

# Indiana Area Senior High School

450 North Fifth Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724-463-8562  
www.iasd.cc

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DECEMBER 2011

MR. WADE MCELHENY, PRINCIPAL

MR. ROBERT RIZZO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
MRS. PAMELA DISTEFANO, PUBLISHER

## GREETINGS FROM MR. MCELHENY, PRINCIPAL

This time of year gives us festive reasons to get together with our friends and family. We take time to be thankful for our blessings and hopeful for our future.

Our school community exemplifies the season of giving within and beyond the senior high school. Our students, staff, and faculty will initiate and participate in a variety of Children's Hospital Teddy Bear Fund Drive activities, while various service-based school clubs will extend their goodwill to our community at large. Additionally, our students will showcase their vocal and musical talents in concert and caroling fashion throughout this

month. We invite you to take notice of their talents, efforts, and accomplishments, and to share in the great pride of our program.

It is a real joy to be part of the educating of young people at Indiana Area Senior High School. My wish for you during this special time of year is that you treasure the gift of togetherness and create lasting memories to cherish.

Happy Holidays,

Mr. McElheny

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December 8	Instrumental Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m.
December 9-10	Basketball Tournament
December 15	Choral Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m.
December 17	Tinsel Ball
December 20	Hanukkah begins
December 23- January 2	Winter Break
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanzaa begins
December 28-29	Basketball Booster Holiday Tournament

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Honor Society is an international organization designed to recognize high achieving students who have demonstrated the traits of character, leadership, service, and scholarship. To be considered for membership in the IAHS chapter of the society, students must meet these requirements:

- \* Be currently in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade with at least one semester consecutive enrollment.
- \* Have a 3.80 or higher cumulative GPA as of the end of the first semester.
- \* Have no serious (Level III or IV) disciplinary infractions since Grade 9.
- \* Demonstrate leadership and service through school and extracurricular activities.
- \* Show evidence of positive character.

Students who meet the enrollment, GPA, and discipline requirements will be selected as candidates for membership. They will be notified of their candidacy in February 2012. They will be asked to provide evidence of character, leadership, and service. Junior candidates are expected to show proof of four unique service or leadership activities since the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Senior candidates are expected to show proof of six unique service or leadership activities since the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Final selection of new members will be made by a faculty committee, with results to be announced in late March. Induction of new members will take place in April.

Any questions should be directed to Mr. William Doody ([wdoody@iasd.cc](mailto:wdoody@iasd.cc)), chapter adviser.

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## IHS STUDENTS EXCEL IN FILM COMPETITION

By Mikayla Jones

IHS is so great that we had to add new trophy cases to display our victories. Another plaque is on its way thanks to three IHS seniors.

On October 14, **Ben Decker, Ian Shephard, and Dan Williams** set out with a challenge. The TV and Video Teachers Organization at Robert Morris University were sponsoring a contest called "The 24 Hour Film Challenge," and these three TV & Video Production III students were ready and able to conquer.

The three students were given parameters that they had to include in their three- to five-minute film. The genre was comedy; the prop was a wig; the quote was "It's only cheating if you get caught."

Within 24 hours, the students had to create a short film, post it to YouTube, and email the link to the TVT coordinator at RMU. Seventeen other teams in the Pittsburgh area also competed, and IHS emerged in third place.

TV & Video Production teacher Mr. Erik Puskar commented, "In the end, it is nice to know that the students enjoyed this experience and that the name Indiana Area Senior High School was yet again among the winners."

Decker, Shephard, and Williams enthusiastically believe that the TV & Video program, classes, and equipment available at IHS played a great role in their success in the competition.



IAN SHEPHARD, BEN DECKER, AND DAN WILLIAMS PLACED THIRD IN "THE 24-HOUR FILM CHALLENGE" SPONSORED BY THE TV AND VIDEO TEACHERS ORGANIZATION AT RMU.

## NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

### SAT TESTING

Students who have registered to take the December 3, 2011, SAT must report to their testing site no later than 7:45 a.m. on that date. Photo identification is required. If a student does not have photo ID, Mrs. Allshouse in the Guidance Office can provide it for him/her. Students should bring No. 2 pencils and a calculator to the test.

### SENIOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Seniors need to be aware of college application deadlines for schools of interest and plan accordingly.

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

At 6:30 p.m. (please note time change) on Thursday, January 5, 2012, a Financial Aid Workshop will be presented for parents of seniors in the Large Group Instruction Room (LGI) at the senior high school. Alisa DeStefano, Associate Director of Financial Aid at IUP, will

discuss the various types of aid available to students who will be attending post-secondary schools. Mrs. DeStefano will also review completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The information presented will be applicable not only to colleges/universities but also to business, trade, technical, and nursing schools.

### SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to periodic listings distributed to seniors as well as mailed home to parents, an up-to-date list of general scholarship opportunities are posted on the Guidance Office website ([www.iasd.cc](http://www.iasd.cc); *Senior High; Guidance*). If not directed elsewhere, applications can be found in the Guidance Office.

### SCHOOL GUIDANCE WEBSITE

Parents and students are encouraged to periodically check the Guidance website

([www.iasd.cc](http://www.iasd.cc); *Senior High; Guidance*) for information on scholarships, dual enrollment, junior and senior year career planning checklists, and a calendar of college/technical school visitations to the high school.

### NINTH GRADE ICTC TOURS

On Thursday, December 1, all ninth grade students toured the Indiana County Technology Center from 7:50 a.m. until 1:35 p.m. Students had the opportunity to visit each of the program areas available at ICTC. Interested students may then make arrangements with their counselor to shadow two program areas on January 19, 2012. Students wishing to enroll at ICTC during the tenth grade year must shadow their program of interest.

AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012, A FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP WILL BE PRESENTED FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS IN THE LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION ROOM (LGI) AT THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

## WHEN DRIVING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL. . .

During inclement weather, many parents who have not previously driven their children to school may wish to do so. For the safety of all students, we request that parents dropping off students at the senior high please follow the procedures below.

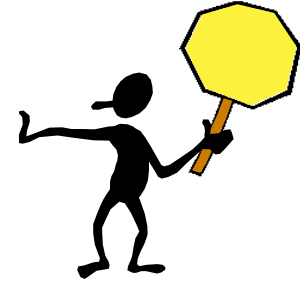
1. When parents pull into the driveway from North Fifth Street, they are asked to turn right about halfway up the drive into the middle of the lower, "student," parking lot. (This is the middle

entrance to the lower or student lot.)

2. Drive through the lower lot toward the end of the lot abutting the gymnasium.
3. Please stay in the line. Students should exit the vehicle when the vehicle first comes to stop in the line of traffic and walk up the right hand side of the lot.
4. At the end of the lower lot parents will be directed back out onto the main driveway to exit the school grounds.

This procedure allows students to enter the school building safely, walking directly up the sidewalk and never needing to cross the flow of traffic. It also allows students to safely disembark from the buses at the front of the school building.

We thank parents and other drivers for their consideration and help in keeping our students as safe as possible by using these procedures for bringing students to school.



## DRIVER EDUCATION NOTICE

The Spring I 2012 session of driver education is scheduled to begin on January 4, 2012, and conclude on February 15, 2012. Driving is tentatively scheduled to begin on January 17, 2012. Applications for the class are available from Mrs. Mathe in the athletic office at the high school.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Due to possible adverse weather conditions that may necessitate cancella-

tions, students will have to be very flexible with their driving schedules during this particular driving session.

- Students must possess a PA learner's permit or a PA driver's license in order to take the class.
- Driving is scheduled in the order in which the student signs up for the class, so early registration is highly recommended.

- Students may test for a PA driver's license with the program if they so chose.
- There is fee of \$50 for the class.

If you have any questions concerning the program, please contact the high school and leave a message and one of the driver education instructors will return your call.

"SPRING I 2012  
SESSION OF DRIVER  
EDUCATION:  
JANUARY 4  
THROUGH  
FEBRUARY 15"

## FROM THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

In the near future, the Biology Department will begin labs that involve the dissection of animals.

As required by law, you are being notified of your child's right to refuse to participate in these activities. Your child

may stay and observe these dissections or be given an alternative assignment.

The student or parent needs to inform the teacher of the student's choice in this matter.



## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### Sportsmanship for Our Community

The role of the parent in the education of a young athlete is important. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

There is a value system—established in the home, nurtured in the school—that young people are developing. Their involvement in classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of the competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and grateful acceptance of the results.

It is critical that we all work to reinforce the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through our education and athletic programs. A good sport, whether a student or parent, is a true leader within the school and the community. As a parent of a student, your sportsmanship goals should include the following:

- \* Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a contest.
- \* Encouraging our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work, knowing that others may turn in a best-to-their ability performance on any given day.
- \* Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athletes; and discouraging any cheer that would redirect that focus.
- \* Learning, understanding, and respecting the rules of the contest, the officials who administer them and their decisions.
- \* Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth.

- \* Respecting our opponents as students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best.
- \* Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances.
- \* Be a fan. . .not a fanatic!

You can be part of a message sent through our community that interscholastic athletics potentially have lifetime learning experience impact. Unlike sports events we see on television at the collegiate and professional level where entertainment is the mission and sportsmanship is not a primary objective, our goal is to have an educational affect.

You can have a major influence on your student athlete’s attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

We look forward to seeing you at our numerous athletic events this year and hope the upcoming season will be a rewarding one for you and your student athlete.

### *ADMISSION FEES. . .*

Admission fees for the winter sports held at the Sr. High School:

<b>JV/Varsity Basketball</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
	<b>Student</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Wrestling</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
	<b>Student</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>

All basketball and wrestling booster sponsored events charge an admission fee.

There is no admission fee for Freshman Boys’ Basketball or Freshman Girls’ Volleyball.

## TASTEE TUESDAYS SPONSORED BY AFTER-PROM COMMITTEE



The Tastee Tuesday food committee is looking for donations every Tuesday (food, water, snacks, Gatorade, or money). The items may be dropped off in the office any time prior to 2:30 p.m. (Please label your containers if you need them returned). The profits benefit the 2012 After-prom and provide your hungry son or daughter with an after-school snack. Tastee Tuesdays runs from dismissal until approximately 3 p.m. Please contact Shelly Zoka at [shellyzoka@hotmail.com](mailto:shellyzoka@hotmail.com) if you are available to donate or have questions.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

There are part time openings for workers in food service. This is a good job for those parents who are looking to work only during hours when your children are in school. If interested, contact Eleanor Sherry at 724-463-8713.



## SAFETY FIRST LOCKDOWN DRILL

**David R. Allen, Psychologist**

We have long recognized the significance of creating a safe school environment for students and staff. Our District's Mission Statement has as its first belief that "All students have a right to a safe learning environment." Safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance. Not only is it a "right" to have a safe learning environment, but creating a safe environment promotes getting the best out of our students and staff. That being said, all of our district schools will be conducting a lockdown drill this semester.

A school executes a building lockdown when a potentially dangerous situation places students and staff at risk for some type of harm. These are extremely rare events, but it is important to be prepared. There are two basic types of lockdowns: a partial lockdown and a complete lockdown. In a partial lockdown the threat is typically outside of the building so all outside activities are curtailed but indoor school activities may continue as scheduled. There may be some semblance of "business as usual" within the school, even though the building has been secured and traffic in and out of the building is limited. In a complete lockdown all school activities are stopped and students and staff quickly move to the nearest classroom or other safe area. Additional safety instructions are then given to the students by the supervising staff member. We are currently updating our staff in the best practices for creating a safe environment and how to care for students during a lockdown.

National School Safety experts recommend that schools practice safety procedures. Therefore, during the week of December 5 all of our schools will be practicing the District's Lockdown Procedure. Prior to the actual drill there will be a great deal of preparation. Part of this preparation will include having principals and/or the teachers discuss lockdowns with the students. You can be assured that this will be done as sensitively as possible considering the age of the children. We do not want to create any undue anxiety or worry with any of our students. However, we cannot anticipate every child's reaction so we are asking for your help. If at any time during or after this process you have concerns or questions please call your child's principal, counselor, or me. We would be glad to discuss this with you.

Finally, I would like to mention that the "lockdown" is just one procedure among many in our district's comprehensive Crisis Management Manual. The procedures within the manual are reviewed and revised regularly as better ways of managing crisis and creating safe school environments are recommended by local and national safety experts. In addition, each school building has a building safety team that meets regularly throughout the school year to consider safety and security issues that are specific to your child's school building.

## SENIOR CLASS NEWS

### Graduation Announcement Information:

In November, the Class of 2012 officers met with Mr. Dan Morgan from the Balfour Company to select their graduation announcements. The announcements they designed were chosen exclusively for the Class of 2012. Mr. Morgan will be meeting with the entire class on Friday, January 6, during first period. At that time, he will go over how to order graduation announcements. He will give your senior a brochure and order forms that you will need to order graduation announcements. It is important that this information gets home to you.

The cost of the announcement is approximately \$1 each. This includes the announcement, the inner envelope, and the outer envelope. Graduation announcements can be purchased individually or in multiples of 25. Name cards for the announcements can be purchased separately or as part of a package of graduation items along with the announcements.

When ordering name cards, the spelling of the graduate's name is to be written on the order form exactly as you want it to appear on the name card. Name cards are only sold in blocks of 100.

Other graduation items are also for sale through the Balfour Company and are included in the brochure that will be sent home with your senior.

Seniors not in school on January 6, need to see Ms. Garbrick in Room 118 to pick up the brochure as soon as they return to school.

On **Friday, January 13**, Mr. Morgan from the Balfour Company will be back at IHS to take your senior's order for graduation announcements, name cards, etc. Mr. Morgan will be taking orders during Periods 1-5 (8:15 a.m. to 12:24 p.m.) in the Upper Commons, near the new Senior Cafe. If you would like to come in and place the order for your senior, please stop in the high school office and sign in before entering the Upper Commons.

**All orders for graduation announcements, name cards, etc. must be pre-paid. Checks and money orders for graduation announcements, name cards, etc., should be made out to the Pittsburgh Balfour Company.** If you choose to pay with a credit card, make sure that you write the correct number and expiration date of your credit card on the order form and also make sure that you sign the order form. **If you are paying with cash, please have the exact amount. If your senior is not in school on**

**January 13, she/he can still turn in the order to Ms. Garbrick in Room 118, and she will forward it to the Balfour Company. You may also mail the order yourself to the Balfour Company. Orders placed after January 27 may be subject to a late fee.**

If your child participated in the fundraiser, he has already indicated how those credits are to be divided. If he has specified that part of these credits were to be used for the graduation announcements, then a credit slip will be received in homeroom the week of January 9. This must be given to Mr. Morgan with the graduation announcement order.

### Cap and Gown Information:

At the class meeting on January 6, order forms will be given to each senior to order a cap, gown, and tassel for graduation. The style of graduation gown that is worn by Indiana graduates is a black gown with a single red stripe near the bottom of each sleeve. You will be asked to fill in your child's weight and height on the order form. Do not underestimate these measurements; otherwise, the gown will be too short and/or may be too tight. When filling in your daughter/son's height, add an additional inch (**not several inches**) if she/he will be wearing shoes to graduation with a thick sole or high heel. No head measurements are needed since all caps are "one size fits all." A 2012 tassel is included with the order and does not need to be ordered separately.

Seniors are permitted to wear a cap and gown that was worn by a graduate from the last few years in lieu of purchasing a new cap and gown. A 2012 tassel will need to be purchased. Included in the information that will be given to your senior at the January 6 meeting will be a separate form that will need to be returned to Ms. Garbrick to inform her if your senior will be using a cap and gown from a former graduate and will need to order a 2012 tassel.

**All orders for caps, gowns, &/or tassels must be made on January 13 and must be prepaid. The cost is \$22 and a separate check must be made out to Indiana Area High School. If your senior is using a cap and gown from a previous graduate, a Class of 2012 tassel can be ordered for \$5 at this time.**

*(Continued on page 5)*

ON FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 13,  
FROM 8:15 A.M.  
TO 12:24 P.M.,  
GRADUATION  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
ORDERS WILL  
TAKEN IN THE  
UPPER  
COMMONS.

## SENIOR CLASS NEWS (CONT.)

While caps and gowns are ordered in January, they will not be distributed until shortly before graduation.

**Please note that seniors and their families are under no obligation to order graduation announcements, but all seniors planning to attend graduation must either:**

**Turn in their order form and the payment for their cap, gown and tassel on Friday, January 13.**

**OR**

**Turn in the form included with their graduation announcement/cap and gown information indicating that they are planning to wear a cap and gown from a former Indiana graduate and submit payment for a 2012 tassel.**

Students absent on January 13 need to see Ms. Garbrick in Room 118 to turn in their order form and payment for their cap, gown &/or tassel when they return to school. **Remember, seniors must pay for their cap, gown &/or tassel when they place their orders.**

If your senior participated in the fundraiser, he may have indicated that part of it is to be used for her/his cap, gown &/or tassel. You may just check that box on the order form.

Families experiencing financial hardship should contact Ms. Garbrick or your senior's guidance counselor (724-463-8562), and we will make every effort to secure a cap, gown, and tassel for your senior to wear to graduation. This information will be kept confidential.

### **Senior Attendance and Obligations:**

Every year some seniors take it upon themselves to participate in senior skip days. These unofficial activities are a disruption to the educational process. Often it is the seniors who can least afford to miss school who are first to participate in these unexcused absences. We work very closely with Mr. McElheny and Mr. Rizzo to try to arrange the end of the year activities for the senior class so that all seniors can be excused from school for the class trip and for graduation practice. The school district is under no obligation to give seniors any release time for end-of-the-year activities. It is important that you and your senior understand this. Our only leverage when we approach the school administration to lobby for time off for the entire senior class is the overall behavior of the class, and school attendance factors greatly into the decisions that are made. Please share these concerns with your children and work with us to ensure they attend school every day.

*On January 20, the second quarter officially ends. For some of our seniors, the attitude exists that their senior year of high school is also over. This attitude can lead to some problems for your senior. It is unfortunate, but every year some seniors do not make it to graduation. Attendance problems, failure to complete their graduation project, failing to dress for gym class, unpaid expenses, and failing classes required for graduation are all reasons why some seniors do not receive their diplomas on time. Now is the time to contact your child's teachers and guidance counselor to make sure that your senior will not find herself/himself in this position. Please talk to your senior about putting forth his/her best efforts throughout the remainder of this school year.*

### SENIOR CLASS UPCOMING EVENTS

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 6  | Senior class meeting during 1 <sup>st</sup> period about ordering graduation announcements and caps and gowns. |
| January 13 | Orders for graduation announcements and caps and gowns, including payment, are due.                            |
| May 25     | Senior class trip: Kennywood Park and Gateway Clipper ( <i>Duchess</i> )                                       |
| June 3     | Baccalaureate: St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church 3 p.m.  |
| June 4     | Graduation practice at 9 a.m. (tentative)  |
| June 5     | Graduation at 7 p.m. (tentative)<br>Location: TBA  |



# **Senior Class Items**

## **ORDER FORM – WE HAVE EXTRAS!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ HR # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Class Picture: \$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Class Lanyard \$5.00**

We have a few extras at print time.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Class T-shirts: \$8.00 (short sleeves)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Class T-shirts: \$12.00 (long sleeves)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Class Flannel Pants \$22.00**

Checks should be made out to "IHS." Please place check/ cash and order form in a sealed envelope. Send with your son/daughter to Room 118. See Ms. Garbrick if you have any questions.

# IUP Baseball Winter Camps



**Winter Camp I: Saturday, January 21, 2012**

**Winter Camp II: Saturday, January 28, 2012**



## Camp 1 and 2 Schedule

**Saturday, January 21 and January 28**

**8:30 AM – Check In**

**9:00 AM – Pitching**

**10:00 AM – Defense**

**10:45 AM – Base Running**

**11:15 AM – Hitting**

**12:00 Noon – Dismiss**

## IUP Baseball Since 2006

**Ranked by Collegiate Baseball**

**Ranked by Ping!Baseball**

**Ranked by NCBWA**

**School Record 36 Regular Season Wins**

**School Record 18 PSAC Wins**

**PSAC Runner-up**

**PSAC West Champions**

**PSAC West Runner-up**

**PSAC Post Season**

**38 Team / Individual School Records**

**NCAA Best Three Year Improvement**

**3.04 Cumulative Team GPA**

**3.31 Semester Team GPA**

**136 Dean's List Honors**

**57 PSAC Scholar Awards**

**2 PSAC Top Ten Scholar Awards**

**2 IUP Scholar Athletes**

**First Team All-American**

**MLB 20th Round Draft**

The IUP Baseball Skills Camp is for all players age 7 – 15 and is an opportunity to receive instruction from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Baseball coaching staff and current players. The station format camp will be indoors in the IUP Auxiliary Gym, Zink Hall Gym, and the Memorial Field House.

Each year this camp has filled in advance, so early registration is encouraged. We accept 40 participants.

Bring all necessary baseball equipment for your participation including bat, glove, tennis shoes, and catcher's gear (if catching).

For more camp information, questions, and directions to the Auxiliary Gym and Memorial Field House on IUP's Main Campus:

[www.iup.edu/camps](http://www.iup.edu/camps)

[www.winwithclass.com](http://www.winwithclass.com)

[www.iupathletics.com](http://www.iupathletics.com)

Walk-up registration is available only if the camp is not full. Early registration for session 1 is prior to January 16, 2012 and session 2 is prior to January 23, 2012. Early registration is \$30. Walk-up registration is \$35. Camp is for ages 7-15.

**For registration, questions, and directions to IUP's Memorial Field House:**

<http://www.iup.edu/camps>

<http://www.iupathletics.com>

<http://www.winwithclass.com>

[jditch@iup.edu](mailto:jditch@iup.edu)

**(724) 357-7830**