

T-BIRD TIMES

A Publication of the Iola-
Scandinavia School District

Winter 2023

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Elementary Students Ring in Christmas Cheer

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District Update

Where has the time gone? Christmas and the end of the first semester are upon us. We are still very active with making changes and working to move the district forward.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan committee has sent out a survey to students, staff and community. We received 274 replies back so far. The committee met on December 7 to review survey results and to start working on goals for the next five years. The following focus areas will still be part of the next five year strategic plan. Academics & Accountability, Staff Retention & Attraction, Well-Being, Community Relations, and Academic Expansion. The group has added Student Retention & Attraction, and Buildings & Grounds Updates as new focus areas. Once the goals and action steps are added to the plan, it will be approved by the school board and released to the public.

Master Athletic Plan

The master athletic plan committee met December 21 to discuss next steps. Point of Beginning (a civil engineering/landscape architecture company that focuses on athletic fields) was present to view options with costing. The committee will use this information to determine next steps and to develop a long-term plan for our facilities.

Personnel

We hired a new Buildings and Grounds director who started on November 14. Robbie Lashua joins our team after working for TDS, Portage County Highway, and Lashua Farms. He has a background in electrical, welding, and motor control just to name a few areas. Please congratulate Robbie and welcome him into our district.

Building

Our update to our Technology Education classroom is in the ordering stages. The required materials for the upgrade have been ordered and construction will begin when school gets out in

June. All the old ventilation will be removed along with two concrete half walls. A new HVAC system will be added along with new welding booths that will be properly vented.

Our new CNC plasma cutter has been installed and students are using it. The six new 3D printers are in place and a couple of different classes are using them. The plasma cutter and printers were purchased with Fab Lab grant funds.

We are looking forward to a successful second semester. If you have any questions please contact me. Ray Przekurat, District Administrator, przekuratr@iola.k12.wi.us or 715-445-2411 ext. 1401

Mr. Ray Przekurat
District Administrator



It's Turkey Time at the Elementary School!

Elementary School Update

Just like that, the winter season is upon us! I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with your family. I can't believe that this is the last month of 2022!

November was a time for parent-teacher conferences. Staff at I-S Elementary greatly appreciated the opportunity to sit down and talk about your child's social, emotional, academic and behavioral progress. Studies have concluded that when a parent is actively involved with their child's education, it benefits all involved in one way or another. Communication is one of the top strategies for fostering the relationships that grow between a parent and the educators that work with their child. Parents have an important role when it comes to their child's academic success. I encourage all parents to keep the lines of communication open with your child's teacher throughout the year.

Please make sure your child is prepared for the cold and snow! All students go out for recess if it is 0 degrees or warmer. As the weather gets colder, please remember to send cold-weather clothing to school with your child every day. A warm jacket, mittens or gloves and a hat are necessary this time of year. For snowy or very cold days, you will want to make sure your child comes to school with his/her snow pants and boots. Students may bring roll ups sleds to school.

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on how lucky I am to be part of an amazing school community. I'm thankful for all our hard working staff and supportive parents.



I appreciate everyone working together to help all students be successful. I'm thankful for our hardworking students. I appreciate them coming to school every day prepared and eager to learn. Our entire staff is truly amazing and goes above and beyond each and every day to help every child be successful.

Lastly, I am thankful for our outstanding community and their efforts to support our school in and outside the classroom. I-S Elementary is a special school and a special place for students, staff and families. We're so fortunate to be a part of such an amazing community!

As we move forward, please take care of yourselves and your families. Your well-being is very important to us, and we appreciate you being a part of our Thunderbird Community.

Warm Regards,
Mrs. Stacey Wester





High School Update

Dear Students, Parents, and Community Members:

Happy 2023!! I hope you enjoyed your winter break with family and friends.

For most students there are many activities during the day that need to be balanced with their academic classes. Activities may include co-curricular interests (sports, plays, band, etc), jobs, social time, and other responsibilities at home. It is important to prioritize these activities and make time for academic success. There are many different strategies/suggestions on what good study habits should look like, but here is a list of 5 crucial habits that will help.

1. Make a schedule to study at the same time/place everyday. If the time is consistent, it will become a natural part of your day. If you need to schedule two shorter times in the day that is fine.

2. Make a goal for your study session.

Studying without direction is not an effective

use of your time. Tell yourself “I will write a draft of my English paper” or “I will complete 10 problems on my Algebra assignment.”

3. Understand the expectations for the assignment before you start.

Communicate with your teachers and know what you need to do, what needs to be included, where you can get help, and how it will be assessed.

4. Take breaks. Don’t study for hours without giving your brain a break. Schedule times when you will take a break. Get up, walk around for a while and eat a healthy snack.

5. Limit distractions. Do not try to multitask when you are studying. Put your social media on hold. Turn the TV off. Find a comfortable, quiet place, and let others know that you are studying so they don’t distract you.



Use the opportunity you have in Middle/High

School to learn. Knowledge is a very powerful tool.

Prepare for Winter

Winter is here and there are many things that come along with it. The most obvious is the cold weather. Please take care to ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for their wait for the bus and their trip to school. If you have a student driver, remember to have them pack a cold weather kit in their vehicle in the event that something would happen on their trip to or from school. Big winter boots and gloves may not be fashionable, but they certainly come in handy when you are stranded in a snowbank.

Winter also brings the cold and flu season. Please remind your students to wash their hands on a regular basis, get a proper amount of sleep, and encourage healthy eating habits. If your student is ill and is not going to attend school please call the Middle/High School office (715)-445-2411 prior to 8:00 a.m. and let us know that they will not be in. It is very helpful for us to know prior to school starting. If the phone is not answered please leave a message saying who the student is and why they will not be in school.

Testing

Late winter and early spring is standardized testing season for students in Wisconsin. Our students will be taking various tests in grades 7-11 January through April. iReady is a diagnostic test for students in grades 7 and 8. The Forward Exam is a state assessment that will be administered in English, Language Arts, and Mathematics in grades 3 through 8, and English, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies in grades 4 and 8. All 9th and 10th graders will be taking the PreACT in April. The PreACT tests the students in English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing. All 11th graders will have taken the ACT on March 7.

These exams will test the skills of the students to find what they are doing well and where they need improvements. The exams will also allow schools to evaluate their overall educational programs, compare their scores with other schools, and give them data to use to make plans for



growth.

It is important that students take these tests seriously and put forth their best efforts to give local districts the most reliable data to make academic program enhancements. The scores that our students receive on these tests have a direct impact on the district's comparative assessments on a local and national level. The administration and staff have made preparations for these tests by aligning curriculum and providing students with examples of questions and the tools they will need to successfully complete the exams. We are anxious to see the impact of the hard work. Each year it is important for students to perform their best so that we may assess the impact of curricular changes that have been made and get a true picture of what skills they may need extra focus in the 2023-2024 school year.

Testing Dates.

7th and 8th iReady January 16-19
11th grade ACT March 7
10th grade Forward Exam March 28
7th and 8th grade Forward Exam April 4 -11
9th and 10th grade Pre-ACT April 12

If you have questions or concerns please let me know.

Mr. Chris Nelson
Middle/High School Principal



Student Council

The 2022-2023 I-S High School Student Council is led by four dedicated seniors, President Malea Tessen, Vice-President Marin Hoyord, Secretary Jaelyn Sivertson, and Treasurer Lilly Fuhs.

We kicked off the 2022-2023 school year prepping and planning for Homecoming 2022! Themed “Dancing through the Decades,” students participated in hall-way decorating, dress-up days, powderpuff football, class volleyball, class games, parade floats for the annual homecoming parade, and hosting Tiny T-Bird Tailgate. The Homecoming Dance was a success with DJ K.C.’s debut performance.

During December ISHS Student Council members spent an afternoon participating in the Festival of Trees, hosted by Nest Senior Living at The Oaks and Willows.

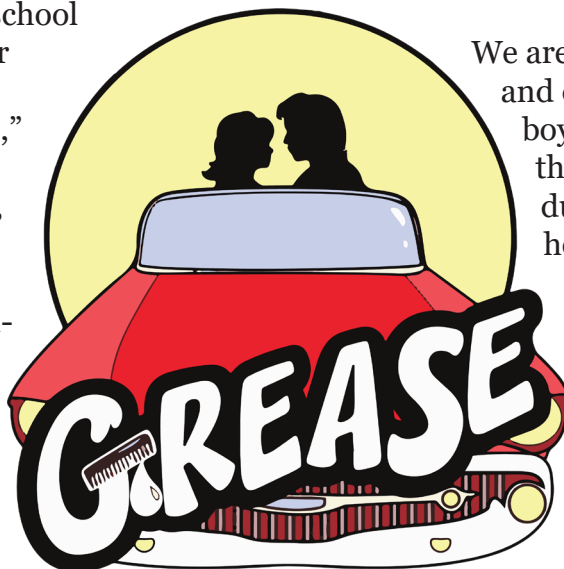
This was a great opportunity to give back and spread holiday cheer with residents. Student Council also participated in the Toys-for-Tots drive and planned a door decorating contest and holiday activities before heading to winter break.

ISHS Student Council would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, supervised, donated, and contributed their time to support the success of these events and activities!



Musical

Mark your calendars - the Iola-Scandinavia Musical Theatre Department is proud to present GREASE: The School Version February 17-19. Travel back in time with us to Rydell High’s Class of ‘59!



We are sure you will want to sing and dance with our hotrod-loving boys and wise-cracking girls to the familiar songs of this production! Performances will be held on Friday, February 17 at 7 p.m., Saturday, February 18 at 2 p.m. and 7pm and Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in mid-January.

We are excited to welcome Mr. Zach Shulfer the new middle school/high school choral instructor as our musical director. Returning as co-directors are: Erin Bruno (choreographer), Janet Glodowski (pit director), Shannon Huettner (administrative director) and Dale Bestul (set and stage crew director).

Rehearsals have been well on their way for the past month where 56 cast members (grades 6-12) have been hard at work preparing for this year’s production. The 19 members of the stage crew started set construction on December 12! For more information about this event please follow us on Facebook: I-S Musical Theatre. You may also email Shannon Huettner at huettners@iola.k12.wi.us with further questions.

Homecoming 2022

From Tiny T-Birds to Senior Court, Annual Event a Hit

Homecoming 2022 was a big hit for the elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as the greater Iola-Scandinavia community. From dress-up days to the Tiny T-Bird Tailgate, Powder Puff Football to the varsity game against Pacelli on Friday, class volleyball to the parade, it was a memorable week for all involved!





Letters to Santa

Our first graders took part in the yearly letters to Santa tradition these past weeks. The students asked Santa a question and something they wanted for Christmas.

Dear Santa,

I like your white beard. How many elvs do you hav? Kan I hav a fake plant?

From, Suzy

Dear Santa,

I like you. How do your reindeer fly? I want a big sistr dol.

From, Olivia

Dear Santa,

I like you man. How old are you? I want a nintendo switch with mario on it.

From, Liam H

Dear Santa,

I like your rander. How dus your rander fly? I wat a real pupe.

From, Nolen



Dear Santa,

You are niess. I wont a LOL. Hou is Rudolph? I liek your reindeer.

From, Chanel

Dear Santa,

Do you have Rudolph? Do Mrs. Claus
make cookies? Can I have LOLs? I like yor hat.
From, Kenzie

Dear Santa,

I lik you. Kan you bring a elf to are klas? I
wont Uliva dols.
From, Lauryn

Dear Santa,

I like your hat. Do you have pupes? Can I
have a toy pig? I like your shoes.
From, Aubree

Dear Santa,

I lik yor berd. Do you have a hed elf? I wot
the 3 egytian gods of Yugioh.
From, Jamison

Dear Santa,

I like you. I like your hat. I love you. Do you have
dog? Do you have cat? I mist you.
From, Hailey

Dear Santa,

How is misis clos? For Cerismis I won't a
peekuchoo stufee. Wen you are at my hous I am
gone to sleep on my couch.
From, James

Dear Santa,

I love your raendeer. My mom and dad are
good and me. I whnt a toy nerfgun. I love you.
From, Blake

Dear Santa,

I love the toys tat you giv me. So moch.
Can you bring a elf in are clas room? I like the rin
deer.
From, Vivian



Dear Santa,

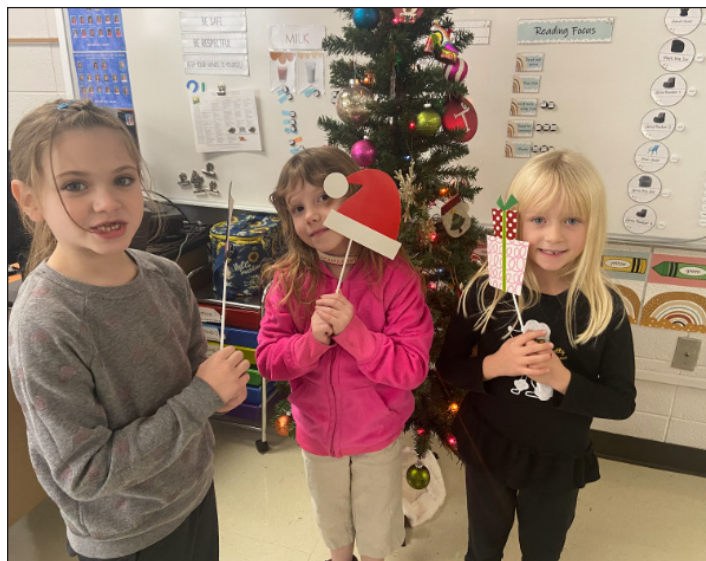
I love you. How meny elves? Can I have an
LOL. I like you lots. How meny raindeer?
From, Lily

Dear Santa,

How do you fly high? I want 4 RC cars!
From, Owen

Dear Santa,

I would like a pretty doll. Would you like
some cookies?
From, Claire





Fall Sports Review

The Iola-Scandinavia volleyball team advanced to the regional finals before falling to Weyauwega-Fremont in a dramatic five-set match. Several Thunderbirds earned all-conference honors, including first-team members Jaelyn Sivertson and Marin Hoyord, along with Maddie Much and McKenzie Bonikowske, who earned honorable mention. Hoyord and Sivertson were named honorable mention all-state, and Sivertson earned conference player of the year honors

Cross Country

Charlie Vater and Jacob Lashua led the Thunderbird cross country team this year, both qualifying for the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids. Vater finished 11th, and Lashua finished 66th. Vater, Lashua, Will Meier and Grace Betker earned all-conference honors.

Football

Iola-Scandinavia finished 2-7, enduring a tough non-conference schedule before beating Rosholt and Loyal, then dropping its final two games. Jackson Fredy (offense, punter), Braden Lou-



Parker Gullixon (Top Left) earned second team (offense, defense) all-conference football honors. Charlie Vater (Top Right) earned all-conference honors and finished 11th at the state cross country meet. Jaelyn Sivertson and Marin Hoyord (Middle) earned first team all-conference volleyball honors and honorable mention all-state. Sivertson was named conference player of the year.

ison (offense) and Ryan Doede (defense) earned first-team all-conference honors. Fredy (kicker), Parker Gullixon (offense, defense), Ryan Kampert (offense), Doede (offense) and Mason Kraemer (defense) earned second-team honors, and Fredy (defense) and Weston Knorr (defense) earned honorable mention.



Community Service Day

In October, Iola-Scandinavia High School students headed out into their communities to give back during the Ninth Annual Community Service Morning. The event, sponsored and organized by the ISHS National Honor Society, included projects throughout both the Iola and Scandinavia communities.

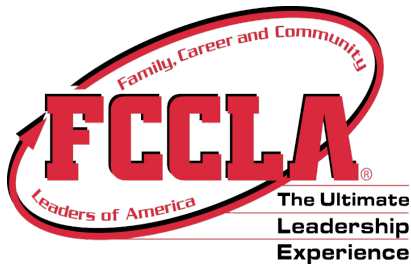
Nearly 200 students made a difference at the Iola Winter Sports Club, the Selmer Gjertson School Forest, the Iola Car Show Grounds, the Iola Community Center, and many other locations throughout the district.



FCCLA Update 2022

Iola-Scandinavia FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) is back and better than ever with new officers that were elected over the summer. The officers include president: Marin Hoyord, vice president: Lilly Fuhs, community service chair: Myah Heschke, public relations officer: Maddie Much, secretary: Maci Heschke, and fundraising chair: Vivian Stelse.

We've kicked off the year with multiple community service projects and fundraisers. We are still working on our bottle cap project that we started last year and are hoping to get those constructed and hung up in town very soon. FCCLA members also made ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree at the Willows. As we progress through the year, members have signed up for Salvation Army Bell Ringing which will be happening throughout the month of December. FCCLA has also sponsored a Christmas Angel at the Iola Living Assistance that has been put up. Another thing that FCCLA volunteered to do was write thank you cards to a Veteran going on the Old Glory Honor Flight. And we can't forget all the members that have been busy helping with the concessions at volleyball and basketball games.



FCCLA members Marin Hoyord and Julia Munoz decorating the FCCLA tree at the Willows.

Regional FCCLA competitions will be held at SPASH on Feb. 13. FCCLA members are starting to plan and prepare for their competitions as the time gets closer. For event management, we will also be doing a Teddy Bear Toss at the boys basketball game on Dec. 14. Also coming up, we have the Old Glory Honor Flight bake sale where we will be honoring military veterans, raising money to send a veteran on a flight by selling baked goods, and hosting a paper airplane contest.



FCCLA Officers: Madeline Much, Maci Heschke, Lilly Fuhs, Vivian Stelse, Marin Hoyord, Myah Heschke

Stay posted about future events or fundraisers by checking our instagram @is.ffcla!



DECA Update



After an exciting close to the 2021-22 school year, the Iola-Scandinavia DECA chapter has kicked off a new year in high gear.

DECA's first big event was the annual Trick or Can food drive at the end of October. Nearly 140 students in grades 7 through 12 – almost half of the total middle and high school population! – participated, collecting more than 2,000 non-perishable items for the Iola Food Pantry.

In early December, the chapter made two trips to Milwaukee in less than a week. First, a group of about 100 students and chaperones toured Fiserv Forum and heard from a panel of Milwaukee Bucks business staff

members as part of the NBA team's Careers in Sports Day.

That night the group watched the Bucks beat the Sacramento Kings – and picked up Giannis Antetokounmpo bobbleheads.

Then, a smaller group headed to the Cream City for DECA's Central Region Leadership Conference. Students took part in leadership workshops, testing and role play competition, and social events. Maggie Williams and Bethany Schmoldt took home medals for their role play solution to a scenario involving the Summerfest music festival.

In early January more than 30 high school students will be participating in the DECA district competition, pitting their role playing and test taking skills against other students from around the region. Students will have the opportunity to advance to the state competition in Lake Geneva and international competition in Orlando.

There's always something going on with DECA! Follow the chapter on social media, on Facebook at facebook.com/istbirddeca and on Instagram at [@iolascandinaviadeca](https://instagram.com/iolascandinaviadeca).



National Honor Society

The members of the Iola-Scandinavia National Honors Society traveled to Living Oaks and The Willows Assisted Living on Wednesday, November 30. A total of 19 students got to experience a wonderful afternoon with some of the residents at the facilities. The students and residents spent some quality time together making holiday crafts and playing games.

Malea Tessen, NHS president, commented on the experience, “It was really fun to connect with some of the elders in our community. I think it was very enjoyable to not only them, but to us students too”.

There was nothing but smiles and bright faces all around the Living Oaks and the Willows that day. It was a great opportunity for the members of the National Honor Society to see how the little things can go a long way. What a wonderful start to the holiday season!



Food Service Update

Iola-Scandinavia is participating in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast program for the entirety of the 2022-23 school year. This means that meals provided will be charged to students based on their eligibility for free, reduced price or paid.

Students that are eligible for reduced meals will receive breakfast at no charge. Households are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price meal benefits at any time throughout the year.

We are still dealing with the same challenges as we had last year, which includes nationwide supply chain and product availability. Some food and beverage products don't always arrive as scheduled, or do not arrive at all. Due to these

unforeseen circumstances, last-minute menu changes and product substitutions may occur. Be assured meals will remain balanced, healthy, and plentiful. We ask for patience and understanding as we do our best to meet your children's needs.



Breakfast and lunch menus are posted on the District website, Facebook page and the “Dining” section on the District’s app. Please contact me at (715) 445-2411 ext. 1430 or pedersend@iola.k12.wi.us with questions.

Ms. Diane Pedersen
Food Service Director

Garden Club Takes Root at High School

Garden Club. Two words that usually aren't a source of excitement in most schools. But, little did we know that in T-Bird Country, there is an incredible enthusiasm for getting a bit of dirt under the fingernails!

The Garden Group had its first meeting on the first of December and a shocking 32 enthusiastic middle and high school students crammed into Mr. Bassett's classroom to learn what the year will hold.

The goal of the I-S Gardening Group is to equip students with knowledge and skills to grow and propagate their own food and other plants for their own use as well as (for students who are interested) explore what it takes to grow in a small-scale agriculture setting for farmer's markets and community supported agriculture (CSA).

Mr. Bassett, Mrs. McCartney, and Mr. Shulfer will be meeting with students during TREK (last thirty minutes of each day) over the course of the school year to plan a garden, learn how to propagate houseplants, develop a seeding and planting schedule, learn greenhouse management skills, run a plant sale, and so much more!

This opportunity is made possible by the generous support of the Waupaca Rotary Club who provided a grant of \$700 to help with start-up costs of seeds and soil.

The school district already has a greenhouse and a great deal of planting and greenhouse supplies and equipment that has been sitting relatively unused to its full potential for a number of years.



Garden Club member Brooklyn Berrens working on planting lettuce.

A spring plant sale is planned to provide the funding necessary to sustain this effort in the future. If you have any questions about the Garden Group, please contact bassettt@iola.k12.wi.us.

This edition of the T-Bird Times was designed by students in Mr. Tappa's Computer Applications 1 class: Lily Brandt, Jackson Fredy, Riley Gambsky, Maci Heschke, Preston Johnson, Kyrylo Kopytsia, Ian Koss, Morgan Moore, Billy Myers, Keirah Odom, Natalie Schwartz, Charlie Tappa, Maggie Williams, and Caige Wilson



Veterans Day

Thank you to everyone in the community for attending our Veterans Day ceremony!

Thank you again to the men and women from American Legion Post 14 for attending and posting the colors.

Thank you to all of the students involved and the music they provided.

A special thank you to one of our own staff, Sergeant First Class Chris Smith, who served in the United States Army and was our guest speaker.

We are grateful to be able to host this ceremony once again and remind each of us to not only serve and honor our veterans today, but every day!

