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Science Students Win Top Honors



On February 25, 2026, thirty-nine Indiana Area Senior High School students traveled to Slippery Rock University to compete in the Region 9 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) fair. Students competed in multiple categories including physics, engineering, computer science,

chemistry, biology, and social sciences. Of the Indiana Area Senior High School (IHS) entries in the science fair, thirty students earned 1st place awards and the right to represent IHS at the state level competition at Penn State University in May.

Included in the 1st awards were five perfect scores earned by **Alonzo Farrington**, **Luke Halchak**, **Allison Lichtenfels**, **Eva Nealen** and **Teresa Wang**. Extra recognition was given in the form of the special awards which came with monetary prizes and certificates to **Andy Hao** (Senior High Engineering), **Kevin Liu** (Senior High Biology), **Allison Lichtenfels** (Senior High Biochemistry) and **Edmond Lin** (Senior High Mathematics). Earning the Senior High Innovation in Engineering award and a $100 prize was **Jack Lehman**. **Drew Mimis** and **Eva Nealen** were recipients of the Slippery Rock University Outstanding Physics and Biology awards. **Eva Nealen** also won the SRU Scholarship award for $12,000.

The IHS Science Club was founded in 2013 starting with only two students participating, and it has grown tremendously since that time. Students taking part in this voluntary activity spend countless hours researching topics, designing experiments, and collecting data before presenting their findings to professionals, academics, and peers in their field of study. Science Seminar provides students who are dedicated to scientific inquiry an avenue to pursue their personal interests, apply knowledge learned during their IHS classes, and gain real experience that adds to their portfolio of accomplishments. Students are supported by IHS club sponsors Ms. Emily Hixson (biology), Jamie Edmonds (biology), and Michael Lehman (physics). Additional support was provided by IHS teachers Mrs. Heather Walton (chemistry), Mrs. Marisa Huntsman (chemistry), Mrs. Samatha Betta (forensics), and Dr. Scott Layden (statistics).

Besides the upcoming state level competition, students will be participating in the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) at the Carnegie Science Center. The students' research may be viewed at the upcoming Research Days event held by IUP at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC) April 8, 2026.

The club's sponsors thank the Indiana School Board, Mr. Wade McElheny, IHS Principal, and Mr. Rob Heinrich, IASD Superintendent, for continuing to support our efforts to mentor tomorrow's scientists and engineers.

HOSA Students Compete



HOSA is a national organization of students interested in becoming healthcare professionals. In March, five students from Indiana High School traveled to Hershey, PA, to attend and compete in the Pennsylvania HOSA State Leadership Conference. Twenty-four hundred students attended and competed in a variety of healthcare related categories. The following HOSA members competed in the categories shown. All five students advanced to the second round of testing or skills-based portions of their competitions.

Tyler Yount - Sports Medicine
Aidan Yurko - Occupational Therapy
Billy Taylor - CPR/First Aid
Allison Lichtenfels - Dental Terminology
Julia Weber - CPR/First Aid

This is the first year that HOSA is a club at IHS, and it has 22 members. Advisers Joy Dress and Kayla Stewart hope to increase membership and raise money in order to help offset the cost for more students to attend the state conference next year.

Students Build and Compete at Battle Bots



Technology and Engineering students taking the new Combat Robotics class at IHS had the opportunity to compete in the Bots IQ preliminary competition held on March 11, 2026, at Westmoreland County Community College. The event was streamed live via Bots IQ's YouTube channel. The students worked all year to design, build, test, and redesign their 15 pound robot to compete in the Bots IQ “Battle Bot” competitive robotics league. The first-ever IHS Combat Bot team, “Team Tomahawk,” proved to be successful in their inaugural preliminary competition.

The students competed and overcame problems with their Battle Bot all day. The result of their team effort paid off. Indiana finished 2nd overall after battling back through the losers bracket. A special thanks to Unique Fabrication, Norma Group, and S&S Screen Printing for helping our team this year!

Team Tomahawk is always looking for sponsors (as well as Industry partners) to join and help fund our team. If you/your company is interested in making a donation, please reach out to our business office at 724-463-8713, or the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and specify it is for the IHS Bots Program. We look forward to having you be involved with our team.

Follow Indiana’s team on Instagram @ihs_bots_iq

IHS Math Team Does It Again!



Front Row: **Pranav Kumar**, **Edmond Lin**, **Amelia Rives**, **Hazel Cormier**, **Rowan Woods**, **George Hoffman**, **Eva Nealen**, **Brionna Szalkowski**, **Clara Weigner**. ***Back Row:*** **Cassandra Wrenn**, **Nathan Livermore**, **Karter Belfiore**, **Ezekiel Thomas**, **Drew Mimis**, **Isaac Jones**, **Ethan Springer**, **Brayden Stevens**, **Tony Handa**, **Danny Trevorrow**.

The IHS Math Team took first place at the Pitt-Greensburg Math Competition on Thursday, March 12. IHS beat several schools and edged Class 6A Norwin High School to take home the championship.

Special congratulations to IHS freshman **Rowan Woods** who took first place overall individual for the entire competition!



During the fall and spring semesters, the IHS Math Team attended an intense two round competition at the Penn State New Kensington campus. This competition involved numerous schools from the region, and teams were made up of five individuals.

We are proud to announce that the team of **Danny Trevorrow**, **Pranav Kumar**, **Josh Reed**, **Rowan Woods**, and **Zeke Thomas** brought home first place overall at the conclusion of the competition on March 25.

Special congratulations to **Rowan Woods** for being named MVP and **Pranav Kumar** for receiving the "Excellence" award.

Art Department News

Indiana Area Senior High senior art students thank you for your support as they wrap up the 2026 IHS Senior Art Show at The Artist Hand Gallery. The show opened to the public on March 6, 2026, and ran until March 28, 2026. The show was a smashing success, and the students were able to display and sell their artwork in a professional capacity. Seniors who had work on display were **Cricket Baunoch**, **Elaina Fishel**, **Jae Hill**, **Dominic Kasun**, **Destiny Lytton**, **Alexis North**, **Avery Orr**, **Jasmin Uptegraph**, and **Justin Webber**.



The Art Department thanks Senator Joe Pittman for his continuing support and promotion of public school arts, students, and programs. Currently, student work is displayed in his office window that represents the hard work and dedication of IHS art students. The current work includes fruit paintings and glass mosaics. Please take the time to view these talented students' work. The work will be displayed until the end of the first week of April.



On the Horizon

The Art Department is pleased to announce that art students will be taking part in the Indiana Art Association's annual Youth Arts Celebration this month. IHS art students will be featured in a multi-school celebration of the visual and performing arts from Saturday, April 18, through Friday, May 1, in downtown businesses.



In other news, the IHS Visual Arts & Portfolio Club and French IV students are preparing to embark on an artistically inclined adventure to Cleveland, Ohio, on April 1. Students will visit multiple art museums in order to get an immersive experience through the viewing of historical and contemporary art. Keep an eye out for photos in the May newsletter.

Message from the Principal

Happy Spring!

Spring has sprung at IHS! Our academic, arts, athletics, advising, and extracurricular activities are now in full motion and working toward culminating and capstone experiences at the senior high school. We are appreciative of all of the contributions to the success of our school community by its students, their families, staff, and faculty!

One measure of our success is the performance of our students on Keystone Exams. Keystone Exams will be administered in May. Literature Keystone Exams will be given on May 11 and 12; Algebra I Keystone Exams on May 13 and 14; and, Biology Keystone Exams on May 15 and 18. **The 2025-2026 Spring session will be administered online, as per PDE requirements, via student Chromebooks.** More information about Keystone Exams is enclosed for your review. We wish our students the best of luck on their end-of-year assessments!

Please be reminded that students of such courses will take their Keystone Exams in May. These students will not have to take final exams in their respective Keystone Exam courses. The goal is to reduce the number of high-stakes exams for eligible students, allowing the students to focus their efforts on only one end-of-year assessment for each course. Student final course grades will be based only on the grades of each nine-weeks term throughout the school year.

Thank you for your attention. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Wade McElheny

Keystone Exam Information for Parents

Keystone Exam Student Information Presentation

Keystone Exam Cell Phone Policy

Keystone Exam Calculator Policy

Act 158 Graduation Pathways Requirements

Parent Alert: Parents of the Class of 2026

Senior Class Trip



The senior class trip will be May 29. Please note that this date has been updated from the one listed in previous newsletters. The last day to reserve a spot for this year's Senior Class Trip to Cedar Point is Tuesday, May 5. The cost is $120 if received by April 24, and $135 if received between April 27 and May 5. Please complete the registration form that was emailed by Mrs. Sexton and send it, along with a check made out to Indiana Senior High, to Indiana Area Senior High School, Attention Traci Sexton, 450 North Fifth Street, Indiana, PA 15701, or drop off the form and payment in Room 206. **No refunds will be given for cancellations after May 5.** Email Mrs. Sexton at tsexton@iasd.cc if you need her to email the form to you.

Baccalaureate Information for the Class of 2026

Plans are underway for the baccalaureate service to be held at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 31**. This year, the service will be hosted by St. Thomas More University Parish. Baccalaureate is a nondenominational prayer service that is planned and conducted by a committee of students from the Class of 2026. Attendance is optional. **Any senior who is interested in the planning of baccalaureate should contact Class Secretary Ellie Long or Mrs. Amanda McAnulty as soon as possible.** More information will be made available after plans have been finalized.

Graduation Practice

Graduation practice is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, June 4**, at **9:00 a.m.** at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC). More details will be provided in the May newsletter.

Graduation Information

The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2026 is tentatively scheduled to be held at **7:00 p.m.** at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, on the evening of **Friday, June 5**.

Admission to the ceremony is by ticket only. Tickets for admission to the commencement ceremony are free and will be given to each participating senior after graduation practice. **Seniors**

must attend graduation practice to get their admission tickets. Each graduate will receive ten (10) tickets, with more available at practice and on the night of the graduation ceremony. Rest assured that there will be adequate seating for all invited guests of the Class of 2026.

You are encouraged to park in the KCAC parking lot, the parking lot behind Eberly College of Business, the R&P Band Lot behind the IUP tennis courts, or the IUP parking garage. Parking is free, **however tickets will be issued to those (attending graduation) who park in any reserved parking spaces.**

Yelling, catcalls, etc. by members of the class or by the audience during the graduation ceremony is inappropriate! Please remember that this is a happy, but dignified, ceremony. When you make noise for your graduate, it keeps the next student's name from being heard. Please be considerate!

A photographer from GradImages will be at graduation to take a photograph of each senior as they cross the stage. You will receive information from GradImages in the mail within five to seven days following the ceremony. (You will receive the order form sooner if your senior chose to share their email information.)

No one is permitted to take pictures or videos of the graduation ceremony from the aisles or from the arena floor. This safety regulation will be strictly enforced. Taking pictures or videos from your seat is permitted.

Handicapped parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to the KCAC, but it is limited. Vehicles displaying a valid, state-issued handicap placard or license plate may park in any available handicapped space.

The office also has a limited number of reserved parking passes for the VIP lot. Students who need a VIP handicapped parking pass may request one from the high school's main office during business hours (7:20 a.m. -- 3:20 p.m.) during the week of May 25, 2026. Due to the limited number of spaces, only one pass will be issued per student, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Handicapped seating in the KCAC is at the top of the arena. The elevator is located beside the main entrance. Guests using the elevator will be admitted beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Diplomas

Diplomas will be issued in the PNC Conference Room following commencement. **Any senior who has an outstanding obligation (library books or parking permits not returned, fines not paid, calculators lost or broken, textbooks not returned or damaged, etc.) will NOT be given a diploma the night of graduation. All outstanding obligations must be settled by 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, in order for a senior to receive a diploma the night of commencement. Seniors not attending graduation can pick up their diplomas on Monday, June 8, in the Counseling Office.**

Cap and Gown Information

Caps and gowns will be distributed the week of May 18, 2026. Seniors will receive a black gown with a red stripe on the sleeve and a cap and tassel. These items are theirs to keep. If a senior has AP testing on distribution day, the student may see Mrs. Sexton for the items once testing has concluded.

At graduation practice, National Honor Society members will be given (at no cost) a gold honor cord to wear over their gowns. The honor cord is also theirs to keep.

Graduation is a formal ceremony. **Males are to wear dress shoes and dress pants with a dress shirt and a tie. Females are to wear dress shoes or dress sandals and a dress or dress slacks and dress blouse**. **Graduates are required to wear their caps during the graduation ceremony**.

Students may adorn their graduation gowns only with award pins and/or honor cords that demonstrate accomplishment or achievement through accredited educational, civic, military, athletic, or social organizations. **Any requests to wear an award pin and/or honor cord must be made in writing and submitted to the high school principal. Graduation caps must be free from any additions other than the approved graduation tassel.** All graduation attire must be pre-approved (by school administration or their staff designee) in order for students to wear it at their graduation ceremony. Remember that participation in the graduation ceremony is not a RIGHT. Seniors not properly attired will not be permitted to participate. Contact Mrs. Sexton if you have any problems or questions.

UPCOMING SENIOR CLASS EVENTS

May 29, 2026: Senior Class trip (location: Cedar Point)
May 31, 2026: Baccalaureate (3:00 p.m., location: St. Thomas More University Parish)
June 4, 2026: Graduation practice (9:00 a.m., tentative, KCAC)
June 5, 2026: Graduation (7:00 p.m., tentative, KCAC)

News from the Counseling Office

Student Scheduling for 2026-27

To view student course requests, log into PowerSchool, then click on Class Registration. Parents and students should be aware that students may alter their requests through school counselors until June 11, 2026. No changes can be made after that date without extenuating circumstances and administrative approval.

Dual Enrollment

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors have the opportunity to sign up for the dual enrollment program with Indiana University of Pennsylvania. More information can be found on the senior high Counseling website. Applications can be picked up in the School Counseling office.

Graduation Projects

By this point in the school term, most students should have completed their grade-appropriate portion of the graduation project in SmartFutures. Students who do not complete their projects by the end of the term will not meet graduation requirements. It is especially important that seniors complete their projects in a timely manner to ensure graduation on June 5, 2026.

Senior Award Night

Seniors who have received scholarships or other academic recognition will be honored during the Senior Awards Night presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. By April 17, 2026,

parents of seniors should inform the Counseling Office of any school-related scholarships that have been received so that these awards can be added to the program. Beginning on April 20, parents should look for a letter from the Counseling Office informing them of the awards and/or recognitions that their student will receive on April 29, 2026.

SAT and ACT

Students preparing to take the SAT or ACT this year or next may find the website khanacademy.org a useful tool in preparing for college entrance exams. It offers a free online service through which students can take practice SAT and ACT tests, get tailored feedback, and find tutorials.

AP Exams Scheduled

AP Exams are scheduled for the first two weeks of May 2026; please refer to the calendar below for specific dates. Detailed testing instructions will be sent to students as the exam period approaches.

The final payment deadline was **January 10, 2026**. If you have an outstanding balance, please note the following College Board policies:

- **Late Payments**: A **$40 late fee** will be applied in addition to the **$99 exam fee**.
- **Cancellations**: Students who choose not to test after the deadline will still incur a **$40 cancellation fee**.

If you require financial support, please contact **Mrs. Smith** in the School Counseling Office to discuss eligibility requirements.

May 2026 AP Schedule

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4 7:45 a.m.: Biology	5 7:45 a.m.: Chemistry 11:45 a.m.: U.S. Gov/ Politics	6 7:45 a.m.: English Lit. 11:45 a.m.: Physics I	7 7:45 a.m.: Physics II 11:45 a.m.: Statistics	8 7:45 a.m.: U.S. History 11:45 a.m.: Macroeconomics
11 7:45 a.m.: Calculus AB/BC	12	13 7:45 a.m.: English Language	14 7:45 a.m.: Spanish	15 7:45 a.m.: Computer Science A

Prom 2026 Planned

Grand March and Prom will be held on Saturday, May 16. Grand March will take place from 3:30 to 5:10 p.m. in the senior high school's auditorium. Students will be bussed from the senior high school to Prom at Chestnut Ridge Resort in Blairsville. Prom will take place from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. Students will be bussed back to the senior high school and are scheduled to arrive at 11:30 p.m.

The cost of a Prom ticket is $180 per couple or $90 per single. Checks are preferred for payment. Checks should be made payable to *"Indiana Area Senior High School."*

Prom is open to all seniors and juniors at Indiana High School. An Indiana High School sophomore may attend only if an Indiana High School senior or junior invites the sophomore student. Students wishing to bring an outside guest must obtain a prior approval form from the main office and complete it according to instructions. Outside guests must be a senior, junior, or sophomore from another school, or a high school graduate under the age of 21. The prior approval form requires a copy of photo identification to be submitted if the guest is a high school graduate. The form must be submitted to the main office for approval by Mr. McElheny, Mr. Johnson, or Mr. Bertig. Students will not be permitted to purchase a prom ticket for an outside guest until the guest has been approved to attend prom.

Further information about prom will be emailed to students in early April.

Summer School 2026

It's hard to believe, but the end of the school year is in sight! Because the end of the school year is in sight, it's time for students to consider Summer School 2026.

If your student is interested in taking **Geometry, Pre-Calculus**, **Computer Applications**, **Personal Finance-Career and Work Readiness**, or **Health and Physical Education 9/10/11** for **CREDIT ADVANCEMENT** purposes this summer, they should check out the Summer School website. If your student has not yet earned credit for one of the aforementioned courses, taking the course during Summer School could provide your student an opportunity to "make room" in their schedule for other classes during the regular academic year.

If your student needs to **recoup** credit for a course they failed to successfully complete during the regular academic year, they should check out the **CREDIT RECOVERY** information on the Summer School website. Students are able to retake a maximum of two (2) classes through the Summer School credit recovery program. The Summer School website features an extensive list of credit recovery courses that will be offered during Summer School; credit recovery coursework is offered in **all four core subject areas**, and students may also pursue credit recovery for **Computer Applications**, **Personal Finance-Career and Work Readiness**, and **Health and Physical Education**.

There is a fee for credit advancement Summer School coursework. If a student is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, though, the fee is waived. There is **no** charge for students taking credit recovery coursework. Fees for Summer School coursework are addressed on the Summer School website.

All Summer School 2026 classes mentioned above, with the exceptions of Credit Advancement Geometry and Pre-Calculus, will begin on **Monday, June 16, 2026**, and conclude on **Friday, August 7, 2026**. Credit Advancement Geometry and Pre-Calculus will begin on **Monday, May 25, 2026**.

Use the following link to access Summer School information and registration forms on the district website: IDEAL Summer School. If you have questions about Summer School operations or details, please contact the secondary Summer School coordinator, Mr. Steve Cochran (scochran@iasd.cc). If you have questions about your student's specific coursework needs, please contact your student's school counselor.

Chromebook Insurance

Chromebook insurance payments (in the amount of $40.00) for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year can be made starting on April 27, 2026. The deadline for making this payment will be October 9, 2026. This is a yearly insurance payment covering only the 2026-2027 school year. **No payments will be accepted after the October 9, 2026, deadline.** All students will receive a printed copy of the 1:1 Insurance Agreement form in homeroom during the first week of May. The form will contain all guidelines and relevant information regarding this process. This form must be signed and returned by all students prior to the deadline regardless of whether you are accepting or declining

insurance. The form is also available to download and print from the district website at the following link: https://goo.gl/Xckzz4.

Graduating Senior Chromebook Information

If your student is a graduating senior and does not plan on keeping their Chromebook, the device and charger must be returned to the **1:1 Office** at the senior high prior to graduation. All equipment will be inspected upon collection to make sure it is in acceptable working condition. Equipment that is not returned or is returned in unusable condition will result in your student's diploma being withheld. Equipment collection will begin on May 20, 2026.

Collection times:
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you are a graduating senior and plan on purchasing your Chromebook, final payoff information can be obtained in one of two ways after May 1, 2026:

1. Fill out the form found at https://goo.gl/forms/3V4rG3UN5Zsiomz53 and indicate you will be purchasing your Chromebook. The final payoff amount will be emailed to your district email account once your form has been received.
2. Parents or guardians may email Randy O'Neal at roneal@iasd.cc and request the final payoff amount.

Once your final payment has been received by the 1:1 Office or via My School Bucks, technology staff members will deprovision the device and email you directions on preparing the Chromebook for home use. Note that once this process has been completed and ownership has been transferred to the student, the Chromebook will no longer function on the district's wifi network.

Transferring your District Account to a Personal G Suite Account

Google Takeout will be enabled for all senior G Suite accounts after the last day of school. This service will enable graduating seniors to transfer their @myiasd.cc account data to a new or existing personal G Suite account. Seniors' @myiasd.cc accounts will stay active until December 31, 2026.

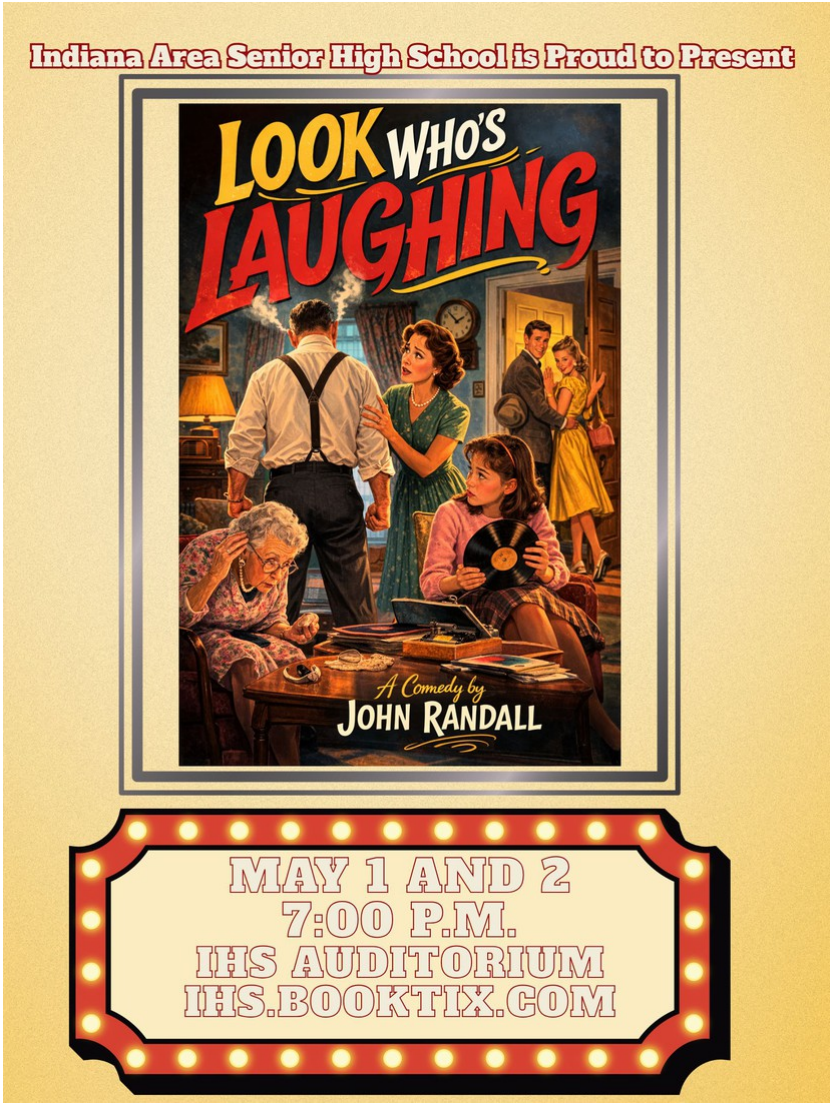
IHS Performing Arts Presents "Look Who's Laughing"

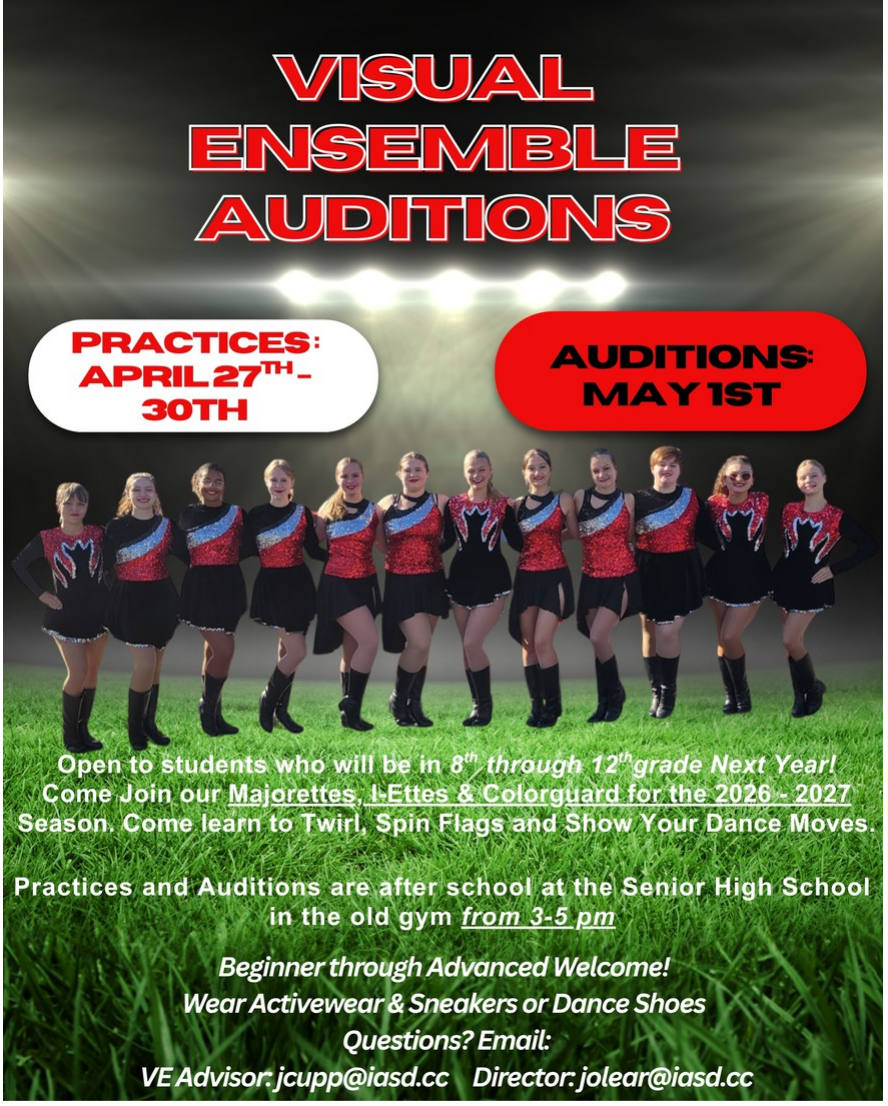
The IHS Performing Arts Department is thrilled to announce the final show of the 2025–2026 school year! Join us on May 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the IHS Auditorium for an evening of laughs and theatrical fun.

This year's production takes us into the chaotic world of Henry Crocker, a man whose notorious temper has only worsened amid recent business troubles. When family friend and war hero Jed Tracy comes to visit, Henry's long-suffering wife sees a golden opportunity. She convinces Jed—Henry's idol and former officer—to challenge Henry to go an entire week without losing his temper. What could possibly go wrong? Well. . .everything. One week, countless mishaps, and plenty of

comic chaos ensues, testing Henry's patience to the limit.

Tickets are available for purchase at the door (cash only) or in advance at ihs.booktix.com. Don't miss your chance to see this hilarious show and support our talented student performers!




VISUAL ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS
PRACTICES: APRIL 27TH - 30TH
AUDITIONS: MAY 1ST
Open to students who will be in 8th through 12th grade Next Year!
Come Join our Majorettes, I-Ettes & Colorguard for the 2026 - 2027 Season. Come learn to Twirl, Spin Flags and Show Your Dance Moves.
Practices and Auditions are after school at the Senior High School in the old gym from 3-5 pm
Beginner through Advanced Welcome!
Wear Activewear & Sneakers or Dance Shoes
Questions? Email:
VE Advisor: jcupp@iasd.cc Director: jolear@iasd.cc



Happy Spring!