

STUDENT REPORTERS
FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

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THINKING
ABOUT THE
FUTURE

by Annabelle Her, grade 8

Thinking about the future is scary. For many we can barely deal with what's happening right now, we can't even imagine planning out our future. Well, it's actually very normal for middle and high school students to feel this way. Even adults feel this way, but why?

The future hasn't happened yet, so we can't know what may happen. We might worry about how our choices will affect our future. We might even worry if the future is set in stone already and everything *will* be bad. Planning out what you are going to do in the future is scary. What if this choice will stop you from becoming incredible? What if this one choice makes you stress out and fail? The most terrifying thing is that we don't know. We can never know until it happens.

Some people are afraid to take that leap of faith. Maybe taking an AP class in high school will be hard. Maybe it's too much work. This is true, but it's also focusing on the negatives. Of course, it's good to think of the cons, but what about the pros? Maybe if we focused as much on the good things that could happen as much as we focused on the bad, then we could decide what would be best for us.

Taking an AP class gives you college credit. That's important if you want to go to college. AP classes have a harder workload. That's important to know if you have a lot of after-school activities. Not one thing can be good for everybody. Not one thing is all good or all bad. What matters is what is important for you.

You don't have to do everything right now. Your ideas may change in the future, but that's okay. You have time to change and think. Maybe you are thinking of the future and don't know what you'll do, but that's why it's the future. It is unknowable but that means you can change it.

FAQ'S FOR ROYALTY

by Lily Murphy, grade 8

Does becoming Inver Grove Heights royalty sound like a fun thing to do? Do you want to be the next Miss/Mister royalty? Below is a QR code to check it out!



You can also use this link to learn more: (<https://www.missigh.com/>).

Time for some Frequently Asked Questions (best known as FAQ's):

How do you join the program? You can apply using the links below:

- 2025 Miss/Mister Inver Grove Heights Application: [2024 IGH Scholarship Program Candidate Application Pack - Miss/Mr. Application.docx](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h4zdjE2aQWXgYXussj7r_BlxCaZP6EVG/view?usp=sharing) (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h4zdjE2aQWXgYXussj7r_BlxCaZP6EVG/view?usp=sharing).
- 2025 Junior Miss/Mister Inver Grove Heights Application: [2024 IGH Scholarship Program Candidate Application Pack - Junior Miss/Mr. Application.docx](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yH6H970PvHcgLOcSNd8kimUlg00Veilh/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100477396785663456026&rtpof=true&sd=true) (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yH6H970PvHcgLOcSNd8kimUlg00Veilh/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100477396785663456026&rtpof=true&sd=true>).
- 2025 Little Miss/Mister Inver Grove Heights Application: [2024 IGH Scholarship Program Candidate Application Pack - Little Miss/Mr. Application.docx](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OIFjrJvB3QgaS7tP6k3zPC5sDMAhHxl7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100477396785663456026&rtpof=true&sd=true) (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OIFjrJvB3QgaS7tP6k3zPC5sDMAhHxl7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100477396785663456026&rtpof=true&sd=true>).

How old do you need to be? There are three different categories: to be a Little Miss/Mr: Going into 4th-6th grade. To be a Junior Miss/Mr: Going into 7th-10th grade. To be a Miss/Mr: Going into 11th grade-19 years old (candidates may turn 20 years old during their reign but are not eligible if they turn 21).

Do you need to live in Inver Grove Heights to run? Every candidate must either live, work, or be enrolled in an accredited educational institution in Inver Grove Heights; you have to be a United States citizen. A Junior or Little candidate whose legal guardian is employed by an Inver Grove Heights business/organization is also eligible.

Is this a pageant? No, it is not a pageant. Physical characteristics will not be a factor in selecting royalty. These are the things the judges consider instead: Poise, Communication Skills, Intelligence, Good Manners, Grooming, Warmth, Friendliness, Sense of Humor, Ability to relate well to people of all ages, and Leadership skills.



When is the deadline to apply? Applications are due no later than June 26th, which is the day of orientation.

Is there a place I can go to learn more about it? Yes! On Thursday, May 16th & Thursday June 6th at the Inver Glen Library are the Information Sessions.

What if I want to turn in the application prior to the deadline? The application can be mailed to: P.O. Box 2141, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076. Or emailed to: ighspcandidates@gmail.com. There is a cost to apply. The application fee is \$40 and that covers: Candidate Shirt, Candidate Event Attendance, Candidate Kickoff Dinner (meal cost), Etc.

COMIC BITS

by Emma Brainerd, grade 7



ECLIPSE

by Jessie Briones Herrera, grade 8



STUDENTS
FOR
CHANGE

Students for Change (SFC) is a student led activism group at Inver Grove Heights Middle School. SFC strives to improve school climate by promoting Spartan Spirit. SFC members spend the year identifying and working to solve school problems like student mental health and safety. Please follow along @ighms_sfc on Instagram!



AN ARTIST
WHO HAS
IMPACTED
THE
WORLD

by Arvin Anderson, grade 6



Rihanna is a Grammy Award winning singer. She was born in Barbados. Her Dad was also from Barbados, and her mother was from Guyana. Rihanna is a very influential artist. She has 14 No. 1 hits and 9 Grammy Awards. She also made her mark as a Makeup Mogul, Entrepreneur, and Humanitarian. When she was only 18 she created the Believe Foundation to help severely ill children.

THE STORY OF OJ SIMPSON

by Isla Feldman, grade 8

Recently, on April 10th, 2024, OJ Simpson died. You may have heard his name before. If you haven't, this article is about what happened with OJ Simpson and how his famous name was ruined in one day.

OJ was one of the best football players. He was a number one draft pick for the Buffalo Bills in 1969. He had one of the largest contracts in NFL history, 4.1 million dollars for 5 years. At the end of his career, Simpson gained 11,236 rushing yards, placing him 2nd on the NFL's all-time rushing list. At the end of his football career, he transitioned into acting and broadcasting.

Simpson got married to Marguerite L. Whitley in 1967. Together, they had three children. One of his sons died when he was two from drowning in the family's swimming pool. In 1977 OJ Simpson met Nicole Brown at a nightclub and started dating her even though he was still married to his wife. Two years later, in 1979, OJ and Marguerite got a divorce. In 1985 Simpson and Nicole got married. The couple had two children. Brown's and Simpson's marriage was very rocky; they had the police visit them eight times for domestic violence calls and the police did nothing to help Nicole in these dangerous situations. On December 31st, 1989 Nicole called the police saying that she thought OJ was going to kill her. She was later found by the police beaten half to death. Simpson was taken to court and pleaded no contest to spousal abuse. Brown filed for divorce on February 25, 1992, after finding out about an alleged year-long affair Simpson had had with model Tawny Kitaen. Reports suggest that in 1993, after the divorce, Brown and Simpson attempted reconciliation. In October, Brown called the police to report Simpson being violent again after he allegedly found a photo of a man Brown had dated while they were broken up. They split again. In total, prosecutors for Simpson's murder trial found 62 incidents of abusive behavior by Simpson towards Brown.

Shortly after midnight, on June

13, 1994, Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman were found stabbed to death in the courtyard outside Nicole's Condo. Police determined the murders had taken place on the night of the 12th. Goldman had been there to return to Brown a pair of glasses that her mother had lost earlier that day. The knife used was never found. Simpson was an immediate person of interest in their murders, and there was never any other suspect found. He maintained that on the 12th, he had been at home, waiting for a limousine to take him to an airport for a flight to Chicago. After police gathered all the evidence, charges were filed and a warrant was signed for Simpson's arrest. Simpson, in agreement with his attorneys, was scheduled to turn himself in at approximately 11:00 a.m. to the Parker Center police headquarters on the morning of June 17. Simpson failed to turn himself in, and he later became the subject of a low-speed pursuit. Simpson was armed in the back of the vehicle which caused the responding California Highway Patrol officers to pursue with extreme caution. The chase was shown on "nearly every live television station." Stations interrupted coverage of the 1994 NBA Finals to broadcast the incident live. In the end, he was caught and arrested. The trial lasted from January 24, 1995, to October 3, 1995. Simpson was found not guilty. The trial was a spectacle that was covered extensively by the media and watched by millions of people around the world. There are tons more facts about this trial that I did not cover. For example, Simpson put on the gloves that were found at the scene of the crime during the trial to see if they would fit, and then he put a whole act on to show that they did not fit.

The real question is did he kill Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman? Was the trial wrong? Did the jury find him not guilty because he was famous? We will never know.

ORIGAMI

by Cassie Phelps, grade 8



APRIL THOUGHTS

by Chloe Willhite, grade 6

Get ready for April Fools Day on April 1st. Be careful with tricks! Be careful with jokes! It's the craziest day of the year, if you celebrate it!



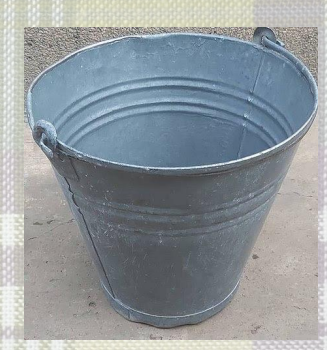
Did you know that National penny day is also celebrated on April 1st?!

April 6th is National Walk to Work Day!

April 27th is National Gummy Bear Day!



April 24th is National Bucket List day! Make a bucket list, then spend the day trying to cross off an item from your list!



If you have story ideas for the Spartan Newsflash staff, feel free to email Ms. Maloney with your ideas! maloneyj@isd199.org.