



# The Stinger



Issue #1 - 2022-2023 The Student Voice of Irmo High School

## DR HAMPTON INTERVIEW

By: Steven Willis

I interviewed Dr. Hampton one-on-one to get to know our new principle and have an understanding of some of the new rules and changes to our school currently, and for the future. Dr. Kaaren Hampton is an Irmo High School Alumni who graduated from the University of Winthrop, Columbia College, and got her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

### What're you most excited about with the upcoming school year?

"I'm most excited about being able to prove to everyone how great of a school we are, and being able to turn a new page. We need to be able to show our real colors as a very successful school in all aspects. Graduation rate, attendance, etc."

### What was the reason for the lunch changes?

"It reduces the number of transitions and bells trying to limit distractions and interruptions in class. Also to give more time to relax, school is tiring and you need time to decompress and have time away from school work."

### What's the insight of on the upcoming construction being done?

"We're working through the process, it's always hard Trying to have best results for everyone & wanting to take our time for an amazing new atmosphere for generations to come. But it's going to be great."

### What are some things you would like to say to new and upcoming students?

"This place is an opportunity to interact with people, learn new things and find out who you are. Don't be afraid if it takes some getting used to, but this is a great environment to find yourself and amongst people around that respect and love you."



### What are your goals as principle for the next couple years?

"In 5 years I would like for us to be named Palmetto's Finest School and to be a better asset to our community. I also would want all students to be proud of our school and truly love being a Irmo student."

Another main goal is for the staff to be loving and care about their students and their future.

Most importantly to be proud of who we are and for everyone to want to be a part of and engaged in the classroom."

### What's your main focus this year?

"Attendance was pretty bad last year, we needed to bounce back from COVID and it was a very odd situation. So we need to make sure that we are ready and prepared for class on a daily having plans and goals to guide and instruct us. We have to also make sure we follow the rules. School pride and graduation rate is what matters most to me."

I'd like to give a big thank you to Dr. Hampton for meeting with me and chatting on certain topics in the school that we all were wondering about. It was nice being able to dig deep into topics that we don't really know about as students, and being able to get it right from the source. I can't wait to see what she has planned for the upcoming school year.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Sports**

**Editorials and Opinions**

**Entertainment**

**Spotlights**

**Potpourri**

**Just One More Thing**

# -Sports-

## GIRLS GOLF AND TENNIS

By: MacKenna Starling

### TENNIS

Irmo girls tennis also had a great first match of the season. They beat Sumter 6 to 0, beating them in all 5 of their singles matches and in their double match. All of the girls who played, played strong games, surpassing the other team, and hopefully, that will be the case for the rest of the season as well.



Several girls even were able to score a “bagel”, which is a tennis slang term meaning that the final scores for their sets were 6-0. The girls who were able to score a “bagel” or even “bagels” were Surya Swaminathan, Saanvi Cherukumalli, Rania El-Farissi, Baylie Batchelor, and Olivia Jackson. Like girl's golf, girl's tennis is looking forward to a favorable season, full of many wins still to come.



### GOLF

Irmo girls golf had an amazing first match of the season, beating Dutch Fork 227 to 251. All of the girls played very well in their first match and many played their best match yet. Emma Robinson, a junior at Irmo High School, shot a 48, the best score of the match overall. After talking to some of the girls on the Irmo golf team, I have nothing but high hopes for the season to come. The girls said that they are all dedicated and are practicing every day to ensure that they stay in top shape for the rest of the season to come. Though their match on August, 29th got rained out, they are looking forward to many more promising matches throughout their season. Hopefully securing them a spot at regionals, and maybe even state.



Photo Credits: School's Twitter Page

## FOOTBALL WORDS

By: Mr. Standridge

The Irmo High School Varsity Football season has felt, at times, like a tale of two halves. They were 4-1 at the beginning of the season, but struggled in region play to end the regular season with a 6-4 record. Many could see this trend and feel that the Irmo High team has underperformed, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Of the three region losses, two were by only one score including a dubious loss at Richland Northeast that had to be played on a Thursday due to Hurricane Ian.

The tale of two halves could also be used to show the resolve of the Irmo High team. They've regularly outscored and outplayed their opponents in the second half, owing to the coaching staff and the work of their defense. Removing the River Bluff game, the Irmo defense is holding their opponents to only 16.9 points per game.

After a win over North Myrtle Beach, the Yellow Jackets season ended with a road loss to James Island.

Lastly, a big shoutout to our Irmo Middle C-team for an undefeated 7-0 season and a 50-0 win over Fulmer!!



# -Editorial & Opinion-

## DRESS CODE WOES

By: Kady Channell

I am doing my article on different school dress codes and what I think is wrong and right about them. I'm just going to start off with our own school's dress code and what I think should be changed and what I think is good about it. I do understand why it is important to have a school dress code and why some of the dress code is the way it is. For example, I understand why students shouldn't be able to wear real short shorts or real short crop tops or not promote alcohol or drugs or anything like that, and that administration wants students to wear school appropriate clothing. I do think

that there should be a limitation on how short your tops or bottoms should be, but I also think some of the dress code is a little bit excessive and a lot of it is not needed and is too strict. I don't think it should be a problem for students to wear hats or hoods during school because I don't think it does any harm when students do wear hats to school. I would understand that administration wouldn't want students wearing any kind of masks over their face because you want to be able to identify a student instead of having them walk through the school with their face covered, but I don't think that wearing a hat or hood should or would cause any issues.

Another thing I think is that our dress code is more directed towards girls clothing and what girls choose to wear than boys. An example is with

## THE DRESS CODE

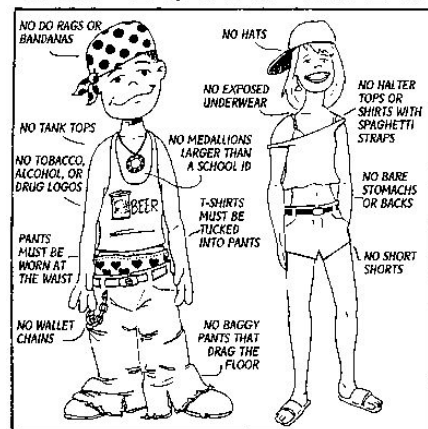


Photo Credits: Fontana Unified School District

the crop tops, spaghetti straps, short skirts/shorts. The only thing I think could involve guys' clothing is the no hats or hoods, and not allowing clothes to prompt alcohol and drugs. Other than that, I think all the other rules are directed towards girls.

Some schools require you to wear a uniform. I think the idea is good because there is no need for a dress code at all since everyone wears the same thing everyday and it is school appropriate. I also think that students want and should be allowed to wear what they want to school with limitations, but that shouldn't be as extreme as some of the dress codes that are placed in many public schools today.

If you ever want to have a chance to express your creative mind and brilliant ideas, I recommend taking the creative writing class! A class that gives you helpful tips to start on writing and a class that helps you through the process. Not to mention, the wonderful teacher Ms. Steiger is the one who teaches that class. We'll have an interview with her in issue #2!



## HOODIES: PRO AND CON

By: Kallen Paul

- Irmo High School, like many other schools, has a dress code. One of the articles of clothing that it prohibits its students from wearing is hoodies. They do this so students don't hide earbuds inside the hoods, and so the employees can identify the students who have done something wrong without their hoods getting in the way.
- I think it is a pretty reasonable rule to have from times when students hide earbuds in their hoodies all the time (including me) and teachers having trouble identifying the students if they see them in the hall or something. I think having students wear it during class when the teacher isn't in the middle of teaching them something so they won't hide earbuds in their hoods,



# -Editorial & Opinion 2-

## WHAT IS PROPER DRESS?

By: Haley Berube

We've all heard it before: "Your skirt is too short.", "Your clothes are too distracting.", and maybe even "Where's the rest of your top?"

Now, before accusing me of being an annoying raging feminist, hear me out. Most women have heard those popular phrases I've mentioned above, and I think we can all agree that extreme dress coding is absolutely discriminatory towards most girls in this school. Dress codes that are grounded in this logic that women are distractions amplify a much broader societal expectation: that women are the ones who need to protect themselves from unwanted attention and that those wearing what could be considered revealing clothing are "asking for" a response. Now, let's break this down. Because girls are constantly told to watch what they wear or that they're "asking for it", it causes them to think less of themselves, often to see themselves as just a body, since we are always being judged upon it. It's funny how some people think that I'm always dressing to impress, or even dressing for them. There's a culture being built up through some of these dress codes where girls are receiving very clear messages that male behavior and male entitlement to your body in public space is socially acceptable, but you will be punished for it.

Now read that last sentence and tell me how fair that seems to you. It's more about the messages behind the dress code. Not only for girls, but for people part of the Lgbtq+ community as well.

Schools are even trying to make it "fair" by adding two whole rules to the dress code for boys: No pants sagging and no inappropriate type of paraphernalia on any clothing. Now that right there just solved sexism in schools, bravo. Though there are other rules like, no skirts above the knees, shorts at fingertip length, no shirts too low cut, no shirts too short, and more. Note how all of those rules have one common denominator. You guessed it, they all involve feminine clothing. Yes, I very much understand school is a learning environment and is to be held without distractions. How about instead of teaching girls



that they are responsible for how their body is viewed by other people, we start teaching other people to not treat every woman they lay their eyes on as a distraction? Just a thought, xoxo.....

## CODE SWITCHING

By: Aliyah Washington

The school dress code has definitely got more strict since last year, we can't wear hats, crop tops, ripped jeans, durags, and more. The purpose of dress code is to create a better learning environment, and I can understand not allowing clothes that are way too revealing, but I genuinely don't understand how a crop top or ripped jeans is going to distract someone. If it does that's most definitely their problem. Dress code is not going to prevent boys from getting distracted by girls. Also most administrators focus more on girls with a more developed body it's way harder to get away with stuff for example if you have a dress on they'll say "its too tight" when on the other hand if a more skinny girl were to wear the same thing they'd be less likely to get called out. Our right to express ourselves is important, and the school ignores that mainly to protect boys. When you interrupt a female students school day to force her to change her clothes, or send her home because her clothes are too short, her shoulder or stomach is visible, you're telling her that making sure males have a "distraction free" learning environment is more important than her education. What people wear, male or female, does not dictate their intelligence or respect from others.

Disclaimer: *The Stinger* is published primarily for the enjoyment of the student body, faculty, and administration and to inform them. Views expressed by the editorials in *The Stinger* are the views of the writers. They are not necessarily the views of the student body, school, faculty, or administration. Only the staff, editors, and advisor review the articles and editorials of *The Stinger*.

# -Entertainment-

## THE GAMER CHAIR

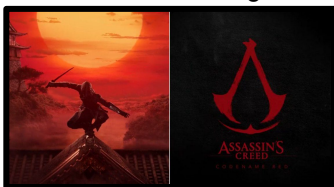
By: Harshad Jackson

As everyone's school week winds down we all yearn for being with our friends, the weekend or relaxation. Most of the time we go home and want to do something fun, so we hop on the games. However, there is one issue, we either don't know what to play, don't have much to play, or play the same games everyday. We eventually get bored of these games. I am here to tell you of some upcoming games that are to release or have released to spice up your weekend.

**(2+) Multi-Versus.** Multi-versus is a free to play game for all consoles filled with crossover characters from the Warner Bros. company such as Batman, Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny and LeBron James. It is a platform fighter game that has the competitive feeling while also being a family friendly game. The game has only just been released but is set to keep getting more and more content.



**(1) Assassins Creed: Codename Red & Assassin's Creed Hexe** Two of the latest installments said to be announced as of September 12th, 2022 of the assassin's creed series. This time this Codename Red is set in Feudal Japan and Hexe will be a horror themed assassin's creed game



**(2+) Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare II** - A very popular upcoming game that is very talked about. While writing this, I expected some to have heard about modern warfare II or just Call of Duty games in general, so there isn't much to say besides it being a first person shooter game; a successor to its previous installment



**(2+) Roller Champions** - a 3v3 competitive multiplayer game where you build your own personal character and jump into a world where you rollerblade with others and throw the ball through the hoop to score points. The games come with customization features and what they call lootball to further customize the in game character to your liking. Aside from character customization, the game features maps that feel as if you are physically there and everything has great graphics and attention to detail.

**(2+) Knockout City** - Knockout city is a team based multiplayer dodgeball game. You team up with other players, where you throw, catch, and pass in typical dodgeball fashion in various vibrant colored maps with an in-depth feeling to it. It is a take on the childhood game with easy to pick up controls and strategies. The focus of the game is to have better reflexes and better tactics to win more effectively.

**(1) Gotham Knights** - A single player game where you get to play as the bat-family outside of batman himself. Set in a time where The Batman is dead you take part of the bat family and take back Gotham

**(1) God Of War Ragnarok** - The newest installment of the game that won Game of The Year 2018, God of War. Following the previous events of the previous installment, kratos and an older atreus prepare for the upcoming events of Ragnarok

**(1) Marvel's Midnight Suns** - a single player RPG game published by 2K games under unreal engine featuring characters such as: Wolverine, Iron Man, Doctor Strange and Ghost Rider. You build your own character and increase your power to defeat the main enemy



## Coming Soon

Hogwarts Legacy  
Wolverine  
Forspoken  
Destiny 2: Lightfall  
Resident Evil 4: Remake  
Final Fantasy 7 Rebirth & 16  
Suicide Squad: Kill the Justice League  
Call of Duty: Warzone Mobile  
Street Fighter 6  
Black Myth: Wukong

# -Spotlights-

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Jordan Buckson

We're Back! The second semester for Irmo High School has officially started. While this school year has already gone off in a great start, the class of 2023 has already been coming into the spotlight. Being the winners of the spirit staff from fall's pep rally, these seniors are showing off their Jacket pride and want the whole school to know it. I met up with Alexis Suddeth, one of our amazing seniors here at Irmo high school earlier this week for a quick interview.

**What was your fave time/event that happened over the 4 years you've attend irmo high school?**

*"I think my favorite event that has happened over my 4 years that I have been at Irmo High is my entire 9th grade year. There were so many memories like Pep Rallies, Homecoming, Football games, and just other stuff that happened that happened in that time period that were my favorite."*

I had the opportunity to sit down with one of our freshman athletes, Corey Boyd who has a big dream. Here is what I learned:

**How has it been for you at school?**

It's been good, I have just been focused on good grades so I can stay on the football team and achieve my dreams and bigger goals."

**How do you feel about becoming a freshman this year?**

"I feel as though this year is going to be good, I will make sure to stay focused on everything I need to."

**How do you feel about your teachers?**

"My teachers are nice and supportive, they help when a student doesn't understand something fully in class."

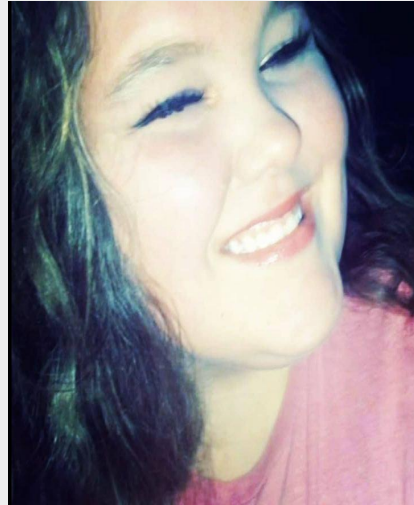


Photo Credit: instagram

**Is there any advice you would give to rising freshman(class of 2027)?**

*"I would tell the Class of 2027 to watch out for what's coming and good luck. These 4 years of high school will be fun but hard at the same time because you are going to have teachers who give you so much work and you are going to have teachers that you won't like but you have to deal with it. With these years in high school, you are also going to have to think about what college you want to attend to if you want to go to college. Also, you will be having colleges looking after you too."*

## FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT

By: PJ Brown

**What's the hardest thing about being a student and playing sports?**

"Maintaining good grades, getting enough sleep, and waking up early sometimes to be on time to practice so I can improve."

**What is your dream after school?**

"To go to the NFL after I finish school."

**How long have you been on the football team and what is your position?**

"I have been on the football team since the 7th grade. I play safety."



Photo Credit:

**What's the bigger goals?**

"To provide for my family and make sure they don't have to worry about anything as I'm getting older."

**Who or what is your biggest influence in your life so far?**

"It's both of my parents, but I feel as though my mom is bigger because she wants to see me achieve everything I want more than even I do. She makes sure I get enough sleep, eat, makes sure I get to practice on time, and to school on time. My dad is also my number one supporter. Knowing I would be able to ask my dad to help me with my skills anytime he can is always helpful to me. My dad also pushes me to workout outside of school so I can get better faster."

**What mindset do you have now or do you still need to work on yourself a little more?**

"I have the mindset of just focus and determination to get better and grind harder. I think I could still improve more, but for now I feel as though this is ok."



# -Potpourri-

## THE CINEMA SEAT

By: The Stinger Staff

We have all asked ourselves the same question every weekend: "What new shows are streaming?" I've put together a list of new shows and movies so you no longer have to wonder. This list contains entertainment that has recently been released or will be coming soon. Check the release dates and never again wonder about your weekend plans.

### TV:

Poker Face on Peacock

January 26, 2023

You: Season 4 on Netflix

February 9, 2023

The Mandalorian on Disney+

March 1, 2023

Loki Season 2 on Disney+

Summer 2023

## POEM #3

By: Alex Sumpter

#3

my grandpa always told me to drink milk as a kid  
because i needed my calcium and i needed to have good  
bones to be a *big, strong girl*.

even though i never liked the taste of milk,  
i still plugged my little nose and drank and drank my  
cups of milk beside my plate of sausage and toast  
on a sunday morning  
because i needed my calcium and i needed to be  
a *big, strong girl*.

when i got older and came into puberty, the milk  
got rancid and i wouldn't drink it anymore. i laid in my  
bed with a soda in hand and i cried all day long and i  
didn't drink my milk. my bones withered and though i  
wanted to drink my milk  
because i was supposed to be a *big, strong girl*,  
the bed was so inviting. (the mattress was hard. my back  
aches from laying on the indent of my body.)

maybe the milk wasn't so rancid and it was just me  
and i just couldn't feel like a *big, strong girl*  
so i tried to convince myself it was the milk that was bad  
and not my taste buds (or my mind).  
but i think that it's too late to drink my milk like i should  
to be a *big, strong girl*  
because my bones are hollowed out and my taste buds  
can't even bear the taste anymore  
and the milk was rancid in my mind, so now it will be so  
forever.

### Movies:

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania February 17, 2023

Creed III March 3, 2023

Scream VI March 10, 2023

John Wick: Chapter 4 March 24, 2023

The Super Mario Bros. Movie April 7, 2023

Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3 May 5, 2023

Spiderman: Across the Spider-Verse June 2, 2023

## HOLIDAY ANXIETY

By: The MacKenna Starling

Imagine a snow globe sitting still on a mantel above the fireplace, peaceful and a picture of serenity. Then imagine your snot-faced little sibling reaching with their grubby little fingers towards the globe, gripping it with such force that it leaves their fingerprints on the glass. They then begin shaking it, disrupting the peace sending glittery snow flying throughout the once peaceful village scene. After a few minutes of this they finally tire, finding something else to occupy their short attention span, allowing the snow flurries to settle and the snow globe to return to its original peaceful state. This is until the next time someone grabs the snow globe and shatters the harmony. This imagery directly describes how the holiday season feels, alternating between moments of tranquility and chaos.

Holiday stress is seen throughout all generations, from grandparents to teenagers and it is constantly portrayed in the media. For teenagers this stress is brought on due to upcoming midterms, for parents it's trying to shop for kids while staying on budget, and for grandparents it's trying to arrange a time that works for the whole family, a nearly impossible feat. As for Christmas movies, it's nearly constantly shown, everything going wrong right up until the climax where in a shocking triumph the family's Christmas is saved and everything turns out perfect. But life isn't quite like a Christmas movie, so unsurprisingly sometimes there just isn't that beautiful turning point where everything goes to plan, sometimes the holidays just go wrong. In a way it feels like the holiday season is the most wished for season of the year until it actually arrives, along with the crippling stress and constant worry. But sometimes it helps just to take a breather, forget about the millions of things you need to do, and actually enjoy the holiday season as it was meant to be enjoyed. Watch a movie, drink hot coco, and sleep because shorter days makes everyone more tired. It's important to take a minute before another sticky hand kid shakes the snow globe, and disrupts the serenity, and just remember come August when everyone is dying of a heatstroke you'll be missing the snow globe, the calm and the chaotic.

# -Just One More Thing-

## OLIVIA'S LISTS

By: Olivia Long

Do you want to get out of your ruts? Are you tired of watching the same shows and eating the same foods? If you said yes, try living life like me. Try out some of my favorite foods, watch my favorite shows, and listen to my favorite music. You might just find something new to enjoy or revisit an old favorite you forgot about.

Looking for a show? Try these:

- Chicago Med
- Chicago Fire
- Chicago PD
- Spongebob Squarepants

Looking for a movie? Try these:

- Freaky Friday
- Moana
- Hocus Pocus
- The Breakfast Club
- Stick It
- High School Musical
- High School Musical 2
- Pitch Perfect
- The Blind Side

Looking for music artists? Try these:

- One Direction
- Harry Styles
- Empire

Looking for a book? Try these:

- Being a Teen
- The Magic Tree House series

Looking for cuisine? Try these:

- Chicken sandwich
- Chicken alfredo
- Shrimp alfredo
- Chicken and rice

## STUDENT ARTIST

Artist: Kailen Gross; 10th grade



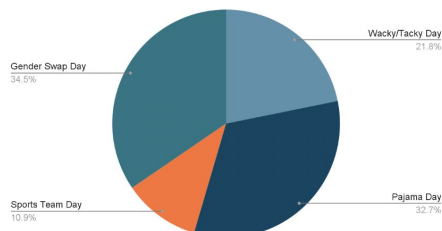
## ADDITIONAL SPIRIT WEEK IDEAS

By: The Newspaper Staff

Our staff collaborated and compiled a list of additional spirit week ideas worth considering. Take a look!

- Holiday Day
- Old People Day ( 100 Day )
- Cartoon Day (Spongebob Day)
- Do it for the Vine Day/ Meme Day
- Anything but a Bookbag Day
- Famous People Day
- West Coast vs Wild West Day
- Festival Day
- Ice Cream Day
- Adam Sandler Day
- Disney Day
- Half Fancy Day

Spirit Week Selection



## STINGER STAFF

### Writers

- Francis Amodio
- Anaria Turner
- Haley Berube
- Persanta Brown
- Harshad Jackson
- Jordan Buckson
- Olivia Long
- Kallen Paul
- Mackenna Starling
- Aliyah Washington
- Steven Willis

### Executive Writers and Editors

- Anaria Turner
- Steven Willis

### Faculty Advisor:

Mr. Cory Standridge

### Contact Info:

cstandridge@lexrich5.org

## CURTAIN CALL

Spring 2023 Show

### Spring Musical

*The Addams Family (School Edition)*  
Dates: March 23-25

**IRM**  
**THEATRE**  
**COMPANY**