Independence District



Newsletter

Spring, 2023

You are invited!

High School Awards Ceremony Friday, May 19, 2023 1:30 pm—Cafetorium



Families are encouraged to join us to celebrate student academic,

scholarship, and co-curricular accomplishments. •Senior Scholarships •Senior Academic Achievement •Indee Honor Society •Badger Boys and Girls State •Attendance •Student Council •Forensics •Instrumental and Vocal Music •Yearbook

This will also be live-streamed for parents

and community members,

on our Facebook page and website: www.indps.k12.wi.us

Class of 2023 Graduation

The Class of 2023 will graduate Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm Class Motto: "Ain't about how fast I get there. Ain't about what's waiting on the other side. It's the climb." - Miley Cyrus Class Colors: Black and Gold Class Flower: Stargazer Lily Class Song: "Where'd All the Time Go" by Dr. Dog



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Congratulations Class of 2023!

Highest Laude Points



Ahnna Bautch Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor Indee Honor Society



Ethan Bouzek

Magna Cum Laude

With High Honor

Indee Honor Society



Gavin Bragger Cum Laude With Honor

Johnuell Claudio Mendoza



Namil Ckaudio Mendoza



Yamil Claudio Mendoza



Estrella Gaspar Tomas



Mason Gierok Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Alondra Gomez Ruiz



Mitchell Halvorson

Magna Cum Laude With High Honor



Sadie Helgeson Cum Laude With Honor



Erik Ignacio Pedro



Amiah Ives



Josh Kalk

Magna Cum Laude With High Honor

Tyler Kingsbury



Andrea Laehn

Page 3





Yoselin Martinez Garcia



Jacobo Medina



Bianca Najera

Summa Cum Laude

With Highest Honor

Indee Honor Society

Max Marsolek Cum Laude With Honor



Jocelyn Perry Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor Indee Honor Society



Gabe Pietrek



Dylan Przybilla



Kiley Przybilla

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Benjamin Pyka Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Carson Rajkowski Magna Cum Laude With High Honor



Grace Roskos Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Cora Sonsalla Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Kendra Suhr Magna Cum Laude With High Honor



Rhianna Theisen Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Lizbeth Vasquez Cum Laude With Honor Indee Honor Society



Margaret Waychik Summa Cum Laude With Highest Honor



Yambo Schelmetty

Cum Laude With Honor

Jean Zayas

Laude System of Recognition to Begin with the Class of 2023 High Levels of Learning and Purposeful Planning

At the June 2019 School Board meeting it was approved to move to a Laude System of recognition for graduates starting with students who would be freshmen in the 2019-20 school year. This change came after almost two years of research and discussions with parents, students, and faculty; the primary purpose was to encourage rigor in student coursework, decrease unnecessary competition between classmates, and increase students' academic and intellectual risk-taking, making it more enticing to plan for and take rigorous courses.

Laude System simplified:

- High School students will still have a class rank listed on their transcript as they always have. •
- Students with a cumulative grade point average higher than 3.0 at the end of the second semester of their senior year would be a part of the Laude system. Their GPA would be multiplied by the number of honor points they received in high school. Honor points can be earned by taking upper-level courses or sequencing courses meaningful to their future plans. See Board Policy 345.6 for more details.
- Student's Laude score would determine whether they would be recognized as araduating with 1)Highest Honor (Summa Cum Laude) 2) High Honor (Magna Cum Laude) or 3) Honor (Cum Laude)







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From the Desk of the District Administrator

Some of you may ask what impact decreasing the role of grade point average and class rank will have on college admissions decisions. Although still reviewed by many colleges, class rank has declined in significance at many schools. According to a recent report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), more than half of all high schools no longer report student rankings. A student's grades in collegepreparatory classes remain the most significant factor in college admission decisions. Highly selective colleges look for students who:

- Complete core academic requirements.
- Take more challenging classes, even though they may have slightly lower grades than they'd achieve in lower-level courses.
- Enroll in several college-prep or college-level courses and perform well.
- Take four years of a world language, showing evidence of academic discipline and challenge
- By offering a Laude score, colleges would be able to gain more information about applicants. Much more than with a simple number/grade point average and class rank.

Ultimately, encouraging students to find something they are passionate about could provide more long-term value than getting the highest class ranking title of valedictorian as it gives more students a reason to keep learning and growing.

This year we are proud to present our graduating class of 2023, the first class graduating under the Laude system. Our graduation ceremony will look a little different with seniors wearing purple, gold, or silver stoles to designate their Laude status. Our speakers will be those with the highest Laude score rather than just grade point average. You will also see their Laude level of recognition in the program.

Leading up to this change, the individual conversations with our families have been very positive, and the encouragement and motivation this gives our students is easy to see once they understand how this works. It is no longer only important to have the highest grades, but it is important to show high levels of learning and to take on academic challenges that are meaningful to their futures.

From the Desk of the Administrator

It seems like just yesterday and I was beginning as your new High School Principal and Superintendent in Independence. It is hard to be-



lieve that was ten months ago. In reflecting on my first year back in Independence, I can honestly say that it was definitely a great professional decision for me. I truly enjoy the students, staff, community, and challenges that I encounter on a daily basis. Having

had seventeen years of prior experience as a Principal, I am pretty familiar with most issues that come my way. However, the combination of serving as the High School Principal and Superintendent does bring a few new challenges to the table. Honestly, if it weren't for all of the wonderful people and supports that we have in our district, I'm not sure I would speak as highly as I do about my experiences so far this year. I have always felt accepted here and I am honored to have the opportunity to build upon all of the great things that are already in place. Indee truly is special. For my article in this newsletter, I thought it would be interesting to recap the highlights of my first ten months on the job.

July

 I had my first school board meeting on July 6, 2022.



◊ I worked with

staff and community members to inform others about our proposed operating referendum.

- The admin team and I spent some time on the hiring process to prepare for the 22-23 school year.
- We (admin team) also spent several hours planning for our August inservice days and the upcoming school year.
- I took advantage of every opportunity that I

could to meet and get to know our staff better.

August

- Our admin team continued to plan for our August back-to-school inservice and the upcoming school year.
- We finalized our referendum work and we were successful in securing a three year non -recurring operating referendum for \$900,000 per year.
- Several families took advantage of our annual registration day in August.
- We hosted an open house where students and their families had the opportunity to meet our staff and become more familiar with our building.
- I continued to take advantage of opportunities to meet our staff and students. I also had opportunities to interact with several community members by attending various events.
- Football, volleyball, and cross country practices and competitions began.
- The last two weeks in August we had staff inservice and students back in the building for their transition days.

September

- On September 1, we had our official first day of school. Many hours of discussions and planning had gone into preparing for the start of the '22-'23 school year, and it was finally here.
- Shortly after the start of the school year, we had our Homecoming festivities. Looking back on it, I would say that Homecoming week really jump started our year. I had the opportunity to interact with the students in a different light throughout the week with all the different activities, and it was really nice to see and experience their true colors.
- Throughout the month of September I continued to attend the fall sports (football, volleyball, CC, girls golf) whenever I had the chance. Being there for the students was important, and they definitely noticed. It

also gave me the opportunity to get to know some of our parents and community members a little better.

 In September I went to my first State Superintendent Conference. It was hosted by WASDA (Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators) and was a great opportunity for me to continue my learning and to meet/network with other Superintendents.

October

- In October the four Superintendents from the Trempealeau Valley Consortium (TVC) presented on our four-school co-op at the National Rural Schools Convention that was conveniently hosted in Green Bay this year.
- I worked with our Student Council and Lions Club to host the annual haunted house at school. It was absolutely amazing to see the teamwork and creativity of our students. We had a great turnout from the community which was also nice to see. It will be hard to replicate for next year, but I think our returning students are up for the challenge.
- In October I held my first ever annual meeting and budget hearing. There was a lot of planning and preparation that went into these meetings, and it was a great experience for me. We made the decision to only levy \$800,000 of the available \$900,000 operating referendum dollars. We were able to do everything that we needed to with this amount and it also kept our mill rate below what we had anticipated.

November

- We hosted a community Veterans Day program on November 11. Mr. Comero and the high school band and choir students did an amazing job performing and decorating for the event. Several of our local veterans were able to attend and it was an honor to host them, get to know them better, and thank them for their service.
- The winter sports seasons (basketball, wrestling, gymnastics) kicked off in November.

 Our first trimester came to an end and we had the week of Thanksgiving off to catch our breath and get ready for the second trimester.

December

- December always seems to go by so fast.
 We enjoyed our Christmas Concerts from the elementary, middle school, and high school students.
- Our winter sports were in full swing and there were plenty of opportunities to attend events and support our student athletes.
- In December I also had the opportunity to experience my first school cancellation due to the weather. These are early starts to the morning and there is a lot of behind the scenes work that needs to get done each time we cancel.

January

- After winter break everyone returned to school with a renewed sense of energy. Maybe it is because of the weather and time of year, but this always seems to be one of the most productive months of school with regard to student learning.
- Our student council typically organizes a winter carnival dance, instead this year they wanted to plan a field trip during the school day for the entire high school to go to Bruce Mound. Bruce Mound is an outdoor sports area that offers tubing and ski hills. The student council pitched this idea because they thought that it would get more students to participate. The weather was great that day and the students had a fabulous time!
- Every December the Wisconsin Association of School Boards hosts their annual convention in Milwaukee. I attended the convention and also presented in one of the sessions on our four school co-op with the other TVC Superintendents.
- In January we had some additional snow days to contend with. What was different in January compared to December was that we offered virtual instruction.
- I had the opportunity to experience my first

Indee Invite in January. There are so many people that work together to host this amazing event. Mr. Schmitt coordinates everything and his experience and leadership are invaluable. It provides some great opportunities for our student athletes to compete, and brings a lot of people to our community and benefits our local businesses.

February

- In February our winter sports seasons started to wrap up. Our high school wrestling team earned the title of Conference Champs and had three individuals qualify for the individual state wrestling tournament.
- We had more snow days in February and we continued to offer virtual instruction.
- Second trimester came to an end the thirdweek in February, and it was followed by a week-long spring break.

March

- March was challenging with all of the spring sports (softball, baseball, golf, track and field, and girls soccer) trying to coordinate their indoor practices due to all of the snow.
- Our freshmen, sophomores, and juniors completed their state testing by taking the Pre-ACT or the ACT test.
- Our middle school and high school band and choir had their spring concert and did a great job once again.
- We had six of our high school girls qualify for the state forensics competition in April.

April

- With all of the delays due to weather, the spring sports were extremely busy at the beginning of April.
- The junior prom was hosted at the Opera House once again this year on April 15. We are so lucky to host this special event in such a beautiful venue. Post Prom was hosted at the high school and the wonderful support for our students and school is evident after seeing all of the donations from local businesses and families.

There were other important events that took place across several months this year. Some examples are: my WHTL monthly interviews where I have the opportunity to talk about all of the great things happening in our school; many Trempealeau Valley Consortium (TVC) meetings in an effort to continue growing our four-school co-op and provide opportunities for our students and staff; and numerous meetings with representatives from the Gilmanton School District as we expanded our athletic co-op with them to include volleyball, and boys and girls basketball.

As I wrap up my article for this edition of our newsletter, I want to leave you with some of my thoughts based on my experiences and observations over the past few months. We have great students, dedicated and talented teachers and staff, and a generous and supportive community. You should be thankful and honored to send your children to our school because they are cared for and really do receive an excellent education. I believe that we are continuing to move the district in the right direction, and I am looking forward to what the future will bring for the School District of Independence.

Thank you-

Paul Franzwa



From the Desk of Mrs. Z

Happy Spring!

My second year as the elementary/middle school principal has been a successful one. I am fortunate to lead in a school district with amazing students and staff as well as work in a community that supports the important work we do.

The elementary scope of my position comes natural for me with having fifteen years of experience as an elementary educator. This past school year an area that I focused on was to incorporate more opportunities for our middle school students.

Newly implemented this past school year were fun and engaging monthly assemblies for our middle school students. We use this time to celebrate students by recognizing outstanding middle school students, birthdays, participation in extracurricular activities, etc. We also had a monthly focus which revolved around kindness, leadership, and other topics.

We also started a middle school leadership team. We have nine students on the leadership team for the 2022-2023 school year. I met with the MS leadership team once a month so they could help in the planning of the monthly assembly. Student leaders help at the assemblies by handing out awards, assisting with the team building activities and/or reading off names for monthly birthdays. I am excited about these new middle school opportunities and looking to add more for next school year!

In March, we had our first elementary Family Math Night. Thirty-one families attended, which made for a fun evening. The district adopted a new elementary math program called BRIDGES in Mathematics. Families had the opportunity to learn about the three components and participate in the WorkPlaces with their student(s). On behalf of The Independence Lions Club, a meal was provided at no cost to all attendees. I would like to thank the Lions Club for their continued generosity and support of the district

Curriculum & Counseling Corner

and community.

As we move into our final month of school, I would like to highlight some upcoming opportunities for our elementary and middle school students and their families.

Monday, May 22nd~ Middle School Awards Assembly. The assembly will take place in the gym starting at 2:50pm.

- Friday, May 26th~8th Grade Promotion at 9:00am.
- June 12th-30th~Summer School (registration is required to attend)
- Please reach out with any questions. 715-985-3172

Your partner in education,

Brianna Zwiefelhofer



High School Scheduling for 2023-24

Scheduling for the 23-24 school year is winding down. The involvement of parents in this process is always impressive with over 90% participating in our planning conferences. All of our students have a wide variety of options including courses offered through the Trempealeau Valley Cooperative 2.0, Project Circuit, and direct college courses. We also have options for our students to complete full technical college programs in their senior year, and industry-related certifications (like CNA, First Responder, Athletic Officiating, etc.). We value family involvement in these important decisions.

As our school year winds down it is important for students to remember that any changes to their schedules need to be done before they leave for summer.

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.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony and Middle School Assembly

On May 22nd and May 26th, our middle school students and 8th graders at the Independence Middle School will participate in a few celebrations. Although our 8th graders are technically not graduating, they are still moving up from middle school to high school, and we want to acknowledge their efforts. We know there is much schooling left for our 8th grade Indees as they move to the 9th grade, and work toward a bigger accomplishment, high school graduation. Our 8th grade promotion ceremony will be a great way to celebrate this milestone.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony Friday, May 26, 2023 9:00 AM Middle School Assembly Monday, May 22, 2022 2:50 - 3:30 **Awards will be presented

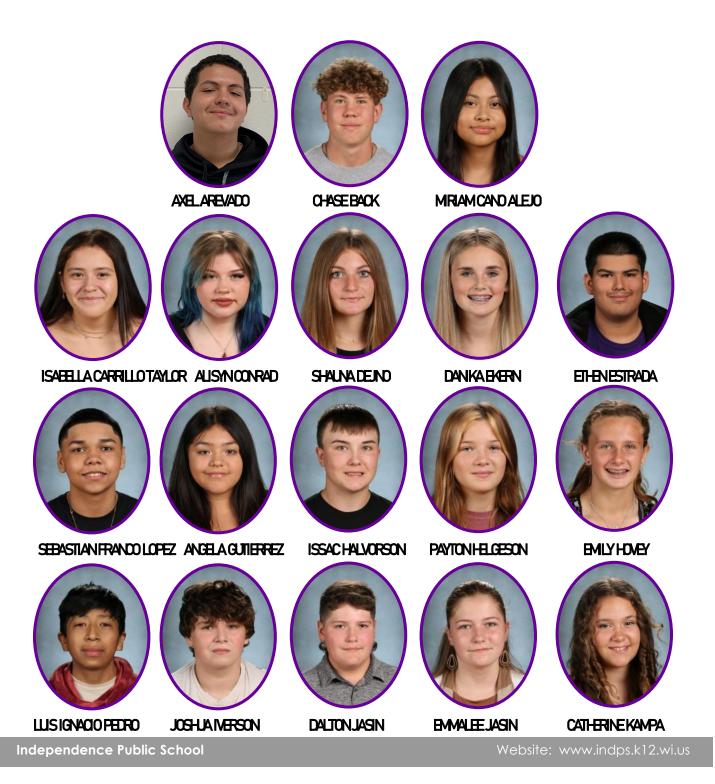


ongratulations

Independence Public School

Website: www.indps.k12.wi.us

Eighth Grade Promotion





Independence Public School

Vebsite: www.indps.k12.wi.us

Thank you to our Independence families, businesses and alumni for making these scholarships possible!!

Award	Amount	Criteria
Academic Excellence	\$9,000	Highest cumulative grade point average
Technical Excellence	\$2250 x 3 yrs	Technical College
American Legion Oratorical	\$750, \$300	8-10 minute speech: US Constitution
American Legion Senior	\$1000	
Elmo Dahl AMVET Post 1	\$1000	Parent or grandparent that is a veteran
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186	\$1000	Theorem of Brandparent that is a veteral
J. Dubiel Excellence in Business	\$1000	Business, Accounting, or Finance Major
Doris J. Bautch STEM	\$500	2 or 4-year degree in a STEM field
Wanek Engineering/Design	\$5000	Engineering, Manufacturing, Design
Ashley Furniture Grants in Aid	\$2000	Dependent of an Ashley employee
Sobotta Engineering /Science	\$2000	Engineering or Science.
Beef River Livestock	\$1000	Member of Beef River Livestock Shipping
Buffalo County Farm Bureau	\$500	Member. Pursuing a degree in Agriculture
Compeer Financial	\$1500+	3.0 GPA and pursuing a degree in Agriculture
FFA Alumni	Various	Degree in an agricultural field.
Maliszewski Agriculture	\$300	Degree in agriculture.
ALCIVIA (formerly Countryside Cooperative	\$1000	Member
Elk Rod and Gun Club	\$500	Conservation
Community Investment Healthcare	\$1000	Healthcare
Grandview Care Center	\$1000-\$15000	An employee of Grandview Care Center
Ginger Everson Memorial	\$1000	Pursuing a degree in healthcare
Lisa Rostvold Memorial	\$1200	Pursuing a degree as a nurse
William Schoenberger Memorial		Police Science/Law Enforcement
Laura Graul Athletic Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in Athletics.
Laura Graul Perf, Arts Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in the Performing Arts
Laura Graul Agriculture Memorial	\$1000	Student interest in Agriculture
Independence Public School Memorial	2-\$400	
Independence Education Association	\$500	Degree in education
(Independence Teachers)	\$500	Degree in education
Independence State Bank	\$500	
Isaacs Memorials	3-\$750	Leadership, Financial Need, Academics
Lions Club	\$500	Service
Ed and Bernice Lyga Memorial	\$1000	3.0 GPA
RAPS DOC & Sackett Memorial	\$1000	
Rainbow Community Club	2-\$500	
Riverland Energy	\$1000	Member
First National Bank	\$250	
Tri-County Communications	\$500	Random drawing
Tri-County Communications	2-\$1000	Telecommunications-related field of study.
Cooperative		
Tryggvason Lodge	\$200	Demonstrate interest in international culture
WHTL Marty Little	4-\$250	3.0 GPA and Varsity Letter
Western Technical College	\$500	WTC Student

TUMMA Manufacturing Careers	\$500	CNC, Electromechanical, Machining, or Welding
Denim Day-New Horizons	2-\$500	Essay: prevention of domestic abuse
Pilgrims	Various	
Character Lives	\$750	Service and leadership

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 franzwap@indps.k12.wi.us

Coulee Honors Band

Indee's Grant Klimek and 73 other 8th-grade students from 13 different area





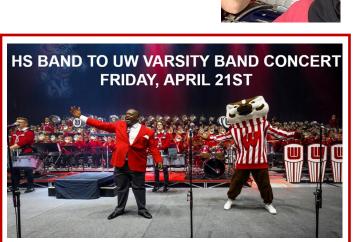
joyed a fun-filled day at Blair -Taylor United Campus making new friends and great

music at the 10th annual Couleeland Honors Band!

The eighth-grade band, under the direction of Mr. Monte Dunnum, rehearsed all day and performed 4 pieces at the evening's concert including:

- \Rightarrow Down on the Delta
- \Rightarrow Lavender's Blue
- \Rightarrow Colonel Bogey
- \Rightarrow Bazaar

A great day was had by all!



The HS band members were fortunate to receive a chance to attend the UW Varsity Band Concert on Friday, April 21st. This opportunity was sponsored by Jurowski Construction.

Senior Band Awards

The Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award® was introduced in 1994 in honor of the legendary bandmaster and impresario. Patrick Gilmore (1829-1892) and his band joined General Burnside's expedition to North Carolina in the Civil War. Gilmore also played for every president of his day, including Abraham Lincoln. This award honors outstanding high school band students and their achievements and commitment to the band.

Congratulations to **Mitchell Halvorson** as this year's recipient of The Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award®.

"The reason I choose to be in music education classes is because of the importance of music. It teaches me skills in a way that no other classes do, it teaches reading, math, focus, awareness, attention to de-



tail, and so much more. Not only does it teach a lot, but I really enjoy experiencing and playing so much music from all around the world. Music education is so important to our society. Our music is how we preserve our culture and lifestyle. Taking that away is effectively taking away our culture and the cultures of so many others. I believe it's very important to conserve and explore that part of society. It really shows the beauty of the world."

The John Philip Sousa Award is the pinnacle of achievement in a high school band. Introduced in 1955 to honor the top student in the high school band, the John Philip Sousa Band Award® recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication. It was created with the approval of Helen Sousa Albert and Priscilla Sousa, daughters of the famous composer and bandmaster.

The Arts



Congratulations to **Joshua Kalk** as this year's recipient of The John Philip Sousa Award. \Box

"I like playing the tuba."- Joshua K.

Thank you Mitchell and Joshua for your leadership and contributions to the Independence Band Program in and out of the classroom. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments as you graduate from the Class of 2023! Best of luck to you both as you continue your journey after high school!

Senior Choir Award

The National School Choral Award® is the highest honor for high school choral performers. It recognizes the dedication and musical achievement of the top male and female choral students.

Congratulations to **Rhianna Theisen** as this year's recipient of The National School Choral Award®.

"The reason I love music is that it gives me a chance to make new friends and it allows me to enjoy making music. Without music classes, I wouldn't have half of the friends I do today. I also wouldn't have a way to take my mind off of harder classes during school. Playing music really helps me calm down and I am thankful that I have stayed in music for so long." - Rhianna T.

Thank you, Rhianna, for your leadership and contributions to the Independence Music Program in and out of the classroom. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments as you graduate from the Class of 2023! Best of luck to you as you continue your journey after high school!

Eighth Grade Music Awards

The Director's Award for Band

The Director's Award for Band was introduced in 1973 and honors outstanding members of a junior high school band. It is awarded to students who display high qualities of dedication and conduct and is presented in recognition of the student's outstanding contribution to the music ensemble.

Congratulations to **Grant Klimek** as this year's recipient of the Director's Award for Band.

"I choose to do music because it's fun and entertaining. It always feels good when we play a song and it sounds amazing. I feel like musical education should be in our nation's schools because it's an opportunity for kids to enjoy music on another level." - Grant K.

Thank you, Grant, for your leadership and contributions to the Independence Middle School Band in and out of the classroom. We look for to





your great work ethic and musical talents in the high school band next year. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments as you finish your time in middle school and begin your journey through high school!

The Director's Award for Chorus

The Director's Award for Chorus honors outstanding members of a junior high school choir. It is awarded to students who display high qualities of dedication and conduct and is presented in recognition of the student's outstanding contribution to the music ensemble. Congratulations to **Emily Hovey & Fahlynne Maples** as this year's recipients of the Director's Award for Chorus.



"Music should be in schools because kids should be there for tradition." - Emily H.

"Coming from my old school I wanted to do choir with my friends. So I decided why not try it. It also reminded me of them." - Fahlynne M.

Thank you, Fahlynne and Emily, for your leadership and contributions to the Independence Middle School Choir in and out of the classroom. We hope to have your great work

ethic and musical talents in the high school choir next year. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments as you finish your time in middle school and begin your journey through high school!





Fun in Fourth Grade

During the 2022-2023 school year, the fourth grade classrooms have been building cars through a STEM program called Vex Go. Last year, our school district received a grant from Ashley Furniture to pur-



chase the Vex Go STEM curriculum. With the Vex Go curriculum, the students are learning about engineering and coding through fun, hands-on activities. The fourth graders built a car and then they had to figure out how to get the car to turn in a certain direction at a certain amount of degrees. The students had a blast with this great learning experience because they only were given the directions and they had to build it with their group. Also, they had to experiment with coding to figure out a certain path they needed to follow. The students did a great job problem solving and working together as a team.





Enrichment Through Experience

Greetings, this is Mrs. Hunter, the Enrichment Coordinator. Support for students in schools is very important. Students that feel supported at all levels encourage learning, growth, and a love of knowledge. Those that understand the content offered by teachers, and going above and beyond what is expected of them, should be challenged. I feel as though being the enrichment coordinator meant to ensure these students are challenged and engaged by providing a way to look deeper at the content, and ask critical thinking questions we can help these students fuel their passion for learning.

My goal this year was to learn with the students. Within my IPT groups, I asked their ideas and input as I created individual grade projects and research questions. Some of what we focused on was indeed what they were working on in class already, but we took a much deeper dive into the content. For example, third grade was working on a space module through Wit and Wisdom. My third grade IPT class did a fast paced research unit on all the planets in our solar system, and then students had an opportunity to choose their own object in space to really focus on. They were able to create a slideshow and a 3D model of their chosen object. It excited the students to be able to take ownership of their learning. In Fourth Grade, they were on a module with a focus on mountains and survival in extreme locations. So, in my fourth grade IPT we decided to make presentation boards on each of the biomes and at the end of the unit, each student made their own biome in a jar. It was a hands on activity, with students creating their own environment for a chosen biome.

Through the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Program, our school was able to participate in events that grew our real world experience with our peers and neighboring schools. Independence was able to attend the Creative Problem solving event in Blair, where 3rd grade students went through problem solving stations that encouraged and challenged their minds in a new and fun way. The Math Fair was held in Black River Falls, where five of our 5th araders were selected to create and present a math related project board, it was a wonderful opportunity as well. Our 6th graders were questioned on various areas of trivia when they traveled back to Black River for the 6th grade guiz bowl. We are so lucky to be a part of such a great program that offers unique opportunities students. t o ουr Providing a learning experience that is stimulating will capture and inspire a great love of learning and a thirst for knowledge that will last a lifetime. I am honored to be able to create

an environment of encouragement to seek out deeper meanings and a more indepth view of the world and the content that is offered. If learning is kept fun, it will energize the students and inspire them to reach for more, for their true potential.



Newsletter Copy Editor: Tracy Halama Production Editor: Linda Killian-Baures Editorial Administrator: Mr. Paul Franzwa



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Prom

The class of 2024 celebrated their Junior Prom on April 15th. The theme of this year's prom was "A Night Under the Stars". Over

eighty students celebrated the evening together that created lasting memories. The event was held at the Opera House and the juniors did an excellent job with



decorations. The stars were shining bright. This year's court members were: Xavier Santillan, Wesley Pfaff, Dawson Olson, Carlitos Montalvo, Brandon Sylla, Gracie Rombalski, Adison Pronschinske, Kaylee Pronschinske, Leah Sylla, and Jasmine Montalvo. Voting took place at the dance and the students selected Gracie Rombalski as their queen and Dawson Olson as their King.

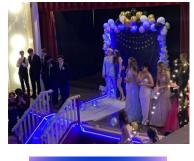
Middle School Math Help

If you would like help with math over the summer,

email Mrs. Killian at killiane@indps.k12.wi.us

This is a free service from Mrs. Killian!











Beagirl Scouts Beagirl Scouts Summer Camp Form Packers

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For girls starting kindergarten and older this fall.

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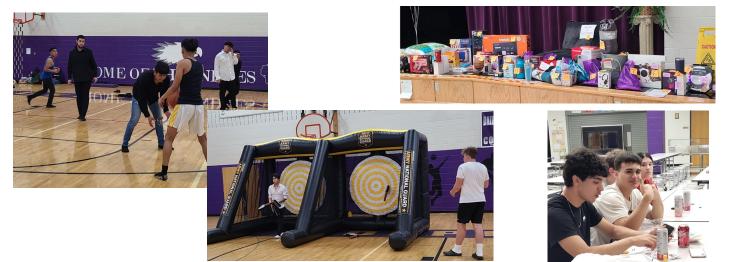
Post Prom

The Independence High School Post Prom Event was held at the High School on April 15th. This event was a great success thanks to our students, parents, staff, community members and businesses. Students were provided with a safe and fun environment to spend time together after the prom dance. Activities included inflatables, athletic competitions, video game tournaments, board games, and a variety of food, drinks, and snacks. All students in attendance also received a prize! Thank you to everyone that planned, shopped, chaperoned, and donated to this event. Thank you for your support and we are so lucky to have you in our community!

A special thank you to the community members and businesses that made an item or monetary donation to make this event possible. Please support their local business in return if you can!

- * Ashley Furniture
- * Central Builders Supply
- * Edge Graphics
- * First National Bank
- * Gunderson Tri-County Hospital/Clinic
- Independence Lion's Club
- * Independence State Bank
- * JoJo's Drive In
- * JP Enterprises
- * Klimek's 66 Station
- * Kulig, Michalak, & Franklin
- * Kwik Trip
- * Marion & Tiffany Lambright
- * Liberty Floral
- Francisco Sandoval Maldonado & Magali Lopez Perez
- * Antonio (Tony) Mlynek
- * Nelson's Straightline
- * Olde Mill Hair Salon

- Osseo Rents
- Tony & Anita Paisley
- Pape Bus Service
- Pehler Oil LLC
- * Pietrek's Service Station
- Pilgrim's Pride
- * Rainbow Community Club
- * Riverland Energy Cooperative
- * Scheels
- * Zack Smith
- * Mike & Anna Sylla
- * Sylver's Bar
- * TCC TV
- * Waldera LLC
- * Whitehall Veterinary Service
- * WHTL FM Radio
- * Wisconsin Army National Guard
- * Wozney-Killian Funeral Home





Independence Gilmanton Powerlifting Has Another Huge Year in Powerlifting

After months of regionals and state and national qualifiers. Independence Gilmanton qualified six lifters for the state championships in Appleton, WI. Andi Laehn, Braidy Killian, Vanessa Anderson Hernandez, Yolanda Bautista Santiago, Alyson Turner and Keegan McRoberts all qualified for the event. Senior Andi Laehn brought home gold, Vanessa Anderson Hernandez finished second, Braidy Killian came in fifth, while Alyson Turner and Keegan McRoberts finished sixth.

From there powerlifters headed to nationals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Qualifying for the event was Andi Laehn, Braidy Killian, Keegan McRoberts, Yolanda Bautista Santiago and Vanessa Anderson Hernandez. In record setting form, all five individuals took first place in their weight classes. They also brought home the team championship for Junior Varsity Equipped. Also, Braidy Killian and Keegan McRoberts were named "best lifter" for both girls and boys.



L to R: Braidy Killian, Andi Laehn, Keegan McRoberts, Danika Ekern, Glenn Turner, Vanessa Anderson Hernandez, Alyson Turner, and Yolanda Bautista Santiago

Our lone senior Andi Laehn will be greatly missed. I-G Powerlifting has a host of young talent coming through Jr. High. Danika Ekern, Glenn Turner, Hunter Turner, Cory Featherly, Payton Helgeson, Aliyah Kirtley and Braden Williams also had wonderful seasons, but were too young to compete at the state or national level. We look forward to a strong team next year. I would like to thank all the parents and coaches for their dedication to Independence Gilmanton Powerlifting.

Glenn Woychik-Head Coach





Important Device Check-In Dates!

TO: Families of Independence Students

We would like to acknowledge the students for taking exceptional care of the iPads and/or MacBooks again this year. Over the summer, the IT department will be going over the iPads and/or MacBooks to make upgrades to the software. All students are required to check in the iPads and/or MacBooks prior to the end of the school year. Below is a summary of the process.

All students who have a district owned device will be returning their iPads and/or MacBooks to the district on **June 1, 2023**.

Prior to June 1, 2023 all students should make sure any documents and files saved locally are saved/moved to Google Drive. Anything not saved to Google Drive will be erased after the device is upgraded. Please email/call Mr. Lim if you need assistance with saving/moving your files. All seniors will have access to their Independence Google account for up to 1 year after their graduation.

On June 1, 2023, all students will be returning their school owned devices (iPad and/or MacBook with chargers) in **the library**. Our staff will then quickly check the device for any damages and make any notes about missing chargers. This allows the IT department to look over the devices and accessories to determine if there is any damage and/or if the student will be charged a fee associated with any damage that is found.

When families check in their iPad and/or MacBooks, they will need the following:

- iPad and Blue case
- iPad Charger
- MacBook Air Laptop
- MacBook Charger

Cost of a charger for iPad is \$40.00, MacBook is \$80.00.

Damage resulting from negligence will be a charge of at least 40% of the cost for the first offense. Students should be reporting any damages on their device as soon as they occur so that our staff can determine if the damage is a result of negligence and determine whether or not a fee will be assessed.

Below are the inspections that will be done during the check in period:

- Dents and Dropped Damage
- Missing or Damaged Keys
- Trackpad Issues
- Cracked screen, Pixel Issues
- Case Condition

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• Functionality of Device

Any damage that is found on the device that results in the device not working to optimal functionality and is the result of negligence will be assessed a fee. All fees will need to be paid prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year or your child will not be able to take their device home for the next school year. In the event of damage caused by negligence (failure to take proper care), the student may be billed a fee according to the following schedule and payment must be completed in full within 3 months of the billing:

- First Incident -- iPad \$50, MacBook \$200
- Second Incident -- iPad \$100, MacBook \$400
- Third Incident -- Full cost of replacement of the device

Some examples of damages that have occurred and the cost associated to fix the device include:

- Crack Screen: Replace screen cost up to \$520
- Dead Pixels: Replace screen cost up to \$520
- Broken Keyboard: \$150
- Damage to Charging Cord: iPad \$40, MacBook \$80

We would like to thank you again for your efforts in keeping the iPads and MacBooks in good care. We look forward to a smooth check-in process that will allow us to keep these iPads and MacBooks in the best possible shape for future educational use. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. Lim.

Thank You, Independence IT Department

Rotary Mobile Clinic

Rotary Mobile Clinic is a partnership to bring free healthcare, to the uninsured in urban and rural areas, in Western Wisconsin

Services include: primary care, specialty care, health education, laboratory services, pharmacy/medication, and care referrals.

We were fortunate to have the mobile clinic visit the school on April 21. Watch our Face-



book page for future dates.

Blood Drive

The High School Student Council hosted a Blood Drive on March 15th. 18 whole blood donations and 6 dual red cell donations were collected. With these collections 60 lifesaving blood products were developed to treat patients at our community hospitals. 60 patients and their loved ones have the donors from this drive to thank for treatment. Thank you students, staff, and community

members for your help in hosting a successful blood drive.

Mark your calendars for next year's Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 13, 2024!



WISCONSIN SAFE OPERATION OF TRACTOR & MACHINERY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

City



JUNE 19, 20, 21, & 22, 2023 9:00AM - 3:00PM At Eleva-Strum High School

COST IS \$25

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2023

FOR YOUTH AGES 12+



TRACTOR AND MACHINERY CERTIFICATION COURSE

June 19, 20, 21, 22, 2023 (Monday,Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) Eleva Strum High School 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Name

Address

Zip

Parent's Name

Phone Number

Birth date

School

4-H Club or FFA Chapter (if applicable)

Registration Deadline May 31, 2023 Cost =\$25

Make check payable to: Whitehall High School

Return to: Local High School Ag. Department

Website: www.indps.k12.wi.us

Upcoming Events



School Supply Drive

Staff will be collecting school supplies for the upcoming year on Saturday, June 10th during Independence Days and on Tuesday, June 13th from 6:30-8:00pm during Music in the Park hosted by the Public Library. Look for the big yellow bus.

Suggested items:

- Crayola crayons (24 count)
- Crayola markers
- Crayola colored pencils
- Scissors
- Elmer's glue sticks
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Large pink erasers
- Black/Blue pens
- Highlighters
- Plastic Pencil Box
- Backpack

- Notebooks (wide ruled and college ruled)
- Loose leaf paper
- 3-ring Binders (1in) (2in)
- Post-It sticky notes
- Kleenex
- Zip-loc bags (gallon, quart, sandwich sizes)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Plastic Folders with pockets (blue, green, purple)
- Earbuds/headphones





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	4:00pm Yeareookstaff:to WTC	2 GOLF @WABASHA1:00 H5 TRACK @B-T 4:15 BB @ALGL 5TA 4:30 DBL HFADER SB @ALGL 5TA 5:00 BB @ALGL 5TA 5:00			5 MGTRACK@B-T415 BBVSB-T(H) 5:00 SBVSB-T(H) 5:00	6 STATE SOLO ENSEMBLE
7 TRAP VS SPARTA	8 caf@w+11_430 ¶	SCHOOLEO4RD630 9 BB@C-FC5:00 (()	10	11 5K/I ST OR FIELD TRIP	12 Agonthelawn	13 \$8@PEPIN-ALMA200
	SB@M-M400 🥪	58@C-FC5:00 🥪 60.F@ARCADA:4:00 ¹	1	н5 TRACK@MM4.00 COLF@WABASHA400 BBVSED (+) 5:00 () SBVSED (+) 5:00	GOLF@MONDOM 1:07]]	
14 TRAP VS ERF	15 COLF@TREMPLOTED H5TRACK@MM4:00 (RAINDATE) BEVSWHTL(H) 5:00 SEVSWHTL(H) 5:00	58@E-S5:00 🥪 60lf@F0xH0llow{	17 Senor Portfolio Intermens	18 SBREGIONALS 5:00 TEC	19 H5 AWARDS 1:30 BB @ LINCOLIN 5:0(20
21	22 TRACK REGIONAL @ ONALASKA LUTHER TED EBVS M-M (+) 5:00 MS ASSEMELY/AWARDE 2:50PM	GOLF RED @ C-FC 9:00 BB @ PEPINALMA 5:00 SB REDIONALS 5:00 TEL	4 [™] /5 [™] GR FIELD DAY	25 TRACK SECT TED/TED EBREG TED 5:00 SBREG CHAMP TED 5:00	26 8 TH GRADE PROMOTION 9:00 COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY SENOR LAST DAY	$\frac{27}{\text{graduation1:00}}$
28		30 COLF SECT @ MNPT BEREG TED 5:00 () SB SECT TED 5:00	31 331PM DISMISSAL 4KSAILAWAY COLF SECT @MNPT] BBREG TED 5:00 ()	Please stay s	lar is subject	y going to our te i <u>.us</u> or



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SC				1 SB SECT CHAMPTED 5:00	2 LAST SOHOOL DAY TRACK STATE @UW+LACROSSE	3 TRACK STATE QUWLA CROSSE
4 Summer Vacation	SPRING SPORTS AWARDS & 30PM Y 😑 🕓 🧩 BOOSTER CLLB 7:30	6 BESECTIEDTED (() COLFSTATE@KOHER &30PMSCHOOL E0ARDMEETING	7	8 SB STATE@ WOODSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX	9 SB STATE@ WOODSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX O	10 SB STATE@W00DGIDE SPORTS COMPLEX 😑
11	12	13 EB STATE@ GRAND CHUTE () STATE Summer	14 BESTATE@ GRAND CHUTE C CONVE RL 1 E & b & b & b & c Summer School O'	15 BESTATE@GRAND CHUTE G NTION	16	17
18	19 Summer	20 Retekter	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	up to date l	is subject to chan by going to our so wwindps:k12wi.u Like us Face	chool website is or









REAL TIME

Your school's earnings are

automatically updated online

EXTRA CASH Access special bonus offers

on top of your Box Tops

earnings



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.

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 his. 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.



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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.



Census

Order your Indee Wear

https://indeespirit2021.itemorder.com/shop/sale/...

Or go to our Facebook page Independence Public School to find the link.

Welcome to Independence!

If you, or someone you know, has children ages 0-21 please complete and return the attached form so that we can better plan for the educational needs of students in our community.

<u>Why Independence Public School?</u> Students come first State of the art technology Small class sizes on a 4K-12 campus Progressive practices in curriculum and instruction Most students graduate with 6 or more transferable college credits And much more!



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This is for school purposes only. Your response is greatly appreciated!

The Independence School District is collecting census data (student count) for children 21 years of age and younger.

Will your child/ren attend school in Independence? ____ Yes ___ No If No, Where will they attend school?

Children 0-21 years of age residing in your home:

Name of Child (first and last name)	Age	Date of Birth	Gender M F

Parents or Guardians (list only those living in household)

Parents'/Guardians' Full Names:

___Date:___

Address (street, city):

Do you know of families that have pre-school or school-age children not in school: ____ Yes ____ No (If you mark yes we will contact you for more information.)

Please return via postal mail OR in the drop box outside public school main doors.

Censo del Distrito Escolar de Independence (Cuenta de Estudiantes).

Esto es solo para propósitos escolares. Su respuesta es muy apreciada!

El Distrito Escolar de Independence está recopilando datos del censo (cuenta de estudiantes) para niños de 21 años de edad o menores.

Su(s) hijo(s) asistirán a la escuela en Independence? ____ Si ____ No Si es No, ¿a donde irán a la escuela?___ Niños con 0 a 21 años de edad que viven con usted:

Nombre del niño (nombre y apellido)	Edad	Fecha de Nacimiento	Género M F

Padres o Tutores (Enumerar sólo a los que viven en el hogar)

Nombre Completo de		
Padres/Tutores:	Fecha:	_
Dirección (calle,		
ciudad):	Teléfono:	
¿Sabe usted de familias que tienen niños en edad preesco	olar o en edad escolar que no están en la escuela?: Sí	No
(Si marca Sí, nos pondremos en contacto con usted para obtener más ir	ıformación.)	

Por favor regrese vía correo postal o dejar en la caja que está afuera de las puertas principales de la escuela pública.

Independence Public School

Phone Number:

FOLD HERE/DOBLAR AQUÍ

Independence School District 23786 Indee Blvd Independence, WI 54747

Postage Required

Independence School District Attn: Sue Wozney 23786 Indee Blvd Independence, WI 54747

FOLD HERE/DOBLAR AQUÍ





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 (see Patti Klimek in Student Services).



Registration Day

Г

	We look forward to seeing ALL 4K-12 INDEE STUDENTS AND PARENTS If you cannot attend please contact us at 715-985-3172				
sign up	Registration Day Wednesday, August 9th, 2023 11:00-7:00 pm Gym for ALL 4K-12 INDEE STUDENTS AND PARENTS Handbooks, Meal information and payment options, Athletic and Organization Information, Schedule and Locker Information for grades 6-12, Indee Wear, Fall Conference Set Up, Transportation Information, Registration Packets can be picked up at the main office starting August 2, 2023				
	Middle & High School Athletic Code Meeting (grades 6-12) Wednesday, July 19th, 7:00 pm Cafetorium (Booster Club meeting to follow) Make-Up Athletic Code August 9th 4:00 pm Cafetorium				
Open House	 4K-12 Open House (School Pictures) Tuesday, Aug 29th 11:00-7:00 Parents AND Students encouraged to come anytime between 11:00-7:00. Plan to stay for approximately 30 minutes. 6-12~Ipad checkout if all forms are submitted and fees paid Meet your teacher, bring in school supplies School pictures for 4K-12 (Retakes November 2nd) 				
Welcome Back to School	Welcome Back~Student Day! Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023				
	Solution				

Independence 2023/24 Calendar Approved 1/5/22, updated 04.25.23

July						
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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4 Independence Day

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Fr Sa

End of 1st Trimester

Thanksgiving Vacation

Tu We Th Fr Sa

21-24, 28 Inservice 4K-12 Open House 30, 31 Transition Days November Su Mo Tu We Th

20-24

Su Mo

Inservice

February

October							
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					
1							

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

26 PT Conferences 4:00-8:00



New Year's Day Vacation School Resumes

Inservice

/lo	Tu	101-			
PERSONAL PROPERTY.		We	Th	Fr	Sa
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10-11 Forward Testing 3-8 26 Inservice

Legend

			May			158
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Graduation Memorial Day

31 End of 3rd Trimester/Last Day

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4 Labor Day - No School

22 Inservice

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31						

1 Inservice

4-8 Spring Break

19 ACT Date

29 Easter Break

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

3 Inservice (1st Snow Make-up)

	Holiday	12.2	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 T	lime	
© Ca	alendarpedia® www.calendarpedia	.com			Data provided 'as is' without warranty
3	Transition Days				
	Transition Days Student		1st Trimester	52	plus 3 transition days
168	Date of the second se		1st Trimester 2nd Trimester	52 62	plus 3 transition days
168 192	Student				plus 3 transition days

SUPPORE Hours

June 7:30-3:30 Monday-Friday July 7:30-3:30 Monday-Thursday August 7:30-4:00 Monday-Friday

The newsletter of Independence School District Independence, WI 54747



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