

2023-2024: YEAR IN REVIEW

IHS Homecoming recap: Garden of Glamour



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

A number of IHS students attended homecoming.

By ELLA MOSCO

The homecoming dance is an annual school event that schools all around the county hold. The dance is held the day after the school's homecoming football game. The purpose of homecoming is to celebrate school spirit and pride. This year IHS's homecoming dance was held on September 30, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the new gym. Originally that dance was to be held in the upper commons, but due to a large number of tickets being sold, the dance was moved to the gym.

Mr. Berting, coordinator of the homecoming dance, informed that 620 students attended this year's dance - making it the largest attendance of a homecoming ever. This year's dance was the 16th one Mr. Bertig coordinated. Decorations for the dance included faux flowers, lights, and photobooth. In the "photobooth" Mr. Puskar took pictures of students with their friends and/or dates which are now posted on social media.

[for more of this article, visit thehigharrow.com]

IHS says goodbye to beloved teacher Mr. Nath

By GABI ISENBERG

After advising this newspaper for 15 years, the High Arrow staff and the IHS community bid farewell to Mr. Larry Nath. Mr. Nath is retiring from teaching multiple grade levels at IHS for 25 years. He instructed a wide variety of classes such as AP Language and Composition, 12th-grade English, Public Speaking, and Journalism.

Mr. Nath taught countless numbers of students how to be exceptional journalists. For years, he guided the newspaper staff toward reporting accurate and interesting stories. He held each of his reporters and editors to the high standard that professionals would be held. Sophomore Ella Mosco commented, "Mr. Nath taught us basic journalistic rules and made us live up to the journalistic standard."

Not only has he produced valuable writers, he has stood up for their right to free press. "One year, we had a big controversy when somebody wrote a negative review of American Sniper. People freaked out and threw the newspapers in the garbage and we got hate notes under the door. We had to stand up for our right to the First Amendment," Mr. Nath shared.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Nath knows his sense of humor is unmatched. He never fails to put a smile on someone's face, no matter the troubles they're enduring. He takes his students' well-being seriously. Sophomore Dominic Lonetti mentioned, "Mr. Nath not only made me a better speaker, reader, and conversation-alist, but he was always there for us as students personally. If you ever needed anything from him, he was always glad to help."



PHOTO BY GABI ISENBERG

Mr. Nath instructs sophomores Addison McAfee and Meah Myers.

His love for his students is clear to his colleagues as well. "I was assigned to co-teach an English 11 course with [Mr. Nath] and it was a great class. He had a group of struggling readers and he chose the most interesting books to get them excited about reading. We read *Another Kind of Monday* and it takes place in Pittsburgh. After reading, he organized a field trip to Pittsburgh to show the students many of the landmarks from the novel," teacher Mrs. Kayla Stewart shared.

Although Mr. Nath is looking forward to retirement, he will also miss his students and classes he teaches. "I'll miss Journalism. I think it's important and it's getting pushed aside in a lot of schools. In general, I like working with kids. I like interaction, giving them a hard time, all that stuff. I'll miss it," he expresses.

Mr. Nath has touched countless lives of students and teachers in his time here. His presence will be missed in this school. He is more than just a teacher - he is a colleague, a mentor and a friend to everyone.

Miss Black becomes new High Arrow adviser



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

Miss Black, the new High Arrow adviser.

By **ELLA MOSCO**

This year, Miss Black has chosen to become the new adviser of the High Arrow. Miss Black is one of the English 10 teachers and is excited to now be a part of the High Arrow.

After Mr. Nath announced his retirement, Miss Black was asked to step up because of her knowledge and interest in journalism. Miss Black informs, "When I graduated college, I graduated with a minor in journalism and public relations,

so this is always something I was interested in. When Mr. Nath was talking about retiring last school year, he floated the idea past me. I thought about it for a while and I knew it was something I was very passionate about and it just fit."

Sophomore reporter Gabi Isenberg comments, "I think that she will be an excellent adviser and help us reach our goals."

Miss Black plans to improve the High Arrow and make it more accessible to those who are interested in reading the publications. Miss Black commented, "I'm going to try to make us more digital. It's not that Mr. Nath wasn't digital, but we're in a new era with technology so I'm going to try to make us more technologically advanced." Paper publications aren't as popular as they once were, so Miss Black's

main focus is transferring most things to digital.

A junior reporter for the High Arrow, Madeline Shirley, says, "Miss Black is a new young thriving life and it's benefiting all of us."

When asked about any concerns moving forward with the High Arrow, Miss Black hesitated. "I don't have any major concerns. I want to make sure we are covering timely news, which is a big thing, along with making sure we are covering as much as we can, and not leaving out different sports, events, music or activities. I want to make sure we include everything and represent IHS the best we can." A journalist's major responsibility is to cover all outstanding topics and make sure all of the facts are correct. Miss Black wants to make sure no group, activity or person is left out of the High Arrow.

Freshmen adjust to new environment at IHS

By **ANNA CUTTER**

A new class of freshmen join IHS this year. Due to graduate in 2027, IHS freshmen have been hard at work these first few weeks, adjusting to their new environment at Indiana Senior High School.

Adjusting to a new place can be hard. Freshman Emma Strittmatter says, "It's easier to get from class to class, but the hallways are really crowded in some places."

Here at IHS, the students get the chance to choose from a wide selection of classes, some of which include Chef's Corner, A'la Carte Baking, French, Journalism and many more.

IHS also has a large collection of lunch foods ranging from simple foods such as Bosco Sticks and different types of pizza, or more complicated foods like Chicken Parmesan and Cheesy Meatball Subs.

At IHS students are able to keep their school Chromebooks over the summer for their remaining years of highschool, and are able to buy them their senior year to keep forever. Students enjoy being able to keep their Chromebooks. Freshman Phoenix Dillaman says, "I can put stickers on it and make it my own, and it feels a lot more familiar than a new Chromebook every class." However, other students do not enjoy keeping their Chromebooks. Freshman Emilio Fisher says, "I'm glad it's mine, but I'm scared I'm going to break it, or lose it."

High school can be a big change for students, and sometimes it's not what you're expecting it to be. Freshman Phoenix Dillaman additionally shares, "I feel like I expected it to be big and extravagant, but it's kind of just like, school. It's probably because I watch too many high school movies."



PHOTO BY ANNA CUTTER

Freshman Eva Miller writes in her Journalism class.

IHS is excited to keep welcoming the freshmen class with open arms to see how they adjust over the course of this year.

Valentine's Day: yay or nay?



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINY GRIBSCHAW

Destiny Gribshaw shares a picture of a Valentine's Day gift she received last year.

By **EVA MILLER**

Valentine's Day is nothing new, it happens every year, but do people still want to put in the effort to get a Valentine? Some couples go all out with thoughtfully filled gift baskets and stuffed animals, but there are others who would rather treat themselves as their own Valentine and that's okay too.

Traditional Valentine's Day gifts include boxes of chocolate, teddy bears and candy.

Billions of dollars are spent on Valentine's Day every year, and yet people still consider this holiday to be cringy. Everyone's opinion is valid, but Valentine's Day has been a part of history for many many years.

Even though this holiday just seems to feel like any other day anymore, there are still plenty of people who adore this holiday and get super excited for this month of the year.

Traditional gifts still seem to be the most popular gift option and continue to melt the hearts of their receivers. Ninth grader Destiny Gribshaw states, "Teddy bears are the best because I love teddy bears... teddy bears are cuddly."

Others think that this holiday, one that celebrates love and admiration for everyone, is cringy. A lot of the time it's

because younger people 'don't get it', but this opinion is valid too. Freshman Braylon Beatty expressed, "I believe it to be cringy because it's been the same thing since people were six and it just feels as stale as those candy hearts."

It's perfectly fine to not participate in an optional holiday if you don't want to, and to just do what makes you happy.

Then there are those that treat themselves as their own Valentine, which is all-around wonderful, and shows self-love. Treating yourself is always one of the best things you can do for yourself, and what better way to do it than to snack on chocolates and put on a rom-com to watch?

Valentine's Day has been around to encourage us to celebrate our loved ones and has evolved as a way to also be grateful for yourself as well.

IHS Girls tennis puts a spin on the season

By **KATARINA MEDVETZ**

One of the most popular IHS sports seasons of the year has now come to a thrilling close.

Both teams worked incredibly hard to prepare for this season. Both the boys and girls practice every day after school for two hours and have the occasional hour-and-a-half practice on Sundays.

One accomplishment in particular for the girls team is that the team became section champs this year. Not only this, but they have become the first IHS girls lacrosse team to win sections. This is quite an achievement, and each player should be tremendously proud.

Senior Kayla Leon talks about her personal progress this year, "I have definitely become more confident in myself and more of a team player. I really applied myself and worked hard."

season, the girls will take action on the white township courts ready to conquer their opponents.

Senior Lizzie Olsen states, "The season is going really well, everyone is playing their hearts out and having a lot of fun at the same time. We haven't lost yet and hopefully, it stays that way." According to the players, the team works extraordinarily hard and it helps the sets played to go well.

The girls' practices pay off and help them to win with hard work and determination. They practice five days a week, and put their all into these practices because the team is dedicated to tennis and winning. During these practices, the team's bond continues to grow. Junior, Vania Ali says, "My best experience so far has definitely been the practices and getting a new perspective and playing new games. The match at Franklin Regional was really fun."

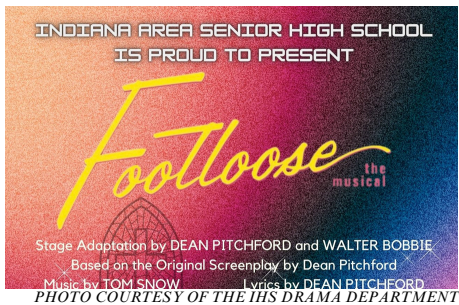


PHOTO BY KATARINA MEDVETZ

Senior Natalie Blanco talks to junior Gabby Sharp about practice.

The players love practicing because they know it makes their chances of being the section champions higher. The team plays with a lot of joy and passion and it shows through their victories.

IHS Drama Club Prepares for Footloose



IHS Drama Department presents Footloose.

By **ELIZABETH OLSEN**

With the change of seasons swiftly approaching, there are many things that the IHS student body has to look forward to. One of the most anticipated events coming up would be the annual spring musical, put on by the IHS Drama Club. This year, the club is taking on performing the Broadway version of the classic 1984 film, Footloose. There's a lot more that goes into the club's preparations than one may think, and learning about it can spark a whole new appreciation for the show.

To begin, the club dives into their rehearsals directly after Christmas break. For the entire month of January, the actors learn the entire book, which is essentially all the musical parts. A lot of work is to be expected to be done on the actors' own time, as it is crucial for rehearsals' effectiveness. Some actors even go as far as to create Quizlets on their school Chromebooks to help them memorize their lines. Each actor's process is unique, they all work in different ways, at different paces, and in different styles. Moving into February, the actors begin to work on their choreography and blocking. Throughout the entire period of preparation, the actors also improve their development and connection with their character; this is also something everyone experiences and learns differently.

One of the key aspects of making progress in rehearsals is everyone's chemistry.

Whether or not the actors flow well together can have a serious effect on the overall success of the show. Senior Delia Salser comments on her appreciation for how this year's cast turned out, "One thing I've been saying a lot is the cast this year is just amazing, everyone is so easy to talk to and we all work well together. Our cast has made it so much fun being in an environment where everyone is so open and willing to pull their weight and willing to have fun at the same time."

Then there's "Tech Week," which is essentially when all the components of the show are practiced together. This is considered to be the most hectic week for the IHS Drama Club, simply because of how much is going on at once.

[for more of this article, visit thehigharrow.com]

2024 MiniTHON Teams

By **MADELINE SHIRLEY**

MiniTHON is an event that IHS holds every school year to raise money for the Four Diamond Foundation. As in previous years, there are four teams. This year the team colors are green, yellow, blue and pink.

Max Duffee explained the drafting process, "During our scheduled draft days there will be either 1 or 2 captains from each team, someone to record, and someone to run the draft within the room. Everyone else within our class leaves the classroom to make sure that the draft is private, concealing when people were drafted and who drafted them. This removes any negative or unwanted emotion towards our drafting process. When we are in the draft we go by grade level and go around to each team while the captains select which student they would like to be a part of their team!"

While MiniTHON has teams, it does not mean you will be with your team for the whole six hours. Being drafted into a team means you are with your team during the group activities that are held.

Senior Max Duffee is a team captain for the blue team. Duffee expressed, "This year I am excited to see what we can accomplish. During my high school years, MiniTHON was always such an exciting event and for such a good cause. I am excited to be able to play all the fun games, enjoy the free food, and spend the night with all of my friends! The total reveal at the end also adds to the excitement of the entire night to see the impact that we have made. I also love the speakers and the luminary walk because it reminds those who go to MiniTHON of why we are all there. It is truly a special night and I hope to see lots of people there supporting such an amazing cause."



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

Students wearing their team shirts for MiniTHON.

When you figure out the team you were drafted to be on, no matter what team it is, the goal for MiniTHON is to come together so anyone who has/is battling cancer does not have to fight alone.

Sophomore D.C. field trip recap



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

IHS students and faculty attend the Holocaust Museum.

By **ELIA DIETZ**

The sophomore class of 2026 took a field trip to Washington, D.C. on Friday, April 26 on an academic opportunity to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Upon arrival in D.C., students first explored The Smithsonian National Museum of History in their assigned groups. In the museum, students gained

newfound knowledge about different periods of America through the displays.

Sophomore Giana Boyer expresses her favorite part about the museum, “I liked looking at the different displays, especially from the music and film section, it was fascinating seeing history come to life.”

After the Smithsonian Museum students took a short lunch break before heading over to The Holocaust Memorial Museum. Students walked through the timeline of World War II, learning about the events leading up to the Holocaust.

The museum provided multiple perspectives of the holocaust through educational videos from holocaust survivors. It gave students time to reflect on the heartbreaking history of Jewish persecution by representing the lives of victims.

Despite the deepening subject, students nonetheless found a new consciousness from the exposure of learning about Holocaust history. Sophomore Kubylay Almesbek explains, “Exploring the Holocaust Museum allowed me to understand more about the tragedies the victims went through and its impact from a new viewpoint.”

While walking through both museums students were given an assignment to write about at least one artifact or display from the Smithsonian and Holocaust Museum that gained their interest or stuck out at them and write what they learned from it.

Students were also given papers to take notes about anything they learned from which would help them with their small Holocaust reflection project which is required for going on the trip.

Protect our People

By **ADDISON MOSCO**

“Be back by the time the street lights turn on!” A mother yells from the front door as she watches her kids gallop down the street.

“Look at this cool rock!” A young child says as he holds it close to his face to examine it.

The child sprints through the trees taking in the world around him with all of his senses. Smelling the freshness of the air, tasting the dandelions, having staring contests with the critters that are all around, touching the texture of the leaves, and hearing the rushing of water in the creek.

Before our air and earth was infected with toxic substances and pollutants, mothers felt safe letting their children wander and explore the earth. In 2005, America's average Air Quality Index was 43,

however, in that same year, Indiana, Pa's AQI was 54 with a moderate health concern.

Because Pennsylvania is home to nine nuclear reactors at five nuclear power plants, residents of Pennsylvania need to be cautious of their carbon emissions because of how much is already being shot up into the air by these power plants.

The air quality became a concern when it reached into the 150's last summer. The people only took action once the quality of the air affected everyone, not just a few people. To stop that from happening again, people need to track their carbon emissions and waste and keep it as low as possible.

Indiana, Pennsylvania has many forms of public transportation and it is important that we take advantage of it. The average car emits 4.6 metric tons of carbon a year.



PHOTO BY ADDISON MOSCO

Addison Mosco admires beautiful flowers on an evening walk.

Having hundreds of people drive their own car is much more harmful to the environment than if 100 people took the bus. Even carpooling or biking can be a great start to eliminating carbon waste.

[for more of this article, visit www.indianagazette.com/special_section/]

IHS prepares to say goodbye to the class of 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACI SEXTON

IHS class of 2023 graduation.

By **MADDIE MILNER**

Graduation is a sacred event that all high schoolers look forward to. Mrs. Sexton has done an amazing job at giving out information about how to purchase caps, gowns, and tassels. In addition to the ceremony seniors also get to be involved in the baccalaureate ceremony and a senior class trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio.

As seniors prepare for graduation, they reflect on all of the experiences and opportunities provided on the past four years at Indiana Senior High School.

Regarding graduation preparation, senior class adviser and secondary math teacher Mrs. Traci Sexton commented, "Senior class reps have also been putting together senior and kindergarten display boards for the ceremony, helping process the Senior Spotlight on Social Media submissions, and next week they will be distributing the graduation gowns and tassels."

Additionally, Mrs. Sexton remarks, "The most exciting part of the

Graduation is the night itself. My favorite parts of the ceremony are when I personally get to acknowledge every senior before they walk across the stage, and the very end, when the nervousness of getting everything right is over and the seniors have a truly joyous celebration. It's probably the largest collective excitement that I get to witness each year."

Graduation will be held this Friday, June 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex at IUP.

Join IHS in expressing a heartfelt congratulations and best of luck wishes to this year's graduating class. Congrats, class of 2024!

IHS boys and girls lacrosse season recap

By **ELIZABETH OLSEN**

One of the most popular IHS sports seasons of the year has now come to a thrilling close.

Both teams worked incredibly hard to prepare for this season. Both the boys and girls practice every day after school for two hours and have the occasional hour-and-a-half practice on Sundays.

One accomplishment in particular for the girls team is that the team became section champs this year. Not only this, but they have become the first IHS girls lacrosse team to win sections. This is quite an achievement, and each player should be tremendously proud.

Senior Kayla Leon talks about her personal progress this year, "I have definitely become more confident in myself and more of a team player. I really applied myself and worked hard."

The girls finished their season with thirteen wins and three losses, with their best game this year being against Penn Trafford.

The boys finished out their season with eleven wins and six losses. The boys had an astounding shutout game against Winchester Thurston, winning twenty-five to zero. Senior Wynston Farrington commented on how impactful the game was for him, "Our goalie's shutout game against Winchester is a memory I will never forget."

The season ended with a team picnic, where both the girls and boys were together to recognize their achievements. The Mason McCauley Award was also presented at the end of the season this year. This award is in honor of Mason McCauley, an incredible teammate, who lost his life in a car accident.



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

Seniors Carson Beatty and Gianna Brody with their Mason McCauley Awards.

It is given to seniors who demonstrate good leadership both on and off the field. This award was recently given to Seniors Gianna Brody and Carson Beatty.

Prom 2024 review



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

IHS Students spend their time at Prom dancing to the music.

By **MADELINE SHIRLEY**

Every year in May, IHS holds prom for the students. This year's prom was held at Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort and the theme was The Golden Gala. Student Government Association planned and hosted prom as in many other years.

During prom, students ate dinner, danced on the dance floor, took pictures and more. Prom was a night to make lasting memories.

The turnout for this year's prom was around 327 students. Along with students, multiple IHS staff and faculty members attended prom to chaperone. The staff that attended prom included Ms. Cassidy Black, Ms. Mikayla Dokos, Mr. Michael Bertig, Mr. Wade McElheny, Mr. Douglas Johnson, Mr. Brian Henninger, Ms. Rachel Horrell, Ms. Casey Hoffman, Mr. John Phillips, Ms. Casey Williams, Ms. Emily Hawk, Dr. Joe Schwartz, Ms. Brenda Pearce, and Mr. Erik Puskar.

Junior Fatima Sissoko expressed, "I enjoyed getting to spend time with my friends. I definitely made memories that will last a lifetime!"

Students were allowed to spend time inside the building or outside the building during prom.

Junior Ella Fleming expressed that she

loved the venue stating, "I think it was great that we were able to go outside at any point, and the fountain in the front was beautiful!"

Ms. Black was one of the staff who chaperoned prom and she commented, "I enjoyed getting to watch all of my students have a lovely night on the dance floor. It was good to see them all have fun!"

Along with Ms. Black, Ms. Dokos was a staff member who also chaperoned prom. Ms. Dokos explains, "My favorite part about prom was seeing my co-workers and our students all dressed up and having a great time. Everyone looked fantastic and seemed to really enjoy the night."

Although the end of the school year can be stressful for students, prom is a great event to give students a breather from the stresses of wrapping up the school year.

It's senioritis season at IHS

By **KATARINA MEDVETZ AND ELIZABETH OLSEN**

The end of the year is slowly creeping up, and all of IHS is growing more and more excited. There is one grade in particular that has been anticipating this time since the first day: the seniors. Senioritis has become increasingly worse as the year progresses forward, and now that the sun is coming out, it is reaching its peak.

Seniors at IHS are getting increasingly excited about the end of the school year. Now that graduation is just around the corner, many seniors lack motivation to attend school. On top of this, many students have already committed to their desired colleges or post-graduation plans, making high school work feel even more daunting. Late passes and late assignments are truly at an all-time high.

Though many senior students still care about their academic career at IHS, the

stress of graduation, college preparations, post-grad plans and more, has left them feeling exhausted. Senior Max Duffee comments on his experience, "I feel like I've done well in school so far, and now I feel even more motivated to finish as strongly as I started. But, that has also resulted in me feeling very burnt out."

Not all senior's behavior is a result of laziness; for some, this last year is the most stressful and tiring one of all. Seniors involved in extracurricular activities such as sports or clubs have even more on their plate. The seniors typically take charge in roles such as team captain or club president. This gives seniors a whole new set of responsibilities.

Senior Anna Buterbaugh, a member of the girl's lacrosse team, explains if her motivation to come to school has decreased, "Yes and no. Yes because I am

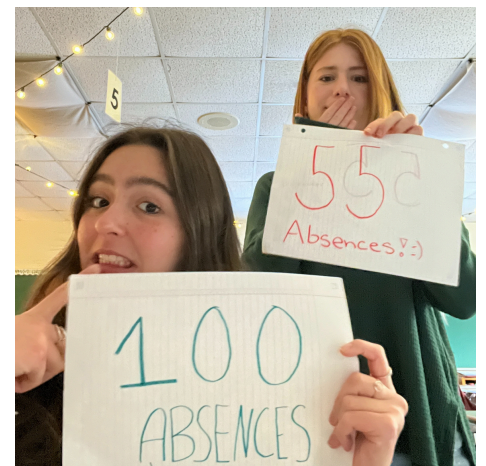


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH OLSEN

Seniors Katarina Medvetz and Elizabeth Olsen compare their absence counts.

ready for school to be done, but no because I am in a sport and I have to be here for it."

[for more of this article, visit thehigharrow.com]

THANK YOU PATRONS!

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- Mr. Wade McElheny
- Paul Wingerter
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