challenging for the students.

During the day students worked together to untie themselves from rope, navigate someone through a maze while blindfolded without using their voice, build a structure with straws and cups and balance ten nails on one nail. The third grade students that participated were: Eli Pape, Jaydan Harz, Kevin Monroy Montalvo, Yuritza Bautista Santiago, Jimena Tomas Torres, and Michelle Guzman Sanchez. Everyone agreed they had a great time and were so glad they were able to attend this educational and fun event.

Curriculum and Counseling Corner

NEW Scholarships!

American Legion Senior \$1000 [Scholarship](#)



American Legion Post 186 is proud to offer a new scholarship to help worthy students attend an accredited college, university, technical school or apprenticeship program. Any high school senior attending Independence High School who is in good academic and conduct status is eligible to apply.

ELMO DAHL AMVETS POST 1 \$1000 [Scholarship](#)



AMVETS Post 1 is proud to offer a scholarship to help worthy students attend an accredited college, university, technical school or apprenticeship program. Any high school senior who is in good academic and conduct status and, who is the child or grandchild of a United States Veteran, is eligible to apply.

Recipients of **both** of these awards will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Awards**
- **Co-Curricular Activities**
- **Extra-Curricular Activities**
- **Activities Honoring Veterans** such as: visiting veterans in nursing homes; playing in the band at Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies; playing Taps at military funerals; participating in Wreaths across America ceremonies; cleaning veterans grave stones; or any other activities to honor veterans.
- **Community Service**
- **Participation in American Legion Programs such as** Badger Boys/Girls State, Oratorical Contest, Americanism and Government Scholarship Program, Trempealeau County Youth in Government Day

Thank you American Legion for providing so many opportunities for our students.



Independence

District Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

Overall Score



Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

District Information

Grades	K4-12
Enrollment	382
Within District Mobility	0.0%
Between District Mobility	6.0%
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.3%
Asian	0.0%
Black or African American	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino	41.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White	54.7%
Two or More Races	2.6%
<i>Student Groups</i>	
Students with Disabilities	12.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	62.3%
English Learners	29.6%

Priority Areas

	District Score	Max Score	State Score	Max Score
Student Achievement	53.5/100		62.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	28.9/50		31.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	24.6/50		30.7/50	
District Growth	71.7/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	36.8/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	34.9/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	79.4/100		68.8/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	42.4/50		18.1/25	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	37.0/50		18.0/25	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		32.7/50	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	86.6/100		84.8/100	
Graduation Rate	38.7/40		36.3/40	
Attendance Rate	37.5/40		36.6/40	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	6.2/10		6.2/10	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	4.2/10		5.7/10	

Priority Area Weights

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	6.8%
District Growth	43.2%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%

Note: For details about how weights are determined, see weighting calculator: https://oea-dpi.shinyapps.io/overall_weighting_calculator/

Student Engagement Indicators

Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Total Deductions: 0 Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

Test Participation Information

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT Aspire (9 and 10), ACT (11), and Dynamic Learning Maps (3-11)

Group	ELA 1-Year	ELA 3-Year	Math 1-Year	Math 3-Year
All-Students Rate	98.8%	99.0%	98.8%	99.2%
Lowest Subgroup Rate: SwD	90.3%	96.0%	90.3%	96.0%

^ denotes at least a 10-point Overall Score change in a single year when present. Wisconsin DPI considers this amount of change an outlier which may not reflect the actual magnitude of change in performance.

FINAL - PUBLIC REPORT - FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

November 12th, 2019



Independence Elementary
Independence | Public - All Students
 School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

Overall Score



Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Grades	K4-5
School Type	Elementary School
Enrollment	186
Percent Open Enrollment	5.4%

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.5%
Asian	0.0%
Black or African American	1.1%
Hispanic/Latino	50.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White	45.2%
Two or More Races	2.7%

Student Groups

Students with Disabilities	12.4%
Economically Disadvantaged	72.6%
English Learners	36.0%

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	K-5 State	K-5 Max
Student Achievement	60.4/100		65.7/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	30.6/50		31.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	29.8/50		34.1/50	
School Growth	64.1/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	25.4/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	38.7/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	93.6/100		73.9/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	43.6/50		37.9/50	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	50.0/50		36.0/50	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		NA/NA	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	87.9/100		86.8/100	
Graduation Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
Attendance Rate	75.6/80		74.5/80	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	12.3/20		12.3/20	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	

Priority Area Weights

Percentage Weight

Student Achievement	5.0%
School Growth	45.0%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%

Note: For details about how weights are determined, see weighting calculator: https://oea-dpi.shinyapps.io/overall_weighting_calculator/

Student Engagement Indicators

Total Deductions: 0

Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

Test Participation Information

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT Aspire (9 and 10), ACT (11), and Dynamic Learning Maps (3-11)

Group	ELA 1-Year	ELA 3-Year	Math 1-Year	Math 3-Year
All-Students Rate	100%	98.7%	100%	99.6%
Lowest Subgroup Rate: Hispanic	100%	98.1%	100%	100%

^ denotes at least a 10-point Overall Score change in a single year when present. Wisconsin DPI considers this amount of change an outlier which may not reflect the actual magnitude of change in performance.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction | dpi.wi.gov

Report cards for different types of schools or districts should not be directly compared.

Page 1

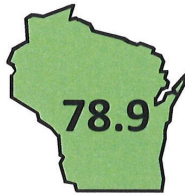
FINAL - PUBLIC REPORT - FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

November 12th, 2019



Independence Middle
Independence | Public - All Students
 School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

Overall Score



Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Grades	6-8
School Type	Middle School
Enrollment	83
Percent Open Enrollment	8.4%
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.0%
Black or African American	0.0%
Hispanic/Latino	44.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White	55.4%
Two or More Races	0.0%
<i>Student Groups</i>	
Students with Disabilities	9.6%
Economically Disadvantaged	59.0%
English Learners	31.3%

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
Student Achievement	51.7/100		61.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	28.8/50		32.2/50	
Mathematics Achievement	22.9/50		29.1/50	

School Growth	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
School Growth	84.1/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	46.3/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	37.8/50		33.0/50	

Closing Gaps	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
Closing Gaps	76/100		73.9/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	43.1/50		36.7/50	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	32.9/50		37.2/50	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		NA/NA	

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	83.2/100		85.5/100	
Graduation Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
Attendance Rate	74.7/80		74.1/80	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	8.5/20		11.4/20	

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	9.0%
School Growth	41.0%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%

Note: For details about how weights are determined, see weighting calculator: https://oea-dpi.shinyapps.io/overall_weighting_calculator/

Student Engagement Indicators	Total Deductions: 0
Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

Test Participation Information

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT Aspire (9 and 10), ACT (11), and Dynamic Learning Maps (3-11)

Group	ELA 1-Year	ELA 3-Year	Math 1-Year	Math 3-Year
All-Students Rate	97.7%	98.7%	97.7%	98.7%
Lowest Subgroup Rate: Econ Disadv	96.5%	98.6%	96.5%	98.6%

^ denotes at least a 10-point Overall Score change in a single year when present. Wisconsin DPI considers this amount of change an outlier which may not reflect the actual magnitude of change in performance.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction | dpi.wi.gov

Report cards for different types of schools or districts should not be directly compared.

Page 1

FINAL - PUBLIC REPORT - FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

November 12th, 2019



Independence High
Independence | Public - All Students
 School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

Overall Score

73.6

★★★★☆
Exceeds Expectations[^]

[^]Outlier change in score from last year (see below)

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	9-12 State	9-12 Max
Student Achievement	49.6/100		59.8/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	27.6/50		31.1/50	
Mathematics Achievement	22.0/50		28.7/50	

School Growth	School Score	Max Score	9-12 State	9-12 Max
School Growth	65.1/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	34.9/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	30.2/50		33.0/50	

Closing Gaps	School Score	Max Score	9-12 State	9-12 Max
Closing Gaps	83.4/100		67.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	43.6/50		17.4/25	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	39.8/50		17.2/25	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		32.7/50	

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	School Score	Max Score	9-12 State	9-12 Max
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	96.8/100		90.8/100	
Graduation Rate	96.8/100		90.8/100	
Attendance Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	17.6%
School Growth	35.8%
Closing Gaps	26.7%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	20.0%

Note: For details about how weights are determined, see weighting calculator: https://oea-dpi.shinyapps.io/overall_weighting_calculator/

School Information

Grades	9-12
School Type	High School
Enrollment	113
Percent Open Enrollment	10.6%

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.0%
Asian	0.0%
Black or African American	0.9%
Hispanic/Latino	24.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White	69.9%
Two or More Races	4.4%

Student Groups

Students with Disabilities	13.3%
Economically Disadvantaged	47.8%
English Learners	17.7%

Student Engagement Indicators	Total Deductions: 0
Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

Test Participation Information

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT Aspire (9 and 10), ACT (11), and Dynamic Learning Maps (3-11)

Group	ELA 1-Year	ELA 3-Year	Math 1-Year	Math 3-Year
All-Students Rate	98.8%	99.6%	98.8%	99.2%
Lowest Subgroup Rate: Econ Disadv	97.7%	99.2%	97.7%	99.2%

[^] denotes at least a 10-point Overall Score change in a single year when present. Wisconsin DPI considers this amount of change an outlier which may not reflect the actual magnitude of change in performance.

Independence High School Scholarship Opportunity Summary

(update 10/19) subject to change)

Application materials for most local scholarships are available on our school website: www.indps.k12.wi.us
Click on 'schools', 'high school', 'scholarships'. You will can fill out most online and then print, sign and submit.

Annual deadline for most local scholarships is on or before February 1st.

Email Mrs. Woychik with any questions (woychikd@indps.k12.wi.us)

Local Awards

Award	Amount	Criteria
Academic Excellence Scholarship	\$9,000	Highest cumulative grade point average as of the students 7 th semester. Must be citizens or permanent residents of the US. <i>No application necessary</i>
Technical Excellence Scholarship	\$2250 for up to three years	Must be pursuing a degree at a Technical College. Must have taken at least 3 courses in Business Education, Agriculture, or Technical Education. Must have been an FFA members. GPA
American Legion Oratorical Contest Contest Rules	\$750, \$300, \$35	Deliver an 8-10 minute speech on student's choice of the Constitution of the United States. Students may participate each of their four years of high school. Tentative Date: First Monday in November 4:00 room 311 Assigned Topics
American Legion Senior Scholarship	\$1000	Any high school senior attending Independence High School who is in good academic and conduct status is eligible to apply. Deadline May 1
Elmo Dahl AMVET Post 1	\$1000	Applicants must have a parent or grandparent that is a veteran Deadline April 15
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186		To be determined.
Doris J. Bautch STEM	\$500	Students pursuing a 2 or 4 year degree in science, technology, engineering or math. Priority to females.
Wanek Engineering/Design	\$3,333.33	Applicants must be pursuing a degree in Engineering: Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, Engineering Physics, Materials Science, Engineering Management and Manufacturing. Or Design: Engineering, Industrial, Interior, Product and Visual. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Ashley Furniture Grants in Aid	\$2000	Applicants must be a dependent of an Ashley employee. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Sobotta Engineering /Science Scholarship	\$2000	Student must be pursuing a degree in Engineering or Science.
Beef River Livestock	\$400	Member of Beef River Livestock Shipping Association.
Buffalo County Farm Bureau	\$500	Parent/Guardian must be a member. Student must be pursuing a degree in Agriculture. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Compeer Financial	Multiple \$1500	3.0 GPA and pursuing a degree in Agriculture
FFA Alumni	Various	Students must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural field.
Maliszewski Agriculture	\$300	Student must be pursuing a degree in agriculture.

Dairy Scholarship	\$2500 per year	Students attending a technical college or short course in agriculture and planning to continue a career in dairy.
Countryside Cooperative	Up to 20 \$500	Parent/Guardian must be a member and their occupation must be associated with an Agricultural Industry. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Elk Rod and Gun Club	\$500	Conservation
Community Investment Healthcare Scholarship	\$1000	Student must be pursuing a degree in healthcare. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Grandview Care Center	\$1000-\$15000	LPN and RN Must be an employee of Grandview Care Center for at least 90 days and be accepted to a nursing program. www.grandviewhome.org
Ginger Everson Memorial	\$1000	Student must be pursuing a degree in healthcare. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Lisa Rostvold Memorial	\$1200	Student must be pursuing a degree as a nurse. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
William Schoenberger Memorial		Police Science/Law Enforcement Contact Kim Bautch (715/985-3059)
Laura Graul Athletic Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in Athletics.
Laura Graul Performing Arts Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in the Performing Arts
Laura Graul Agriculture Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in Agriculture
Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund	2-\$250 (may vary)	Student must have attended Independence Public School the last two years. 2.5 GPA
Independence Education Association	\$500	Student must be pursuing a degree in education
Independence State Bank	\$500	
Isaacs Memorials	3-\$750	Leadership, Financial Need, Academics
Lions Club	\$400	Student must be pursuing a service related field or participated in a service work during high school.
Ed and Bernice Lyga Memorial	\$500	3.0 GPA
RAPS DOC Sackett Memorial	\$1000	
Rainbow Community Club	2-\$500	
Riverland Energy	\$1000	Parent/Guardian must be a member. Students can also get more information or apply on line at

		https://www.riverlandenergy.com/content/scholarships in Jan/Feb Random drawing but must be present at annual meeting to win. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
State Bank of Arcadia	\$250	
Trempealeau County Association of Cooperatives	\$250	Parent/Guardian must be a member. <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Tri-County Communications Cooperative	Up to 25-\$500 awards	Random drawing Deadline Feb 1 <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Trygvasson Lodge	\$100	Student must demonstrate interest in international cultural exchange.
WHTL Mary Little	4-\$250 awards	3.0 GPA and Varsity Letter
Sophia Hope Memorial	Various	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mVoWhFGR4iX5nvrWff4AcEdiic9-7qMvPdhlgfZkgOQ/edit
Western Technical College	\$500	
TUMMA Manufacturing Careers	\$500	Applicants must be attending Western Technical College for one of these programs: CNC Programmer, CNC Operator, CNC Setup, Electromechanical Maintenance Technician, Electromechanical Technology, Precision Machining and Programming, Basic Machining Basic Welding, Welding and Fabrication, Manufacturing Systems Maintenance Technician Application: westerntc.edu/TUMMAScholarships
Denim Day-New Horizons	2-\$500	Applicants must submit an essay related to the prevention of domestic abuse. Deadline: April 30

State and National Awards

Many more will become available.

As these come in seniors will receive an email message with application instructions.

(Deadlines may change for new year)

Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Program-TIP (Talent Incentive Program) Grant	Up to \$1800 for up to 10 semesters	Based on financial need.
Kohl Student Excellence Award	\$1000	Leadership, Citizenship, Community Involvement and Academic Achievement.
Schneider-Emanuel American Legion Scholarship	3 statewide awards of \$1000	Descendant of an American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
NFO	Steve Pavich Award-\$750 Farm Kids 3-\$1000	Student must be pursuing a degree in agriculture. Deadline March 1 <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Ab Nicholas	\$5000-\$10000	Student has played basketball their senior year, will attend

		a Wisconsin college. Male or female. Deadline April www.AbNicholasScholars.org <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Monsanto Ag	Various	Agriculture Deadline February <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Ronald McDonald House	\$1500	Academic Achievement, financial need, community involvement, work ethic Deadline January
Hagan Scholarship	Up to \$40,000	3.75 GPA, 24 or higher ACT US Citizen Must work 240 hours per year Deadline November
Daughters of the American Revolution	\$250+	Essay Deadline November <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Steve Pavich	\$750	Agriculture Deadline March <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i>
Farm Kids for College	\$1000	Agriculture Deadline March
SFM Foundation	Up to \$10,000	Parent killed or seriously injured in a workplace accident. March
Wisconsin Cattleman's Association	\$500	Background in beef, veal, or dairy industry Deadline February 19
Wisconsin Towns Association	\$1000	Essay " A federal republic form of government: What is it? Why does it work? Do we still have one? Why are town governments critical to is success? <i>Application will be shared as it becomes available. Typically in winter.</i> Deadline May
MS Scholarships	Various	Deadline January
Identified Learning Disability or ADHD	Up to \$10,000	
Foundation of WI Automobile & Truck Dealers Association	Varies; up to full tuition	Pursuing technical degree in Automotive, Diesel, Auto Collision, or Motorcycle at a WI Tech College.
Wisconsin School Counselor Association	\$1000	
College Board Scholarships	\$500-\$40,000	
Mike Rowe of Dirty Jobs		Trade School
UMOS-National	Various	Must have done agriculture work in the last 2 years. Family

<p>Farm Worker Jobs Program</p>	<p>income at or below federal poverty level. Legal resident of the US 1-800-279-8667 shirley.Aviles@umos.org</p> <p>Services: Job placement English Language Support Payment for training/tuition (ie: CNA, Heavy Equip, Truck Driving, Phlebotomy, Welding, Into Tech, and more</p>
---------------------------------	--

FASTWEB.com—Free Nationwide scholarship search.

All males (documented and undocumented) must register for Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. At SSS.gov

- This takes less than 1 minute.
- You may preregister starting at 17 years 3 months.
- If you do not do this you will not qualify for federally funded college loans, grants and will be barred from all federal employment.

The Independence School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person/people has/have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Barry Schmitt Superintendent 23786 Indee Blvd. Independence, WI 54747 715-985-3172 ext. #102 schmittb@indps.k12.wi.us.



WTC Career Day

On October 3rd, the sophomore class participated in Western Technical College's Career Day held at the Independence Campus. Four programs were highlighted, which included Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Accounting, Solar Installation Technician, and Industrial Machine Controls.



Breanna Kulig takes a ride, while her classmates learn about how to load a patient into the ambulance.



Students learning about programs at Western Technical College.

2019 Alumni Panel

On Tuesday, November 26th, we were delighted to welcome back four Independence Alumni for a panel presentation on career paths. Diana Anderson, April Foss, Valerie Underwood, and Nick Smeija spent the afternoon sharing their educational and career journeys with our middle and high school students.

Their inspiring stories were filled with many great messages, including how hard work and dedication helped them overcome obstacles along their paths. The response from the student body was very positive. We plan to continue having the annual panel in the future. If you are an Indee alumni interested in participating, or know of someone that might be, please contact Mrs. Gruber at 715-985-3172 ext. 110 or through email (gruberj@indps.k12.wi.us). Any and all educational and career paths are welcome!



2019 Alumni Panelists (left to right): Diana Anderson, April Foss, Nick Smeija, Valerie Underwood

April Foss- 2000 Independence Alumni

After graduation, April attended the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, majoring in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. April has always had a love for animals and hoped to

turn that passion into a career and become a conservationist in a zoological setting. She completed an internship with the Minnesota Zoo the summer prior to her college graduation, which was one of the most rewarding experiences in her academic career. After receiving her BS in Biology from UWEC, April had to balance her career goals with family goals, and ultimately decided she wanted to remain near family and start a family of her own. Since there are not a lot of zoos in the area, she had to re-evaluate her career decisions and ultimately decided to return to academia at the University of Wisconsin- LaCrosse to pursue a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. Upon graduation, she was immediately able to enter the field as a Medical Laboratory Scientist working at Gundersen TriCounty Hospital for 5 years in that role. During that time, she performed thousands of laboratory tests that helped aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. She was promoted to the role of Hospital Quality Manager and Community Engagement, in which she worked with many different departments to increase the quality of care to patients through a variety of projects and state-wide initiatives. She also actively explored ways to get the organization involved with community functions and bring health education and services to the many communities the organization served. She enjoyed educating staff and community members and wondered if there was a way to blend both her desire to educate with her love of laboratory science. As if her thoughts were answered, the position of an instructor with the MLT program at CVTC became available. She has been in that role for the past five years educating program students in phlebotomy, hematology, clinical chemistry, urinalysis, coagulation, and developing the newest course in the program- molecular diagnostics.

April is married and they are blessed with two wonderful children. She enjoys staying active with her children and coaches many of their athletic teams. She is a huge Star Wars fan, and it's a family tradition to see every new

movie on opening night. That love for animals remains, and is shared through their family pets: Kylo, (dog) Storm & Leia (house cats), Nibbles & Hershey (rabbits), Lambie, Bella, Panther & Calie (farm cats).



April shared how her passion for science is being shared with others through her current position.

Valerie (Halama) Underwood-1987 Independence Alumni

What an honor to be asked to be part of the Career panel this year, to share some of my life experiences with you all. My journey after high school started with attending orientation at UW Stout in the summer of 1987. It was at that orientation that I switched my major from Education to Fashion Merchandising. I loved that major and followed that path for 2 years, before changing majors again (I still however have a love for fashion and the clothing industry). I changed my major to Home Economics in Business with a concentration in Interior Design, the program that I ultimately graduated from in 1992.

Living in a small town doesn't allow for a lot of opportunity in the field that I graduated in. I knew I would need to move to a bigger city, and in 1994, I moved to Minneapolis where I began my career in sales at a company called Total Bedroom/HOM Oak and Leather (now known as HOM Furniture). I was in sales for 2 years selling waterbeds, daybeds, and futons,

before moving to the buying office at HOM, where I bought all the accent tables, accessories, rugs and occasional tables, as well as hired and trained the visual display team. I stayed at HOM for a total of 14 years before I was hired by a local textile manufacturer in Brooklyn Center called SIScovers. I was the Vice President of Sales at SIScovers for 5 years and hired, trained, and managed sales representatives from all over the United States, as well as traveled to the home furnishings major markets in High Point, NC and Las Vegas, NV.

After 5 years of working at SIScovers, I was hired by the owner of a company I bought rugs from back at HOM Furniture, Amir Loloi, who had started his own company in 2004. I have been at Loloi for 7 years as the Vice President of Group Sales, where I indirectly oversee more than 50 sales representatives across the United States, and directly oversee 14 sales representatives in the Midwest. Loloi has great partnerships with brands such as Magnolia Home (Chip and Joanna Gaines), Ellen DeGeneres, Rifle Paper Co. and Justina Blakeney.



Valerie explained her journey to become Loloi's Vice President of Group Sales.

I have a wonderful husband Jerry whom is also in the home furnishings industry, along with my 2 awesome kids a 22-year-old son Christian, and a 21-year-old daughter Olivia. My passions

include my family, jazz music, cooking and entertaining, fashion and clothing, floral arranging, and travel.

Diana Anderson-2002 Independence Alumni

After graduating in 2002 from Independence High School, Diana attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout and majored in Vocational Rehabilitation with a concentration in Criminal Justice. After obtaining her degree, she then attended Chippewa Valley Technical College and completed the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification Academy in 2006.

In 2006 she worked for the Dunn County Sheriff's Department as a Correctional Officer and a Reserve Deputy. During this time she also began to work as a part time Police Officer in 7 different jurisdictions around the area. In 2007



Diana described her experience as the first female Chief of Police in the county.

she was hired as a full time Police Officer by the Arcadia Police Department; and in 2012 she was hired as the first female Chief of Police of the Arcadia Police Department and the first female Chief in Trempealeau County.

Amidst her job, Diana also has a husband and two children and has also instructed at Chippewa Valley Technical College and West-

ern Technical College. During her time in Arcadia, she has become a state certified instructor in five different areas of expertise. These areas are special instructor certifications which allow Diana to instruct her own officers as well as train other officers in the area and at technical colleges.

Diana has been instrumental in starting various school and community programs in her community while she has been employed there. Some of those are Bike Rodeo & Safety Day, Prom Mock Car Crash, DARE, Halloween Safety, Bike Safety, Reality Check and Shop with a Cop amongst other classroom presentations in the school district.

Nick Smieja-2009 Independence Alumni

After high school I attended UW-Stout where



Nick advised students to work hard during high school and take pride in their work.

I received my bachelors degree in Construction Management with a minor in Business. I did two internships through college for TIC Construction, one my junior year in Green Valley, AZ, and one my senior year in

Bagdad, AZ, both as a field engineer. After graduation I was hired on with the same company in their corporate office in Denver, CO. In 2015 I accepted a job with Michels Construction and currently travel primarily in the Midwest

installing crude oil and natural gas pipelines & building pumping stations. To date, I have worked in 13 different states for Michels doing various size projects. In 2017 I got promoted to Construction Manager where I primarily am the liaison between the people on the project and our clients along with making sure our projects are running smoothly.

Passions/ Hobbies: I enjoy adventure traveling (any place I haven't been nationally or internationally) and meeting new people and learning about the hidden gems of that area that most tourists don't get to enjoy. Within the last couple of years I also have been getting into real estate and fixing up properties. I love anything involving the outdoors: hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, snowmobiling, and anything to do with beaches or mountains.

JA in a Day

Our middle school students participated in JA in a Day through Junior Achievement on Wednesday, November 13th. Junior Achievement is a program that fosters work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills, and uses experiential learning to inspire students to dream big and reach their full potential. The 6th graders worked on the Global Marketplace unit, the 7th graders participated in Economics for Success, and the 8th graders completed the It's My Future unit. A big thank you to our sponsors: Michael and Pata Warner, Richard and Kathy Warner, Ashley Furniture, Independence Lions Club, and Independence State Bank, along with fabulous presenters, and to Junior Achievement for organizing the day.

Thank you to our 2019 Alumni Panel!



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 54601 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.

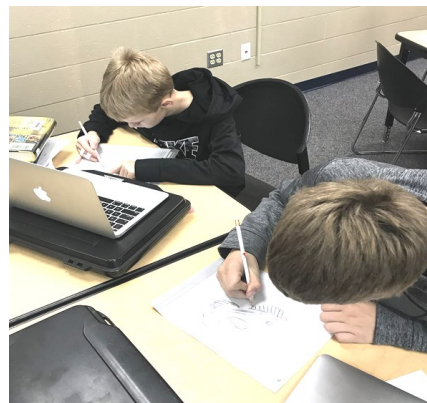
Everyone, Every Day

Announcements on TCC Station

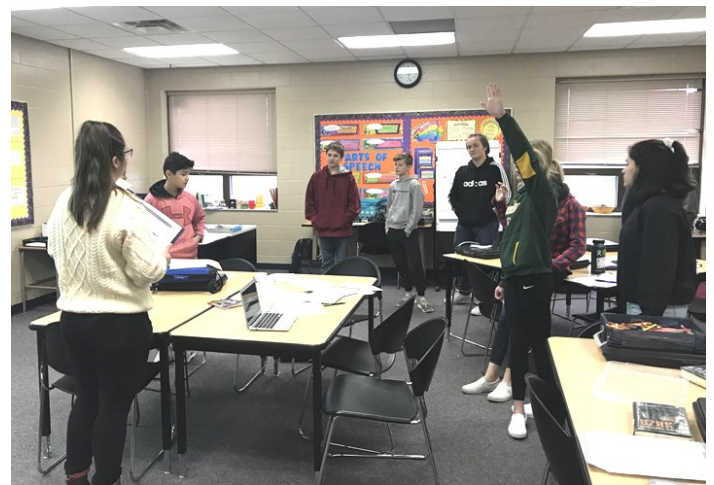
Viewers can tune into 18-84 or HD channel 884 to view school announcements.

Clipart Sources Throughout Newsletter

<http://www.google.com>



Students worked on creating their own brand and logo during a self-exploration lesson.



Students participated in an activity to learn more about which careers are increasing and which are decreasing in demand.

Community Partnership Meeting

On Wednesday, October 16th, we were fortunate to have representatives from 8 local businesses and industries join our teachers, administration, parents, and 6th-12th grade students for an engaging discussion. The purpose of the annual meeting is to strengthen communication between our district and local industry, as well as prepare our students for post-secondary education and/or careers.

The agenda rotated between district updates, industry feedback, and student/parent discussion and questions. The day's topics included labor market projections, employers' needs, department updates, advice for our student body from the business partners, and discussion of how to make our students' high school and middle school years the most beneficial they can be.

Our industry partners shared their desire for future employees to have strong math, writing, speaking, and listening abilities. They also indicated a need for interpersonal skills, problem solving, innovative ideas, time management, and other soft skills (such as work ethic, commitment, cooperation, reliability, responsibility, etc).

District teachers shared updates for each department and students were able to ask questions and voice what they'd like to see in the future. Between classes



6th-12th grade students listen to advice from industry representatives.

within our building, college classes, distance learning classes, and the opportunity to take classes through our co-op schools, students have access to a wide variety of classes during

high school. Our industry panel strongly encouraged students to seek out opportunities to gain experience and skills, such as job shadows, Youth Apprenticeships, extra-curricular involvement, and work experience.

The community partnership meeting was a wonderful opportunity to ensure our district is aligned with career opportunities in our area. We want to extend our sincere appreciation to each of the business representatives in attendance:

- Ashley Furniture-Wanda Cartrette
- Hi Crush-Jami Kabus
- Independence State Bank-Tom Jensen
- Inland of La Crosse-Mark Glendenning
- Nelson Global-Pat Rohn
- PTM LLC of Onalaska-Jeff Kroes
- Western Technical College-Patti Balacek and Kim Panzer
- Whitehall Specialties-Carissa Henry

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 Leslie Kampa in Student Services)

Newsletter Copy Editor:
Tracy Halama

Production Editor:
Linda Killian-Baures

Editorial Administrator:

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Every day we do our best to ensure our students have everything they need to be successful. We want them to know they are cared for, that they matter, that they can achieve anything they are willing to work hard for, and that our school and community are here to support them.



These Independence students helped fill the truck with presents.

Unfortunately, over 50% of our families live with financial stress and hardships that make daily life challenging and may make the holi-

days especially difficult. This gives our school and community another opportunity to show



Students gave back to our community by shopping for the Ashley's Angels program.

our students how much they are cared for. Through our partnership with Ashley's Angels, Pajama Grandma Legacy, and other local sponsorships, we have helped add cheer and

hope to the holiday season for many. This year, about 90 students will receive Christmas gifts through local sponsors that include:

- Ashley's Angels
- Pajama Grandma Legacy
- Rainbow Community Club
- Teachers
- District Support Professionals
- Administration
- School Board Members
- Individual Community Members/Families
- Girl Scouts

Some of our high school students have also volunteered their time to help Ashley's Angels complete their mission. On the evening of Tuesday, December 3rd, three of our students and a staff member voluntarily traveled to the Winona Walmart to work as Santa's elves by shopping for families in need.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the sponsors and shoppers. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our children!

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 Poly-com 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

Tutoring Services

As the advisor of the Independence Honor Society (IHS), I would like to acknowledge our new members that we inducted this year: Juniors, Emerson Pronschinske and Gabe Rombalski. Emerson and Gabe joined IHS members, John Halama and Grace Pyka, who are both seniors this year.

Students are invited to apply to IHS if they have a 3.5 or higher GPA, then are voted in based on the following categories: Leadership, co-curricular activities, community activities, work experience, recognition, and awards, as well as an essay explaining how they would contribute to the school's culture.

Since our honor society students are acknowledged for their academic strengths, we have created a tutoring program provided by IHS members. This is a free tutoring service in which our IHS members take time to work with another peer that may need academic support. Any student may request tutoring services, or a teacher may recommend a student to receive tutoring services. Most tutoring takes place within the school day during our academic support periods, such as Advisory Time and/or Indee Pride Time.

We are lucky to have such strong leaders in our school, and we are also proud to have students that ask for support!

--Christine Sherry
High School English/Language Arts Teacher
Independence Honor Society (IHS) Advisor
Independence POPS Advisor

Indee Apparel

The Booster Club has Indee Apparel for sale. It is cash and carry. Sizes are kids Small through Adult XL. Sizes and styles are limited. Stop in the school office for more information.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

A reminder that it is that time of year when bad weather can suddenly cause school to close. We urge you to discuss emergency procedures with your children so they know what to do when we close early or start late.



We will again use the Alert Now system to inform parents of any school closings, delays or late starts. You will receive a computerized phone call

on your child's main contact phone number with a recorded message.

Also for your convenience, we have listed below the radio and TV stations that will be notified of our closing, early dismissal or late start. Thank you for your understanding and assistance should we need to change our normal routine.

WQOW – Channel 18 ABC—Eau Claire
WLAX/WEUX Fox 25/48—Eau Claire
WHTL 102.3 FM—Whitehall
Z-100 100.7 FM—Eau Claire
WAXX 104.5 FM, WAYY 790 AM, I-94 94.1 FM, WECL 92.9 FM, WWIS Radio
WEAU TV – Channel 13—Eau Claire
WKBT - La Crosse



Blood Drive



A BIG THANK YOU to those who participated or assisted in the blood drive on November 7th. We received a report that we had 21 donors and 18 successful donations! That means we potentially saved 70 lives!! How cool is that? We are tentatively scheduling next year's during the second week in November.

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.



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
 - Pop Tabs
 - Cans 4 Kids (aluminum cans)
- cans can be put in fence by football field*



- Independence Public School
- Independence K-12 Art
- 3rd Grade at Independence
- 4th Grade Independence Elementary
- Independence Athletic Booster Club
- Independence Indees Music Dept
- Indee Drama Club
- Independence FFA
- Independence Post Prom

- Independence Gilmanton-Football
- Indees Volleyball
- Independence Indees Girls Basketball
- Independence Indees Boys Basketball
- Independence-Gilmanton Track & Field
- Indees Fastpitch Softball
- Independence Indees Baseball
- Independence High School Powerlifting

BOXTOPS 4 EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone that sent Boxtops in this year! We will continue to collect Boxtops for the 2019-2020 school year. Our goal for this year is \$3,000. 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

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.

INDEPENDENCE ATHLETICS CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Independence Athletic Booster Club is looking for help to fill their concession workers shifts. Please see the link for the dates and times. Your time is appreciated because it helps raise funds to assist the Independence athletic programs.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e4daaad2da4f58-independence>

January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NO SCHOOL	2 School Resumes BBB @ Cashton City 6:00/7:15pm	3 BBB C TEAM @ Alma 6:00pm GBB V @ Alma 7:15PMpm	4 Wrestling @ Osseo 9:30am
5	6	7 BBB @ Mondovi 6:00/7:15pm GBB @ Glenwood City 6:00/7:15pm	8 2:30 DISMISSAL 7:00pm School Board Meeting	9 MSGBB @ C-FC 5:00pm GBB vs Mel-Min 6:00/7:15pm	10 BBB vs Alma-Pepin City 6:00/7:15pm -H FFA Half-time Conference	11 FFA Half-time Conference
12 Dorian - Vocal	13 Dorian - Vocal	14 MS GBB @ Mel-Min 4:30pm - H MS Wrestling 5:00pm - H GBB @ E-S 6:00/7:15pm	15 2:30 DISMISSAL	16 BBB vs E-S 4:30/6:00/7:15pm MS GBB vs Gilmanton 4:30pm Wrestling @ Durand 7:00pm	17 End of 2 nd Quarter GBB @ WHTL 6:00/7:15pm	18 Sadie Hawkins Dance 7:00pm
19	20 NO SCHOOL 	21 BBB vs WHTL 4:30/6:00/7:15pm MS GBB vs B-T 4:30pm GBB @ Arcadia 6:00/7:15pm	22 2:30 DISMISSAL	23 GBB vs C-FC 6:00/7:15pm Wrestling @ B-T 7:30pm MS Wrestling @ B-T 5:00pm	24 BBB @ C-FC 4:30/6:00/7:15pm MS Wrestling @ Arcadia 5:00pm	25 Wrestling @ Arcadia 9:00am
26	27	28 MS GBB vs C-FC 4:30pm MS Wrestling @ WHTL 5:00pm GBB vs Lincoln 6:00/7:15pm	29 2:30 DISMISSAL	30 BBB @ Lincoln 6:00/6:00/7:15pm Wrestling @ C-FC 7:30pm MS Wrestling @ C-FC 5:00pm	31 GBB @ Augusta 6:00/7:15pm MS GBB vs Lincoln 4:30pm	



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p><i>1</i> HS Forensics @ UW EC</p> <p>Wrestling – Indee Invite (H) 9:45am</p>
<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> MS Forensics 5:00pm Holmen</p> <p>MS Wrestling (H) 5:00pm</p> <p>BBB @ CRC 5:30/7:00pm</p> <p>GBB @ ECI 6:00/7:15pm</p>	<p><i>4</i> BBB vs Augusta 4:30/6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>MS GBB @ Gilmanton 5:30pm</p>	<p><i>5</i> 2:30pm Dismissal</p> <p>7:00pm School Board Meeting</p>	<p><i>6</i> BBB @ ECI 4:30/6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>MS Wrestling @ Arcadia 5:00pm</p> <p>GBB @ Gilmanton 6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>Wrestling @ WHTL 7:30pm</p>	<p><i>7</i> Elem Wrestling (H) 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>8</i> HS Forensics @ EC North</p> <p>GBB vs WHTL 2:00/3:30pm</p>
<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i> BBB vs Spring Valley 6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>MS GBB @ B-T 4:30pm</p>	<p><i>11</i> GBB @ B-T 6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>MS Wrestling @ Altoona 5:00pm</p> <p>MS Forensics @ Fall Creek 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>12</i> 2:30pm Dismissal</p>	<p><i>13</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>Parent Teacher Conferences 11-7</p>	<p><i>14</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>BBB @ Gilmanton 6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>Forensics @ UW La Crosse</p>	<p><i>15</i> BBB vs Necedah 6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>Wrestling Regional @ Aquinas TBD</p>
<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> Forensics Sub District @ GET</p> <p>MS Forensics @ WHTL</p>	<p><i>18</i> BBB vs B-T 4:30/6:00/7:15pm</p> <p>MS GBB vs Alma Pepin 4:30pm</p>	<p><i>19</i> 2:30pm Dismissal</p>	<p><i>20</i> MS Forensics @ WHTL</p> <p>GBB vs A-P 7:15</p> <p>BBB C vs AP 6:00</p> <p>BBB @ New Aub 6:00/7:15pm</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> Wrestling Sectional @ Westby TBD</p>
<p>FFA WEEK</p>						
<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i> MS Wrestling @ OF 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>25</i> GBB Regional TBD</p>	<p><i>26</i> 2:30pm Dismissal</p>	<p><i>27</i> State Wrestling Kohl Center</p> <p>BBB @ Alma 6:00/7:15pm</p>	<p><i>28</i> State Wrestling Kohl Center</p> <p>GBB Regionals</p>	<p><i>29</i> State Wrestling Kohl Center</p> <p>GBB Regionals</p> <p>Coulee Land Honor Band</p>

SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
School District of Independence
2019-2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING STATIONS:

Whitehall

102.3 FM

Winona

KWNO 1230AM

KAGE Country 1380AM

KAGE-95.3FM

CD Country99.3FM

Soft Rock 101.1 FM

Eau Claire

WEAUX FOX 48

I-94 94.1FM

WAXX 104.5FM

WAYY 790AM

COOL 92.9FM

Z-100 100.7FM

WEAU TV 13

The Mix 98.1 FM

Eau Claire Cont.

B-95 95.1 FM

ROCK 92.1 FM

News Talk 880 AM

Sports Radio 1400 AM

WQOW TV 18

Moose Country 106.7FM

SportsTalk 105.1 FM

LaCrosse

KICKS 106.3

WIZM 1410AM

Z93 93.3FM

WKBT TV 8

WLAX FOX 25

CC 106.3

MAGIC 105 104.9

EAGLE 102.7

Classic Rock 100.1

WXOW TV 19

WLFN 1490 AM

www.lacrosseradiogroup.net

www.wxow.com/closings

www.indps.k12.wi.us

www.weau.com/weather/closings

Student safety is the primary consideration in making a decision relating to school delays or school closings. Normally, one of three decisions is made. The first may be a late start. In this case a two-hour school delay is our standard procedure. The second decision we may make is to close school for the day. The third decision is an early release from school, normally at 1:00pm.

We realize that parents have to make childcare arrangements for the day. Therefore, we will try to make school delay or closing decisions the night before, if possible. In the event it's not possible, we will strive to make a decision by 6:00am.

SCHOOL MESSENGER – A communication system (phone and/or email) used to deliver information to parents and/or guardians as soon as possible.

The newsletter of
Independence School District
Independence, WI 54747