

From the Principal

Welcome back to the 2012-2013 academic year! We opened the doors on September 6, with just over 1400 students. It was announced at the school board meeting just before the start of the school year that we were no longer a SINI school (School in Need of Improvement). Our student test scores met, and in most cases exceeded, the state testing thresholds. Additionally, with our August graduation we were able to increase our number of high school graduates. Despite our tremendous gains in our academic performance, our overall focus remains the improvement of graduation rates and the mandate to increase the level of college and career readiness in our graduates.

Other new challenges are the state mandates to tie teacher performance to student achievement. While there are high profile stories of districts whose educators are preoccupied with compliance, our educators, with District Office support, are well on their way to developing this year's goals (see list at right).

We will be sharing news of the accomplishments of our students, educators, and departments on an ongoing basis. Our administrative team continues to balance recognition of outstanding performance with the ongoing innovation necessary for success for all our students.

Thank you for your support.

Jarett Powers, IHS Principal

New structures to help us meet our goals:

- New model of hall assistants who will expand the supervision responsibilities to help meet academic needs by supporting study halls and after-school, extra-help oversight
- Two graduation coaches who will work with students to develop student-specific supports aligned to their academic needs
- New attendance regulation that prioritizes early interventions to support the data that missed classes are directly correlated with academic failure
- Two master educators who will guide new teachers and experienced teachers through the goal and evaluation process to leverage best teaching practices in all classes and develop professional development
- An expanding set of programs to help prevent discipline issues before they occur, building on our growing set of community partnerships and addressing school climate and culture
- Growth of our co-curricular programs to encompass both existing clubs and new initiatives begun last year with our EDGE program

Drop-off/Pick-up

The student **Drop-off/Pick-up Lane** is located in the Cayuga St. faculty/student parking lot – students exit and enter vehicles in front of Athletics. **Please do not drive behind Kulp.**

*(The Lake St. entrance may only be used **after 3:50 PM.**)*

Homework Requests

When a student has been absent more than 2 days: Parents/Guardians can contact the Student Services Office by phone (274-2157) or email (msgrecci@icsd.k12.ny.us) to request assignments. Please consult the office for details about long-term absences.

Dear Ithaca High School Families, Faculty and Staff,

The IHS Parent –Teacher Association (PTA) would like to welcome you to the 2012-2013 school year. The PTA is here to support existing and new families at IHS. Studies have shown that parental involvement in school life is important for a child's learning experience and also enriches the school.

The IHS-PTA is a part of the New York State PTA and an umbrella National PTA. Our PTA is part of the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the US and it works to provide resource and learning opportunities for all families at IHS. Throughout the year, we organize several programs such as Open House, College Information Night, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, and Mini-grants for teachers to conduct small projects, buy additional resources, etc. just to name a few. We maintain a website and a listserve for information and announcements respectively. We also produce a newsletter several times a year.

Our Executive Board this year consists of Alice Wu-Programs, Julie Hughes-Treasurer, Wendy Bakal-PTA Council Liaison, Vicki Brew-Scribe, Tina Hallock-Membership, Debbie Mahoney-Communications and myself as President. We are assisted by over a dozen parents in volunteer coordinator positions.

We warmly invite you to join our PTA membership and to be actively involved in the many volunteer opportunities available. We are looking forward to working with all of you to make this school year an exciting and successful one.

Sincerely,

Jarra Jagne, IHS PTSA co-President – ihspsta.pres@gmail.com

Important dates

October 4: Early Release October 5: Professional Learning Community Day – **No School for Students**
 October 8: Columbus Day Recess November 12: Veteran's Day Recess November 21 - 23: Thanksgiving Recess
 December 24 - January 1: Winter Recess

IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the PTSA and IHS. It serves all IHS stakeholders and is mailed with student report cards each quarter.

World Languages Department

Please welcome Ms. Bridgette Searles, who teaches French R1 and French H2 & R2 in K20 this school year. Mr. Matt Holl, not new to the department, is now the AIS teacher for the World Languages

Department and he also teaches one period of Spanish 1R. Ms. Lana Craig is the World Languages Department leader this year and also teaches five periods of four levels of Spanish.

Ms. Janet Bowman, French teacher extraordinaire, received one of the two TC3 College Now faculty awards given at the annual professional development event on Friday, August 17 for excellence in teaching French. This school year Ms. Bowman is teaching six periods of five levels of French class.

We are delighted to welcome three new teachers to the math department: Hilary Ewing, Julie Staub and Katie Carrick.

We also are offering some new course options this year. "Advanced Algebra" is the new name for the Algebra 2/Trigonometry course that most juniors take. We have also changed the model so that all the students enrolled in Algebra 1 have the option of taking it for Honors credit. Those who choose to do so get extra (video) instruction and complete corresponding assignments to learn the supplemental material in the honors curriculum. Any student in Algebra 1 can join this program at any point during the first marking period.

There are so many clubs after school for students to choose from – including our award-winning "Math Team" that meets on Tuesdays in Mr. Deppe's room, H211. Interested students can just show up!

Math Department

Science Department

Ithaca High School Science Department welcomes two new teachers; Heather Czechowski and Arti Jewett. Ms. Czechowski teaches three LE Biology classes and one H Biology along with corresponding labs and you may find her in room H207. Ms. Jewett teaches two

LE Biology classes and two H Biology classes along with corresponding labs and you may find her in Room H113.

Our AIS room is now located in H134, (H-Courtyard). Linda Knewstub is back helping students with all sciences and Vivian Smith is back teaching one period of Consumer Chemistry in H111 along with the corresponding lab, as well as AIS help in all sciences.

One more change for the Science Department, Jim Slattery is our new department leader for the 2012-2013 school year.

The physics classes are off to a running start this year. AP Physics teacher, Deborah Lynn, attended a 6-week course for teachers at Cornell this summer through Biomedical Engineering. She worked with graduate student Adam Straub on a multi-photon excitation research project in Chris Xu's lab.

Adam will be coming down to work with the students throughout the school year with a special emphasis on optics. We are especially excited about the fresh dimension Adam can bring to classical topics in physics.

Students and their parents in AP Physics can access information about the courses, including assignments, through the Blackboard web sites. We are looking forward to meeting the families of students at the upcoming Open House. Feel free to call or write (dlynn@icsd.k12.ny.us) with any questions or concerns.

Physics Department

Speech & Debate

Two sections of the course Speech and Debate are scheduled for second semester during second period and will be taught by Lorraine Tino and Shirley Kennedy.

They want to encourage all of the enrolled students to view the presidential debates and visit the website sponsoring the debates: www.debates.org. Shawn Lee, a junior, is organizing a Debate Club that meets Thursdays after school in H213 and is looking for interested students. If you have questions, contact Ms. Seifert in H213 or just attend on Thursday.

Library

--Thanks to Mr. Powers, we now have Listening Zone in the Library. Students may listen to their own device or borrow headphones and listen from our computers while they work, read, and study. So civilized.

--Afterschool Library is up and running, Monday through Thursday until 4:30 p.m. Ms Bell is in charge, offering reference help, editing and proofreading, book selection and checkout, and other homework help. Call 274-2186 with questions.

--Make sure your students have their own Tompkins County Public Library cards: it opens another excellent resource to them.

--Passwords for databases the school subscribes to are available again; just ask your student to bring a list home.

--Visiting authors! Stay tuned while negotiations continue... Parents are always welcome to attend these special events.

--Remember the Library opens at 8:30, a time students can print a paper, do that last bit of homework, etc.

--We would love to have more Kindle electronic readers, because they will read aloud (Keyboard model). Have an old one to donate? Want to make a big difference? Give us a hand!

Reporting from the Library, Nan Bell

Senior Photo Specifications

- All pictures must be submitted by October 26th, 2012.
- All pictures must be submitted as a digital image on a CD.
- All picture files must be saved as the student's last name and first initial – i.e. "smithj.jpg".
- All pictures must be saved in .jpg format.
- All pictures must be submitted at a 300dpi or greater resolution.
- Head Size of Portrait: 1 1/8 inches from top of head to bottom of chin, centered in photo.
- Dimension of Portrait: 9x11 picas or 1.5 x 1.833 inches.
- Photos should be submitted to:

Ithaca High School
Attn: Yearbook
1401 N. Cayuga St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Yearbook

The Annual's staff is currently working on the senior section of the 2012- 2013 yearbook. Seniors who wish to have their portrait included in The Annual can use their Lifetouch ID photo or a different picture. If Lifetouch took your portrait in September, it will automatically be submitted to The Annual. If you choose to have your portrait taken by another studio (or at home), it is your responsibility to submit your photo by mail, or by leaving it in the "Senior Photos" box in the Main Office. Please follow the guidelines below so that your portrait can be included in the yearbook. If we do not receive a different photo by the 10/26 deadline, your ID photo will be used.

We reserve the right to reject photos deemed inappropriate or of poor photographic quality. Lifetouch ID photos are used for all portraits of underclassmen. Underclassmen cannot submit a different photo for inclusion in the yearbook. Information regarding senior ads will be mailed home in October, and is also available on the Annual web page (see below).

The pre-order price of this year's Annual is \$57, with additional fees for name-stamping and accessories. Herff-Jones allows you to order a yearbook by mail, by phone, or online. Information about ordering a yearbook will be mailed home in October, and is also available on the Annual web page (see below). If there are extra yearbooks, they will be sold in June for \$68.

Online information can be found at: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/english/yearbook.htm> or through the drop-down menu on the IHS web page. Please feel free to contact us at [\(607\) 274-2301](tel:6072742301) or jamodeo@icsd.k12.ny.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Jean Amodeo, Yearbook Advisor

The Ithaca High School Code Red Robotics team had a busy summer. Even though "build season" doesn't start until January, the team has been active all summer, providing robot demos and logging hundreds of hours of community service, all in an effort to promote what we do. Since May, Code Red team members have volunteered for more than 250 hours and have demonstrated the robot within the community for over 300 hours. Our team members have volunteered at Loaves and Fishes, Cornell's Dump 'n' Run, the Cayuga Lake Triathlon, the AIDS Ride for Life, and playground builds at Belle Sherman Elementary School and Enfield Elementary School. Not to mention the team's appearances in the Monroe County Fair, the Puerto-Rican Festival, and the New York State Fair. Code Red is committed to introducing elementary and middle school students to FIRST programs. Efforts last year and during the summer included mentoring Lego League teams at BJM, Northeast, Dewitt and Trumansburg, as well as offering assistance to teachers and parents in establishing teams at other elementary schools and Boynton Middle School. An IPEI Red & Gold grant helped support the team's Lego League outreach efforts.

Code Red Robotics

Code Red is part of the national organization FIRST which stands for "For Inspiration of Science and Technology". One of FIRST's most resounding ideals is to spread awareness and promote the values of getting involved in science and technology. Teams just like Code Red compete in an exciting and educational challenge in annual FIRST competitions. There are over two thousand teams, from tens of countries involved in FIRST, and the numbers are rapidly rising. The program allows for students to get involved in a thrilling, hands-on experience where they work in collaboration not only with other students, but also with professional mentors. Every year, the students design and build a complex, computer-controlled machine to complete a new challenge, all in the spirit of "Gracious Professionalism".

Code Red Robotics receives generous support from the community and local companies. Sponsors include: Kionix, BAE Systems, BorgWarner Morse TEC, CBORD, Goodrich ISR, jpenney, Autodesk, IPEI, Cornell School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, GORGES, Holt Brothers Real Estate, Vector Magnetics, VFW Post 961, Holt Architects, **Cornell NanoScale Science & Technology**, Park Foundation, Cornell Computing and Information Science, AccuFab, Incodema, Innovative Metal Works, U-Haul of Ithaca, Ithaca City School District, ICSD Board of Education, Ithaca High School, Purity Ice Cream,.

Submitted by: Pooja Verma, Student Public Relations Officer, Pooja.verma639@gmail.com

One recent Friday, senior Rhiannon Bell spoke to the 8th period Chinese and Latin classes about her experiences in summer 2012 participating in the State Department's NYSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) program. Already an accomplished language student, having studied German since middle school, Latin since starting high school, and Chinese more recently, Rhiannon acquired a high degree of fluency in Tajiki (considered a form of Persian) and had the extraordinary experience of living abroad in a far-distant country, Tajikistan. As part of a group of 15 American high school students living in Tajikistan, Rhiannon had intensive language classes for six weeks, and also a period of residency with a host family. She described a society in which it feels risky to cross the street ("*they don't really pay attention to traffic laws*") and you must avoid the police, who will try to take your papers on a flimsy pretext, just to get you to bribe your way out of trouble; but a society in which they were encouraged to "*follow happy music*" any time they heard it, and would find themselves at a wedding party where they were heartily welcomed.

The dollar goes very far in such a country, especially if you want to buy some of the local crafts, as Rhiannon did. Best of all, Tajiki was not difficult to learn, and people in the streets loved talking to the students. Since the country used to be a former Soviet republic, the Western language that most people speak is Russian—which made it easier for the American students to have occasions to use their Tajiki! Rhiannon had the opportunity to observe life in a Muslim country (though one in which most people are not very observant), and she spoke cheerfully of the necessity of coping with getting sick, toilets that can't flush any paper, making sure you don't get overfed by your kind and attentive hosts, and so forth. Rhiannon clearly loved the chance to study this language while living in the country, and bonding with other people in the program which experiences like this provide. Students, teachers, and administrators listened enthralled to her account! She enthusiastically recommends the program to others—in addition to Tajiki, languages like Chinese, Arabic, and Korean are offered. Google NYSLI-Y soon; applications for next summer's programs are due on November 1, 2012. *Submitted by: Claudia Miettunen & Suzanne*

VISUAL ART

Learning is the real work of Art. Each of our Art teachers have created new Studio courses for this year, focusing on Crafts, Fashion Design & Illustration, Sculpture, and Digital Photography. Our students are exploring the elements & principles of design through the lenses of these exciting media. **Fashion Design** students have set up their Pinterest accounts and will use this online tool for their visual research and creation of inspiration boards for each design problem. **Crafts** students have been introduced to basket weaving, using the untraditional material of recycled plastic bags to create their first hand-woven vessel. Thanks to Dr. Brown, **Digital Photography** has been supported with a mobile Mac lab for students to develop their state-of-the-art digital art. They are learning the parts and function of the camera and using Quizlet (online flashcard creation) as a way to review.

Fridays are designated for students to present their research projects on their selected artists, photographers and designers.

Studio in Sculpture is working as a class to define what form is and how it can be expressed in art. After studying work by environmental sculptor and photographer Andy Goldsworthy, students will be visiting the creek of Ithaca Falls to create their own site-based sculptures. Throughout the semester, students will be exploring how line, texture, color, value, and shape influence and enhance the forms that they create. Look for sculptures to be displayed outside the library! **AP Art** students have been introduced to their portfolio criteria and are completing their first mixed media work, along with weekly home assignments. We are applying for FABG grants and IPEI grants to bring in local artists and designers to expand our community classroom partnerships. Students use the Visual Journal in every art course as an essential tool in their artistic process to record their ideas, questions, reflective writing, decisions and critiques.

Our Art rooms will also receive a makeover as new furniture arrives in October. Tables and stools will adjust to students' preference of standing or sitting while working, an ergonomic gift to our art practice.

Art is smART at IHS. Outside the box thinking, developed best in arts classes, will contribute enormously to meeting tomorrow's challenges. The imaginings of our artists-visionaries contribute invaluable to human progress. The nations whose workforces have the greatest imagination, creativity, innovation and vision will place themselves at the cutting edge of tomorrow's global market.

Living an artful life invites compassion, connection and attention to every moment.

Ski Club Dear Parents/Guardians

Are you interested in skiing or snowboarding this year, or maybe you want to buy passes for the family? If so, IHS Ski Club is now offering discounted Greek Peak ski and board packages for lift tickets, season passes, and rentals. Contact Mr. Noyes at tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us for any questions. The prices go up after October 13th.

Registration for all pass options can be done at <https://register.communitypass.net/greekpeak>. The bus fee will need to be paid separately. Transportation and med forms can be picked up from Mr. Noyes in G116.

English Department

The English Department is excited and happy to welcome several new members this year: Gwen Freeman, Mary Moore, Jen Heise, and Michelle Kirchgraber-Newton have transferred to our team from IHS's AIS Department; Amalie Gorbold (teaching 9th grade) and Michael Reiff (teaching 10th and 12th grades) are new additions to the Ithaca High School faculty; and Lauren Trichon and Eileen Bach have returned to us from their appointments at Boynton Middle School and Concordia International School Shanghai, respectively.

This year marks a change in how seniors can earn English credit. While our year-long AP English Literature and Composition, AP English Language and Composition, College 101/102, and WISE courses remain untouched in our program of studies, we dissolved our English 12 and English 12 Honors classes in favor of allowing students the option of choosing two half-year electives. Students can now take *either* one year-long course, *or* one half-year reading intensive course (such as Introduction to Philosophy, Film Study, War and Literature, or Readers' Workshop) *and* one half-year writing intensive course (such as Speech and Debate, Creative Writing, Grammar, Usage, and Style, or Journalism) in order to fulfill their English requirement.

On September 21st, our Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students began the drama in production component of their class by attending a production of *Emergence* at Cornell's Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts. Students in this course will attend several performances throughout the year: *La Bohème* at Binghamton Tri-Cities Opera, *Legally Blonde*, *Translations*, and *An Enemy of the People* at Ithaca College, and *Crooked* at The Kitchen Theatre.

Students in our creative writing classes are looking forward to attending Jonathan Franzen's reading at Cornell University on November 1st.

Ms. McKown's War and Literature class went to New York City to visit the Morgan Library's exhibit on Winston Churchill and the 9/11 War Memorial. Both visits were memorable and powerful.

Browse <http://www.discoverchurchill.org> to see pieces from the exhibit at the Morgan.

The IHS WISE Program's three English classes will visit The Cayuga Nature Center for our third annual barter. For the first half of the day students will work in teams to complete various volunteer projects on the property and for the second half of the day students will participate in the team-building high-ropes challenge with hopes of forging new bonds.

Changing Address?? Leaving ICSD??

**Please notify Deborah Casey,
IHS Registrar, ASAP!!**

Phone: 607-274-2144;

Fax: 607-277-3061; dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us

For up-to-date information concerning IHS, sign up for the PTSA listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoo.com.

To share information with or ask questions of other IHS families, join our discussion listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com.

IHS PTSA Website: <http://www.ihspsta.info/wordpress/>; **ICSD Website:** icsd.k12.ny.us