



The Good News

November 2020

- Students at Colebrook sent hand-written thank you letters to our Department of Environmental Services expressing gratitude for the staff's hard work to get their building back up and running after it flooded on October 13th.
- West Irondequoit ranked in the top 7% among school districts in Upstate New York, according to Buffalo-based Business First's 2020 annual academic rankings. WICSD ranked 31st out of 430 and 7th among Rochester-area schools. It's the 7th straight year we ranked 7th locally.
- Ms. Angela Nassimos, a first-year, District-wide Art Teacher, was selected to receive a Special Citation from the NYS Art Teachers Association later this month for her outstanding service and commitment to Art Education.
- More than 60 new members were honored during a virtual induction ceremony into the National Honor Society on Wednesday.
- The DECA Club at IHS collected more than 300 pounds of non-perishable food during a two-day, drive-up donation event. Items were given to the Irondequoit Community Cupboard.
- The annual "Socktober" drive held by IHS during Student Council's annual event brought in 230 pairs for two homeless shelters – Bethany House and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.
- So our youngest students wouldn't miss out completely on the annual Halloween "Parades," we took our West Irondequoit cameras into more than 60 elementary classrooms on October 30th to produce a video of students and staff in their Halloween costumes!
- Teachers and staff held virtual and in-person training sessions for parents/guardians in Seesaw and Schoology that were very well attended. They were done to help families learn how to use these learning platforms.
- Members of the IHS Tri-M Music Honor Society spent a morning at Dake Junior High School baking more than a dozen lasagnas for the Open Door Mission. They also donated some non-perishable food items.
- Irondequoit boys cross country coach and IHS teacher, Matt Tytler, and his daughters, Colleen and Candace, who run for our girls team, were featured in a story by Spectrum News. Our standout runners compete in the Section V Championships on Saturday.
- The IHS girls tennis team won the Monroe County Division 2 championship for the second straight season and took an unbeaten record into sectionals. The Eagles reached the semifinals before losing to Pittsford Mendon.

- Lacrosse players Ella Straub and Jaelyn Clinkscales and swimmer, Alicia Wood, signed national letters of intent during the early signing period. Football lineman, Rowan McGwin, plans to do the same in early December. He is going to the University of Buffalo, as is Wood. Straub will play at Gardner-Webb in North Carolina and Clinkscales at the University of Akron.
- The state has given the go-ahead for low-risk sports such as boys swimming, Nordic skiing and bowling to start on December 7th. On Thursday, Nov. 19th, we learned that indoor track and field is joining the other traditional winter sports – basketball, cheerleading, ice hockey and wrestling – on pause until at least January 4th.
- West Irondequoit Nurse Coordinator Mary Piston and veteran nurse Mimi Buerkle of Iroquois Middle School were featured in a video and quoted throughout an in-depth story by the Democrat and Chronicle and USA Today Network about the critical role school nurses have played during the pandemic. Superintendent Aaron Johnson also was featured prominently in recent news reports by 13WHAM-TV and 10NBC about COVID-19 testing.