

# Jr. Highlights

Dr. Jill Earman, Principal  
Mr. Michael Minnick, Principal

Parent Newsletter – September-October 2011  
Mrs. V. Haney, Editor

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## Our Principals' Perspectives

Greetings! We're off to a great start at the Junior High! With two-thirds of the students being new to the building, they quickly acclimated to their new surroundings. After the first day orientation, we were immediately down to business, with students and teachers engaged in rigorous course work, high-interest encore classes, and an array of extra support and enrichment sessions during e-time and flex. If you don't understand what any of those words mean in the context of a junior high schedule, just ask your child to explain them, and plan to attend our **Open House on Thursday, September 15**, to experience your child's schedule first-hand! The evening will begin in your child's "Day 1, Period 1" class, so be sure to get that information from your child. We will also have lists available outside of the auditorium; be sure to arrive early, so that you're on time for 1<sup>st</sup> period at 7 p.m.! ☺

On the first day of school, Mr. Minnick and I had the opportunity to speak with each of the grade levels. Our theme was, "School is EASY!" **EASY is an acronym for Expectations, Actions, School Pride, and Yes, I Can!** As a parent or guardian, school can be EASY for you, too! Set high **expectations** for your children and our school, and set into motion the **actions** to make all of their goals a reality. Help your children develop a sense of **school pride** by taking an interest in their schoolwork and encouraging them to get involved in school activities. Instill a positive work ethic by modeling a "**Yes, I can**" attitude to your children at all times. In good times and during struggles, it's important for our children to see a positive outlook from the adults around them.

We hope to have a very active parent organization this year, beginning with our first **PTSA meeting on October 12, at 6 p.m. in the IJHS Library**. Membership information will be available at Open House, in this issue of *Jr. Highlights*, and at all meetings. There is no need to be a member prior to attending a meeting. Just come! Children thrive on the structure and positive expectations that a school and family partnership can create. Your child needs you and *we* need you. Please be involved. You are welcome here!

Be sure to read each edition of *Jr. Highlights*, which will be available online through our District website ([www.iasd.cc](http://www.iasd.cc)). **If you're on Facebook and would like to receive updates and reminders about school activities, please search for "Dr. Earman's Indiana Area Junior High School Updates."** If you "Like" the page, all of the updates will show on your newsfeed. We don't check the page regularly for feedback, so if you have a question or suggestion, please call or email us directly.

The Classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 are off to a great start! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Jill Earman*

Hello students, families, and friends of the Junior High! The 2011-2012 school year is off to a fantastic start! Our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have settled into their day-to-day schedules, as well as the rich array of extracurricular activities. If you are interested in getting a glimpse of their day, come out to our **Open House, September 15, 7:00 p.m.** to walk through your child's schedule.

The **6<sup>th</sup> graders will be traveling to Camp Lutherlyn**, as part of our Environmental Science curriculum throughout the month of October. Academy 6B will depart on **October 4** and return on **October 6**. Academy 6A will begin their trip on **October 25** and return on **October 27**. If you are interested in volunteering as a **parent chaperone** for this educational excursion, please contact the school office, leaving your name and daytime phone number, and I will personally return your call.

September marks "**Respect**" as an important character attribute to develop and teach—*respect* for one's self, for every individual, for our school, and of course, for the community. I encourage you to be our partners, to take advantage of those teachable moments, and to reinforce the message to living respectful lives as valued members of the IJHS community. From the early seeds sown at the elementary level through the *Heartwood Character Education* through the *Character Counts* efforts, we are committed to sustaining a positive community and learning environment for our children.

**School safety** is such an important element to student learning. Treating individuals with respect is one way to help sustain the school as a *safe community*. Another is to slow down the pace we all get caught-up with in today's world. I'm referring to our morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. I appreciate the care and extra caution that I've observed at these times. I remind students who are being picked-up at the end of the day, as well as their parents, to not run through the parking lot in front of moving/waiting vehicles when exiting through the gymnasium doors. Please walk out and around the traffic to help us ensure a safe dismissal process.

As we look forward to the coming year and achieving new heights as teachers, learners, and as a community, we welcome and encourage your partnership!

Best regards,

*Mr. Michael Minnick*



## Winter Athletics Physicals

**Physical Information.** Students who plan to participate in a winter sport for the 2011-2012 school year, and have not had a physical form completed for this school year, must have their physical forms completed and turned into the nurse by **Wednesday, November 9**. You may obtain a physical form in the nurse's office.

**If a student participated in a fall sport, and has a completed physical form on file in the nurse's office, he or she still needs to stop in the nurse's office to pick up a recertification form before they are able to try out for winter sports.** Physicals for a winter sport must not be dated before October 7.

**RECERTIFICATION FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9.** The PIAA form states that if an injury or illness occurred in the fall, a new physician's signature will be required.

**Starting Dates.** The following sports have designated their first day of practice. Please be aware that if students do not have completed physical forms/re-certified physical forms to the nurse by **November 9**, they will not be able to participate in their sport until they are up-to-date with the physical form.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Place</u>
Boys' Basketball	7-8	11/18	JR. HIGH
Wrestling	7-9	11/18	JR. HIGH
Hockey	7-8	TBA	ICE RINK



*Jr. Highlights* is the newsletter for families of students at Indiana Area Junior High School. It is published monthly during the school year under the authority of the Indiana Area School District, 501 East Pike, Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701.

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## Early Dismissal Day

**On Friday, October 7, students will be dismissed from school at 11:00 a.m. Please plan accordingly for their supervision. Students planning to patronize the businesses in town are reminded to behave appropriately. Parents are asked to take a few minutes to discuss expected common courtesies with them.**

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## Girl Scouts Announcement

All girls in grades 6-8 are invited to join Girls Scouts! Indiana has three Girl Scout Cadette Troops to choose. The troops meet on Mondays, Tuesday, or Thursdays, and you can choose which troop suits your schedule. For more information about the troops or to join one, contact Dottie Neal at 724-357-8855, or [indianagirlscouts@gmail.com](mailto:indianagirlscouts@gmail.com), or call the Indiana Service Center, Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania at 724-463-3421, and talk with Georgette Gillespie, Membership Manager, GSWPA.

## KidsRead Literacy Program for K-4

The Office of Service Learning at IUP in conjunction with the Indiana Free Library is offering a KidsRead literacy program. The program is open to all children in kindergarten through the fourth grade. This is a great opportunity for your child to enhance her/his reading skills through weekly one on one tutoring sessions with the IUP college students. If you have any questions regarding the KidsRead program, please feel free to contact the Office of Service Learning at 724-357-3103.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

Indiana Junior High School is committed to providing communication to families in an efficient and "green" way. **This will be the final newsletter that will be sent home.** Newsletters will be posted on the district Web site. It is also available from a link in the daily bulletin in PowerSchool. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a hard paper copy sent home with your child, please complete the form below and return it to school with your child marked: **Attention: Mrs. Valerie Haney.** Thank you for your support.

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### IJHS NEWSLETTER REQUEST FORM

**Please send a copy of the monthly newsletter home with my child.**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to all those questions!

**Absences from School...** Please be reminded that attendance is required of all students enrolled in the school during days that school is in session. When reasonable cause exists for absence, as per our attendance policy, a written excuse is necessary within three days following a student's return. If the reason for absence is not valid, or the excuse is not submitted within the three-day limit, the absence will be recorded as unexcused/unlawful. Students will receive a zero for the day's assignments when an unexcused absence is recorded.

Parents are asked to call the attendance office (724-463-8568) in the morning when their children will be absent from school. This does not take the place of the written excuse.

**Early Excuses...** Requests for early dismissal for medical appointments, court hearings, etc. must be presented in writing to the Attendance Office at 7:30 a.m. the day of the appointment. The note should contain the student's name, reason for the request, time for the dismissal, and should state whether the student will return to school. In-town appointments are limited to two hours. Please pick up your child at the time specified in the note. Students are expected to sign out and sign in at the attendance office upon their return. A signed card from the doctor, dentist, etc. should be presented when the student returns. Other requests for early dismissals will be handled on an individual basis but should follow the same procedure. Only stating a family emergency or personal reasons is not an acceptable excuse.

**Extended Absences...** Parents anticipating taking their children on **trips** out of town during scheduled class days must notify the attendance office in writing at least one week in advance. Students should bring a note to the attendance office stating their name, reason for the request, and the dates of the absence. Students will then be given a form that must be completed before their expected absence. Pre-approval is not completed until the form is returned to the attendance office with **all** of the required signatures. (Requests for absences in excess of five school days should be made at least two weeks in advance.) **This policy applies to all anticipated absences including religious holidays, surgery, etc.**

**Tardiness...** Students are required to be in their first period class by 7:40 a.m. All tardiness is unexcused except for unusual circumstances. In case of tardiness the students will report to the Attendance Office for a blue admission slip. Students are asked to provide a note from a parent explaining their tardiness. After a student accumulates four unexcused tardies, the parent will be notified either by telephone or in writing. Disciplinary action will begin with the fifth unexcused tardy.

**9:15-12:30 Policy...** A half day absence will be recorded for students arriving after 9:15 a.m. or leaving before 12:30 p.m. **Any student arriving after 9:15 a.m. will not be permitted to participate in sports or other after-school activities.**

If a student misses **more than three hours but less than four hours** during a school day, he/she will be assessed a half day of absence.

**Day Following Evening Activity...** Students participating in sports or other extra-curricular activities are expected to be in school on time the morning following the activity.

**Medication Administration.** As we get ready to begin a new school year, I wanted to remind you of the procedure for medication administration at school. Both physician and parent authorizations are required for all prescription and over-the-counter medications other than Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Mylanta. Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Mylanta are given under the guidelines written in the *Standing Orders* and with parental permission on the white emergency card. Physician and parental authorization forms are available in the nurse's office, online at [www.iasd.cc](http://www.iasd.cc) on the nurse's page, and at many of the local physicians' offices. Medications must be brought to school in their original container and be properly labeled. Medications are considered a controlled substance and **MUST** be brought to school by a parent or guardian.

**Mandated Health Screenings.** The Pennsylvania School Health Code mandated screenings include height, weight, and vision screenings **for all grades**, hearing screenings **for seventh grade**, and Body Mass Index (BMI) results to be reported to parents/guardians of students in **all grades**. The results of the BMI will be mailed to the parents/guardian. A referral form will be sent home for any student not passing the hearing or vision screening exams. Remember the vision screening is a basic exam and not a replacement for a complete exam by an eye specialist. The American Optometric Association recommends an eye examination by six months of age, at three years of age, before first grade, and every two years thereafter.

Physical examinations are required for students in **sixth grade**. If your child has had a private physical, **please return the completed form to the nurse**. If you prefer to have a school physical for your child, Dr. Twal will be conducting school physicals at IJHS. The date has yet to be scheduled. A school physical permission form will be sent home to all students who have not turned in a private physical form. Please return these forms as soon as possible.

Dental exams are required for students in **seventh grade** as this is a period of critical growth for the children. If your child has had an exam by your family dentist, **please return the completed forms to the nurse**. Exams will be scheduled at a later date for those who prefer to have an exam completed by the school dentist. A school dental permission form will be sent home to all students who have not returned in a private dental form.



# September-October 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Sept 11 	12	13	14	15 School Picture Day  Open House	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Football Game JH Recognition	24
25	26	27	28 	29	30	Oct 1
2	3 	<b>6<sup>TH</sup> Grade Lutherlyn Trip – Academy 6B October 4, 5, and 6</b>			7 Act 80 Day  Early Dismissal	8
9	10 Act 80 Day Teacher Inservice  No Classes	11	12 PTSA Meeting 6 p.m.	13 	14	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21	22 STUCO Craft Show @ SH 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
23	24 School Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29 Girls BB Tourney
30	31	<b>6<sup>TH</sup> Grade Lutherlyn Trip – Academy 6A October 25, 26, and 27</b>				

**INDIANA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**