From the Superintendent Nov. 24, 2026

Hello families:

One of the best parts of my job is seeing the many ways our students contribute to their schools and the larger Irondequoit community. Over the past few weeks, we've had some terrific examples. Our IHS DECA students helped with the annual Fall Cleanup at Sunset House, the Rogers Building Club has put students' ideas into action, and the Colebrook Snack Cart gives students opportunities to develop important skills while serving others. Our IHS volleyball teams raised nearly $4,000 for the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester through their PinkOut matches, bringing their fundraising total to nearly $25,000 since 2021. At Helmer Nature Center, students also found a creative way to support Operation Shoebox through their Smash-O-Lantern activities. These are meaningful experiences that remind us that learning extends well beyond the classroom.

Last week, we recognized School-Related Professionals Day, and I want to take a moment to recognize the people who do so much for our students and families. Our school-related professionals are an essential part of the West Irondequoit experience. Whether helping a student through a difficult morning, keeping our buildings welcoming and running smoothly, preparing meals, supporting instruction, driving our buses or helping families navigate a question, their contributions matter. They bring care, commitment, and a personal connection to their work every day. I am grateful for all they do and for the difference they make throughout our district.

We also had a great deal to celebrate on the facilities front this week. The new dugouts for our main campus turf athletic complex were delivered, another exciting milestone in the project. Our Board of Education toured the new UPK classrooms at Pinegrove, and the new grass JV baseball field at Iroquois is looking great. See pictures in this update!It is rewarding to see these investments becoming a reality and to think about the opportunities they will create for our students and community. As we head into Thanksgiving, I hope everyone enjoys time with family and friends, good food, and a chance to appreciate all that makes our community a special place to call home. Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In partnership,
Aaron R. Johnson, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

West Irondequoit Performing Arts



Elf Jr. - the musical starts Dec. 4!

Tickets are on sale for the Dake Jr. HS production of Elf Jr. Based on the holiday favorite movie "Elf," follow Buddy the Elf as he travels from the North Pole to New York city to find his father. Tickets available online at **westironpa.ludus.com**.

Also listed above is the December music calendar. Seven nights of sparkling music by our students, as directed by our talented teachers. The price is right, too - FREE for your entire family.

School Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The safety of our students, staff, and visitors depends on our entire school and community working together. While our District has comprehensive safety procedures, security technology, and trained personnel in place, one of the most important measures we can take is also one of the simplest: Ensure exterior doors remain secure at all times.

This didn't happen last Saturday morning, Nov. 21 at IHS.

An individual in the middle of a medical crisis briefly gained unauthorized access to the building after a student propped open a door. We are grateful that someone in the building called 911 and our Security team and Irondequoit Police immediately responded. Thankfully, no one was threatened or injured. However, this is a good reminder that we all play an important role in our school community's safety and security. Please consider a conversation with your child about this. We are sending a similar communication about this to all staff.

All exterior doors are expected to remain closed, locked, and free from obstruction unless they are actively being monitored for a specific event or operational need. Propping open exterior doors, even for a short time or with good intentions, creates a vulnerability that compromises the secure learning environment we work hard to maintain. As a reminder:

- Exterior doors should never be propped open or left open and unattended.
- Visitors must enter through designated entrances and follow established visitor management procedures.
- Students, staff, volunteers, and community members should report any unsecured exterior door or other security concern to school administration immediately (call 585 703-6405).
- Staff responsible for activities, such as rehearsals, practices or meetings, held outside normal school hours must follow established building access procedures while maintaining security.

We appreciate the vigilance of our students, families, staff, and community members who help us. By working together, we can continue to provide safe and welcoming schools. Thank you for your partnership and commitment to school safety.

Join our Code of Conduct Committee!

Parents, guardians, students, staff, teachers, and administrators all play an important role in creating a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Each year, the West Irondequoit CSD reviews its **Code of Conduct** to ensure it reflects current laws, district priorities, and the needs of our school community. **We are seeking parents and guardians who are interested in sharing their perspectives** as members of the annual Code of Conduct Committee. The committee reviews the Code, recommends updates to improve clarity and accessibility for families, considers changes in Education Law, and helps ensure the document continues to support student success and well-being.

The committee will meet between February and April, and we welcome a variety of perspectives and experiences. Your voice can help shape a document that impacts all students and families across our district. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please email Brenna Farrell, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, **Brenna_Farrell@westiron.monroe.edu**.

Capital Projects





Videoboard for IHS stadium field



JV Baseball Field at Iroquois MS



Promise Project taking shape

Inside and out, the Pinegrove Learning Center is coming to life, and work is also progressing on the new turf complex on our main campus behind IHS and Dake. These enhancements are part of **Promise Project 2027**, which was passed by voters in December of 2024. This capital project is transforming Pinegrove into a school that will include three new UPK/Prekindergarten classes, a STEAM Lab for district-wide use and improvements to existing Helmer Nature Center rooms.

As part of a full "gut" of the building, you'll see pictures of the bathrooms and ceiling/HVAC and also the new parking loop outside of the building. The school is scheduled to welcome students next fall. The multi-use turf complex now has three new recently installed scoreboards (light towers were installed last summer) and press boxes for the baseball and softball diamonds. There is also a new, state-of-the art digital videoboard for our existing stadium field that was installed last week. Dugouts for the turf complex, which includes baseball and softball diamonds, were delivered this Monday, and if the weather continues to be mild there is a chance we'll see green turf covering the gray cinder soon. In addition to those diamonds, there is also a scoreboard for a rectangular practice field (which doubles as the outfield for the baseball/softball diamonds).

Finally, you'll also see photos of the new (grass) JV baseball diamond behind Iroquois MS. Dirt cleared from the main campus was used to build up the terrain at Iroquois. For more on the project, go to the **Promise Project 2027 page on** our website.



Learn more via our video series

In Part 2 of our video series about our Strategic Plan "Momentum in Motion," Superintendent Aaron Johnson and Assistant Supt. for Finance, James Brennan, discuss our facilities, master plan and more. **Part 1** was tied more directly to learning and instruction. They explain the district's vision for doing smaller capital projects that help us maintain our current facilities while planning for larger, future projects! Part 3 will feature Board of Education President, Matt Sullivan. To see all videos in this series and learn more, go to **westirondequoit.org/district/strategic-plan**



All-Alumni Reunion Fundraiser!

The West Irondequoit Alumni Association's third annual IHS All-Alumni Reunion Fundraiser is **this Saturday, Nov. 28** at Silk O'Loughlin's! Alums from any class are invited! Here's the best part: All the money goes back to our students!Proceeds from this event the past two years has provided$1,000 scholarships to 20 graduates in the classes of 2025 and 2026! Your support makes a difference!

See the details on the flyer! Can't attend but still want to help? You can buy tickets or simply donate right at this link: **pci.jotform.com/form/263004155380145**. Any amount helps! The party starts at 5 p.m.

Happenings at Helmer!





Trim a Tree for Wildlife

Drop in to HNC for winter activities and crafts on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Make pinecone bird feeders and edible garlands to trim the HNC outdoor space with treats for our wildlife to eat during the winter. Decorate your own melted snowman cookie and enjoy it with some cocoa! You also can bring home some of the decorations! All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is $5 per person; family maximum is $25.

Tuesdays on the Trails

Join us on the ***First & Third Tuesdays*** each month, as HNC Director Kyra Stephenson leads a relaxing walk in our woods. These walks are a great way to connect with nature and see all that HNC has to offer. These are to be enjoyed by all, come as you are, on your own or with a friend! This event is FREE.

Trees for Trails

Residents have been donating their holiday trees for this event since 1976. HNC accepts trees from Dec. 26 until Jan. 16, when High Falls Tree Service and Irondequoit Lawn & Landscape transform the trees into wood chips that we use to control erosion on our trails. Please consider dropping off your used tree when you are done with it. Please see the guidelines in the graphic. Volunteers are available to unload cars on Jan. 16 ONLY from 10 a.m. to noon. Interested in volunteering for this event? Please email **HelmerNatureCenter@gmail.com**.

Winter Family Yoga & Nature Adventure

We'll begin indoors with a family-friendly yoga experience from Root to Blossom Yoga inspired by the wonders of winter. Then we'll head outside to enjoy the winter landscape with a guided snowshoe adventure. This is designed for families with children ages 4+.
No prior yoga experience necessary; dress for the weather and bring a yoga mat if you have one. See graphic more details!

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Students and staff have been busy already in this season of giving. The Irondequoit DECA club recently dropped off a donation of 4,000 pounds of food to the Irondequoit Community Cupboard. That's quadruple last year's donation. The Rogers Middle School Builders' Club also collected and donated more than 600 items for the ICC. Great job!





H and a e m sicians earn honors

Congratulations to Adam Belculfine (Alto Saxophone) and Stephen Weber (Trombone) on their selection for the NYSSMA Zone 2 Senior High Area All State Band. Also congratulations to the following students selected for Junior High Area All State (grades 7-9) Jaelynn Arnold, Luke Marling, Quincy Sanguedolce, Frank Bohnel, Dominic Romeo, Claire Kester, Lily Whisman and George Eblacker (not pictured).

Helmer has a new logo and more!

Helmer Nature Center recently unveiled a new logo, mission statement and more. The striking logo was created by 2020 IHS graduate, Miss Becca Vay! "As we build on Helmer's rich history and look forward toward the possibilities ahead, we wanted a design that reflects who we are, what we believe, and the relationships we strive to foster between people and the living world," said HNC Director Kyra Stephenson. "With support from our Events Coordinator, Caity Irwin, we think Becca truly nailed the logo. We feel she not only created a logo, but also a symbol."

At the heart of the logo is a native screech owl, a familiar voice in the Helmer woods and one of its popular animal ambassadors. The owl represents the wonder of the natural world and the power of education. As part of West Irondequoit schools, education is our foundation. Read more about Miss Vay, the new mission statement and motto on the **district website.**

Contact Information



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Assistant Supt. for Human Resources: Brenna Farrell, Ed.D
Assistant Supt. for Instruction: Chrissy Miga

Board of Education (pictured): Kevin Schoepfel, Melissa Bohrer, President, Matt Sullivan, Vice President, Kate Copeland, John Vay, Tamara Wall, Gary Adams.

Follow our social media:

- **Facebook** *(@WestIrondequoitCSD)*
- **Instagram** *(@westirondequoitcsd)*
- **X/Twitter** *(@WestIrondequoit)*

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