

Spring 2012

IHS Word

*IHS Word is the **Ithaca High School** newsletter, jointly funded by the PTSA and IHS. It serves all IHS parents, caregivers, and staff will be mailed home with the report cards each quarter.*

From the Principal

Dear Ithaca High School Families-

As we go into the second half of the third marking period, I wanted to take a moment to write to you to share some information regarding updates, events and opportunities taking place at Ithaca High School. First, our SMART boards have arrived and teachers and students are just starting to begin to interface with these technological devices. More than 20 were installed over February break, and about a third of our school is now equipped with these machines. We have begun to roll out the 1:1 use of i-pads in some of our classrooms and students are beginning to see the power of these devices as well in promoting their learning and achievement. Many new books have been purchased in the library, and students and staff are greatly appreciative of these low-tech learning devices as well!

Many parents and caregivers have elected to sign up for the Parent Portal through SchoolTool which is our student information system. Once families create an account they can access their student's attendance, discipline, course requests, and schedule. To create an account, go to the Ithaca City School District homepage, click on Caregiver, click on Parent Portal/SchoolTool and follow the instructions that follow. School counselors are in the process of conducting Annual Reviews now through April 6, with students in which they discuss course selections, grades, credits, graduation requirements, extracurricular activities, and plans after high school. Should you wish more information, please contact the Student Services Department at 274-2157.

March is a busy month for us at the high school. Our Winter Formal with a sit-down dinner and a live band will take place at Lake Watch on Saturday, March 10, there is no school for students on March 16, as teachers and staff have a Professional Learning Community Day, the spring musical, The Pajama Game, runs from March 22-25, and I.H.S. Orchestra's Cabaret Night runs March 30 and 31. Thank you for your continued support of Ithaca High School and its programming. *-Jarett Powers*

Student Schedule for Next Year, What You Need to Know

Registration for next year is underway. On February 22nd a letter was mailed home with information for parents and caregivers to make sure the process was open and there was a clear understanding how to be involved in this process and ensure your child makes the best selections for next year. Below is a recap of that letter and a few tips from the PTSA on what you need to know to best assist your child(ren).

Scheduling Tips from the PTSA

Register for a Schooltool account. This is a registration tool that is open to parents and allows parents to view a student's current attendance, schedule, discipline and it is here that you can review next year's class choices. Your students schedule selections have been input into the Schooltool system and you can create an account and view and discuss this with your child.

http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/iit/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=51&Itemid=85

- **Ask your student when their annual review meeting is scheduled.** Juniors will be scheduled first, then sophomores, then freshman. You are welcome to attend this meeting. If your child has not discussed this with you, please ask them.
- **Review the Program of Studies with your student.** It is available online at: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/Updated%20Program%20of%20Studies.pdf>
- **Like the IHS Student Services Facebook page.** Logon to Facebook and search "IHS Student Services"
- **Review course selections carefully and make sure your student requests any changes by April 5th.**
- **Questions:** If you have questions post it on the Facebook page or contact your student's counselor at 274-2157.

Changes to the registration process outlined in the Student Services Team letter home:

- Students have an opportunity to make schedule changes through April 5th, 2012. It is very important that students carefully select their courses because the master schedule will be created based on the student course requests. This will determine how teachers are assigned and how many sections of a course are offered.
- Those requesting a change in academic class or level that a teacher has recommended, fill out the Parent/Guardian Course Waiver by April 5th.
- If there are no changes please sign and return the form to Student Services by April 5th.

Important Dates:

January 30-February 1: Pre- registration
February 27- April 6: Annual reviews

February 3-8: Registration

February 13 & 14: Make up registration

April 5: Deadline for making schedule change

CollegeNow at IHS – Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 7 pm, Activities Building CollegeNow collaborates with area high schools to provide quality college credit opportunities for high school students (both concurrent enrollment and online classes), support high school instructors through annual professional development, and develop partnerships that strengthen student transition from high school to college and careers. Karl Madeo, Director of CollegeNowTC3, will talk about college credit options available for IHS students: concurrent enrollment classes offered in the regular IHS schedule at no cost to students, and TC3 online courses available at a reduced tuition to IHS juniors and seniors. We will discuss what it means for high school students to begin a college transcript, the transferability of these credits to colleges throughout the nation, and questions you may have about earning college credit in high school. Several departments at IHS offer CollegeNOW classes through TC3 whereby students receive credits both locally and at TC3--many of these credits are transferable to all SUNY schools as well as several private institutions. The beauty of these courses is that TC3 is one of only two schools that offer these classes tuition free. The high school buys the texts. So students can earn credits without a charge. Link to the CollegeNowTC3 website: <http://www.tc3.edu/collegenow>

VISUAL ART AP Art students are beginning to define their Concentration focus in the portfolio by creating 12 art works . They are also photographing their work in preparation for their online digital AP portfolios. The Program of Studies outlines some exciting new art courses for next fall: Studio in Crafts, Studio in Digital Photography, Studio in Fashion Design & Illustration, Studio in Sculpture and Photojournalism. Many new Studio options, many without prerequisites, are offered along with the traditional Studio 1 & 2. Students who have already completed Studio 1 & 2 can also take any of these semester courses for credit. Photojournalism is an advanced level photography course, emphasizes photojournalism and the digital processes. A beautiful mural was created in our D hallway by student Helen Hamilton and teacher Judy Cogan. Carol Spence will present an update on the Visual Art program priorities at the next Curriculum Chairs meeting on March 15th and also at The Fine Arts Booster meeting on March 29th at 7pm at Boynton Middle School.
District News _email: budget@icsd.k12.ny.us

Report on Special Education at ICSD

In December 2011, Tim Moon, Chief Information Officer and Connie Evelyn, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented a summary of special education data to the Board of Education. Currently classification rates are higher in all male categories. African American males are being classified at twice the rate as white males and white males are being classified twice the rate as white females. New Referrals were looked at from kindergarten to fifth grade. This data shows an increase that is higher than previous years. To address these issues, the ICSD has released a new Continuous Improvement Plan for Special Education 2012 (PDF) with these goals:

1. Educators will eliminate the disproportionate identification of students with disabilities with respect to race, ethnicity, class and gender by Fall 2015.
2. Students identified as Students with Disabilities will perform at comparable levels to non-identified students by Fall 2015.

The plan will: build upon previous thinking and efforts; use the expertise and talents of existing staff; focus on early grades as research shows the key to sustainable improvements involves early interventions and support; and, create situations where all students are receiving services, regardless of classification, that will meet their individual learning needs. For more information, see:

<http://icsdinsider.com/>

Major Administrative Overhaul: Dr. Luvelle Brown has announced that his executive team will be reorganized to create a flatter organization. Budgeting around the reorganization will be discussed at the March 13 board meeting. For more information about the planned change, please see the following articles: "ICSD superintendent announces major executive team overhaul", *Ithaca Times*, March 1, 2012 (http://www.ithaca.com/news/article_5f44912c-62e0-11e1-b0c6-0019bb2963f4.html)

- "ICSD superintendent announces major executive team overhaul", *Ithaca Times*, March 1, 2012 (http://www.ithaca.com/news/article_5f44912c-62e0-11e1-b0c6-0019bb2963f4.html)
- "Ithaca school district plans changes in administrative lineup", *Ithaca Journal*, February 29, 2012 <http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201202290350>
- **Key Budget dates:** March 13th- Superintendent budget presentation to the Board of Education; March 27th- Presentation and discussion of specific areas of budget; April 12th - Presentation and discussion of specific areas of budget; and,
- **May 15th** - Budget vote/Board of Education Elections For more information: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/>

Ski Club

Are you interested in skiing or snowboarding next year? If so, IHS Ski Club is now offering discounted Greek Peak season passes for \$325. Don't forget you save 10% on the ski club bus next year, when you sign up early. Please contact Todd Noyes (tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us or 274-2191) for more information for forms and information. The prices go up after April 15th!

PTA News: IHS PTA List Serv The list serv is a mailing list that you can join to receive postings concerning the IHS. To join, send an (empty) email to: IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com We also have a discussion list serv, so that folks can ask questions or share information with other families. To join, send an (empty) email to IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com