

2024-2025: YEAR IN REVIEW

IHS prepares to dance the night away at Homecoming 2024



Sophomore Clarissa Pineda prepares class banners for the Homecoming Pep Rally.

By **GABRIELLE ISENBERG**

When the air gets crisp and the leaves turn orange, it can only mean one thing - IHS Homecoming is right around the corner. 2024's Homecoming festivities will be disco-themed and held on October 4 and 5 at IHS. Student Government Association is hard at work to prepare for the events that the ever-popular 'hoco' brings.

Homecoming programs include the pep rally, football game, and dance. The pep rally and football game bring special excitement to the air as the Homecoming King and Queen are announced during these events. This year's king's court includes Timothy Birch, Mark Collinger, Quinn Lipniskis, Joey Margita, and Dylan Rice. The queen's court is formed by Vania Ali, Hannah Cowburn, Lucia Clark, Abigail Jozefowicz, and Eve Kuzneski.

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

IHS Volleyball Setting Up For The Year

By **EMMA BUTERBAUGH**

The IHS volleyball team is set up for this year's games. Among the three teams - varsity, junior varsity, and ninth grade - all the players have demonstrated impressive effort, with the varsity girls' taking the section championship.

The varsity team, led by senior captains Addison and Stella Stossel, has had win after win, with an overall score of 13-2. They have won every home game and five away games, making their home game score 8-0 and away game score 5-2. The JV team achieved a score of 3-0. There are currently no available scores for the freshman team.

The players are confident in their skills on the court this season. Skyelyn Newell, a ninth grader and member of the freshman team comments, "I'm pretty confident that our volleyball season went pretty good because I think that each player on the team improved from the first game and worked well."

The next varsity game is on October 17, with the Greensburg Salem Golden Lions. Learn more about upcoming games for all of Indiana's teams at Indiana Athletics Website.



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

Junior Emily Ferraro and Senior Stella Stossel dominating the court.

The competition on the court was vigorous this season. Many of the teams the girls' faced were some of the best in the section and possibly even the state. Another member of the freshman team, ninth-grader Sydni Cavill, shares, "I think our biggest competitor was Armstrong because we were very close to winning against them multiple times." Allison Lichtenfels, a sophomore on the varsity team, states, "Greensburg-Salem was the only other team in our section that was undefeated and the score was very close when our team played them."

The players are confident in their abilities this season and their performance shows this. The IHS community enjoyed seeing every player improve and have fun this season.

Fulbright scholars at IHS



PHOTO BY MR. MIKE RIEG

Fulbright Scholars for the Fall 2024 semester.

By ELLA MOSCO

The Fulbright program is a prestigious international exchange project that allows teachers from other countries to visit the United States schools. Fulbright scholars began in IHS on September 11 and were in classrooms every Wednesday for six weeks.

This program encourages foreign teachers to immerse themselves into a new culture as well as share their culture with the students and staff in the schools.

Ms. Fabiana Martins is from Brazil and she teaches a class known as the Project of Life. Fabiana joined this program because she felt it was a great opportunity to get insight into education and culture. When Martins returns to Brazil, she would like to introduce sign-out sheets, as she believes this will help build more structure for students' days. There are many difficult aspects to being in a foreign country. Martins comments on a challenge she faced. "Before I came here I thought I knew the language but now, I [faced] a lot of challenges, I [felt] it was tiring to live in a place where all people speak English all day."

Mr. Deo Muhenda is a government and current affairs teacher from Uganda. He joined the Fulbright program to get more information about the American education system. One key difference

Muhenda noticed is that the classrooms are smaller in the U.S. Although Muhenda teaches current affairs, he has to be strict with the syllabus. When Muhenda returns home he hopes to be able to "try to chip in more current affairs to inform students about real-world events."

Ms. Ai Hui Lin felt inspired to join the program by the American Fulbright teachers in Taiwan who worked with her. Lin was excited to work with outstanding teachers from around the world. She was also excited to enter the classrooms and observe the teaching. Lin comments on her experience, expressing, "It [was] a life-changing experience, even though I worked with American Fulbright teachers, it's so different here."

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

Green Team brings awareness to mental health in IHS

By ELLA MOSCO

IHS' Green Team is comprised of a select group of individuals who dedicate their time to take on leadership roles in creating and implementing activities to bring awareness to mental health in IHS.

Green Team's initiative is to spread mental health awareness and end the stigma that follows it. Members of the team work to plan activities to support and educate students and make them feel less alone. Green Team is a smaller group of individuals who are involved in The Green Bandana initiative. This is a larger organization where students wear a green bandana and vow to help students in need and give them someone to talk to or direct them to their counselor.

Miss Cassidy Black is the faculty advisor for Green Team, who accounts for many responsibilities such as helping with the

logistics of planning and facilitating school communication. The Green Team also works with Mrs. Courtney Kuncelman, the school psychologist at IHS.

Although Miss Black takes on the faculty responsibilities, members of the Green Team have many other duties to attend to, such as planning events, activities, fundraisers and even designing T-shirts, which were sold to students to show their support for mental health.

Sophomore Julia Weber is working hard to bring therapy dogs back to IHS. She expresses, "The therapy dogs are a great tool that students can use to alleviate their stress and anxiety, [they] can also help students cope with more serious situations." For some students, it can be easier to feel calm or connect with animals rather than peers or trusted adults.

Junior Anna Carnovale mentions why she



PHOTO BY ELLA MOSCO

Lily Manzi and Julia Weber show off their mental health awareness bracelets.

chose to join Green Team, "I believe everyone's story should be told and heard. No one should ever have to suffer in silence."

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

IHS varsity Hockey: IHS takes the ice



PHOTO BY CODY SCHRECKENGOST & ERIK PUSKAR

Brady Oakes skating at Hockey game.

By **SAMANTHA ALJOE**

IHS boys hockey is back in season taking over the ice. With varsity having a score of 5-8 overall. The Varsity team consists of 23 players ranging from freshman to seniors in the whole of the varsity team.

The team this year is coached by Steve Rebovich who shares some of his thoughts about the season. Coach Steve Rebovich states, “In our current state of the season, the coaching staff and I are pleased with where we are at in the standing and the

development of our team. There is definitely room for improvement, especially down the stretch of the regular season.”

The IHS hockey team has been back in for a while this year with their first game being on September 30th. The varsity team has a game every week, sometimes twice a week.

Sophomore Brady Oakes commented about how he feels about the season and what his main goal is, “The season has gone pretty good so far. We are right where we expected to be around .500% win percentage. We are staying really close with the best teams in the league so we are right there. The main goal this season is to win a playoff game. There are teams that are definitely the favorites to win the playoff, so I don’t want to set my goals too high but if we win one I think it will be a successful season.”

Next freshman Sammy Frich expressed how he feels about the team this year and his main goal this season, “My main goal for this season was to get better, and get a goal on varsity. Yes I do think I have gotten better since the start of the year. Thanks to the help of the coaches and my teammates.”

Lastly, Junior Isaiah Hilliard spoke about how he feels about this season and what his main goal is for the season, “It’s been a great experience for myself and some of the other guys. Main goal for myself is to just get better with team chemistry but our team goal is to get to the playoffs and upset a couple teams.”

The varsity boys’ Ice hockey team is doing well and striving to get better and all have their own goals for the season to better themselves and they’re team.

IHS sends four winter sports teams to WPIALs

By **CHEYENNE RAYBA**

IHS sent their girls’ basketball team, members of the boys’ wrestling team, and members of both the boys’ and girls’ swimming and diving teams to represent IHS at their respective WPIAL Championships.

The girls’ basketball team competed in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs against Moon. The girls won with a score of 44-39. They then proceeded to play against Peters Township in the quarterfinals, where they ended up losing 51-32. The team’s season was incredible overall. Senior Emily Betsinger commented, “It had its ups and downs, wins and tough losses, but nevertheless it was a great experience for us as players and coaches.”

The boys’ wrestling team sent five of its members to the WPIAL tournament at Canon-McMillan High School. Seniors

Nico Fanella, Carter Putt, Tuscan Blystone, junior Dominic Fanella, and sophomore Jackson Higgins represented IHS. Blystone placed eighth in the 145-pound class, Putt placed third in the 127-pound class, and Nico Fanella placed first in the 133-pound class. This win brings Fanella up to two WPIAL wins in his career and 144 wins overall. Blystone mentioned, “We all worked extremely hard to not only make ourselves better but also our fellow teammates.”

Between both the girls’ and boys’ swimming teams, they sent a total of 25 members to the WPIAL Championship meet.

The girls’ swim team sent 14 swimmers. At the end of the two-day event, the girls’ swim team won the WPIAL title for the first time in school history. Junior Sydney Anderson commented, “To be a part of a



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS LIAS

Both girls and boys swim team holding their trophies after the WPIAL win.

team that made school history feels absolutely unreal. I am so proud of our girls, as we have worked so hard for this over the past few years. I can’t think of a group who deserves it more.”

The boys’ swim team sent a total of 10 swimmers and was able to take home the title of champions for the second year in a row.

IHS Drama Department takes the stage



PHOTO BY ERIK PUSKAR

46 Plays for America's First Ladies company.

By ZOIEE CORNELIUS

The IHS Drama Department never fails to put on a fabulous production. This fall season, they've decided to go along with the election theme. The production they performed was titled 46 Plays for America's First Ladies. The cast worked tirelessly for many weeks to ensure the show was perfect.

The show *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* was made to highlight the wives and first ladies of all the past presidents. Many people tend to overlook the first ladies and talk about them along with their husbands. The show was able to highlight the lives of every first lady from Martha Washington to Jill Biden. Many of the stories told in the play are things that students may not have known about America's first ladies.

The cast may put on the show, but the crew behind the scenes ensures everything runs smoothly. Senior Avery Jordan is the stage manager for every production at IHS. As the stage manager, Jordan ensures everyone is in their place at the right time. This includes making sure props get sent on stage when needed. The stage manager and the rest of the crew put in tireless amounts of effort to ensure the cast is able

to bring the story alive on stage for the audience.

While the stage crew is working behind the scenes, the cast is on the stage telling the story. Madison Jablunovsky is a junior who played many roles in this show, a couple of which included Elizabeth Monroe and Florence Harding. While she enjoyed every scene she was in, her favorite was the Barbara Bush scene. "It was a scene where we got to dance and sing with the entire cast, and it was so much fun," Jablunovsky commented.

With many hours of rehearsals and a long tech week, the drama department was able to bring the story to life on stage in an extraordinary production.

TikTok: Will it be banned?

By EMMA BUTERBAUGH

TikTok, the popular social media site with some of the most influential trends, has over one billion monthly active users. But in recent years, it's started to attract attention from governments around the world.

Many have expressed concerns about the app's data collection practices and its potential ties to the Chinese government. This has led to the American government and former President Joe Biden to sign a bill that would force the sale of the company or ban it. The ban was to be removed only when they were sold to an American company. However, Biden left it up to the current President, Donald Trump, to enforce the ban.

TikTok believed that this ban, or sell bill, was unconstitutional, and that it violated the First Amendment. Congress, on the

other hand, was distressed with the parent company of the app, ByteDance. They are concerned that information that is collected from users is being sold or given to the Chinese government. Samantha Aljoe, a freshman here at IHS, expressed, "I do feel like TikTok getting banned is unconstitutional because everyone has the right of freedom of speech..."

Many people around the world were upset about the ban. Reagan Haley, another freshman at IHS, commented, "I think it's a bit unconstitutional, especially with the First Amendment since it says freedom of press..." The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This, however, does

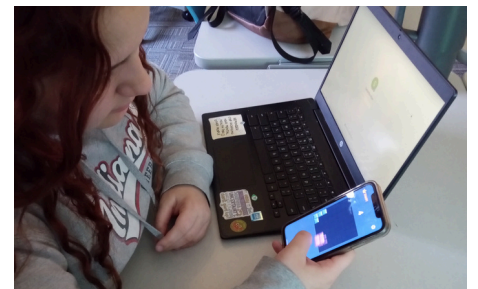


PHOTO BY EMMA BUTERBAUGH

IHS freshman Samantha Aljoe finds something to occupy her time without TikTok.

not prevent restrictions on speech enforced by private businesses and individuals. So TikTok, owned by ByteDance, which is a privately owned company, does not have the qualifications to be governed by the U.S government.

The question now is, will the government continue to postpone the ban, will they let it go, or will they completely impose it?

2025 spring sports springing into season at IHS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IHS SPORT INSTAGRAM PAGES

IHS Spring sports teams.

By **ELLA MOSCO & CHEYENNE RAYBA**

It is finally time to spring into the new IHS sports season with spring sports. The season has just begun and the teams have a great season ahead.

The boys' lacrosse team currently holds a record of 5-4. They have continued to push forward in their season, trying to obtain a good WPIAL playoff seeding. Junior Dominic Lonetti mentions, "We are about to hit a very tough stretch of games, but we feel confident as a group that if we continue to take it one game at a time and do the little things right, those wins will come." To accomplish this, the team is putting all of their efforts into practice to tie up any loose ends they may have.

The boys' and girls' track team currently hold a record of 1-4. This year, the team seems to be at a disadvantage with fewer team members, but the team is still in high spirits and working hard. Junior Jocelynn Higbee comments, "Our season has been full of challenges and experiences. We have limited people, so we are making the best of what we can." The team keeps on pushing forward in their season, however,

even with the struggles they are facing.

The boys' baseball team's season has been off to a good start, with a record of 7-0. The team continues to put in consistent effort to try and obtain an undefeated season. Senior Tim Birch mentioned, "Our most challenging game so far has been Hempfield as they are a 6A team and were pitching a Penn State baseball commit. We prepared for them by practicing hitting high velocity the week before." The team has worked very hard preparing for every game in practice.

The girls' softball team continues to push forward in their season with a record of 1-3. The girls have continued to work hard and to try and turn their season around, but they still always make sure they have fun while doing so.

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

IHS marching band takes on Tennessee

By **ZOIEE CORNELIUS**

The IHS Marching band recently took its trip to Tennessee. Along with exploring the area, they got the chance to perform at Dollywood. The performance not only showcased their talent but also created memories that will last a lifetime.

The trip was four days, with the band leaving on Thursday, April 3rd. While the main event of the trip was the performance, they also got the chance to experience a little more. Thursday was used as a travel day, with a pizza party waiting for them when they arrived at the hotel. After dinner, students were given the chance to look around and explore the hotel. While many took advantage of the pool and raced down the slides, others tested their luck in the arcade.

Anxiously waiting for their performance on Saturday, students had a busy schedule

set for Friday. First on the agenda, they got to explore Anakeesta Adventure Park in Gatlinburg. After spending hours walking through the trees and riding mountain side coasters, they went on a guided tour through the Smoky Mountains. The two-hour tour left students more than enough time to take in the views and even crossed over into North Carolina for a short portion. After making it back to the hotel, students had a small amount of time before going to a pirate-themed dinner show to finish off the night.

Saturday began with a quick 30-minute journey to the Dollywood park. After unloading the bus and getting into uniform, students grabbed their equipment and instruments before beginning to warm up. The performance was about 20 minutes long, starting with the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Amazing Grace." Following, they played the 24-25 season



IHS Marching band students pose for a group photo.

halftime show, which includes "Talking to the Moon/Sky Full of Stars," "Space Oddity," and "Rocket Man." After performing, students were able to spend the rest of the day enjoying the park. Many students took advantage of the water rides to cool off in the heat, while others enjoyed the high speeds of coasters

The battle is back: IASD Battle of the Faculties 2025



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEANNE MAGOLIS

Junior Paige Fisanich hands the trophy off to East Pike and Horace Mann Elementary.

By **GABRIELLE ISENBERG**

Hard work by members of IHS's Athena Club, Leadership, and Key Club led to the successful revival of the Battle of the Faculties - a fundraising and athletic competition between the faculties of IASD's schools. All proceeds went to the Indiana Area Education Foundation (IAEF) and the event raised over \$10,000.

The air was buzzing with excitement on April 11 as students from across the

district filed into the new gym to watch their teachers compete in a variety of activities. The schools were divided into teams - East Pike/Horace Mann, Ben Franklin/Eisenhower, Indiana Junior High School, and Indiana Senior High School. The competitions consisted of not only athletic events, like Hungry Hungry Hippo, basketball knockout, and relay races, but also non-athletic and fundraising events, such as Name That Tune! and a coin collection from the crowd. Three points were awarded to first place winners of the games, two to second place, and one to third. Additionally, the Spirit Stick - a longstanding tradition - is awarded to the school with the most spirit. The winner of the Spirit Stick and the battle itself was East Pike and Horace Mann Elementaries.

Fundraising began as early as August for some schools and the faculties rallied

their students to help. Amount of money raised contributed to point totals at the battle. Athena, Leadership, and Key Club organized a Battle of the Classes to raise funds for the IHS's faculty. These types of fundraisers, alongside ticket sales and donations from attendees, contributed to the grand total of \$10,757 raised for IAEF, a non-profit organization that raises money to provide educational opportunities to students of the Indiana Area School District.

The 2025 Battle of the Faculties was immensely successful. One of the event organizers, junior Anna Carnovale, commented, "Since the Battle of the Faculties was such a big event, it was crucial that we had many hard-working people helping to plan it. It was really cool to see how many different opinions and ideas came with collaborating with other students and clubs."

IHS students raise cancer awareness with nonprofit Cancer Kids First

By **GABRIELLE ISENBERG**

IHS students are dedicated to the cause of raising money for childhood cancer. Several students are members and organizers of the non-school-affiliated nonprofit Cancer Kids First, which aims to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer through fun activities.

Cancer Kids First (CKF) is a nationwide, student-led nonprofit. Branches are formed and led by students to donate money to organized activities and donate money to pediatric cancer students. Indiana, PA's branch is led by IHS students. Officers include seniors Matthew Blystone, Eve Kuzneski, Vania Ali, and Hannah Cowburn, as well as juniors Chloe Hain, Lelise Allison, Andrew Manzek, and Austin Schawl. CKF Indiana plans fun activities such as Spikeball and volleyball tournaments along with basket raffles to raise funds. Officer Chloe Hain shared,

"We raise money and use that money to buy kids gifts off of an Amazon wishlist... [we] plan on doing more in the future to raise money for this cause."

As students prepare for MiniTHON, an event organized by IHS Leadership that is a smaller version of Penn State's THON and raises money for children with cancer, CKF members are focused on assisting Leadership in their efforts. CKF Indiana is donating all their fundraising efforts to MiniTHON to assist the event in reaching their monetary goal. The group also organized "Powderpuff," a flag football event for females who are coached by IHS boys' football players. From this event, they raised over \$300 to donate to MiniTHON.

For IHS students wishing to get involved with CKF, they can join as general members. Contact any one of the officers and provide a \$5 donation.



PHOTO BY CHLOE HAIN

Seniors Matthew Blystone, Yousef Omar, Joey Margita, and junior Oliver John participate in a Spikeball Tournament to raise money for CKF.

General members participate in events and help with fundraising efforts.

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

IHS preps for finals



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA ALJOE

IHS freshman, Emma Buterbaugh, studying for finals.

By SAMANTHA ALJOE

Students and teachers are starting to prepare for finals week at IHS. Finals are the week of May 19-23 for History, Science, Math, Foreign Languages and English. Students who took the Literature Keystone (English 10), Biology Keystone and the Algebra Keystone are exempt from final exams in those respective subjects.

The finals season is stressful for teachers who are rushing to prepare for the tests. Miss Amy Kukula commented about how she's helping her students prepare for the final test in her ninth-grade English classes. "So we're going to use a study guide and do some Kahoot and Gimkit review games. We're doing the Kahoots in class, then my plan is to do the study guide on your own, and if you have questions, ask me."

Students are rushing to prepare for the finals as the studying sessions get longer and longer, and time ticks down until testing days. Students are taking many hours of their days after school to study and prepare.

Freshman Taylor Crowe expressed what she's doing to study for her final testing. "Every night I take a few hours to go over

all my school work and look over my study guides that I need to."

Freshman Sophia Southern spoke about what she's doing to prepare for the finals in

her classes. "I am going to go home and put my phone away, then study for three hours. I'm going to use Google and Quizlet and create my version of the Quizlet."

Finals are going to go well with these students studying and preparing, as with the teachers who are preparing the tests for their classes.

Final exams may be stressful for students, but it is a chance for them to showcase the knowledge they have gained this school year.

From Journalism to Journeys: High Arrow senior send off

By EMMA BUTERBAUGH

At the end of the year, the senior journalists of the High Arrow will graduate and move on to better things. But we'd like to celebrate them and let them give advice the best way we know how: writing.

Zoiee Cornelius is a first-year reporter for the High Arrow and is pursuing Early Level Education. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. She'd advise avoiding the drama and making the most out of your time here. Zoiee commented, "...you only get four years." Zoiee chose journalism because she loves writing and wanted to learn new techniques and styles.

Ella Mosco is a fourth-year reporter for the High Arrow and served as the Business Manager for the 2024-2025 school year. She is planning to attend Saint Vincent

College with a dual major in Criminology and Psychology. She would advise students to "...form good relationships with teachers and turn in assignments on time." Ella chose journalism because it was one of many great opportunities for learning about writing.

Cheyenne Rayba is a first-year reporter for the High Arrow and is pursuing a major in Secondary Math Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She would like to tell incoming students to take high school seriously. She expressed, "Many people tend not to take their freshman year seriously, and it can be harder to recover from that later on." Cheyenne chose journalism because it is a fun class that can allow you to play a part in your school community.

We wish all of the seniors good luck in their endeavors.



PHOTO BY EMMA BUTERBAUGH

Seniors Zoiee Cornelius, Ella Mosco, and Cheyenne Rayba getting ready to face the world

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