



IROQUOIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

October 2026 Newsletter



From The Principal

Dear Iroquois Families:

We are so excited to welcome you and your children back for the 2026-27 school year! It is a great honor to serve as the principal of Iroquois School and to work with your children every day. I also want to extend a warm welcome to those of you who are new to Iroquois. We are excited to get to know you and your children and to build the kinds of relationships that we know are so important in supporting student learning and achievement. I thank you for your commitment to your children and for sending them to us so well prepared to continue their journey as life-long learners.



I would especially like to welcome our newest members of Iroquois—our incoming fourth grade students. Fourth grade is a transition year for our children. Change can sometimes be challenging, but change can also be rewarding and energizing as we help children grow and embrace new milestones.

Indeed, in order to support students in making a smooth transition from one grade to the next, faculty members worked diligently over the summer. Their work included planning and staff development, as well as curriculum writing and alignment. Our School Based Planning/Shared Decision-Making Team met to review our student performance data and to set goals for the 2026-27 school year as well as the action steps we will use to achieve those goals. We continue to focus on ensuring that all students have access to high levels of learning, engagement, and rigor and that all students feel welcomed, nurtured, and inspired here at Iroquois School.

Just a few of our goals this year include efforts to increase students' rates of proficiency in Math, Science, and Reading; increased sense of belonging among students as measured by our spring social-emotional competency survey; and improved rates of daily attendance.

Our ultimate goal, however, is to meet the particular needs of each individual child, challenging our students to set their own goals for achievement and work hard to achieve those outcomes. Every staff member is charged with this over-arching target and each of us works to identify and implement specific instructional strategies that will help us get there. We believe that each child belongs to all of us—and, as such, we will work to ensure that we meet the needs of each and every student.

In closing, thank you, again, for all your continued support as we build lasting relationships to support student learning and achievement here at Iroquois.

Sincerely,
Christian Zwahlen

Contact Information

Principal: Mr. Christian Zwahlen |
christian_zwahlen@westiron.monroe.edu

Secretary: Ms. Susan Glastonbury |
susan_glastonbury@westiron.monroe.edu

Main office: 585-336-0804

Fax: 585-336-3042

Website: <https://irq.westirondequoit.org/>

Health Office: 585-336-3091

Nurse: 585-336-0816

Attendance: rachelle_soliman@westiron.monroe.edu / 585-336-3091

Transportation: 585-336-2992 | [Transportation website](#)

District Office: 585-342-5500 | **District website:** westirondequoit.org



FOLLOW IROQUOIS ON INSTAGRAM

[@wi_iroquois_ms](#)

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Oct 1: Parent-Guardian Curriculum Night
- Oct. 3: Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer Nature Center
- Oct 7: School Picture Day
- Oct 8: Go Home Early Drill - 2:15 pm
- Oct 9: **NO SCHOOL** - Superintendent's Conference Day
- Oct 12: **NO SCHOOL** - Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Oct 29 & 30: Halloween Obstacle Course

NOVEMBER

- Nov 5: Collaborative Coffee Hour with PTSA and Principal - Iroquois - 8:15 am
- Nov 6 - **NO SCHOOL** - Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- Nov 10 - School Picture Make-Up Day
- Nov 11: **NO SCHOOL** - Veterans Day
- Nov 25 - Nov 27: **NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- Dec 1-Dec 4: PTSA Book Fair
 - Dec 3: Book Fair Family Event - Iroquois - 6:00 to 8:00 pm
 - Dec 9: Concert - 5/6 Orchestra and 5/6 Chorus - IHS - 7:00pm
 - Dec 15: Concert - 5 and 6 Grade Band - IHS - 7:00 pm
 - Dec 23 - Jan 1: **NO SCHOOL** - Holiday Recess
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CLICK THIS GRAPHIC
AND SCROLL DOWN
TO SEE THIS
MONTH'S MENU



Go Home Early Drill is Oct. 8



The state-mandated Go Home Early safety drill is Thursday, Oct. 8 - the start of a four-day weekend. All students will be released 10 minutes earlier than usual. If you pick up your children at school, please arrive 10 minutes early. Expect students who ride buses to arrive 10 minutes early. The K-6 Extension Childcare Program will open early and remain open until 6 PM. Crossing guard schedules also will accommodate.

Note: There is also no school on Friday, Oct. 9 (Superintendent's Conference Day) and Monday, Oct. 12th (Indigenous People's Day). For the District or Letter Day Calendar, [**click here.**](#)

Family Needs Assessment Survey

Dear Iroquois Families,

My name is **Jomar Canales**, and I am honored to serve as the **Community School Site Coordinator** for Iroquois Middle School as we embark on our first year as a Community School. This initiative is centered on bringing together the strengths, resources, and voices of students, families, school staff, and community partners to support the success and well-being of every child. As we begin this important journey, my primary goal is to listen, build meaningful relationships, and establish a strong foundation of trust and collaboration between our school, our families, and the broader community. Together, we hope to develop a welcoming environment where students and families can access opportunities, resources, and support that help them thrive.



A key part of this work starts with hearing directly from you. We invite all parents and guardians to participate in our **Family Needs Assessment Survey** (see blue button below). This survey has been designed to help us better understand the needs, interests, experiences, and priorities of families within our school community. Topics include family activities and interests, childcare needs, school communication, academic support, family engagement opportunities, mental health and wellness resources, technology access, and connections to community services.

Your voice matters. The feedback you provide will play a critical role in shaping future programs, services, workshops, events, and resources offered through our Community School initiative. By sharing your experiences and perspectives, you help ensure that our efforts reflect the real needs of our students and families.

Every response is valuable. Whether you are sharing strengths, challenges, concerns, or ideas for improvement, your input will help guide our work as we strive to create meaningful opportunities and support for all members of our school community. The more families who participate, the better we can understand how to serve and support our students both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for your partnership, trust, and commitment to the success of our students. We look forward to learning from your feedback and working together to build a stronger, more connected school community.

Sincerely,

Jomar Canales

Community School Site Coordinator
Iroquois Middle School

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Curriculum & Instruction



Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in K-6 Classrooms

Constitution Day is celebrated on Sept. 17 because it commemorates the day in 1787 when 39 delegates signed the United States Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Officially known as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, the observance not only marks the signing of the Constitution but also recognizes all Americans who have become citizens, either by birth or naturalization.

Here in West Irondequoit, observed the day through educational experiences that promoted civic knowledge. Across the district, in grades 4-12, students engaged in a range of experiences designed to develop understanding of essential principles, such as the rule of law, civic responsibilities, individual freedoms, and the value of diversity in a democratic society.

While Constitution Day and Citizenship Day serve as important reminders to celebrate these values, civic learning is not a one-day event in our district. Across our K-12 Humanities program, students regularly examine their roles and responsibilities within their school, community, and the broader society, helping students develop all they need to contribute thoughtfully and responsibly to civic life.

Fall Harvest Festival this Saturday!



The annual Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer Nature Center is Saturday, Oct. 3 from 1-4 p.m. Come enjoy the fall season at Helmer! Admission prices are:

- \$20 pass includes access to EVERYTHING – all games, crafts, prizes and of course, one PONY RIDE
- \$15 activity pass is good for all games, crafts and prizes.
- \$2 Adult Walkaround pass – enjoy music and demos!

Note: Additional pony rides are \$10 each. The Frios Gourmet Pops truck will be on-site. Festival games/activities include:

- Fall Crafts
- Pony Rides
- Live Music by Allen Hopkins
- Cider-Making
- Tractor Rides
- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Gaga Ball
- PRIZE BAG for the Kids

Safety Update on Motorized Vehicles

We want to remind families of important safety expectations regarding vehicles on school property. All motor vehicles must be licensed and registered and operated only on designated roadways and parking areas. Driving on pedestrian pathways poses serious safety risks and is strictly prohibited.

We've seen an increase in golf cart traffic at some schools. By law, golf carts must be licensed, driven by licensed drivers and follow all traffic laws. They should not be on sidewalks or near building entrances. Students who ride e-bikes to school must walk them once on campus. The speed and motorized function of e-bikes can endanger both riders and pedestrians. E-bikes should be parked in designated bike areas and not used on walkways.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all. If you have questions, please contact your school's main office or the district office.

Health Information Update



Physical Exam Reminder: As a reminder, New York State requires students to have a current physical examination on file with the school for grades UPK, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 11th, dated on or after 9/8/2025. Families are encouraged to ensure that their child's physical has been completed and that the required documentation has been submitted to the school health office. If your child has recently had a physical with their healthcare provider, please provide the school with a copy of the examination form. Thank you for helping us maintain accurate health records and support the health and well-being of all our students. Questions? Find names and numbers to nurse **[via this link](#)**.

Extra Clothing Donations Sought: We are asking families to consider donating gently used, clean clothing to our school for students who may need a change of clothes during the school day. Accidents, spills, and unexpected situations can happen, and having a supply of clothing available helps ensure that students can remain comfortable and ready to learn. We are especially looking for items such as pants, shirts, socks, and underwear in a variety of sizes. Donations can be sent to the Iroquois health office. Thank you for helping us support all of our students!

PASSN Schedule 2026-27

West Irondequoit Central
PTSA
everychild. one voice.®

**PARENT ADVOCATES
FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

For all West Irondequoit Parents,
Guardians and Caregivers of students
with special needs ...

PASSN MEETINGS



See meeting dates via link in the post



6:30 - 7:30 P.M.



**Irondequoit Public Library
2nd floor - Room 114**

Note: Childcare available during meetings

A sub-committee of the PTSA, PASSN receives supports through West Irondequoit CSD Student Services. For more information or if you have questions, email Hailey Austin at haileyzcomet93@gmail.com.

On behalf of the WICPTSA and PASSN, please read below to learn more about the Parent Advocates for Student Services Network and see its monthly meeting schedule. PASSN is comprised of district parent/guardian advocates of students who receive support through West Irondequoit Student Services. Meetings are a safe space for families.

Oct. 19 - Workshop with district Speech Pathologist and Caseworker, Maureen Keller.

Nov. 9 - Workshop with district Occupational Therapist, Andy Casini.

December (no meeting)

Jan. 11 – Trauma Informed Workshop with district counselors and psychologists.

Feb. 8 – Workshop on Bullying with Phil Ortolani, district Director of Health and Wellness.

March 8 - CSE Workshop with Directors of Student Services, Joanna Rowe and Amy Donk.

April 12 – Mindfulness Workshop with E-RYT 200 & RCYT, Lisa Chidsey.

May 10 – Booth Night with community resources to support your children and family

June 14 – POTENTIAL MEETING - School year recap, summer service plans & how will we stay structured this summer?

Please email haileyzcomet93@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

ICC supports students

Irondequoit Community Cupboard



Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Questions program or process? Email or call Sarah Herbert
at sarah_herbert@westiron.monroe.edu / (585) 336-3063.

Update Your Info in the Parent Portal

Do you:

-

Be sure to keep your child's school informed of any changes to your phone numbers or emergency contact information. Update info directly on the Parent Portal or send in a note with your child. Thank you!



Free clinic on Oct. 8

IHS Girls Basketball will host a FREE Open Gym/Skills Clinic for girls in grades 3-8 from 6-7:15 p.m. and in Grades 7-8 from 7:15-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Denny Fries Gymnasium at IHS. Sign up using this link: forms.gle/iq1nuNSvpUqpVngU8. Please share this with anyone who may want to attend.

Email greg_geesler@westiron.monroe.edu with any questions. We need parent/guardian volunteers to help coach at the 3-4 , 5-6 and 7-8 grade levels.



JOBS! JOIN OUR TEAM

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

CLICK ANYWHERE ON
THIS GRAPHIC TO SEE
CURRENT OPENINGS



**MUST JOIN TO GAIN
CALENDAR ACCESS**

W I CPTSA

Every child. One voice.

EASY TO JOIN! Go to wicptsa.org/membership/



Or scan this QR code with a smartphone camera

You'll be redirected to sign up online



*Joining doesn't mean you must volunteer. It just
shows you support the great things PTSA and
West Irondequoit schools!*

<https://wicsd.tech/>



DID YOU KNOW?

WICSD has a Tech Support Knowledge Base for parents & students? Check it out for tips and FAQs!

WICSD Technology Services

