

Iroquois Middle School
48301 Romeo Plank Road
Macomb, MI 48044
(586) 723-3700
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IROQUOIS NEWS

January/February, 2024

www.chippewavalleyschools.org/schools/middle-schools/iroquois/

Principal's Corner

Panther Parents,

Happy New Year! The holidays have been celebrated and we are now all gearing up for the long winter months ahead of us. This is a great time to refocus and recharge our students.

The end of semester is fast approaching and we will be mid-way through the school year. Please continue to work with your student and encourage them to perform at their very best. Good communication with your student's teachers, checking Parent Portal, good organization and planning, continued use of the school agenda, and hard work will keep students on course to have a successful remainder of the school year. If you are unable to access Parent Portal, please call our office and we will be happy to assist you.

January is School Board Appreciation Month. On behalf of the Iroquois students and staff, I would like to thank the Board of Education for their dedication to our students and our community!

Thank you for your continued involvement and support. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Chris Gardner
Principal

IROQUOIS MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Iroquois Middle School Community, will provide a safe, supportive, challenging environment that encourages students to reach academic potential, develop respectful behaviors, and become responsible and successful citizens.

Please remind your student(s) to . . .

BE RESPECTFUL ... TAKE OWNERSHIP ... ACT RESPONSIBILITY



Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education

Mr. Kenneth Pearl, President
Ms. Denise Aquino, Vice President
Mr. George Sobah, Secretary
Mr. Bruce Wade, Treasurer
Mr. Christopher Gura, Trustee
Ms. Shannon King, Trustee
Mr. Robert Wojtowicz, Trustee

Mr. Ronald Roberts, Superintendent

NEWS TO KNOW

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jan 3 Classes Resume 8:05AM
Jan 8 NWEA Reading Testing this week
Jan 9 Half Day — Dismissal at 11:00AM
Jan 15 NO SCHOOL
Jan 17 Spelling Bee
Jan 18 Bagel Sale
Jan 19 End of 2nd Quarter; Half Day — Dismissal at 11:12AM
Jan 22 NWEA Math Testing this week
Jan 23 LifeTouch Group Photo Day
Jan 31 Vision Screening for 7th Grade
Feb 2 WIDA Testing Window Opens
Feb 2 Volleyball Tournament
Feb 5-9 Animal Shelter Drive
Feb 6 High School Teen Panels
Feb 8 Winter Activity Night
Feb 14 Count Day
Feb 15 Donut Sale
Feb 16 Mid-Winter Break begins at 11:00AM Dismissal
Feb 26 Classes Resume 8:05AM
Feb 27 NO SCHOOL—Professional Development Day
Mar 1 CAC Meeting
Mar 4 Band Concert—6th Grade 6:30-7:30PM
Mar 6, 7 Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening Only (5:30-8:00PM)
Mar 8 Half Day — Dismissal at 11:00AM
Mar 14 Bagel Sale
Mar 16 Science Olympiad Regional Tournament
Mar 19 8th Grade High School Scheduling
Mar 22 LEGO Robotics District Competition
Mar 25 Spirit Week Begins
Mar 28 End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 28 Spring Break begins at 11:00AM Dismissal
Apr 8 Classes Resume 8:05AM / M-Step Testing Window Opens
Apr 10 PSAT for 8th Graders / late start for 6th & 7th Graders
Apr 17 Choir Concert
Apr 18 Donut Sale
May 3 CAC Meeting
May 4 Science Olympiad State Competition
May 6 NWEA Testing Window Opens
May 7 NO SCHOOL — Professional Development Day
May 16 Bagel Sale
May 27 NO SCHOOL — Memorial Day Holiday
May 30 Band Concert
Jun 3 Choir Concert
Jun 4 8th Grade Awards Ceremony
Jun 10 6th & 7th Grade to CJ Barrymore's / 8th Grade Picnic
Jun 11 Last Day of School - Half Day — Dismissal at 11:00AM

CAC = Citizens Advisory Committee — Any Iroquois parent is welcome to join our informal CAC meetings. The meetings are held in the school office conference room.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:05AM to 2:49PM

Doors open at 7:15AM

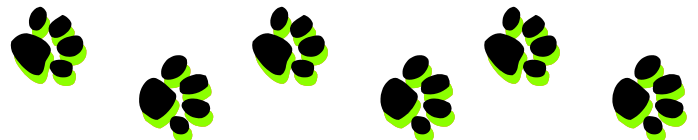
Students may proceed to lockers at 7:45AM

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

THE CIRCLE DRIVE AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED FOR BUSSES ONLY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL AT THE DOORS NEAR THE TENNIS COURTS. STUDENTS SHOULD BE PICKED UP AT THE END OF THE DAY IN THE SAME PARKING LOT AS THE MORNING DROP OFF. PLEASE CONSIDER THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE AND RESPECT THE SPEED LIMIT.

Attention 8th grade Parents:

Please be advised that any high school application forms for the IAM or other high schools outside of Chippewa Valley Schools require a minimum of 48 hours to process. The forms are confidential and will not be returned to students or parents; rather, they will be forwarded directly to the high school in question. NWEA/M-Step scores can be found in Parent Portal along with your student's most recent report card. Middle Schools in Chippewa Valley School District do not have the capability to print transcripts. That can only be done at the high school level. If needed, your student's current GPA can also be found in Parent Portal. All additional requests must be submitted in writing to your student's counselor, Mrs. Lynn Dawson at ldawson@cvs.k12.mi.us.



NEWS TO KNOW

IMPORTANT PROCEDURES

(Please Read and Save)

ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE - **ALL** absences, including hospital stays and vacations, should be reported to the main office by calling the attendance line. The office will then notify the teachers. **ABSENCES** should be called in before 8:00AM to (586)723-3799. Please leave the student's name, grade level, reason for absence and length of absence on the absence line. We are required to report illnesses to the Macomb County Health Department and must be advised of any illness, especially if contagious. It is also important to call the attendance line when your child is going to be tardy.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM - Please make sure your child's emergency information is up-to-date throughout the year with current emergency phone numbers and authorized persons for picking up your child in case of illness. If a child becomes ill during the day, we expect that child will have a way to get home.

HOMEWORK REQUEST - If your student is absent, please have them check Schoology for homework assignments. If your student has a question regarding an assignment when they are absent, they can contact their teacher through Schoology, e-mail or by phone. For students going on vacation, make-up work should be requested the day they return from vacation. Make-up work should be completed within the same number of school days as he/she was absent, unless special arrangements have been made with each teacher.

EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURE - When a child needs to leave school early, please come to the office to sign the child out. Students will **only** be released to persons on their emergency form with a valid picture ID.

STUDENT MESSAGES AND DELIVERIES - If your child has called home because they have forgotten their lunch, money or any other item needed for the day, please bring it to the main office. Students are aware it is **their** responsibility to check for the item in the office. Lunches that are not picked up in the office are put on the stage in the cafeteria to be picked up during lunch time. When a delivery is unexpected, your child will be notified at a time when it will least disrupt the class.

PLEASE TRY TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP YOUR CHILD REMEMBER THEIR THINGS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY. IT IS DISRUPTIVE TO YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING DAY IF WE HAVE TO CALL THEM TO THE OFFICE TO PICK UP THINGS OR TO MAKE A PHONE CALL TO YOU. When delivering lunches, notebooks, money, etc., PLEASE make sure your child's name is clearly marked on the item.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS TO SCHOOL . . .

- ⇒ **Perfume or cologne:** There are a couple of students that are **HIGHLY** allergic to these items. Please refrain from using them at school.
- ⇒ **Balloons or flowers:** Please do not deliver these items to students. There is simply no place for the student to keep them during the day. Also, balloons are not allowed on the busses.

IS YOUR STUDENT'S LOCKER GETTING JAMMED?

Please make sure that there is no contact paper or tape on the inside of the locker door. Also, any mirrors or magnets stuck to the inside of the door need to be away from the edge of the door. The mechanism that opens the locker door runs the entire length of the door. If anything is blocking it, that will cause the locker not to open.

NEWS TO KNOW

THE TIME TO ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK IS NOW!

The end of the school year may seem far away, but it is time to place your yearbook order. The 2023-2024 yearbook will include many new, fun and exciting features. You will not want to miss out on this opportunity. Yearbook prices start at \$23 and can be customized for an additional cost. Visit: <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com> to order. Our yearbook ID code is: 1529624. The deadline to order is April 1, 2024.

STUDENT ID CARDS

If your child loses their student ID card, a replacement card can be purchased for \$2.00. Please see Mrs. Varcak in the main office. Also, keep in mind that if your child forgets to bring his/her ID card to school, they are still able to purchase lunch by giving their name to the cashier who can then pull up their lunch account for purchase.



NSF Checks

At this time, the fee we are being charged by Comerica Bank for checks that are returned NSF is \$20.00. This is a fee that will be passed on to parents when a check is returned to us.

2nd QUARTER REPORT CARDS

- * End of 2nd Quarter is Friday, January 19, 2024.
- * Report cards will be posted in Parent Portal on Friday, January 26, 2024.



Due to over crowded buses, students **are not allowed** to ride a friend's bus home after school.

The Transportation Department thanks you for your help in this matter.

APPROPRIATE SCHOOL FASHION

- Shorts, skirts/skorts must be below middle fingertip length when a student's arm is extended at their side.
- **NO** leggings can be worn alone. You must wear a longer shirt over them.
- **NO** short shirts showing undergarments or exposing the waistline while in the standing or sitting position.
- Pants **MUST** be worn at the waistline.
- **NO** bandanas are allowed in school even if the girls wear them to hold their hair back (they should use regular headbands - not bandanas folded up).
- All sleeves **MUST** cover the shoulders with a full hand's width.
- **NO** hats can be worn in school.
- **NO** tank tops are allowed, but may be worn **ONLY IF** it is being covered at all times by an appropriate shirt.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Ripped clothing, such as jeans, should not expose undergarments and rips must be below middle finger tip length.
- **NO** clothing made of see-through material.
- **NO** muscle shirts.
- **NO** clothing advertising tobacco, alcohol, or drugs may be worn in school.
- **NO** clothing containing designs/pictures/symbols or language that are sexually suggestive, vulgar or profane are allowed in school.

Further information about the Dress Code can be found in the Chippewa Valley School District Student Code of Conduct

NEWS TO KNOW

Medication Administration in School

Listed below are some key points in the Chippewa Valley School District Medication Administration Policy. The purpose of the policy is to support the health needs of children during school hours and to ensure the safety of all children.

- * **Legislation on Inhalers:** Public Act 10 allows a public or non-public school student to possess and use a metered dose inhaler of a dry powder inhaler for the relief of asthma symptoms, or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthma symptoms while at school, or on school-sponsored transportation, or at any school-sponsored activity if there is written approval from the student's physician or other health care provider and the student's parent/guardian for the student to possess and use the inhaler; and the building administrator has received a copy of the written approvals from the physician and the parent/guardian.
- * Any student that requires an EpiPen, is diabetic or takes seizure medication, **MUST** have an action plan completed and on file with our Health Aide. Action Plan forms are available at the school.
- * Before any medication can be administered in school, written authorization from the child's physician and parent **must** be obtained and be on file in the school office. Separate forms are available in the main office and on the district's website for prescription and non-prescription medications.
- * All medication should be brought to school by the child's parent/guardian.
- * All medication should be in the original bottle or container. Medication not in the original bottle cannot be administered.
- * Containers should be labeled with the child's name, medication, dose, time and route of administration.
- * Information on the use and adverse effects of any medication given in school should be provided to the school by the parent, pharmacist, or physician.
- * Parents **must** notify school personnel if their child has conditions such as allergies, diabetes, or asthma, so that proper precautions/training may be put in place.



Making sure that your children are safe and healthy is our primary concern. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the office at 723-3700.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MACOMB



If your 8th grade student is interested in applying to attend the International Academy of Macomb for high school, applications are currently available on their website. Please visit www.iamacomb.org/admissions/ for more information. The deadline for applications is **January 26, 2024**. The entrance exam is on **February 3, 2024** from 9:00-11:00AM.

Attention 8th Grade Parents:

Throughout the school year, your student will be taking a series of assessments for placement into high school courses. These tests will evaluate their skills in reading comprehension, algebra readiness and other math concepts. It is ESSENTIAL that parents reinforce the importance of these assessments to their students. Each student must try their personal best so that they can be appropriately placed into high school courses for their freshman year.

Attention Parent Volunteers—We Need Your Help!

If you would like to volunteer your time to help at any of the various activities at Iroquois throughout the school year, we would like your help. You will be required to complete a Volunteer Criminal Record Check form on-line. **A new form must be completed each school year.** Please contact Maureen Varcak at 586-723-3704 if you need the link. If you are interested in volunteering, please watch the morning announcement e-mails for volunteering opportunities.



NEWS TO KNOW

WINTER BUS RULES



Basic bus rules apply all year long; but, now that winter is here, we would like to review some rules that might especially pertain to this time of year.

1. Students should be standing at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus normally arrives. After the driver turns off the flashing red lights, they may not pick up any more students at that stop. Drivers may not wait for tardy students!
2. Due to slippery roads, stay on the sidewalk while waiting for the bus to arrive. If no sidewalk is present, please stay as far back from the roadway as possible.
3. Because of possible limited visibility it is extremely important to remember to cross in front of the bus only after a signal from the driver.
4. Due to road conditions in the winter, it is very important that you wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the door is open before approaching the bus.
5. Students must remain seated at all times. Students should leave their seat only after the bus comes to a complete stop.
6. All students should dress appropriately for the weather. Boots, mittens, hats, scarves, coats, etc., should be put on before leaving the bus. If they do forget a piece of clothing, ask the driver for it the next morning. The drivers keep such articles of clothing on the bus until claimed.
7. Please be patient when waiting for the bus. Inclement weather including rain, snow and sleet will cause traffic delays and the buses to run behind schedule. The buses may arrive late but they will be there. Please watch or listen to the following radio and television stations for any school closing information:

**** WDIV Channel 4 WXYZ Channel 7 WJBK Channel 2 WJR AM 760 WWJ AM 950 ****

HIGH SCHOOL 9TH GRADE SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Counselors from Chippewa Valley and Dakota will come to Iroquois to help students input their scheduling information for high school on **Tuesday, March 19. Please make every effort for your student to attend school this date.**

Chippewa Valley High School

Chippewa Valley High School will be hosting an 8th Grade Parent Meeting to help educate parents on the scheduling process. The meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00PM** in the Chippewa Valley High School Auditorium (just inside Entrance A). This meeting is for **parents/guardians** only. Parents are then encouraged to attend the **Chippewa Valley High School Curriculum Fair from 6:30-8:00PM**. This is an opportunity to visit with departmental representatives to learn about their programs and see what CVHS has to offer for course selections.

Dakota High School

The Dakota High School 8th Grade Parent Meeting and Curriculum Fair will be on **Monday, February 12, 2024** from 6:00-8:30PM.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you have a Kroger card, you can earn money for the education of Iroquois students. Simply log into your Kroger account on-line and select Community Rewards from the bottom of the Kroger homepage. The page will show if you currently have Community Rewards linked to an organization. If you'd like to establish that Iroquois should receive the rewards or change your current organization to Iroquois Middle School, search under our name or enter our Organization Code which is BK099. Thank you for your support.



Donate your Clothes and Shoes to Midwest Recycling

Please consider donating your clothes and shoes to the Midwest Recycling bin at our school. Iroquois Middle School will earn money for each pound of clothes and shoes donated!

Our Midwest Recycling donation bin is located by the recycle bin on the side of the building.

Thank you for your assistance.



MOVING??

If you have moved, please provide the Iroquois office with proof of your new residency. Items that are accepted are a copy of a signed lease, a copy of the closing papers from a purchase or 2 current utility bills. Once all documentation has been received, we can then change your child's address on file. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



LOCKER DECORATION

Students may decorate lockers for birthdays only before school begins. Please remember to bring your own supplies and tape.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

This program is designed to let our students know that their “positive” behavior is appreciated and noticed. This award is not given for academic achievement; but rather, in recognition of the student’s good citizenship, effort, manners, dependability and positive attitudes. Each month, every staff member selects one student to be Student of the Month. These students were given a special token of appreciation and a certificate.

Congratulations to our October and November Students of the Month:

October 6th Grade: Kourtney Acabo, Jaielyn Buttris, Milania Danielak, Dawson Gonzales, Illirjana Lulgjuraj, Nicoletta Manousakakis, Elaina Mitchell, Landon Morrison, Ava Pitcher, Drake Vatter

November 6th Grade: Braedyn Boccaccio, Emmanuel Kasotakis, Max Loalvo, Evan Mayer, Sean Reeves, Makenna Sheena, Alyssandra Sinadinovski, Kaitlyn Wilmoth, Corinne Zito

October 7th Grade: Trevor Bayer, Noah Bayus, William Cavender, Zachary Heintz, Giorgio Passalacqua, Hailey Ross, Alexia Stan

November 7th Grade: Angelina Bnyamin, Ni’lah Chalk, Addison Coplen, Ardita Djokic, Cara Fecteau, Drew Foley, Valentina Garrisi, Maci Mangone, Andrew Rabine, Trenton Yang, Matelda Zora

October 8th Grade: Ralesha Mansor, Elynn Marx, Alex Rice, Hayden Solomon, Michael Wilson, Olivia Wood, Nathaniel Yousif, Anna Ziemkowski

November 8th Grade: Liam Arnold, Giuseppe Barno, Samantha Brandt, Ella Drawz, Adriana Konka, Zachary McQueary, Avery Menzo, Giulia Rejuso



ROAR – 1st Quarter Prize Winners

Several of the Iroquois students received our PBIS ROAR tickets throughout 1st quarter for their kind deeds and good behavior. Our raffle drawing for ticket holders yielded the following winners:

Cider & Donuts for Lunch Table: Zachary Sawa, Trevor Bayer, Braedyn Boccaccio

Ice Cream for Lunch Table: Natalie Atienza, Miranda Powell, Amani Starks

Open Gym: with 5 friends Gavin Prainito, Jylian Yurgo, Brayden Gough

Gift Card: Shanell Hana, Lily Khashola, Alivia Kusza

Movie with 5 Friends: Ina Batayola, Jack Noe, Eleanor Soderberg

Fancy Lunch: Brooklyn Silage



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our annual fundraiser continues in the New Year! We will make a donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand at the end of the school year with proceeds from the events below and all of the upcoming donut and bagel sales. Save the dates below and watch SchoolMessenger for further details as each event gets closer!

January 22–January 26: Flower Sale for students at lunch

January 22–February 9: Sucker Sale via PaySchools Central

February 2: Volleyball Tournament from 6:30-9:00PM

February 8: Winter Activity Night from 6:00-8:00PM

March 11-15: St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser during lunches

Other Events include:

February 5-9: Animal Shelter Drive

Donut/Bagel Sales:

January 18

February 15

March 14

April 18

May 16

Student Council Meetings

January 5

January 26

February 2 (7:45AM)

March 22

April 19

May 17

Meetings are held from 7:15-7:45AM in the Media Center

Student Council thanks you for all your support and wishes you a safe and Happy New Year!!

News from NJHS

By Claire Nehra, Historian

The Iroquois National Junior Honor Society members have been doing a great job to live up to their motto of "Service Over Self"! The members have been volunteering all over the community. From the Salvation Army Kettle Bellringing at various stores, to Mohawk Elementary assisting in the canned food drive and PEN night. Our Snowpile Toy Drive to benefit the Children's Hospital of Michigan was a huge success, as well! In addition, NJHS has lent a hand to the custodians at Iroquois, by having volunteers recycle after school once a week.

Under the leadership of Artem Darmogray, Hayden Solomon, Samantha Brandt, and Claire Nehra, our NJHS members are planning ways to make Iroquois Middle School spread more kindness and goodwill throughout the year. Everybody's hard work and dedication has been paying off, ensuring the school and community are appreciated!



Meeting Dates

January 11

February 8

March 7

April 25

May 23

Community Service Hours Due

January 19 (10 hours)

March 28 (5 hours)

May 23 (5 hours)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Schedule 2024

Thursday 2/15	ABS	Home
Monday 2/26	Richards	Home
Wednesday 2/28	LCE	Away
Thursday 2/29	ABN	Home
Monday 3/4	LCC	Away
Tuesday 3/5	Romeo	Away
Monday 3/11	LCN	Home
Thursday 3/14	Romeo	Away



Monday 3/18	LCS	Away
Thursday 3/21	Wyandot	Home
Monday 3/25	Algonquin	Home
Wednesday 3/27	Seneca	Away

Times: Grade 7 @ 3:30PM; Grade 8 @ 4:45PM

Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Try-Outs

8th Grade

Friday, January 26 from 4:30-6:00PM
 Monday, January 29 from 4:30-6:00PM
 Tuesday, January 30 from 4:00-5:30PM

7th Grade

Friday, January 26 from 3:00-4:30PM
 Monday, January 29 from 3:00-4:30PM
 Tuesday, January 30 from 3:00-4:30PM

All girls trying out **MUST** have an updated physical (April 15, 2023 or later) to be able to try out.
No exceptions!!



Boys 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Schedule 2024

1/8/24	Romeo	Away
1/11/24	LCN	Home
1/16/24	Romeo 1	Away
1/18/24	LCS	Away
1/22/24	Wyandot	Home
1/23/24	Seneca	Away
1/24/24	Algonquin	Home

GAME TIMES

7th Grade at 3:30PM
 8th Grade at 4:45PM



HOLIDAY FUN!!

