



Indian River High School

Parent Newsletter

IRHS Mission Statement: The mission of Indian River High School is to maximize each student's potential to promote lifelong learning, and to produce contributing members of society by providing a globally competitive education which meets student needs and encourages innate and mutual respect among students, parents, staff, and the community in a safe and diverse environment.

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support this semester, specifically with the Parent Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to encourage parent participation in the process of finding solutions for the overall improvement of our school. As a result of your contributions, we have been able to address and change several concerns in the areas of school environment, safety, communication, and activities. We truly appreciate your support and encourage you to continue to be an active member of the Advisory Committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 13, 2017.

Due to the recent inclement weather, there have been several changes to the master school calendar. Students are now required to report to school on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 30 and 31, 2017, for a full day of instruction. The teacher workday has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1. Semester 2 will begin on Thursday, Feb. 2. Open House for second semester is scheduled for Monday, Feb, 27, at 6:30 p.m.

As you know, the theme for this year is "Crossover to Excellence...One Brave at a Time" which came from the novel, *The Crossover*, by Kwame Alexander. He is an award winning author and a product of Chesapeake Public Schools. He will speak to our students on Tuesday, Jan. 31, and sign books immediately after the presentation. Books can be purchased at Barnes and Noble on Greenbrier Parkway.

As we begin our second semester, please continue to be an influential force in our school and your child's education path. Encourage your child to attend school regularly, seek academic assistance from teachers or attend study hall if needed, participate in school activities, and utilize the resources the school offers for college and/or career planning. We look forward to a successful second semester.

Sincerely,

Naomi Dunbar

Naomi Dunbar

Teacher of the Year



It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that the administration, faculty, and staff of Indian River High School introduce Mark Swift as the Indian River High School 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year. As a sixteen year veteran, Mr. Swift demonstrates the attributes and demeanor of an exemplary teacher who invests his time and talents to positively impact his students, our community and the field of education. Mr. Mark Swift's passion for the success of our students, instructional expertise, and leadership abilities are commendable. He is a valued member of our staff and is considered a motivating force by the administrative team and his colleagues. Therefore, we are proud to announce that Mark Swift is the Indian River High School 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year.

Miss and Mr. Indian River Pageant

The 46TH Annual Miss and Mr. Indian River Pageant took place on Friday, December 2nd at 7:30 in the Auditorium. The 16 contestants danced in the opening number to a Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling". The eight girls showcased their amazing talents, displayed their finest evening gowns, and demonstrated their intelligence and poise. The boys entertained the crowd with their dance skills and showed the crowd how to get down! After a full night of entertainment, the results were in. People's Choice winners were Catherine Hall and Kyle Hanes. Miss Congeniality went to Alyssa Sutherland. Most Talented was awarded to Chloe Brunelle. Catherine Hall received the Academic Award and the Roben Moss Service Award went to Victoria Navarro. Third runner-up was Kyle Hanes and Jalecia Wright. Second runner-up was awarded to Randy Riffle and Catherine Hall. First runner-up was Darrell Freeman and Brooke Gemmer. And the moment everyone had been waiting for...

Miss and Mr. Indian River 2017 **Chloe Brunelle and Ben Green**



Ms. Estes would like to extend a thank you to all those who attended the pageant and a huge congratulations to all of the participants!

AFJROTC Cadet Squadron VA-051



Throughout the semester, AFJROTC cadets have excelled in competition and in serving Indian River High School and our local community. In October, four cadets took 4th place in the Chesapeake Orienteering competition (Kareem Awad, Paul Canant, Elijah Slade, and Yesmin Veras). Cadet Squadron VA-051 marched in the Homecoming Parade led by color guard members: Joel Austin, Brittany Long, Sydney-Jones Marshburn, and Seth Brizan. Austin Crawford and Paul Sanchez helped over 20 cadets organize the Red Cross Fall Blood Drive to collect over 65 units of blood. In November, 34 AFJROTC Cadets honored Vets by helping serve free meals to over 1,500 Veterans and their families. Among these were top performers Trennel Moore, Seth Brizan, and Amber Essenburg. In December during our South Eastern Division competition, drill teams won in two events: Unarmed Exhibition & Armed Regulation, placed third in Armed Exhibition, placed 4th in Unarmed regulation, and placed 2nd overall amongst Schools in Virginia and North Carolina!! Our Color Guard team performed ceremonial presentation of colors at Tidewater Community College, Macy's Veterans' Day, and Indian River Military Night football game. AFJROTC is AWESOME!

At last Friday's family & friends awards ceremony, Cadets were presented with ribbons earned throughout the Semester. Bravo flight Cadet Squadron Commander Micah Simeona, who presented his flight with ribbons for being the top academic flight. Outstanding cadets awarded were:

- ★ Brittany Long (Senior),
- ★ Toni Hill-Garcia (Junior),
- ★ Isaiah Williams (Sophomore)
- ★ Cassandra Weifert (Freshman)

Upcoming AFJROTC events include Academic Challenge (January 18), Military Ball (March 4), and VA State Drill Meet (April 29).

Junior Class and Ring Dance News

The Ring Ceremony will be Wednesday, February 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. The Ring Dance will be held on Saturday, February 25th from 7:00-11.00 p.m. The snow make-up date will be Saturday, March 4th, at the same time. The dance will be held in the school auditorium. Tickets will be sold February 2-3, February 6-7, and February 14-15 during all lunches. Tickets are \$45.00 per person; cash, checks, or money orders only. Permission slips will be distributed when tickets are sold. Any questions please see Ms. Reich in C17 or Mr. Mahl in C11.



Braves Backpack Program



At Indian River High School, we recognize that good nutrition is essential to student success in the classroom. Because improvements in nutrition make students healthier, students are likely to have fewer absences and attend classes more frequently. We understand that even though providing frequent nutritional meals may be the goal for most families, it may be impossible for some families to do so due to financial restraints. For these reasons, the **Braves Backpack Program** was established to provide supplemental meals to those students recognized as being at risk for hunger when school is not in session. The mission of the Backpack Program is to alleviate child hunger within the school by providing students and faculty with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food at times when food resources are not available, such as

weekends and school vacations. The goal is to distribute bags of food on Fridays or the last day of school before a holiday to participating students so they will be fed over the weekend and come back to school the following Monday morning full and ready to learn. If you are a student or faculty member who can benefit from this program, please see Ms. Alvarez in Room B-11. As discretion is our main priority, there is no need to feel ashamed.

National Honor Society Selection

Attention all sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a 3.4 GPA or higher: You will soon be receiving an application for National Honor Society membership (current NHS members do not need to reapply). The application is used in the selection process by the Faculty Council.

Membership in NHS is not only based on scholastic achievement, but also includes the other pillars of the organization including leadership, service, and character. Each of these criteria are equally important and are heavily weighted in the process of selecting members. A point system will be used to determine if you are accepted. Only activities that you participated in while attending high school will be counted. The application will ask for your involvement in extracurricular activities in and outside of school, volunteer work, and employment history. Also, students must have been in attendance at Indian River High School for at least an entire semester and cannot have any honor code violations for the 2016-2017 school year.



After Prom



Indian River Braves Family

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this winning team. I am honored and looking forward to an excellent After Prom experience. It takes all of us working together to make After Prom a success. After Prom gives our seniors a safe, drug and alcohol free environment to socialize and have fun after their Prom is over.

You do not have to attend the Prom to be a part of After Prom. After Prom is totally free to all IRHS Seniors. With that being said, “we want to see your face in the place.” Free food will be provided. Seniors will have the opportunity to win gifts for college or for whatever adventurous roads life may take them.

Ways you can help:

- ★ Parents are asked to donate twenty dollars and seventeen cents (\$20.17) for their Senior. All proceeds will go towards prizes and food. Donations can be received by the IRHS front office.
- ★ Fundraisers are another way you can support. Keep your eyes and ears posted, and come out and support our many upcoming fundraising events. Our goal this year is \$8,000.
- ★ After Prom meetings are held every second Wednesday starting at 6:30. The dates for the upcoming meeting are as follows: February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th.
- ★ All meetings are located in the Indian River High School Media Center.

Fundraisers dates to remember:

- ★ IRHS Tropical Smoothie fundraisers are: February 14 and March 14 at 11:15 a.m. Volunteers are needed.
- ★ Dodgeball Tournament is Friday, March 3 at 4:00 p.m.

If you are not a part of this wonderful team, please consider joining the After Prom Community.

Crossover to Excellence, One Brave at a time.

Arkila Campbell, After Prom Chair 2017. Our e-mail address is: irhs.afterprom@gmail.com

Microsoft Office 365

Chesapeake Public Schools is happy to announce the availability of Office 365 Pro Plus at no charge to all Chesapeake Public School (CPS) students for use on personal computer equipment.

The licensing allows the installation of the software on up to five compatible PC and/or MAC computers. In addition, a simplified version of the software may be installed on up to five tablet/mobile devices. The license will remain active as long as the division maintains this agreement and as long as you are a CPS student. Once the student withdraws from the division, they are no longer legally licensed to use the software. View information about Office 365 at the link below:



<http://www.cpschools.com/departments/IT/O365.php>

Yearbook Information

Yearbooks are on sale daily in H-10. The cost is \$75 until February 24, 2017. They will increase to \$80 on February 27, 2017, and will stay at that cost until May 1, 2017. Please make checks payable to IRHS.



The last day to purchase any yearbook ad will be February 1, 2017. February 20, 2017, is the absolute last day to add personalization of any kind to a yearbook purchase.

May 1, 2017, will be the last day to purchase a yearbook until they arrive in late May. Pre-ordering a yearbook is the ONLY way to guarantee you will receive a copy. We have sold out the past two years and are hoping to sell out again this year. Don't be left out. Please contact Ms. Linda K. Finlay with any yearbook questions. Her contact info is linda.finlay@cpschools.com and/or (757) 578-7000. You may order on line at jostens.com to order online.



Guidance Information

PSAT scores were given to students in late December.

College bound seniors should have all of their college applications ready to be sent. Seniors should make sure they meet all of the deadlines and complete the entire college application. College bound seniors are reminded that they will need to request another transcript be sent to each college through Parchment. They should make this request after February 7. New transcripts should be uploaded for the counselors to send out no later than February 14, 2017.

College bound juniors should take the SAT (Reasoning Test) or the ACT (with the writing test) sometime this year. Students can go online to register. SAT - www.collegeboard.com and ACT - www.actstudent.org Registration dates can be found on the websites.

Students will be issued new schedules for second semester on the first day of the new semester - February 2. On that day, all students should report to first block first semester B day class for 10 minutes to receive their new schedules. Students may have had teacher/block changes from their original schedule. This was done to accommodate various types of changes made in the master schedule. These changes are final.

The scheduling process for the 2017-2018 has begun. All underclassmen will meet with their guidance counselors to confirm classes for next year. These meetings will take place January through late February. In early March, parents will be sent home a copy of the classes picked by the students and counselors, and students and parents will have until March 14, 2017, to make changes. Students will be given scheduling booklets when they meet with Guidance on one of the above days.

Seniors should let Mrs. Gail Hunt, Guidance Counselor in charge of scholarships, know if they receive any scholarships. This information will be listed in the scholarship program at graduation. Seniors should bring a copy of the scholarship award letter to Mrs. Hunt's mailbox.

Second semester report cards will be distributed in 1st block classes on February 9, March 15, April 25, May 24, and the final report card will be sent home in June.



IRHS Calendar (dates are subject to change)

- ★ 1/25 Math Expedited Retests; Make ups
- ★ 1/26 SOL Make ups
- ★ 1/27 Final Exams for 1st and 4th Blocks
- ★ 1/30 Final Exams for 2nd and 3rd Blocks
- ★ 1/31 Instructional Day / End of Term 4
- ★ 2/2-2/3 Ring Dance tickets will be sold during all lunches
- ★ 2/3 Balfour will be here during all lunches collecting ring balances
- ★ 2/6-2/7 Ring Dance tickets will be sold during all lunches
- ★ 2/8 After Prom meetings in the Media Center at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ 2/9 Report cards distributed
- ★ 2/14 After Prom Tropical Smoothie fundraiser during lunch
- ★ 2/14-2/15 Ring Dance tickets will be sold during all lunches
- ★ 2/16 Senior Cap and Gown Pictures
- ★ 2/17 Club Pictures
- ★ 2/22 Ring Ceremony at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ 2/25 Ring Dance at IRHS from 7:00-11.00 p.m.
- ★ 2/27 Second Semester Open House -6:30 p.m., -8:30 p.m.,
- ★ 2/28 Balfour- graduation announcements and ring service (lunches)
- ★ 3/3 Dodgeball Tournament at 4:00 p.m.
- ★ 3/8 After Prom meetings in the Media Center at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ 3/14 After Prom Tropical Smoothie fundraiser during lunch
- ★ 3/14 Deadline to make schedule changes
- ★ 3/15 Report cards distributed
- ★ 3/16 Teacher of The Year Awards Ceremony and Reception @ 6:45 p.m. at IRHS
- ★ 3/25 Craft Show
- ★ 3/25 Saturday School (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)