



# The Stinger

**Irmo High School Student Newspaper  
Spring 2021**

## **An Extraordinary Year**

By any measure, this has been an extraordinary school year. Have you ever thought about the word, "extraordinary"? People and things are typically described as extraordinary when they are a cut above the rest. But if extra is more or supplemental, and ordinary is, well, ordinary, wouldn't something that is extraordinary just be especially, exceedingly ordinary? Things that make you go hmmm? Okay. Maybe it is just me.

Anyway...the 2020/2021 school year has been anything but ordinary. Anything but normal. More than any other school year, 20/21 has tested our patience, flexibility, commitment and focus. We have learned to expect the unexpected, and to turn on a dime as our worlds change. Some of us are sprinting toward the finish line. Some are holding steady paces. Even if you're walking or crawling it in, you have kept your eyes on the prize, and you should acknowledge what you have been able to accomplish.

This issue of The Stinger features many people who have excelled this year. Some might even say they are extraordinary.

### **What's Inside**

- Teacher of the Year
- Support Person of the Year
- Academic Spotlight: Astronomy
- Extraordinary Students



# Irmo's Finest

by Neghemi Micah

## Dr. X'andria Sutton, Teacher of the Year

The Irmo Teacher of the Year program is designed to identify and reward the teacher whose colleagues believe to be the best of the best. Teachers nominate other teachers, and those with the most nominations make the finals.

Dr. Sutton and her husband, Mr. Sutton, were two of the finalists. Husband and wife competing for the same title? No worries. Dr. Sutton explained that it was "a very friendly competition. I voted for him and he voted for me. Any win for a Sutton is a win for both of us." And sure enough, she won.

Winning Teacher of the Year is a Great honor. Dr. Sutton is excited about being able to represent Irmo High School. "I love this school and community. And being chosen by your peers makes the honor a little bit sweeter."

Dr. Sutton is a Learning Strategies teacher and a school testing coordinator. She tries to



Dr. X'andria Sutton (right) with husband, Mr. Adrian Sutton

be involved in school as much as she can by attending sporting and arts events and sponsoring the Interact club. Being a teacher is an overall joy for her because she enjoys "working with students and helping them to find success in their own way. Being a teacher doesn't mean the joy of learning is gone; Dr. Sutton appreciates learning from others.

According to Dr. Sutton, it is important to recognize the things in our lives for which we are grateful; she is most grateful for "life and experiences that it has provided, and for the amazing people that surround and encourage her each day."

Well, we are grateful for teachers and for our Teacher of the Year, Dr. X'andria Sutton. Drop by her room to show your appreciation.







## Ms. Faye Golding, Support Employee of the Year

The Support Person of the Year award is given to recognize an employee who has shown excellence in supporting students and staff outside of the classroom setting. Irmo High's Support Person of the Year is none other than our own Ms. Golding.

Ms. Golding is our Student Nutrition Manager. The area she manages promotes healthy habits and is dedicated to students' health. Ms. Golding teaches and trains employees on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and on preparing and serving food safely.

Ms. Golding is "honored, humbled and blessed" to receive the award. She chose her career because she believes in what she's doing. For every food we eat absentmindedly, Ms. Golding has ensured that it is safe so we don't have to think twice about it. She offers students food that has required nutritional values. What she does "makes a difference in the lives of others."



She believes she won the award because she "supports the students, teachers and school by providing nutritious meals to everyone."

Ms. Golding loves her job; she loves interacting with students and staff. She is grateful for the opportunity to have a job that she loves, and "tries to make every day amazing."

It is often the everyday heroes that effect the greatest change, and that is what Ms. Golding is doing--one meal at a time. It is important that we recognize those heroes, especially the ones who are close to us. We are grateful for you, Ms. Golding and appreciate what you do for us and for the community every day.





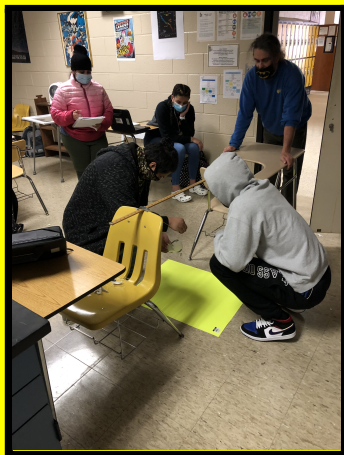
# Academic Spotlight: Astronomy

by Sydney Stewart

Astronomy class here at Irmo High School is the science that encompasses all things universal and extraterrestrial!

Stars, planets, black holes and supernovas are all included in this class! From planets that sing to moon landings, we learn about the known expanse of space and how different it is from our little planet called Earth. Labs are conducted, experiments are created and hypotheses are solved. You can create your very own telescope and discover how the planets in our little solar system revolve around each other. Oh, and don't you worry about complicated math. We won't cover that in this class just yet! So, do allow that to sway you.

The students and teachers are the best. Many like to get engaged and class doesn't get boring. Guest speakers are a common occurrence too! Being able to speak to those experienced in the art of all things floaty and weird is what they do best. I even got to hold

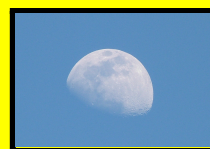


meteorites and moon rocks brought by one of our guests. And oh, don't get me started on how the body changes when you exit Earth's atmosphere! Astronauts who return to Earth have to go through

various forms of tests and such in order to teach their bodies how to interact back on our home planet!

Even the concept of time works differently! Time works differently on every planet compared to Earth, so events we see happening have happened in the past. It's amazing!

Stars aging, shooting stars, satellites, moon landings, Mars exploration-- it's all here! Come on and join Mr. Cameron on an awesome journey! The universe is your playground; enjoy it!





# Presenting: Irmo's Best and Brightest

## The People You Want in Your Group

Some of your classmates have been in the top 6% of their class, aced the SAT and/or ACT and had a GPA of 4.0 or higher. As a result, they are preliminary Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Award recipients.

Some of your classmates have received a minimum grade of "B" for each semester in grades 9 - 12 and have aced the SAT and/or ACT. They are preliminary South Carolina Academic Honors Award recipients.

Some of your classmates are just smart.

### Academic All-Stars

*Alec Bowie*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors  
Image from phenom hoop report

*Julia Bykalo*



Palmetto Fellow

*Alaura Cakley*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors  
Top 3 SAT Score





*Christian Braswell*



Palmetto Fellow  
Image from Hudl

*Nicholas Colorado*



Palmetto Fellow

*My Dao*



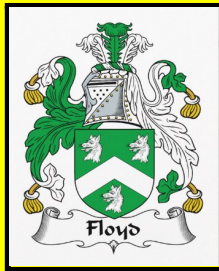
Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors

*Carleigh Duffie*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors

*Addison Floyd*



Academic Honors

*Joseph Gentry*



Academic Honors

*Gracelyn Grant*



Palmetto Fellow  
Lake Murray Irmo Women's  
Club Scholarship

*Elisabeth Hall*



Top 3 PSAT Score

*Joseph Hodges*



Top 3 PSAT Score



*Jacob Keenan*



Top 3 SAT Score

*Paul Matheny*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors  
Top 3 SAT Score

*Van McAlister*



Top 3 SAT Score

*Victoria May*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors

*Sierra Prince*



Palmetto Fellow

*Meaghan Waddell*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors  
The State Newspaper "Best  
in Class--Future CEO"





*Rylee Mostiller*



Academic Honors

*Uchenna Ogbonna*



Palmetto Fellow

*Lindsey Vane*



Palmetto Fellow  
Academic Honors

*Matalyn Schllinger*



Army National Guard  
Minuteman College  
Scholarship  
Captain Dan McCollum  
Scholarship

*Grant Stroman*



Irmo Okra Strut  
Commission Scholarship

*Anthony Washington*



Captain Dan McCollum  
Scholarship

*Grace Huffman*



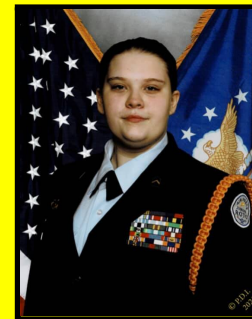
Captain Dan McCollum  
Scholarship

*Darian Sulejmanovic*



Captain Dan McCollum  
Scholarship

*Chloe Bowman*



Captain Dan McCollum  
Scholarship



## Put Me in, Coach

Irmo High School has a proud tradition of athletic excellence. Here are some of the people you want to choose first on the playground.

## Best in the State



Justin Hays wins the 4A Wrestling State Championship's 152 weight class division.





## Placed in State



Makayla Grant, 3rd in triple jump



Mike Aiken, 5th in discus



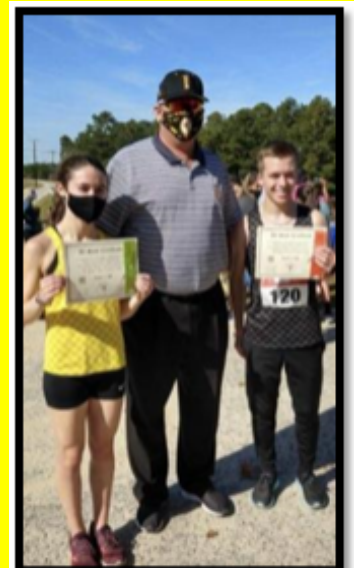
Langston Bryant, 6th in the Shot Put



4 x 800 relay team places 6th (Sophia Henderson, Lola Grantt, Carina Burdick, Hannah Williams). Sophia Henderson places 8th in the open 800.



Emmanuel Gadson, 7th, 100 fly



Carina Burdick and David Williams made the All-State Cross Country team, finishing 9th and 8th, respectively



The 4 x 100 relay team (Jamie May, Malachi Lewis, Kameron Greene, and Jaylan Chambers) place 7th.





## Regional Excellence



### Track and Field Individual Region Champions

- 4x800 relay (Sophia Henderson, Carina Burdick, Hannah Williams and Lola Gantt)
- Carina Burdick, 1600; Hannah Williams, runner-up
- Makayla Grant, Triple Jump
- Sophia Henderson, 800m; Carina Burdick, runner-up
- Langston Bryant, Shot Put

All Region Boy's Tennis  
Sean Dougherty  
Nakul Ranjith





## Where do I Sign?

Congratulations to our scholar athletes who have signed to play collegiate sports.



Jhamari Thomas: football, Concordia University, Wisconsin



Kameron Green: football at Erskine College



Joshua Still: track for Benedict



Michael Aiken, football, Ferrum College, Virginia



Malachi Lewis: track at Benedict



Jayon Chambers: football, Hocking College, Ohio



Davion Pyles: football, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina

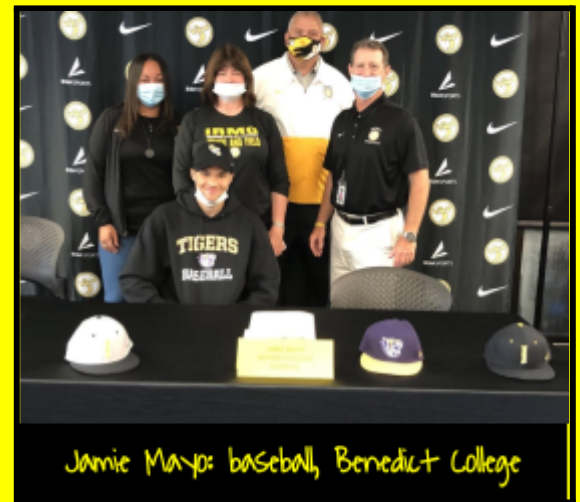
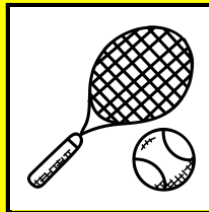
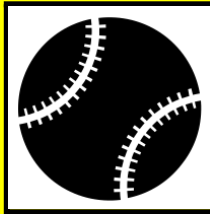


Sophia Henderson: track and cross country, Vassar College, New York

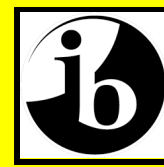


Langston Bryant: football, Limestone University\*





\*Image from [Lexington Chronicle](#)



## CIVICS LIVE



Congratulations to Alex Blocker, who was one of two students from South Carolina to win a United States Senate Youth Program scholarship. Alex will participate in a week-long program, during which he will meet with President Biden, US Senators and Representatives, and a Supreme Court justice. He will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship. Alex had to write essays and take tests as part of the application process.

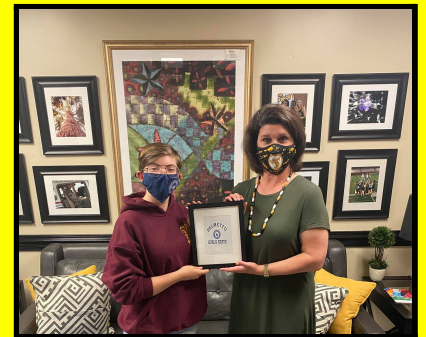
Alex will also attend The American Legion's Boys State program, which helps young men learn about the American system of government and politics by participating in a mock governmental system. Alex for president in 2040!



Palmetto Girls State is a one-week leadership and citizenship training program, created to educate outstanding high school students about state and local government and citizenship.



Girls attending Palmetto Girls State experience governmental procedure by stimulating political campaigns, elections and the political process. Congratulations to our delegates, Abigail Cockerham, Madeleine Thomas, Savannah Neuenfeldt, and Cayden Williams. You make us proud!







## Business and Economics



### Entrepreneur of the Year

Congratulations to Meredith Joyner, named the 2021 South Carolina Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the South Carolina Council on Economic Education.

Meredith is the founder and owner of Meredith Joyner Photography, photographing candid lifestyle photos and various type of portraits.

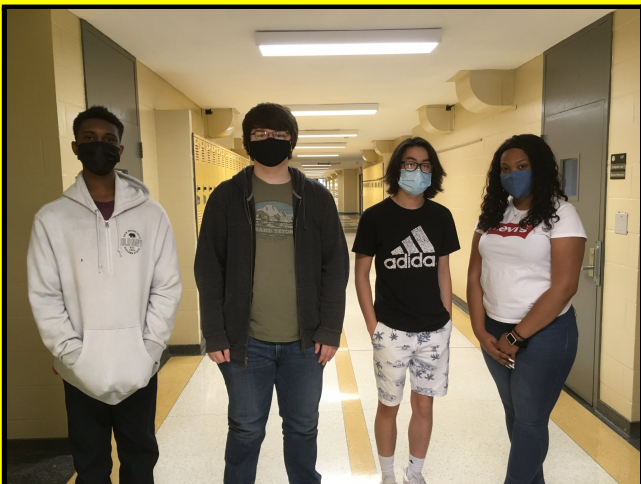
## Irmo Sweeps Economics Competition

Congratulations to our Irmo High School and IHS-FIVE students who participated in the state-wide Economics Challenge and swept the David Ricardo division.

First place: Jakeira Gillie, Tyonna Jones, Alexandria Mack and Daniella Williams (right)

Second place: Harrison Pham, Kody Scott, Jacob Sherer, and Alyssa Smith (below)

Third place: Andrew Smith, Remaliah Smith, Korinna Stroud, and Madeleine Thomas (below, right) The winning team progresses to the National Semi-Final Round.





## Miss Yellow Jacket

Congratulations to the winners of our Miss Yellow Jacket pageant! In addition to being named Miss Sophomore, Elisabeth Hall was also crowned Miss Humble Bee for doing the most community service.



Tyla Terry, Miss Yellow Jacket 2020, organized a food pick-up to fight food insecurity.