

THE STINGER

Irmo High School's Student Newspaper

January 2020/Issue #2

Reflections on School Improvement

by William Ostergaard

Recently, Chapin Elementary School's School Improvement Council (SIC) hosted an event where local politicians spoke about various "education" issues. Having attended the event, this reporter thought that he would share his observations.

The following politicians introduced themselves: State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, SC Senator Ronnie Cromer, and SC State Representatives Chip Huggins and Nathan Ballentine.

After introductions, the event moved into the Q&A phase, in which the politicians only answered their pre-screened questions. At times, it seemed as if some of the answers given did not exactly follow the original question. Some memorable quotations include the following: "Everyone [thinks of] Chapin as a kind of utopia" --- Representative Ballentine; and "Whatever we can do to help you folks out [I can do]" --- Senator Cromer.

Superintendent Spearman voiced her opinion on the SC-READY tests. She wants to replace them with yet more MAP tests that we routinely took in middle school. Also, she stated that the State School Report Card was poorly written. This reporter wonders if she has the power to change this for the better, and if she does, he respectfully requests that she correct the errors.

All in all, it was an educational opportunity to hear politicians talk about educational initiatives. We should welcome them into our wonderful school at their convenience, as well.

Future Business Leaders of America Members Do Good and Do Well

By Letish Thompson

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who "lent a hand" by providing gifts to Irmo High School students and their families through our Hands That Help holiday project. This holiday project would not have been a success without your generous support. Our project provided more than 250 gifts for our families. Members of FBLA appreciate all you have done to make the world a nicer place and the holidays merrier!



Amyra Elkins and Letish Thompson prepare gifts for Hands that Help

FBLA continued its tradition of excellence, with several members placing in regional competition and qualifying for state. Camille Ramirez, Meaghan Waddell, and Tamar Washington placed first in the Entrepreneurship team category. Garrett Priester placed first in Accounting I, with Letish Thomas and

D'Avion Deas placed second and third, respectively, in Personal Finance. They are gearing up for the state competition in March.

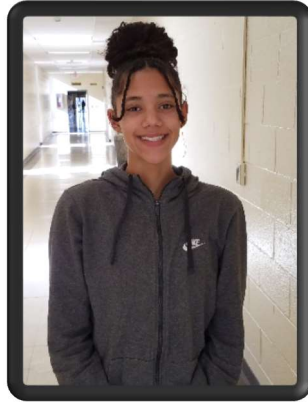


Kids in the Hall

We asked, "What are your resolutions or goals for 2020?"



Earn a 4.0 for my freshman year.
Tim Delarosa,
Freshman



Get better grades, work on my mindset and stay positive.
Sydney Bostic,
Sophomore



Stay focused on what I need to get done.
Justine Saidi, Junior



Choose a college and major and get my driver's license.
Tay Jones, Senior

Be S.M.A.R.T About Your Goals

An editorial by Angela McGregor

Each new year, millions of people around the world make New Year's resolutions. According to today.yougov.com, the most common resolutions made among adults in the United States are exercising more (50%), saving money (49%), eating more healthily (43%), losing weight (47%) reducing stress (35%), getting more sleep (30%) sticking to a budget (30%), focusing on spiritual growth (28%), traveling more (25%) and learning a new skill (25%). Based on the numbers, it's clear that many people make more than one resolution. Those of us who regularly attend church or a gym notice that both are packed at the beginning of the year and show a steady decline throughout the year until a new year comes along and the cycle repeats.



Why do people fail in their resolutions? Some experts believe that the resolutions are not specific enough. Setting S.M.A.R.T. goals may be an approach that leads to success. S.M.A.R.T. stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely. So instead of resolving to exercise more, one would set a goal of working out 5 days per week for at least an hour a day. Such a goal would meet all the elements of a S.M.A.R.T. goal. S.M.A.R.T. goals apply not only to resolutions, but also to goals you set in your everyday life. Think about that next time you want to accomplish something.

Or, you could be like my friend whose resolution every year is "to do better." Not S.M.A.R.T, perhaps, but smart.

The Couple that Teaches Together Reaches (Students) Together

Poor Poetry Aside, These Two are Awesome

by Marcalia Does and Sean Reilly

Mr. Sutton has been teaching for 10 years, half of which have been here at Irmo. He teaches Geography, U.S. History, and African American History.

Mr. Sutton started his career in the army. After that, he studied criminal justice, focusing on juvenile justice. But after feeling a little discouraged, he decided to work with kids to keep them from making poor decisions that could negatively impact their lives. He chose history as a subject to teach because it interested him.

He finds interacting with students the best thing about teaching and wants them to know they have a voice.

He says, "I think if I stepped away from teaching I would really miss it. Just the interaction that I get from kids, the energy I get from my kids-- I look forward to it daily." Getting students to read or understand a topic or assignment is the most difficult part of the job.

Outside of school, he likes to spend time with his family. He has two kids, a 6-year-old and a 2-year-old. His wife also works here at Irmo.



Mrs. Sutton is a special education teacher who is very passionate about her work and her students. Mrs. Sutton moved here from Florida, and has a master's degree in counseling.

When she and Mr. Sutton moved to the Columbia area, she went into an alternative certification program, which is a process by which a person is awarded a teaching license even though that person has not completed a traditional teacher certification program.

She began to teach special education here. Mrs. Sutton loves to work with her students and believes that teaching special education is something that is always an evolving thing. Her students come to her for support. She believes that you should never stop being a student of your students. You should always want to be a student and continue learning.

She is married to Irmo High history teacher, Mr. Sutton. She says that working with her husband is awesome. Mrs. Sutton thinks she might enjoy teaching other educators someday but loves working at Irmo with her students. Her advice to anyone wanting to be a teacher is to "remember your why."



Putting the Arts in Irmo High School International School for the Arts

by Destiney Brown-Sanders

Creativity. That is the heart and blood that pumps throughout the Irmo Theater Company. Entering into our state-of-the-art center, you hear the songs, see the dances, and watch the acting as students move around the stage in a sashay of planned and calculated movement. The ITC has been a part of Irmo life for many years, and the program seems to get better every year.

The first musical performance on our stage was in 2015. The play was *Shrek: The Musical*, and it swept everyone away. This year the comedic value of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, with the green-wearing, arrow-shooting, lovable buffoon-of-a-hero and his band of spoon-wielding marry men, handed out laughs as easy as pie during the first weekend of November 2019, as we opened and closed this classic play.

Now, with our spring musical *Sister Act* coming to our stage, Irmo Theatre Company prepares to tell a story about how a spunky singer with a “whole lotta voice” gets put in the witness protection with nuns, and turns the house out with a soulful sound. From “Take Me to Heaven” to “When I Find My Baby,” you will find that some things just need a little praise on it. So, come and join us as we raise our voices together for a standing ovation the last weekend in February as Deloris and the Nuns show up and show out for the time of their lives!

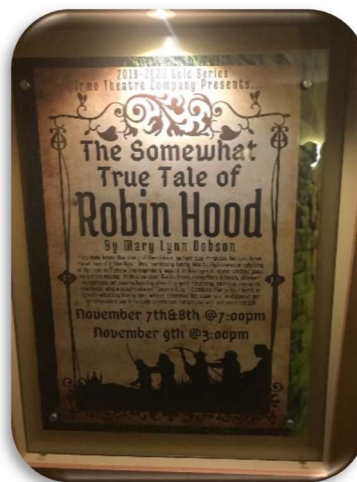
To get a feel for the love the ITC “Drama-Ohana” has, and to find a community at Irmo, look no further! Join us on Valentine’s Day, Friday, February 14th during Stinger Studies in Mrs. Mew’s room, 2006E, for a fun and relaxing time.



You can go online at www.irmocenterforthearts.org for more information on current shows, how to buy tickets, and how you can help us produce even better shows by becoming bronze, silver, or gold members.

by Angela McGregor

True, true. It's all true. The Center for the Arts (CFA) is a great facility. But what makes the productions truly outstanding are the students who design and build the sets, create and execute the choreography, transform into different roles, create beautiful music, do set-changes...you get the idea.



I do know that Ms. Chapman has developed some incredible dancers, and Ms. Mew has taken theater to a new level.

I was fortunate to see *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. It was so well-acted and so funny. My favorite part was JoAnn Ford's dramatic overacting. I laugh just thinking about it. But the whole thing was great.

And then I saw *Dancing Through the Decades*. Wow, do we have some dancers at this school!



If you haven't seen our theater and dance students perform, you're missing a real treat.

I hope to see you at the next show!

International Fair Hits Main Street

The World Language department delivered an international fair that was bigger and better than ever. Featuring information booths, authentic cuisine and attire, crafts, demonstrations and entertainment, the fair was attended by Irmo's world language students. Energy and excitement were palpable, as Main Street was transformed into a global gathering place.



The man behind the mask: Willie Abrams

JHS Bees and Tees Company

Need printed t-shirts or sweatshirts for your club?

Our Bees and Tees Company wants to work for you!

See Ms. Robinson or Mrs. Hampton for more details!



In Our Next Issue

- Breaking barriers: Irmo students defy tradition and stereotypes
 - Environmental research summary
 - Eagle Scouts among us
 - Teacher and Support Employee of the Year
 - Green Steps School Initiatives
-