

A Word from
Mr. Powers

Despite a winter of cold and snow, the classrooms and hallways of Ithaca High remain busy. Discussions are underway at the district level to decide whether and how school might be in session to make up for unanticipated snow days.

The seniors organized a beautiful Winter Formal held at the Museum of the Earth, many have attended fun exciting sporting events, and students continue to distinguish themselves in academic, co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

We are currently thick into the student scheduling process for next year. Students have made preliminary course selections. By spring break all students will have had their annual review with their counselor. We will do our best to accommodate requests but anticipate a very tight schedule this year.

At the end of April you will receive written confirmation of your student's course selections. It is important that you review those selections and let us know about anything you want to change. As you will remember from last year, this is the last point in the process that we can accommodate changes. If you have questions please consult the program of studies and other scheduling documents at on line or call the Student Services department at 274-2157.

We'd like to thank the PTA for their work with families and with us, and for planning interesting programs that support our work with your students.

Jarett Powers

Changing address??

Leaving ICSD??

Please notify

**Deborah Casey,
IHS Registrar, ASAP!!**

Phone: 607-274-2144;

Fax: 607-277-3061;

dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us

**Key dates for
Seniors**

See Page 6

Important dates

Mar 17 School in Session
(due to 1st Snow Day)

April 4, 5 & 6 Spring Musical:
Legally Blonde

April 14 - 18 Spring Break Recess

May 3 Spring Jazz Concert

May 14 Spring Orchestra Concert

May 16 Soldier Story Day

May 21 Spring Choir Concert

May 23 School in Session
(due to 2nd Snow Day)

May 25 Memorial Day Recess

June 4 IHS Band Concert

FREE Bus Passes

Free TCAT bus passes are available for current IHS and LACS students. They are for transportation needs of the students when yellow bus transportation is not available to them during the school year. Students need to go to their AP's office to complete a form. We hope your kids can take advantage of this great opportunity.

If you have any questions about IHS or about services available in the community, please give us a call at **274-6843**.

This year our office is located in the Main office to the right as you walk in.

IHS Family Liaisons
Mary Cole and Barbara Bergman

Grant season has been flourishing for our visual arts teachers. Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) has awarded grants for a variety of special projects and events this Spring.

Urban Art: Lead by local graffiti artist Jay Stooks, students will explore line, form, color and use of space in the contemporary art form of graffiti through the exploration of tags, throw-ups and pieces. Social and political justice issues will be explored and related to visual imagery through stenciling.

Botanical Illustration & Garden Art: Students will create botanical illustrations inspired by the work of local illustrator Milly Archaya. Works will be displayed in the interior garden site, the Artful Garden, on IHS campus.

AP Art: Local artist and printmaker Sylvia Taylor presented her portfolio of whimsical prints to AP Art students and demonstrated the linocut process of developing images, cutting and inking the block. Students are now working on their own linocut images based on memory.

AP Art History: Students spent an afternoon with our Johnson museum guide Carol Hockett, exploring medieval, baroque and contemporary art work. They will return to the museum again in May.

World War I Centennial Exhibition: Students will engage in the study of this conflict and the tremendous impact it had. Students may work with objects, examine architecture, read literature, critique films or choose another avenue to pursue. **Drawing & Painting and Digital Photography** students will enjoy a presentation of the art and history of this period with Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen and Carol Hockett and then make art inspired by the artifacts and the Dada influences of the period.

AP Studio Art: Students will begin a spring schedule of Open Studio on weekends to take advantage of uninterrupted time to work on their portfolios in their studio classroom.

Carol Spence
Fine Arts Department

We are looking forward to our big event of the year—the Poetry Slam! occurring this year on Shakespeare’s birthday, April 23. Music, song, rap, hip hop—all styles and accompaniments are welcome, with a panel of judges and cash prizes awarded. It’s an amazing show every year. It will take place after school, 3:45-4:45PM, either in the Black Box or in the Library—we will keep you posted. **April 23: book it!**

Also this year we’ve had a great run of books, thanks to Mr. Powers finding funds. All of the “Best Books of 2013” are in our Library, including *The Cancer Chronicles*, *The Goldfinch*, *Life After Life*, and *David and Goliath*.

If your students are readers, this is a great time to come to Ithaca High Library. Students can have up to six books at a time, for three weeks. Our catalog is online, so that you can check what we have: go to the ICSD website, choose Ithaca High School, then Library, and the catalog search box pops right up.

Library Club has been having very successful bake sales in the Library. How does this sound: pick up a brownie, find a quiet spot, and do homework while you munch—cozy, no?

We are also always looking to improve and update—send suggestions to nbell@icsd.k12.ny.us and I will reply promptly. We want to give your students the very best service around!

“When I only begin to read, I forget I’m on this world. It lifts me on wings with high thoughts.”

--Anzia Yezierska,

“Wings” (1920)

Yours in the Library,
Nan Bell

WISE Program

Students in the IHS WISE English Program have begun their project season! If you know a senior in WISE English, please ask questions about his/her project process. One way we are looking for community support is to create a list of possible community contacts who may support individual student projects. Please visit our online spreadsheet and add the names and contact information of locals who may be great resources for our students: <http://tinyurl.com/WISEstudentprojects2014>. Any help you can provide will be most appreciated!

Alexis A. Lord
IHS English Teacher and WISE Program Facilitator

Brain Team

On Saturday, March 1st, the Ithaca High School Brain Team played host to the first New York Quizbowl Championship Association's Central NY Regional Championship. In a small field, Ithaca's own team emerged the winner, qualifying for a state championship later this month.

Also in March, Ithaca will be playing for a \$3000 top prize in TC3's High School Challenge, and playing against teams from New York City and Long Island in Hunter College High School's Prison Bowl. These competitions will serve as practice for the upcoming High School National Championship Tournament in Chicago, Illinois in May, to which the nationally ranked Brain Team will be sending two teams to compete.

Benjamin Kirk
Mathematics Teacher
607-274-2191

Science Department

Each year, the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) sponsor a competition for high school students to represent the United States at the 2014 International Physics Olympiad Competition. The mission of the U.S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the International Physics Olympiad. Approximately 3000 students take the preliminary exam each year.

Approximately a dozen Ithaca students took the preliminary exam last month. Nationally, 403 students were selected as semi-finalists, based on their scores on this preliminary exam. These students will take one more exam in March, out of which 20 students will be selected for the team.

Aryeh Zax, a senior at Ithaca High School, qualified as a semi-finalist this year. Congratulations Aryeh!

Math Department

American Mathematics Competition

On February 4th, over 200 IHS students participated in the annual American Mathematics Competition (AMC). The main purpose of the AMC is to spur interest in mathematics and to develop talent through the excitement of solving challenging problems in a timed multiple-choice format. The problems range from easy to extremely challenging.

Five IHS students have qualified to take the next round of the competition - the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) on March 13, 2014. To be eligible for this round, students who took the AMC 10 must score in the top 2.5% of all national participants and those who took the AMC 12 must score in the top 5%. These 5 qualifiers are: Rex Lei (School Winner for the AMC 12), Daniel Halpern, Aryeh Zax, Raymond Xu, and Alexander Babiak. The following 3 students received honors for the AMC 10 competition: Ronan Perry (School Winner for the AMC 10), Lisa Yoo, and Michael Zhao. Congratulations to these students!

Computer Science

Did you know that students can take programming at IHS? Programming 1 is a great one-semester course for any student. It doesn't require any special strength in math or experience with computers. Students who go on to take Programming 2, another one-semester course, are eligible to take AP Computer Science.

Statistics

Not only do many college majors require statistics, but many jobs do as well. While AP Statistics will continue to be offered at IHS, next year there will be a **new course**, "Intro to Statistics." This course is designed for students who have completed Algebra 2 and are interested in a fourth year of mathematics, but don't want to commit to an AP course.

Same Course, New Name

Next year many students will take a course now called **Intermediate Algebra**. This course includes most topics from Algebra 2 and is designed to prepare students with the math they will need for college, but does not end in a NY state Regents Exam. "Intermediate Algebra" comes after Algebra 1 and Geometry, but is not as hard as College Algebra. It was called "Algebra 2/Trig" in 13-14.

Math Help

Students can get help with their math homework during any lunch period, and after school most days. There are small posters in every math classroom that give the location of the "homework help room." After school help (Mon, Tues, Thurs) is in H112.

This spring, Liza Flum, a Master of Fine Arts student at Cornell and a volunteer in the GRASSHOPR Program, will be teaching a week of English 102 classes as part of a poetry unit. Her topic is "Influence and Innovation in Poetry" and shows how classic poets have influenced modern poets.

This February, English department member Matthew Soucy was honored to be selected to visit the Saltonstall Arts Colony for a week-long creative writing retreat. Thanks to Saltonstall, the Fine Arts Boosters, and IPEI, Mr. Soucy was able to spend the winter break working on his poetry and short stories and to return to his English courses artistically rejuvenated.

Any junior who wishes to take AP English Literature and Composition or AP English Language and Composition next year needs to take a qualifying examination. See Mr. Byrne in room F5 for details.

Sophomores looking to take AP Language and Composition in their junior year must sign up to take the English Regents exam (in lieu of a qualifying exam) this June. See school counselors for details.

The Academic Intervention Services (AIS) English room (GK101) continues to be open every period of the regular school day and until 4:22 PM Monday through Thursday. Any student can visit our AIS room for help with English work. Additionally, some students are assigned AIS English in order to receive support for English coursework and testing. If you have questions about your student's placement into AIS English, please feel free to contact the English department leader, Ms. Jean Amodeo, at (607) 274-2187.

World
Languages
Department

Over the past couple of months, the French 2R and French 3R classes have been doing a letter-writing exchange with francophone students in Lévis, Quebec. Each IHS student has a penpal from Quebec, and we have now sent them two rounds of letters, written in French of course! For their part, the students in Lévis are learning English as a Second Language at school, and they thus write back to us in English. It has been great fun sharing this language-learning experience with native French speakers, and building new relationships thanks to our growing knowledge of French!

Larisa Droll, French Teacher



The Ithaca High School Social Studies department is proud to announce the 17th annual ***Soldiers Story Day***. On Friday, May 16th we will be welcoming over 30 veterans, as well as current soldiers and sailors into our classrooms to discuss their experiences ranging from WWII and Korea to the current War on Terror. Speaking schedules will be posted outside of all social studies classrooms, and refreshments will be served throughout the day. Check in with the Social Studies department in G-217, drop in on a presentation, or stop by in G-233 to say hello and thank our guests for their service. During the month of March we will be sending out invitations and trying to solidify our participants.

Social Studies

If you know of any veterans or organizations that may like to participate, please contact Keith Thompson, Social Studies Department chair: kt Thompso@icsd.k12.ny, or the department office (607) 274-2188.



Legally Blonde
the Musical

Come see the Ithaca High School Drama Club's high energy production of "LEGALLY BLONDE, the Musical." From jump-roping prisoners to singing sorority sisters, the show is non-stop entertainment, as fun for parents as for teens. Based on the 2001 movie, the show was nominated for seven Tony Awards when it premiered on Broadway.

Performances will be on **Friday, April 4**, and **Saturday, April 5**, at **7:30 PM**; and **Sunday, April 6**, at **2 PM**, in Kulp Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at: <http://ihsdrama.ticketleap.com/>; \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students/seniors.

Regional College Fair

A regional college fair will take place on Wednesday, March 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Athletics & Events Center on the Ithaca College campus. Additionally, beginning at 7:00 PM, professionals from the Financial Aid Office at IC will give a presentation on applying for need-based aid; this will be an excellent opportunity for parents to learn more about what to expect when applying for aid.

We currently have **64 colleges registered** to attend the event (and we expect that number to continue to grow over the coming weeks leading up to the event).

The full list of participating colleges can be found here: <http://www.nysacac.org/nysacac-regional-college-fairs> <<http://www.nysacac.org/nysacac-regional-college-fairs>>

Join the PTA Listserv and Stay Connected

For up-to-date information concerning IHS, sign up for the PTA listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To share information with or ask questions of other IHS families, join our discussion listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Key dates for Spring Semester

Student
Activities

- **IHS Ping Pong Tournament:** Friday, March 7, 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Activities
- **IHS Handball Tournament:** Saturday, March 17, 2 to 6 PM, IHS Gym
- **Junior Prom:** Saturday, March 29, 8 to 11 PM, Statler Hotel Atrium
 - Tickets on sale in ADVANCE ONLY for this event. Dates and time of ticket sales will be announced and posted at IHS.
- **Spring Elections Meeting (for 2014-15):** after school on May 13. Mandatory for any student running for class office, student council office, or representative to the Board of Education.
- **Senior Week (see below):** May 27 to May 31
- **Senior Prom:** Saturday, June 7, 8 to 11 PM, Farmers' Market
 - Tickets on sale in ADVANCE ONLY for this event. Dates and time of ticket sales will be announced and posted at IHS.
- **Graduation Rehearsal:** Thursday, June 26, 1 PM, Ithaca College Athletics and Events Center
 - Mandatory for all seniors
- **Graduation:** Thursday, June 26, 7 PM, Ithaca College Athletics and Events Center

For parents of Seniors:

- Senior Week is May 27 to 31. The definite events are Casino Night on Thursday, May 29, and the Senior Trip to Lake Placid from Friday, May 30 to Saturday, May 31. Other events are being voted on by the senior class during the week of March 3-7.
- The exact price of the Senior Trip is still being calculated and will be released soon. Details will be available at...
- **...The Spring Senior Parent Meeting:** Monday, March 17, 6:30 PM, IHS Cafeteria. **Mandatory for families of seniors interested in attending the Senior Trip.** We will also distribute information about Senior Week, Prom, and other exciting events in which your students can participate!
- No graduating senior can walk the stage on June 26 without a cap and gown! Those are still available through Jostens at 315-458-3871 (new caps and gowns). There are also a small number of used (donated) caps and gowns through Student Activities that can be arranged for free, but we are very limited in sizing at this point. Seniors who get a used gown will need to purchase a tassel. See Alice Linton in B-3 about used caps and gowns.

Please feel free to contact Karl Mellander, Student Activities Director, at kmelland@icsd.k12.ny.us if you have any questions.

IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the **PTA** and **IHS**.

It serves all IHS stakeholders and is mailed with student progress reports each quarter.

Please Join the PTA!

For more info visit the IHS PTA web site <http://www.ihspta.info/wordpress/>