

From the PTA Presidents

Hello IHS Families.

The IHS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) welcomes you to the 2017-2018 school year. Whether you are a new family or a returning one, we hope you will join the PTA. The PTA serves as an important resource to support teachers, staff, and students, and to facilitate communication between school and home.

During the year the PTA organizes or assists the high school with many information events, such as the popular Open House and Meet and Greet with the Principal, College Information Night and others. To show our appreciation for teachers and staff for teaching our children we sponsor monthly brunches and a spring staff appreciation luncheon. We also fund and administer a teacher mini grant program to support teaching initiatives.

Our activities are funded by PTA memberships and direct contribution campaigns as needed. This means we will not ask you or your children to sell candy or wrapping paper or help with spaghetti dinners.

The IHS PTA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization affiliated with the New York State PTA. We are staffed by volunteers, who give their time and energy to make things happen. The Executive Board this year consists of co-Presidents Kate Supron and Monica Touesnard, Treasurer Neil Saccamano, Secretary Shivaun Archer, Membership Director Caitlin Loehr, VP of Programming Beth Breuhaus, PTA Council Liaison Susan Barnett. In addition, there are numerous committee chairs and volunteers who write the newsletters and manage communications, administer the mini grants, organize the luncheon and monthly brunches, and orchestrate numerous other programs. In addition, many more help on an as needed basis. Regardless of your inclination or schedule, we can find a volunteer opportunity that will work for you.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions on how the IHS PTA can better serve the needs of the IHS community. We encourage you to join the PTA to actively support and participate in our programs. Please check out the PTA website where you can join our listserv. We look forward to working together to make this school year successful.

Sincerely,

Kate Supron and Monica Touesnard
IHS PTA Co-Presidents

New! You can now join the IHS PTA on line by going to nyspta.force.com/NewMemberRegistration?unit=14-108 or by clicking on the membership link on our webpage, ihspta.info/wordpress/. Your membership (parents, grandparents, caregivers, teachers, staff, and students) supports our students, our school and all that the PTA does, including: Mini-Grants, Open House, "The Guide," "The Word," Healthy Snack Program, Achievement Awards, Programs, Staff Appreciation Luncheon and Brunches, etc. Alternatively, you may also fill out the attached membership form and send to the IHS office marked "IHS PTA-membership." Or mail it to Caitlin Loehr - PTA Membership Chair, Ithaca High School, 1401 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Make checks payable to IHS PTA. Please help us reach our goal of 300 members THANK YOU!

IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the PTA and IHS. It serves all IHS parents, caregivers, and staff, and is mailed home with mid-quarter reports.

Administrative Team

Ithaca High School is excited to roll out its new “Core Values” to the entire school community. These core values are the embodiment of what we want to see in our students and staff. The core values are posted around the building and on every door to serve as a reminder and help us stay focused. Mr. Trumble, Ithaca High School staff, and students, are sharing their ideas about the values each week on the school announcements. We are sharing them in *The Word* and want to encourage you to have a discussion with your high schooler about how to live out these values on a daily basis - at school, at home, on the bus, walking to and from school, on the stage, sports field, and wherever they may go. As always, we appreciate your partnering with the school to help us best assist your child in having a meaningful experience at IHS. We look forward to our work together.

Mr. Trumble, Ms. Sessoms, Ms. Hardesty and Mr. Harrington

IHS Core Values

Compassion is the quality of being respectful of another’s feelings and showing kindness and a willingness to help others.

- * I can empathize with others, even when I do not agree.
- * I can be courteous, warm, welcoming, and accepting of others.
- * I can be understanding of others and acknowledge that everyone has unique life experiences that shape what they say and do.

Integrity is the quality of being honest, fair, and doing the right thing in a reliable way.

- * I can do the right thing when no one is watching.
- * I can tell the truth and take responsibility for what I say and do.
- * I can put away excuses and follow through on a commitment.

Tenacity is the quality of being determined to do or achieve something; firmness of purpose.

- * I can keep trying - asking for help... striving and working towards my goals.
- * I can invest the effort and energy needed to be successful.
- * I can keep trying even when something gets difficult.

Ownership is the quality of being responsible for yourself and taking accountability for what you say and do.

- * I can be responsible for my actions.
- * I can admit mistakes, apologize when I should, and take pride in my good work.
- * I can understand that my actions are a reflection of myself, my peers, my family, school, and community.

Science

The Ithaca High Science Department would like to welcome back all of our staff members from last year. We have two new courses that will offer concurrent enrollment with TC3: Physics 104 and AP Biology. Along with the Principles of Chemistry course, these classes will offer ALL students a chance at college credit separate from test scores. We hope to continue to expand our offerings in the future.

Extra help and support in all science courses is offered during all lunch periods in H112. The help room is staffed by two members of the Department with different certification areas. Lab make-up, quizzes, tests, and tutoring are all part of the services that we can help with. Extra help periods can be assigned and all students are welcome on a drop-in basis.

Our electives continue to be popular additions to student schedules. The Natural Disasters class is starting with the study of hurricanes. Oceanography, Food Science, and Forensics are all off to a start with intense application of the principles from earlier science courses. Food Science, Sustainable Agriculture and Marine Biology are all offered during second semester.

Questions or concerns about science courses can be directed to Carlan Gray, cgray@icsd.k12.ny.us. Many thanks for a great start to the school year.

Students in Ms. Benenati's biology classes are contributing data to the scientific community by tagging monarch butterflies for Monarch Watch. The tags help researchers study Monarch migration. Students also processed water samples for eDNA analysis by Cornell University. The cells captured from the water samples are used to document the presence (and absence) of three invasive fish species more efficiently than traditional methods.

Student Activities

Ski Club

This year the IHS Ski Club will be going to Greek Peak on January 4th, 11th, 18th, and February 1st, 8th and 15th.

All interested students should pick up a medical form from Mr. Noyes or Mr. Breigle and return the form with the transportation cost of \$105. Checks should be made out to IHS Ski Club. Scholarships will be available and limited ski club swag will be given out to those who sign up early.

Undivided

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, thirty-four people (students, staff, and community members) gathered around the flag pole to pray in shifts before school for our school and community. This event, organized by Undivided, is part of See You at the Pole, a now international event that began twenty-five years ago. If you want to participate next year, it will be September 26, the fourth Wednesday in September.

English

This marks the 23rd year of WISE at Ithaca High School. WISE, wise individualized senior experience, is a senior English course comprised of two semesters. Semester one looks much like a traditional ELA class while semester two engages students in a PBL--project-based learning. Students spend 16 weeks working on a project of their own choosing, researching all they can, and interacting with the larger community.

As we prepare for connecting with the larger community, our two WISE classes, taught by Alexis Lord and Kim Scholl, will take the annual October field trip to Cayuga Nature Center to participate in a team-building challenge and give back to the community by engaging in a facility clean-up.

If you have any questions about WISE at I.H.S., please contact Alexis Lord, WISE program facilitator, alord@icsd.k12.ny.us.

Social Studies

On September 20, the Social Studies Department at Ithaca High School, in conjunction with the other middle and secondary schools in the district, was honored to host Mary Beth Tinker. When Ms. Tinker was an 8th grader, she and several other students in Des Moines, Iowa wore black armbands to school in silent protest of the Vietnam War and to support a proposed truce. The students were suspended from school but sued to be reinstated. The resulting lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court. In the majority decision of *Tinker vs Des Moines*, Justice Abe Fortas stated, "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate".

Ms Tinker gave a rousing presentation to an auditorium of 200 students about the history of her actions and the importance of young people standing up for what they believe. She shared how nervous she was as a young person standing up for what was then an unpopular idea. During her remarks and with students afterwards, Ms. Tinker encouraged them to take action to change their communities and their world in accordance with their values and ideals. The Social Studies Department would like to thank Cindy Kramer for making this event possible!

Attendance

Attendance is located in Activities (building B), not the main office any longer. Students arriving late to school, leaving for an appointment, or returning to school following an absence need to go to Activities to take care of this.

From the Registrar: Frequently Asked Questions

"How do I request my transcript?"

For current students needing transcripts sent to summer college & university programs or for insurance verification purposes through out the school year, in addition to requesting transcripts from your school counselor directly, transcripts can be requested either in person Room J-1 (I.H.S. Main Office) Office hours 8:00 am - 4:15 pm Mon-Thurs and until 4:00 pm Friday. Contact I.H.S.Registrar at phone # (607) 274-2144 or email dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us Summer hours are 7:30 am - 3:00 pm Mon- Fri.

For current 12th Grade students needing transcripts for scholarship purposes or to be sent to colleges & universities listed in Naviance, I.H.S. College & Careers Office will be working with you and your school counselors to send your transcripts through out the school year and will automatically send the final transcript after July 5th of each school year. You may receive notices from your schools that they need the final transcript by July 1st but Admissions Offices are fully aware that this is not possible from NYS Public Schools due to June Regents exams being administered so late in June. All questions should be directed to phone # (607) 274-2218 or email bsulliva@icsd.k12.ny.us School year Office hours are 7:30 am – 3:45 pm, Mon – Thurs and until 3:30 pm Friday. School Counselors do not have summer office hours and have limited email or phone access during this time.

For future transcript requests or proof of graduation needed AFTER September 1st, of each school year, the "I.H.S./ICSD Alumni Transcript Request Form" can be found as a downloadable PDF under "Down loads" on the "High School" web page of the ICSD website www.ithacacityschools.org Contact I.H.S. Registrar at phone # (607) 274-2144 or email dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us

"How do I change my address and contact information?"

Changes in Address, Phone or Emergency Contacts

Changes in Emergency Contacts? Changes in Parent/Guardian phone numbers?

Please CONTACT the IHS Registrar, by phone (607-274-2144) or by email (dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us)

Changes of address MUST BE DONE through the ICSD District Registrar's Office, 400 Lake Street.

Proof of a new address (for example, a utility bill, phone bill, or lease) must be provided along with the completed ICSD Change of Address form found on the ICSD website Registration page at www.ithacacityschools.org under "Other Forms" <http://www.ithacacityschools.org/tfiles/folder253/ChangeofAddressPhoneForm.pdf>

"How do I withdraw my child from Ithaca High School during the school year?"

Withdrawing from Ithaca High School

If you are leaving the high school or the school district, please contact IHS Registrar, by phone 607-274-2144 or email dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us.

If a student leaves IHS before graduating, a form called Ithaca High School Student Withdrawal/Transfer Release Form, obtained from the I.H.S. Registrar's Office, must be completed and signed by all the student's teachers. Teachers record the student's grades up to the last date of attendance and indicate if the student has returned all textbooks, Chromebook and charger, calculators, library books, cameras, etc. The student returns the completed SIGNED form to the I.H.S. Registrar room J36. A student's records CANNOT be released until all textbooks, Chromebook and charger, calculators, library books, etc. have been returned.

If a student leaves the school district during the summer, parents/guardians must fill out a form called Ithaca City School District Withdrawal Notice and return it to either to the I.H.S. Registrar room J-1 or the ICSD District Registrar, 400 Lake St. If student still has their assigned Chromebook and charger, this needs to be returned along with the completed signed withdrawal form. Again, records CANNOT be released until all borrowed materials and the Chromebook and charger are returned.

I.H.S. PTA Membership Form 2017-18

Help support our students, our school and all that the PTA does, including: Mini-Grants for teachers, Open House, "The Guide," "The Word," Healthy Snack Program, Achievement Awards, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Morning Munch, etc. Thank you!

Name(s): _____ I would like to remain anonymous.

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

(Your PTA membership card will be sent to you via email by the NY State PTA.)

Affiliation with Ithaca High School: ___ Parent / Caregiver ___ Staff ___ Student

Student's name(s) and year in school (if applicable): _____

Yearly dues are:

\$10 for adults

\$5 for students and ICSD staff

\$5 for anyone for whom \$10 is a hardship; \$4 of every membership goes to the NY State and National PTA

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME! Tax-deductible and every dollar counts!!

Membership(s): _____ X \$10 / adult \$ _____

_____ X \$ 5 / student or staff \$ _____

Additional tax-deductible contribution (optional): \$ _____

Payment information: Check # _____ Cash _____ Total \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to IHS PTA. Drop off in main office, or mail form to:

Caitlin Loehr - PTA Membership Chair

Ithaca High School

1401 North Cayuga Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - opportunities to make a difference! We need YOU!

Please check any of the activities below that you might be interested in helping with:

___ Photo Day (September)

___ Open House (fall)

___ Monthly Morning Munch

___ Production / Distribution of "The Guide" (directory) and/or "The Word" (newsletter)

___ Career Exploration Program

___ Healthy Snack Program

___ PTA programs and events

___ Ride-sharing Program

___ Screening Committees for staff applicants

___ Class of 2018 events

___ Staff Appreciation Luncheon (spring)

___ IHS PTA Officer

___ Call if needed

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Visit our website at www.ihspata.info