

# IHS WORD

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A PUBLICATION OF THE IHS PTA

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## From the PTA Presidents

The PTA would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the PTA alternative fundraiser so that we do not have to organize a special fundraising event or sell items to raise money. Donations are still welcome by sending in a check made out to IHS PTA and sending it in an envelope marked IHS PTA to the high school office with your child or making a donation through the IHS PTA online portal at: <https://ihspta.memberhub.store>

The PTA mini-grants program has been very successful this year, awarding 6 grants to date. These are awarded on a rolling basis. They are as follows:

1. Lisa Alexander (Math): To purchase 2 standing student desks with swinging footbars to provide support for fidgety students for reasons varying from ADHD to not having a lunch break.
2. Lauren McKown Mellander (English): French Revolution Field Trip to Cornell to visit the Kroch Rare & Manuscripts Collection, greenhouses, Anabel Taylor organ, and Johnson Museum.
3. Meggie New (AVID coordinator): To increase AVID exposure and expand candidate pool through a family outreach event for 8th grade families.
4. Kim Scholl (English): To purchase texts to support the development of new units of study on Immigration & Identity, a new English 12 elective called Reading the World, a new English 12 elective on Women in Literature, and adding voices of people of color, women, and LGBTQ+.
5. Cassandra Valenti (Math): To purchase logic/critical thinking puzzles and games which encourage fun, play-based ways to show math thinking and creativity. These tools are outside the curriculum but important to math thinking so they may be used when students finish their work early or for other learning purposes.
6. Suzy VanDeMark (Special Ed): For a Parents/Caregiver workshop at Southside to provide training on how to use SchoolTool which allows parents to keep track of student progress, contact teachers, see student assignments.

We would like to thank IHS parents Allison Chatrchyan, Andy Rowan and Mary Ann Erickson for representing the IHS PTA in the IPEI Adult Spelling Bee on March 3. In addition, we would like to extend a big thank you to Duthie Orthodontics for underwriting the entry fee for our team and everyone who made a contribution to the team. All funds raised by this event support grants for teachers in the Ithaca City School District.

Due to the PTA bylaws and children graduating from the high school, many of the positions for the PTA leadership will open next year so we are actively seeking people for the following roles: president, vice-president, treasurer, programs and others. No experience is necessary! Many of us had not been previously involved in the IHS PTA, but found that this was a good opportunity to stay engaged with the school and work with the administrators. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to recommend someone or volunteer yourself. It is also a great way to get to know other parents in the school.

The next PTA meeting will be March 20 at 7pm at the high school. We've heard that there are concerns about the violence in the school so Principal Trumble is planning to be there to answer your questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Monica Touesnard & Kate Supron  
IHS PTA co-presidents

# Brain Team

On Saturday, February 9th, the Ithaca High School Brain Team played in the Geneva Invitational academic quiz bowl tournament in Geneva, New York. The Ithaca A team, featuring seniors Isaiah Gutman and Julian Perry, junior Kaelan Imani, and freshman Rohit Lal went undefeated for nine rounds of play, winning the tournament and qualifying for spring national tournaments in Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA. The Ithaca B team, with senior Tony Yang, junior Patrick Yuan, and sophomore Alice Lee-Kleinberg, also qualified for nationals based on their 8-2 record.

The team's performance at this tournament was truly of national caliber, with the Ithaca A squad earning a score of 700+ in multiple matches (for perspective, the theoretical maximum number of points a team could earn in a single game at a tournament such as this is 900, and winning scores by typical teams tend to only be around 300 to 400 points). Not only this, but the team held a sustained average of 631.7 points per game over the entire tournament, which sets a new all-time record in the recorded history of high school quizbowl.

Prior to this tournament, the team had been ranked #1 in New York State and 15th in the nation. This result will surely help to improve this ranking!

Additional information about the team and their accomplishments this year can be found at <https://mrkirkmath.com/ihs-brain-team/>, by emailing Ben Kirk at [bkirk@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:bkirk@icsd.k12.ny.us) or by phoning him at (607) 329-6005.

## From the Health Office

### 9th and 11th Grade Physicals

New York State law has changed! New York State now requires all 9th and 11th graders to have documentation of a physical exam on file with the school. Exams done within one year of the first day of school (on or after 9/6/17) will meet this requirement. If you have a 9th and/or 11th grader this year without a check-up, please be sure to schedule a well-child exam as soon as possible.

Please also make sure that we receive the documentation. Physical exams within the past year are also required for sports and working papers.

### For parents of 11th graders

New York State requires all 12th graders to have received the Meningococcal conjugate vaccine before beginning their senior year. Seniors who haven't received the vaccine within 2 weeks of the first day of school will be excluded from school.

There are two doses in this series and one must be given after age 16. (Only one is required if the first dose is given after age 16.) Please don't wait until the last minute! If your child has already turned 16, be sure s/he receives this vaccine and we receive the documentation.

Call the Medical Office at 274-2173 if you have any questions.

## Math Principles of Robotics

### LEARN MATH CONCEPTS WHILE BUILDING AND CODING LEGO ROBOTS

**Who:** This course is perfect for students who are curious to find out how you can use math concepts to program a robot. Never worked with robots or coded before? No problem! This course is ideal for students

with little to no experience with robots or computer programming. You'll learn computational thinking skills necessary for 21st century jobs!

**Credit:** 1 Semester, 1/2 credit

**Prerequisite:** 80 or better in Algebra 1

**Attendance:** Students will be working in small groups, so consistent attendance is of vital importance.

**Course Content:** Students will gain deeper understanding of Algebra 1 and Geometry concepts through hands-on robot building and coding activities. Lessons will be designed to encourage independent thinking and problem solving techniques using math, coding, and robotics.

**Workload:** Material will be presented in the form of class lecture, hands-on building activities, and will use specialized Lego Mindstorm computer software. Students will need to bring their Chromebook to class every day.

**Homework:** Students may need to work on programs outside of class.

### Questions?

For additional information about this course, please contact any one of the following teachers:

Gauri Kolhatkar – [gauri.kolhatkar@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:gauri.kolhatkar@icsd.k12.ny.us)

Keri Sheridan – [keri.sheridan@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:keri.sheridan@icsd.k12.ny.us)

Steve Weissburg – [sweissbu@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:sweissbu@icsd.k12.ny.us)