

INDEE PRIDE

Independence School District Newsletter



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Mission → Misión

Ensure learning for ALL
Garantizar el aprendizaje para TODOS

Vision → Visión

We will be a community of support that
is positive, inclusive, and responsive.

Seremos una comunidad de apoyo que sea positiva, inclusiva y
receptiva.

Winter 2024
www.indps.k12.wi.us



FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRANZWA

9-12 Principal/District Administrator

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HOMETOWN STRONG

Have you driven down Indee Boulevard recently? If so, you may have wondered what is going on with the field to the east of the school. Well, let me tell you. With a generous donation from Pilgrims' Pride (called the *Hometown Strong Grant*) we were able to repurpose a portion of our property that has sat vacant since we moved to this location in 1998. The area was originally planned to be used as a future softball field. However, we have been fortunate enough to collaborate with the city and use the fields at Four Seasons Park for high school softball.

At the present time, we are referring to this newly repurposed area as a multi-use community sports field. We are planning to use it as our high school football practice field starting in the fall of 2024. It will also be an area where our students and members of the community can play soccer. We have designed a small parking lot near the west end of the field, and have future plans to build a storage shed nearby. With the unseasonably nice weather this fall, we had an opportunity to complete the dirt work as well as seed and fertilize the field. Our plan is to have the parking lot paved next summer, and once the grass on the field has had an opportunity to get established, we hope it is put to good use by our students and the community.

We would like to give a special thank you to Pilgrim's Pride for their generosity. This project wouldn't have been possible without them. We would also like to thank the contractors - Mad Swiss Trucking and High Cliff Consulting for the wonderful work they did, as well as our neighbors for their patience and understanding while we worked on the project this fall. We are excited to offer an area like this for our students and our community and we hope that it is enjoyed it for many years to come.

Another project that you will see us working on in the near future is the replacement of our elementary playground structure. The current structure is approximately twenty-five years old and with the Wisconsin winters, it has seen its better days. In June, once school is out, the plan is to remove the current playground structure and replace it with the new one in early summer. Similar to the multi-use community sports field, this project was made possible through the use of some one-time grant dollars. We had originally planned to replace the playground as a part of our fund 46 capital improvement plan, so this was work that we were already planning to do, but it will now get done earlier. I am sure that our students will really enjoy the new playground and some of the different options it will provide. Make sure to follow our school Facebook page to view pictures of the new structure and students utilizing it when it is done next summer.

In closing, I would like to recognize our community's support for several important district updates over the past several years. We are excited to share these with you and hope that you, your children, or neighbors are able to enjoy the multi-use community sports field and the new playground soon.





CIUDAD FUERTE

¿Ha conducido por Indee Boulevard recientemente? Si es así, quizás te hayas preguntado ¿qué está pasando con el campo al este de la escuela? Bueno, déjame decirte. Con una generosa donación de Pilgrims' Pride llamada Hometown Strong Grant, pudimos reutilizar una parte de nuestra propiedad que ha estado vacía desde que nos mudamos a esta ubicación en 1998. Originalmente se planeó usar el área como un futuro campo de softbol. Sin embargo, hemos tenido la suerte de colaborar con la ciudad y utilizar los campos del Four Seasons Park para el softbol de la escuela preparatoria.

Por ahora nos referimos a esta área recientemente reutilizada como un campo deportivo comunitario de usos múltiples. Estamos planeando usarlo como campo de práctica de fútbol americano de nuestra escuela preparatoria a partir del otoño de 2024. También será un área donde nuestros estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad podrán jugar fútbol. Hemos diseñado un pequeño estacionamiento cerca del extremo oeste del campo y tenemos planes futuros para construir un cobertizo de almacenamiento cerca. Con el clima inusualmente agradable de este otoño, tuvimos la oportunidad de completar el trabajo de tierra, así como de sembrar y fertilizar el campo. Nuestro plan es pavimentar el estacionamiento el próximo verano, y una vez que el césped del campo haya tenido la oportunidad de establecerse, esperamos que nuestros estudiantes y la comunidad le den buen uso.

Nos gustaría agradecer especialmente a Pilgrim's Pride por su generosidad. Este proyecto no habría sido posible sin ellos. También nos gustaría agradecer a los contratistas: Mad Swiss Trucking y High Cliff Consulting por el maravilloso trabajo que realizaron, así como a nuestros vecinos por su paciencia y comprensión mientras trabajamos en el proyecto este otoño. Estamos entusiasmados de ofrecer un área como esta para nuestros estudiantes y nuestra comunidad, y esperamos que la disfruten durante muchos años.

Otro proyecto en el que nos verá trabajando en un futuro próximo es el reemplazo de la estructura de nuestro patio de juegos de la escuela elemental. El actual tiene aproximadamente veinticinco años y con los inviernos de Wisconsin ha visto sus mejores días. El plan es eliminar nuestra estructura actual del patio de juegos en junio una vez que terminen las clases y reemplazarla por una nueva a principios del verano. Al igual que el campo deportivo comunitario de usos múltiples, este proyecto fue posible gracias al uso de una subvención. Originalmente habíamos planeado reemplazar el patio de recreo como parte de nuestro plan de mejora de capital del fondo 46, por lo que este era un trabajo que ya estábamos planeando hacer, pero ahora se terminará antes. Estoy seguro de que nuestros estudiantes realmente disfrutarán del nuevo patio de recreo y de algunas de las diferentes opciones que ofrecerá. Asegúrese de seguir la página de Facebook de nuestra escuela para ver fotografías de la nueva estructura y de los estudiantes jugando en ella cuando esté terminada el próximo verano.

Para terminar, me gustaría reconocer el apoyo de nuestra comunidad a varias actualizaciones importantes del distrito durante los últimos años. Nos complace compartirlos con usted y esperamos que usted, sus hijos o sus vecinos puedan disfrutar pronto del campo deportivo comunitario de usos múltiples o de la nueva área de juegos.



The Crucial Role of Reading at Home for Children

In the fast-paced digital age, where screens compete for attention, nurturing a reading culture at home holds greater significance than ever. For children, the habit of reading outside the classroom plays a pivotal role in their academic success and personal development.

Academic Achievement:

Reading at home is directly linked to improved academic performance. Studies consistently show that children who engage in regular reading outside of school tend to excel in various subjects. Reading enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills, providing a solid foundation for success.

Language Development:

Reading aloud with your child plays a crucial role in their language development. Hearing words pronounced correctly and in context helps children expand their vocabulary and develop language skills. This exposure to rich language patterns provides a solid foundation for effective communication and literacy.

Instilling a Love for Reading:

Reading with your child is a powerful way to instill a love for reading from an early age. Children who associate reading with positive experiences are more likely to develop a lifelong love for books.

Encouraging children to read at home fosters a lifelong love for learning. When children discover the joy of reading early on, they are more likely to carry this passion into adulthood. It is a powerful tool for academic and language development, and instilling a love for reading and learning. Let's work together in promoting the joy of reading.

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Source: Reading Assessment and Progress, 1997





El papel crucial de la lectura en casa para los niños(BRIANNA)

En la acelerada era digital, donde las pantallas compiten por la atención, fomentar una cultura de lectura en el hogar tiene más importancia que nunca. Para los niños, el hábito de leer fuera del salón de clases juega un papel fundamental en su éxito académico y desarrollo personal.

Logro académico:

Leer en casa está directamente relacionado con un mejor rendimiento académico. Los estudios muestran consistentemente que los niños que leen regularmente fuera de la escuela tienden a sobresalir en diversas materias. La lectura mejora el vocabulario, la comprensión y las habilidades de pensamiento crítico, proporcionando una base sólida para el éxito.

Desarrollo del lenguaje:

- Leer en voz alta con su hijo(a) juega un papel crucial en el desarrollo de su lenguaje. Escuchar palabras pronunciadas correctamente y en contexto ayuda a los niños a ampliar su vocabulario y desarrollar habilidades lingüísticas. Esta exposición a patrones lingüísticos ricos proporciona una base sólida para una comunicación y alfabetización efectiva.

Inculcar el amor por la lectura:

Leer con su hijo(a) es una manera poderosa de inculcarle el amor por la lectura desde una edad temprana. Los niños que asocian la lectura con experiencias positivas tienen más probabilidades de desarrollar un amor por los libros durante toda su vida.

Animar a los niños a leer en casa fomenta un amor por el aprendizaje que durará toda la vida. Cuando los niños descubren el placer de leer desde una edad temprana, es más probable que lleven esta pasión hasta la edad adulta. Es una herramienta poderosa para el desarrollo académico y del lenguaje, y para inculcar el amor por la lectura y el aprendizaje. Trabajemos juntos para promover el placer de leer.



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WOYCHIK

School Counselor/Curriculum Director

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There is Something Special Here

7:40-8:00 a.m. is one of the best parts of my day. I get to be in front of the school as our students are dropped off and enter for the day while Mr. Franzwa, Mrs. Olson, and Ms. Gruber welcome our bus riders at the cafetorium doors. Breathing in the fresh air and enjoying being outside for these few minutes is wonderful, but the magic of these moments is actually in what I see and hear. Each and every vehicle that drives up is full of anticipation for the day ahead. "Have a good day!", "Be good!", and/or "I love you" can be heard as children leave their parent's or a special grown up's side, often with a kiss and a hug. And then, as students walk towards our doors I see confidence and enthusiasm. One little girl typically shows up in her sparkly pink cowboy boots, raises her right arm and exclaims, "Da-ta-Da!

....CHARGE!" as she trots up to our doors, others stand tall with their backpacks in tow and a smile while they share a robust "Good Morning" to me and Mrs. Zwiefelhofer and often a high five for Mrs. Matchey. If I am running late the students are usually huddled around the doors. When the doors are finally opened the positive energy that pours in is palatable. Now, in all reality, if you ask each of the students how they feel about school I am guessing you may hear a response or two that is not so enthusiastic. We have a certain amount of structure and expectations and the average middle or high school student may pass on if they had the chance to sleep in and wallow in a day of freedom. But for the most part, the energy that enters our doors on a daily basis is that of happiness and pride. Does that happen everywhere? I think most schools are doing a terrific job. But there is something special here.

What happens here from 8:00-3:30 to ensure that over 450 students have what we have promised--to ensure learning for all in a positive environment, takes hard work and dedication. Supporting over 60 staff members to work as a student centered team connected by consistencies, while also allowing for creativity, doesn't happen without careful thought and attention. The complexities of a strong educational system are concepts that few outside of our walls could ever truly understand. I will try to give you a glimpse into how this works.

Learning. Independence Public School exists to help students learn and that is hard to argue with. We do many other things: clubs, sports, dances, etc. and although those things are important too, they are not why we exist. Without a strong formal education it can be hard to navigate our adult world and a career ceiling would likely happen that limits wages, and advancement opportunities for the children we serve. All families trust that each morning when they leave their children in our care that we are doing all that we can to ensure that their child learns and will have what they need to achieve their dreams. To do our work well, we first and foremost need skilled educators and para-professionals who have access to high quality materials. Independence searches high and low for great educators who are willing to be a part of a learning community and grow with us. We have that. We also spend significant amounts of time to be sure we have the best curriculum and training to support our teachers as they develop their practice. In department and/or grade level teams, teachers collaborate to get very clear about what learning targets are most important and create lesson and unit plans to reach all students regardless of background. All students here are expected to reach identified learning targets and know that teachers and specialists are there to help them. Students know that we believe in them. Each and every one of them.



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WOYCHIK

School Counselor/Curriculum Director

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Over one-third of our students are at some level of bilingualism. The assets these students bring to Independence are sincerely valued and their presence helps make our instruction even stronger. Our teachers have to take the time to learn about and apply proven strategies that strengthen all instruction, but are essential for multilingual learners. When students need more support we offer interventions as part of our school schedule to efficiently help students catch up and then move forward in their learning. These systems that support student learning take hard work but we do it because our students deserve it.

Behavior. Imagine being in a building all day with more than 80 students under 7 years old..., over 100 pre-teens..., and another 100+ full blown teenagers.... Then think about the myriad of homes and backgrounds they come from. Some of our students have very few experiences outside of our Independence community, and some come from as far away as El Salvador and Guatemala. How do we make sure everyone feels safe and cared for? We work toward consistency of behavior expectations, then we catch our students following those expectations and help them develop pride for making safe, respectful, and responsible choices. If there are student behavior issues we respond with logical consequences that help the student learn and then move forward with high expectations for all.

For example, all of our students clearly know that in our school we walk in the hallways, we treat school property with respect, we take pride in doing our best work, and among other things, we use technology for only school purposes during the school day. We teach expectations like these, we practice, and we let our students know when we see them making positive choices that allow everyone to learn. Some may say that our students should just know all of this, but the truth is we all do better when expectations are clear, consistently enforced, and we get the support we need to be successful. That is what we do here, and I would say that we can't talk about learning without talking about creating an environment that allows learning to happen. Like our academic work, these behavior systems that teach, support, and respond to behaviors logically take time and effort. Independence has taken that time, consistently and for many years. We put in the effort and I would rightfully state that it shows.

Everyday the church bells from down the road can be heard at 8:00 a.m. which tell me that it is time to start our official school day. We are all here. That little girl with the pink sparkly cowgirl boots is preparing to take on the world, one day at a time, one lesson at a time, one book at a time, one relationship at a time. I know she is going to make her dreams happen because we believe here that all kids can learn, we have the systems in place to support them, and our students know and believe that. They can feel that. There is something special here.





Hay algo especial aquí (DAWN)

De 7:40 a 8:00 a. m. es una de las mejores partes de mi día. Estoy en frente de la escuela mientras nuestros estudiantes son dejados y entran para el día mientras el Sr. Franzwa, la Sra. Olson y la Sra. Gruber dan la bienvenida a nuestros pasajeros del autobús en las puertas de la cafetería. Respirar aire fresco y disfrutar de estar al aire libre durante estos pocos minutos es maravilloso, pero la magia de estos momentos está en realidad en lo que veo y oigo. Todos y cada uno de los vehículos que llegan están llenos de anticipación por el día. “¡Que tengas un buen día!”, “¡Sé bueno!” y/o “Te amo” se pueden escuchar cuando los niños se

alejan de sus padres o de un adulto especial, a menudo con un beso y un abrazo. Y luego, cuando los estudiantes caminan hacia nuestras puertas, veo confianza y entusiasmo. Por lo general, una niña pequeña aparece con sus botas vaqueras de color rosa brillante, levanta el brazo derecho y exclama: “¡Da-ta-Da!... ¡CARGA!” Mientras ella trota hacia nuestras puertas, otros se mantienen erizados con sus mochilas a cuestas y una sonrisa mientras comparten un contundente “Buenos días” para la Sra. Zwiefelhofer y para mí y, a menudo, chocan esos cinco con la Sra. Matchey. Si llego tarde, los estudiantes generalmente se apiñan alrededor de las puertas. Cuando finalmente se abren las puertas, la energía positiva que entra a raudales es agradable. Ahora bien, en realidad, si preguntas a cada uno de los estudiantes cómo se sienten con respecto a la escuela, supongo que escucharás una o dos respuestas que no sean tan entusiastas. Tenemos estructuras y expectativas, al estudiante de secundaria o preparatoria le encantaría si tuviera la oportunidad de dormir hasta tarde y disfrutar de un día de libertad. Pero en su mayor parte, la energía que entra por nuestras puertas a diario es la de la felicidad y el orgullo. ¿Eso sucede en todas partes? Creo que la mayoría de las escuelas están haciendo un trabajo fantástico. Pero aquí hay algo especial.

Lo que sucede aquí de 8:00 a 3:30 para garantizar que más de 450 estudiantes tengan lo que hemos prometido: garantizar el aprendizaje para todos en un ambiente positivo, requiere trabajo duro y dedicación. Apoyar a más de 60 miembros del personal para que trabajen como un equipo centrado en los estudiantes y conectados por coherencia, al mismo tiempo que permite la creatividad, no sucede sin una reflexión y atención cuidadosa. Las complejidades de un sistema educativo fuerte son conceptos que pocos fuera de nuestros muros podrían entender realmente. Intentaré darte una idea de cómo funciona esto.

Aprendizaje. La Escuela Pública de Independence existe para ayudar a los estudiantes a aprender y eso es difícil de discutir. Hacemos muchas otras cosas: clubes, deportes, bailes, etc. y aunque esas cosas también son importantes, no son la razón por la que existimos. Sin una educación formal sólida, puede ser difícil navegar en nuestro mundo adulto y probablemente se imponga un techo profesional que limite los salarios y las oportunidades de avance para los niños a quienes servimos. Todas las familias confían en que cada mañana, cuando dejan a sus hijos bajo nuestro cuidado, estamos haciendo todo lo posible para garantizar que sus hijos aprendan y tengan lo que necesitan para lograr sus sueños.

Para hacer bien nuestro trabajo, necesitamos ante todo educadores y paraprofesionales capacitados que tengan acceso a materiales de alta calidad. Independence busca por todas partes grandes educadores que estén dispuestos a ser parte de una comunidad de aprendizaje y crecer con nosotros. Tenemos eso. También dedicamos una gran cantidad de tiempo a asegurarnos de tener el mejor plan de estudios y capacitación para apoyar a nuestros maestros a medida que desarrollan su práctica. En equipos de departamento y/o nivel de grado, los maestros colaboran para tener muy claro qué objetivos de aprendizaje son los más importantes y crear planes de lecciones y unidades para llegar a todos los estudiantes independientemente de sus antecedentes. Se espera que todos los estudiantes aquí alcancen objetivos de aprendizaje identificados y sepan que los maestros y especialistas están ahí para ayudarlos. Los estudiantes saben que creemos en ellos. Todos y cada uno de ellos.

Más de un tercio de nuestros estudiantes tienen algún nivel de bilingüismo. Los valores que estos estudiantes aportan a Independence se valoran sinceramente y su presencia ayuda a fortalecer aún más nuestra instrucción. Nuestros maestros deben tomarse el tiempo para aprender y aplicar estrategias comprobadas que fortalezcan toda la instrucción, pero que son esenciales para los estudiantes multilingües. Cuando los estudiantes necesitan más apoyo, ofrecemos intervenciones como parte de nuestro horario escolar para ayudar de manera eficiente a los estudiantes a ponerse al día y luego avanzar en su aprendizaje. Estos sistemas que apoyan el aprendizaje de los estudiantes requieren mucho trabajo, pero lo hacemos porque nuestros estudiantes lo merecen.

Comportamiento. Imagínate estar en un edificio todo el día con más de 80 estudiantes menores de 7 años..., más de 100 preadolescentes... y otros más de 100 adolescentes.... Luego piense en la gran cantidad de hogares y orígenes de donde provienen. Algunos de nuestros estudiantes tienen muy pocas experiencias fuera de nuestra comunidad de Independence, y algunos vienen de lugares tan lejanos como El Salvador y Guatemala. ¿Cómo nos aseguramos de que todos se sientan seguros y atendidos? Trabajamos para lograr la coherencia de las expectativas de comportamiento, luego detectamos que nuestros estudiantes siguen esas expectativas y los ayudamos a desarrollar orgullo por tomar decisiones seguras, respetuosas y responsables. Si hay problemas de conducta de los estudiantes, respondemos con consecuencias lógicas que ayudan al estudiante a aprender y luego seguir adelante con altas expectativas para todos.

Por ejemplo, todos nuestros estudiantes saben claramente que en nuestra escuela caminamos por los pasillos, tratamos la propiedad escolar con respeto, nos enorgullecemos de hacer nuestro mejor trabajo y, entre otras cosas, utilizamos la tecnología únicamente para fines escolares durante el horario escolar. Enseñamos expectativas como estas, practicamos y les informamos a nuestros estudiantes cuando los vemos tomar decisiones positivas que permitan a todos aprender. Algunos pueden decir que nuestros estudiantes deberían saber todo esto, pero la verdad es que a todos nos va mejor cuando las expectativas son claras, se aplican consistentemente y recibimos el apoyo que necesitamos para tener éxito. Eso es lo que hacemos aquí, y yo diría que no podemos hablar de aprendizaje sin hablar de crear un entorno que permita que se produzca el aprendizaje. Al igual que nuestro trabajo académico, estos sistemas de conducta que enseñan, apoyan y responden a conductas lógicamente requieren tiempo y esfuerzo. El distrito escolar de Independence se ha tomado ese tiempo. Consistentemente. Durante muchos años. Nosotros nos esforzamos y yo diría que se nota.

Todos los días se pueden escuchar las campanas de la iglesia a las 8:00 a. m., lo que me indica que es hora de comenzar nuestro día escolar oficial. Todos estamos aquí. Esa niña con botas vaqueras de color rosa brillante se está preparando para conquistar el mundo, un día a la vez, una lección a la vez, un libro a la vez, una relación a la vez. Sé que ella hará realidad sus sueños porque aquí creemos que todos los niños pueden aprender, contamos con los sistemas para apoyarlos y nuestros estudiantes lo saben y lo creen. Pueden sentir eso. Hay algo especial aquí.

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. OLSON

SPEED Director/Dean of Students

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Attendance Matters - in the Winter Too!

The cold and snowy weather has finally found its way to Wisconsin. Colds and fevers are more frequent in the winter months. Weather and illnesses can be two popular reasons why our students are not in school.

These absences, even if they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please consider these steps to keep your children healthy and in school this winter.

1. Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids, and getting exercise.
2. If your children get sick, talk to your child's medical provider or the health assistant for advice and ask whether they should go to school.
3. Dress your children for the cold weather. This includes a warm coat, hat, gloves, and snowpants. If you need help with winter clothing, please call the school.
4. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school. Check bus schedules and communicate with family members or friends who can give your children a ride if you cannot.
5. Encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom. Hand sanitizer is a great product for during the day or on the go.
6. Try to limit interaction with individuals who are sick and avoid sharing cups and utensils with others.
7. If your children need to stay home for a prolonged period of time due to illness, talk to your child's teacher to find out about missed learning opportunities and what your child can do at home to keep learning once they feel well enough.

Please let me know if there is anything I can help you with. It will be spring before we know it!



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.

Winter 2024
www.indps.k12.wi.us





-La asistencia escolar importa, ¡también en invierno! (KAYLA)

El clima frío y nevado finalmente llegó a Wisconsin. Los resfriados y las fiebres son más frecuentes en los meses de invierno. El clima y las enfermedades pueden ser dos razones populares por las que nuestros estudiantes no están en la escuela.

Estas ausencias, incluso si son justificadas, rompen la rutina de asistencia diaria que contribuye a que los estudiantes se sientan conectados y comprometidos con el aprendizaje. Considere estos pasos para mantener a sus hijos sanos y en la escuela este invierno.

1. Fomente hábitos saludables como dormir lo suficiente, comer alimentos saludables, beber líquidos y hacer ejercicio.
2. Si sus hijos se enferman, hable con el proveedor médico de su hijo(a) o con el asistente de salud para que le aconseje y pregúntele si deben ir a la escuela.
3. Viste a tus hijos para el clima frío. Esto incluye un abrigo, gorro, guantes y pantalones para la nieve. Si necesita ayuda con ropa de invierno, llame a la escuela.
4. Desarrolle planes de respaldo para llevar a sus hijos a la escuela. Consulte los horarios de los autobuses y comuníquese con familiares o amigos que puedan llevar a sus hijos si usted no puede.
5. Anime a los niños a lavarse las manos antes y después de comer y después de ir al baño. El desinfectante de manos es un excelente producto para usar durante el día o mientras viaja.
6. Trate de limitar la interacción con personas enfermas y evitar compartir vasos y utensilios con otras personas.
7. Si sus hijos necesitan quedarse en casa por un período prolongado debido a una enfermedad, hable con el maestro de su hijo(a) para conocer las oportunidades de aprendizaje perdidas y qué puede hacer su hijo en casa para seguir aprendiendo una vez que se sienta lo suficientemente bien.

Por favor, avíseme si hay algo en lo que pueda ayudarle. ¡Será primavera antes de que nos demos cuenta!

POLÍTICA DE ASISTENCIA

Se recuerda a todos los padres que llamen a la escuela antes de las 9:00 a. m. el día de la ausencia de su hijo(a). El no notificar a la escuela antes de las 9:00 a. m. puede resultar en una acción disciplinaria para el estudiante. Agradecemos su cooperación. Nuevamente, si los padres no llaman, llamaremos para confirmar el hecho de que los padres saben dónde están sus hijo(a) (ya sea en casa o en la escuela) y que nuestros niños están seguros. Gracias por su cooperación



MANUFACTURING DAY 2023

On October 19th, the 6th graders from Independence Public School attended Ashley Furniture's Manufacturing Day. They were able to learn about the history of Ashley, get an extensive tour of the advanced manufacturing facility, and participate in a team-building educational game. Students learned about a variety of careers throughout the day. Thank you to Ashley Furniture for a wonderful learning experience.



The winning Ashley Feud team, including Independence's Kenzie Gruber and Estrella Sandoval Barrios, along with teammates from Holy Family (Arcadia) and Gilmanton.



Students learned about and toured a tractor trailer.

DAIRYLAND ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS CONCERT

The 60th annual Dairyland All-Conference Honors Concert was held on November 11, 2023 at Whitehall Memorial Auditorium. The festival choir was conducted by Dr. Christopher M. Hathaway from UW-La Crosse & the band was directed by Michelle Jenson from Holmen High School. Singers and instrumentalists from Alma-Pepin, Augusta, Blair-Taylor, Cochrane-Fountain City, Gilmanton, Whitehall, Alma Center, and Melrose-Mindoro also participated.



Tayler Lambright, Kendra Klimek, Sydney Dejno, Lucas Halvorson, and Gracie Rombalski



Dawson Olson and Jayden Matchey



ALUMNI PANEL

On Friday, December 22nd, we were delighted to welcome back four Independence Alumni for a panel presentation on career paths. Anna Skroch, Hillary Halama, Austen Whitwam, and Tiffany Bautch spent the morning sharing their educational and career journeys with our 8th-12th grade 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!

"Your path isn't linear. It gives you ups and downs, but if you lean into your passions, you'll find out exactly where you are supposed to be." Anna Skroch

Anna Skroch shared her path through college and her career as a Quality Assurance Specialist with HeartWorks.

Hillary Halama shared her journey through college, studying in London, working for the Green Bay Packers, living in Las Vegas, to eventually become a CPA at lululemon.

Austen Whitwam shares his experiences during high school, in the military, and his career as a Journeyman Lineman.

Tiffany Bautch shared her roles with Gundersen Health System, Ashley Furniture, and the City of Independence.



A special thank you to Anna Skroch, Hillary Halama, Austen Whitwam, and Tiffany Bautch for sharing their experiences with us!

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL

The American Legion Oratorical Contest was held on November 7th. The winner was Miranda Najera , earning herself a \$750 scholarship and advancing to the county level. This is one of the largest scholarship contests in Independence because students can compete every year of high school and advance to the county, district, state, and national level. Congratulations Miranda!

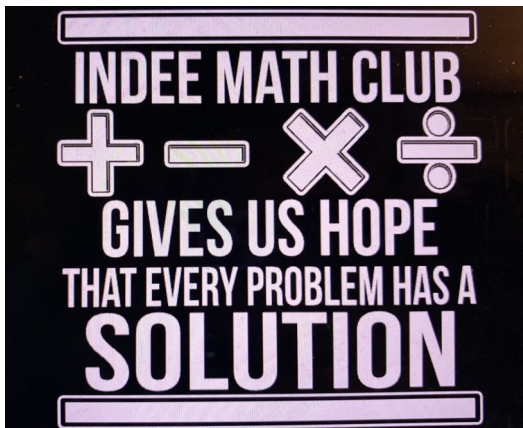
Miranda Najera with Post 186 Commander Bill Thoma



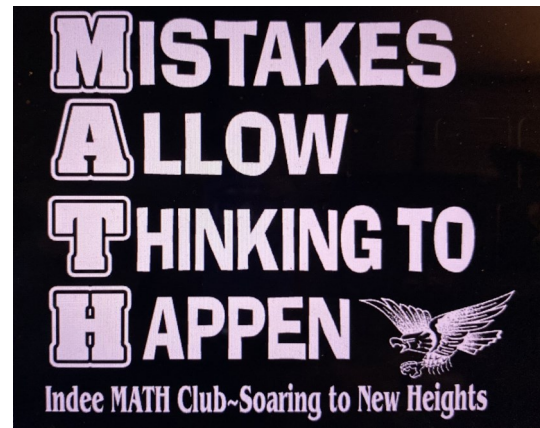
INDEE MS MATH CLUB

Mrs. Killian kicked off her MS Math Club, Soaring to New Heights! Indee MS Math Club has received a few generous donations from individuals to help us launch. With the help of Ms. Meyer we have designed our MS Math Club logos:

The front:



The back:



Indee MS Math Club is:

- open to all 6th & 7th grade students! Inclusive. All students can use remediation/enrichment.
- Strongly suggested students will have received parent contact to outline the benefits.
- Mrs. Killian has designed it to serve as enrichment of students held during AT time - two groups M, W, F and T, Th; although some students are offered up to 5 days a week.
- Serve as remediation during IPT time.
- Also, remediation for students after school, up to 2 days per week per grade level.

Mrs. Killian will give students a ride home if they live in town or by special request.



WELCOME NEW IHS MEMBERS

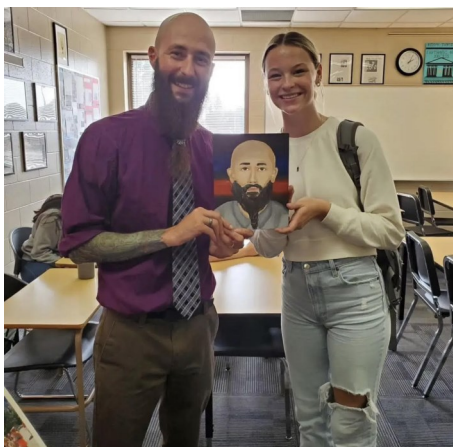
This winter, we welcomed seven new members to the Independence Honor Society. Seniors Leah Sylla and Gracie Rombalski, and juniors Hannah Gierok, Kassidi Dejno, Kia Back, Whitney Brenny, and Charlie Baize were all selected based on their academic accomplishments, community service, leadership, and character. They join existing members Sydney Dejno and Adison Pronschinske. A big congratulations to all members!



One primary focus of the Indee Honor Society is to give back to the school and Independence community through helping at school events, tutoring, and planning service activities. We will be having a clean-up day in May and sending groups of middle and high school students around town, so if you know of a family or business who could use some help, please contact us this Spring. Also, members are currently brainstorming new ways that they could serve the community and are always open to ideas and suggestions! Please call the school office or email guzaa@indps.wi.us.

ART TEACHER PORTRAIT PAINTING

Art 1 students learned about Pop Art and learned about artist Andy Warhol, a leading figure in the Pop Art movement. In addition, students learned about the Element of Art, color, and how different colors can hold meaning and elicit different emotions and feelings. Each Art 1 student chose a teacher to create a Pop Art portrait painting of. Students were encouraged to select colors and symbols that related to the teacher they selected. After completing their acrylic paintings, the students presented their paintings to the teacher they selected.



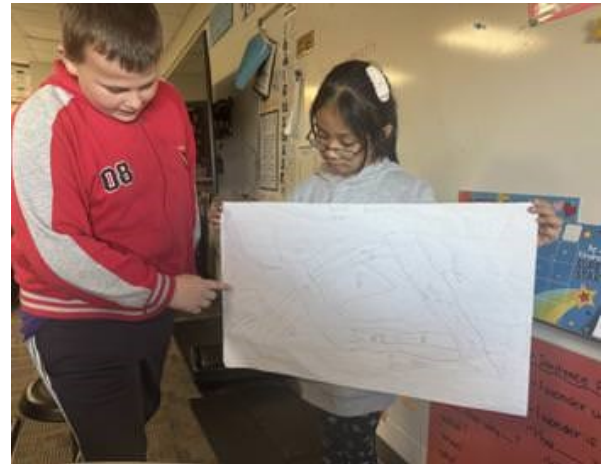
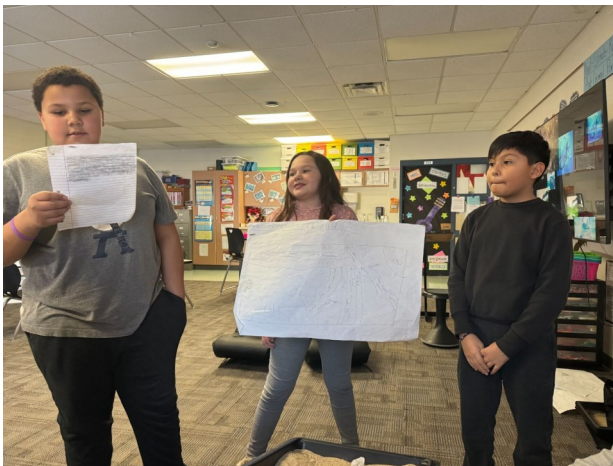
LEFT Leah Sylla is pictured with Mr. Nix, High School History teacher and RIGHT Rai'jhanai Polk with Mrs. Guza, High School Science teacher.



How is our land changing around us?

Stanek's Smart Scientists

The fourth graders in Mrs. Stanek's class have been learning about erosion and the different types of landforms. At the beginning of the unit, the students looked at Independence and how it has changed over the past many years. They were looking at the many different forms of change in the landscape around them from manmade to natural changes. Then, they took a virtual field trip to Devil's Lake in the Wisconsin Dells to look for more examples of change and also discuss how these natural changes can result in erosion. The final part of our unit was where the students had to use their knowledge about landforms to build their own models of a landform. Once their models were drawn, the students built their models in stream tables using sand and made predictions about how water erosion was going to affect their landform. The students did a great job using their knowledge about erosion and landforms in many different ways. It was great seeing their faces light up when testing out their stream tables. Keep up the hard work 4th graders!



SCHOOL CALENDAR

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18

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Josef Brägger

President

W89 Pape Valley Rd
(cell 715.530.0466)
(home 715.985.2314)
Independence, WI 54747

Robert Guza

Treasurer

W22153 Hughes Filla Rd
(cell 715./797.0662)
(715.985.3048)
Independence, WI 54747

Jen Rombalski

Vice President

N42015 Roskos Road
(cell 715.533.5112)
(715.695.2995)
Strum, WI 54770

Del Bork

Clerk

24012 Adams Street
(cell 715.985.3633)
Independence, WI 54747

Jennifer Solberg

Member

W23550 Creek Road
(cell 715.530.0846)
Independence, WI 54747

Independence 2023/24 Calendar

2023

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 Independence Day

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Approved: 1/5/22, updated 06.02.23

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

8 & 10 New Teacher Inservice
9 Registration Day 11-7
21-24, 28 Inservice
29 4K-12 Open House
30, 31 Transition Days

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 First Day of School
4 Labor Day - No School
22 Inservice

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

19 PT Conferences 4:00-8:00
20 Inservice
26 PT Conferences 4:00-8:00

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

16 End of 1st Trimester
17 Inservice
23 Thanksgiving

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

23-31 Vacation
25 Christmas

2024

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 New Year's Day
1 Vacation
2 School Resumes
19 Inservice

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

1 PT Conferences 4:00-8:00
8 PT Conferences 4:00-8:00
29 End of 2nd Trimester

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 Inservice
4-8 Spring Break
19 ACT Date
29 Easter Break

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Easter Break
10-11 Forward Testing 3-8
26 Inservice

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

25 Graduation
27 Memorial Day
31 End of 3rd Trimester/Last Day

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

3 Inservice (1st Snow Make-up)

Legend

Holiday	Inservice	Parent/Teacher Conference
Orientation/Registration	Vacation Day	End of Trimester
1:00 Dismissal	Summer School	Summer PD
ACT Dates/Forward Testing	2:30 Dismissal for Collaboration Time	

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Winter 2024
www.indps.k12.wi.us



FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE—EASIER THAN EVER

If your child is going on to a 4 year college, technical college or a trade school after high school graduation it is time to apply for Financial Aid. Student financial aid is provided by the federal government, the State of Wisconsin, outside scholarship sources and college campuses to help all students attend the college (2 or 4 year) of their choice. Most aid is based on financial need and is designed to help meet the difference between the cost of college and your family's ability to pay.

The form that needs to be completed in order to receive some of this aid is called the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and can be found at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Starting this year, there have been major changes to simplify this process and make it more accessible to all families.

Some things to remember:

- Apply early--before April 2nd is recommended
- Income **tax information is required** before a formal aid package can be offered.

Support for completing the FAFSA:

- [College Goal Wisconsin](#)
- [Your college level financial aid office](#)

High School Scheduling for 2024-25 Opportunities are Endless

It is an exciting time of the year as our 8th-11th grade students prepare for their next year of learning. Registration materials (including the Master Schedule Draft, TVC Options, and Course Descriptions) were shared with students the first week of January and are always available on our school website under Schools>High School>High School Course Selection Information.

All families are invited, and expected to participate in an Individual Planning Conference in February or March and will receive letters by postal mail with your assigned date and time. These appointments *can be changed and every effort will be made to accommodate parent participation. While at these meetings we not only discuss your child's new schedule, but also their career interests and next steps to get there.*

Juniors and Seniors have a wide variety of non-traditional class options including those from Trempealeau Valley Cooperative (TVC) 2.0, Online, Project Circuit, and college courses. We also have options for our students to complete full technical college programs in their senior year, and industry related certifications (like CDL, First Responder, Athletic Officiating, etc.). **Having parents at our student planning conference is essential to developing a schedule that is right for each student. Parents are also needed to complete required registration paperwork for some classes and to ensure that both parents and students understand any stipulations for such courses.**

We hope all of our students will dream big and plan for the future they wish to have.

Please contact Mrs. Woychik with any questions or concerns. *A goal without a plan is just a wish.*

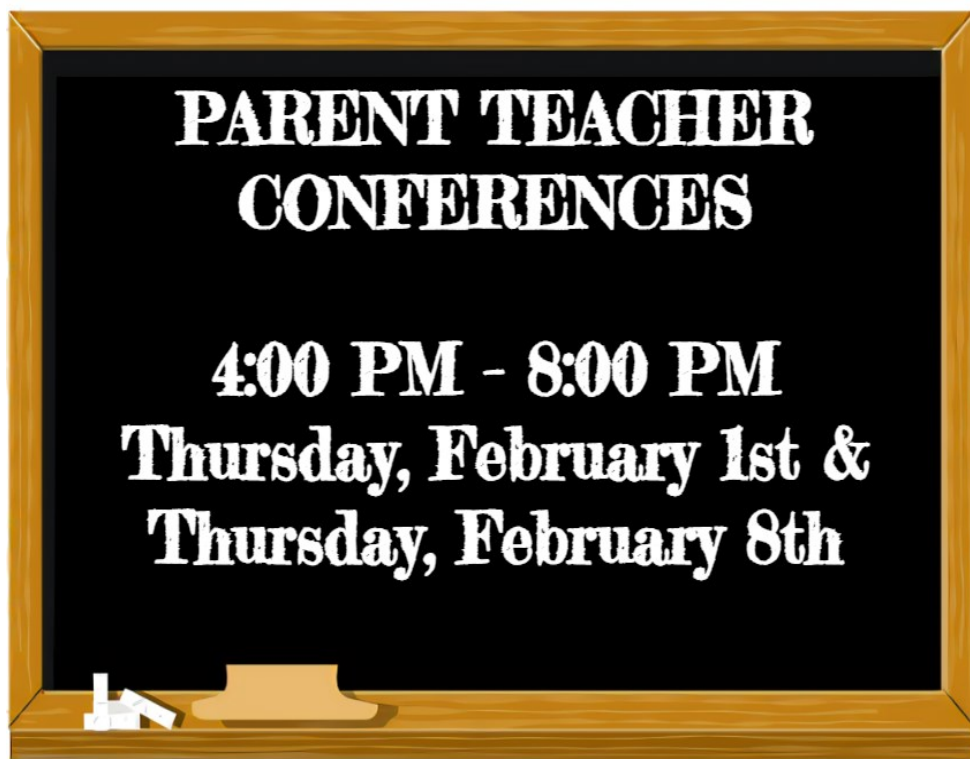


THURS, FEBRUARY 1ST
4:00 - 7:00 PM



**DURING PARENT
TEACHER CONF.**

**HOSTED BY
HISTORY CLUB
\$6.00 A MEAL**



Measuring Learning

Skills and talents can be measured in many ways and we have a building full of athletic, artistic, leadership, and academic talent. As an institution, it is our obligation to help each and every child reach their full *academic potential*. *Measuring our progress in that work is essential so that our teachers know how to plan, and for students and families to understand where the student is in their learning. Working together we help students see the goal, and then provide both the hope, and the instruction to help them reach the goal.*

Very much like doctors take our medical care seriously and monitor health goals through assessments, prescribing a treatment plan that helps us get stronger and healthier. Our teachers also monitor learning through classroom assessments, district assessments we call STAR, and state assessments.

State assessments are coming up this spring. More information will be shared as these dates get closer. In the meantime, parent's can help by ensuring our students are in school and have the full support of grown ups at home in their academic work on a day to day basis.

March 19th:

11th grade

ACT assessment

- Reading, English, Math, Science, Writing

March 19th:

9th and 10th grade

Pre ACT assessment

- Reading, English, Math, Science

April 10th & 11th:

3rd through 10th grade

Forward assessment

- English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- At grades 4 and 8 students are also assessed in Science, and 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies



Winter 2024

www.indps.k12.wi.us



Spring Sports Updates and Information

Mark your calendars! *Winter Athletic Banquet is Monday, March 11th at the Independence High School. Snacks will be available at 6:30 pm and awards will be starting close to 7:00 pm. Student-athletes are encouraged to dress up for this event.*

Spring Dual Sport Athletes, please notify Mrs. Sonsalla by March 8th. A mandatory parent/coach/athlete needs to be scheduled. We will discuss expectations, practice and competition schedules.

Spring Sports are just around the corner, too. These are the following dates for practices to begin:

- Monday, March 4th - High School Track and Field (in the gym) at 3:45 pm
- Monday, March 11th - High School Girls Softball at 3:45 pm
- Monday, March 18th - High School Boys Baseball TEAM practice at 3:45 pm.
- Coach Brandenburg will give more information about pitching practice
- Monday, March 25th - High School Boys Golf practice at 3:45pm



**Wednesday
March**

13

11:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Independence High School
23786 Indee Blvd, Independence
11:00AM - 4:00 PM

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Schedule an appointment by calling the school or visiting the website below

715-985-3172 ext. 159
https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/259333

For questions and 16 year old donor consent forms contact Mrs. Olson, olsonk@indps.k12.wi.us



INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

● 4K REGISTRATION

~**MARCH 22ND** 1:00pm-6:00pm

For all students starting 4K for the 2024-2025 school year. Come and meet your teachers and see your classroom!



● FUTURE INDEE MEET AND GREET 1:00pm-6:00pm ~**MARCH 22ND**

For all children 2 1/2-4 years old. This is an opportunity for our future INDEES to come meet teachers and see the school. You can also learn about services in the community for families with young children.

Please call to register for your child's visit by March 8th
715-985-3172

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DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE INDEPENDENCE

● REGISTRACION DE 4K

~**22 DE MARZO** 1:00pm-6:00pm

Para todos los estudiantes empezando 4k para el año escolar del 2024-2025. Vengan a conocer a sus maestros y salon de clase!



FUTURO INDEE VEN A CONOCER Y SALUDAR 1:00pm-6:00pm ~**22 DE MARZO**

Para todos los niño(a)s de 2 ½ a 4 años de edad. Esta es una oportunidad para que nuestros futuros Indees puedan conocer sus maestros y la escuela. Tambien pueden aprender sobre los servicios en la comunidad para familias con niño(a)s pequeños.

Porfavor llame antes de el 8 de marzo para registrar la visita de su hijo(a) al **715-985-3172**

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2024 Summer School

FOR GRADES 4K-7th

**June 10th-28th
8:00-2:15**



2024 Escuela de verano

Para grados 4K-7

**10-28 de junio
8:00-2:15**



**Pre-Registration
is required to
attend.**

MORE INFO WILL BE SENT
HOME SOON!

715-985-3172

**Se requiere
preinscripción
para asistir**

¡Mas informacion sera enviada
a casa!

715-985-3172



HELP WANTED

The Independence School District is seeking a full-time School Health Nurse or Health Assistant. This is a ten month position with full year benefits. Primary responsibilities will be to provide health care and support for our students. Other responsibilities may include clerical support and/or other duties as assigned by your supervisor.

Prior experience working in the healthcare field is preferred, but is not necessary. The Independence School District offers a competitive salary based on experience and qualifications along with health and dental insurance (including State Retirement). Bilingual in Spanish and English is an asset. The position is open until filled.

All interested candidates should send a letter of application, a resume, and three letters of recommendation to:

Mr. Paul Franzwa, District Administrator
Independence School District
23786 Indee Blvd.
Independence, WI 54747



The Independence School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs, activities, or employment.

COACHING STAFF **OPENING**

The Independence School District is accepting applications for the following coaching positions for the Fall 2024 Season:

Head Varsity Football Coach
Assistant Football Coaches
C-Team Volleyball Coach

Cover letter along with two letters of recommendation can be submitted to:

Jenna Sonsalla, Athletic Director
Independence School District
23786 Indee Blvd.
Independence, WI 54747

Or via email at sonsallaj@indps.k12.wi.us



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 spot 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.

Announcements on TCC Station

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

Newsletter Copy Editor/Production Editor

Tracy Halama

Editorial Administrator:

Mr. Paul Franzwa

SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

School District of Independence

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

www.lacrosserradiogroup.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.



Clipart Sources Throughout Newsletter

<http://www.google.com>.

USE OF OUR SCHOOL

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

- Walking and community exercise 5:45am-10:00pm.
- Meeting Rooms and Athletic facilities can be reserved by filing a Facilities Request form available at the school.
- Weight room with a membership (stop in to Student Services)

Did you Know?

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

EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find thousands of participating products throughout the store—and all you need is the Box Tops app.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



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Earn for schools with the brands you love.



SCAN
YOUR
RECEIPT

Use the BoxTops app to submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN
CASH FOR
SCHOOLS

BoxTops products are identified and earnings are credited online.



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Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, or request an email receipt at checkout, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT BTFE.COM

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW



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

Winter 2024
www.indps.k12.wi.us



Spring Election – April 2, 2024

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).

To vote for a name on the ballot, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to the name like this: ☒

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in."

School Board Members

Vote for not more than 1

☐

Deborah Bork

☐

Brian Bautch

☐

Write-In

The newsletter of
Independence School District
Independence, WI 54747



PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Boxholder

Independence, WI 54747